

God and Mathematics

“What’s maths got to do with God?” you may ask.

God is the Creator of everything, and he uses maths in the things that he makes. Not just that, he knows in number terms, how many stars there are (Psalm 147:4), and he has numbered them all. He has counted the number of hairs on your head too! (Luke 12:7). It might be possible for us to count all the hairs on your head, but certainly we can’t ever hope to count all the stars in the sky.

Some people say that this world of ours just appeared out of nowhere, and that the harmony and order that numbers help us to see in the world are just illusions in our mind. It sure takes a lot of faith to believe that!

When we study maths we are studying one of the ways in which God governs our world. God is good, powerful, precise, infinite and orderly. Maths helps us to teach us these things.

Take these numbers:

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14....

If you keep on counting where do they finish? Where do they end? Do they end? Ever?

This series of numbers goes on to infinity. What about this series?

$1/2, 1/3, 1/4, 1/5, 1/6, 1/7, 1/8, 1/9, 1/10, 1/11, 1/12, 1/13, 1/14, \dots$

Does this series of fractions have an end place?

We become lost when we begin to think about very, very large or very, very small numbers. Mathematics gives us a view of infinity that other ways of learning are not able to clearly do.

Our Father is INFINITE. No wonder we have problems trying to get a picture of Him in our minds!

The Bible begins with numbers. The days on which things were made are recorded – the first, the second, the third...the seventh day. God made this world out of atoms, which are a bit like a tiny solar system.

Atoms

Everything in the universe is made of tiny particles called atoms. Atoms have a centre, like our sun, around which move electrons, like our planets. An atom is so tiny. Each atom likes to have a full number of electrons whizzing around it.

Electrons do not move freely in the space around the nucleus, but are confined to areas of space called shells.

Electron Shells

The first can hold has 2 electrons

The second can hold 8 electrons

The third shell can hold 18 electrons

The fourth shell can hold 32 electrons

So our world is really build on maths. From the first simple small atom, hydrogen, through to the heavy large atoms like uranium, ... and beyond, maths is infinitely involved.

Truth

“What is truth?” Pilate asked Jesus (John 18:32).

$$1 + 1 = 2$$

If you take one thing, like a cat, and add another to it, anywhere in our world, you will always end up having two cats.

This tells us that things don't happen just by chance. The world that God has made is organised. It has order in it; it makes sense and GOD holds it all together (Col 1:17). GOD IS FAITHFUL.

1 + 1 does not equal 3. God made all mathematics and He made you in His image. So you can know and understand about the patterns and laws of God's world (Jeremiah 33:25), maths can help us in discovering the truth.

$$1 + 1 = 1$$

The world of Art and Music can be explored through maths. Colours used in painting have exact frequencies of light. Infra-red and ultra-violet colours have frequencies which we can't see.

Things that we draw have precise mathematical measurements. The “golden ratio” is used by God in design of some flowers and animals. Artists use it to make their work beautiful.

Music is mathematics we can hear! Each note of the musical scale has an exact frequency.

This frequency doubles every eight notes. If we graph musical sounds they show us a mathematical regularity. Noise lacks this order and does not have a regular graph.

God is beautiful

So much of what God has made is beautiful: mountains, flowers, rivers, deserts, stars...

Mathematics helps us to understand some of this beauty. The golden ration of painting, sculpture and architecture is a copy of one of God's designs. There is a series of numbers named after one person who first recorded it, the Fibonacci Sequence. It is like this:

$$1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 34, 55$$

God has used this in the arrangement of petals of flowers, in the stem arrangement of branches and leaves, in the organisation of seeds in sunflowers, in the whorls on pineapples and pine cones.

God is marvellous

Think of all the places where our Designer has used spirals in His creation...You can see them on your own fingerprints, in seashells and the shells of snails, in spider webs and in outer space galaxies.

The Father has used the ellipse also. We can see this in the pathway that planets move in and the path of comets.

Think of all the fantastic shapes of a snowflake. What about the parallel lines of river banks, the cylinder shapes of the trunks of trees, the plane surfaces of rock faces, lakes, leaf shapes and shadows. The crystals of rocks show the wonders of solid geometry and the mathematical form of the diamond or pearl causes us to wonder.

The bees and wasps make secure designs in hexagon shapes. There is symmetry in plants and animals. "Where can I go from God's mathematics?" It seems to surround us. We are locked into the mathematical sequence of time. Who made time, who divides time and who will end time?

Count your heart beats for one minute, then count the number of breaths you take in one minute. God knows how many you will take in your life time (Psalm 139:16).

God is precise and dependable

When we use numbers, God wants us to be precise and dependable. God wants us to measure and count accurately (Leviticus 19:35), and He hates people who use maths to cheat other people (Proverbs 20:23). We are to be honest in our money business like all other things (Luke 16:10-11) and pay people who work for us the correct amount.

We have used mathematics to build and organise computers, radios, televisions, cars and planes, clothes and food. In any one day you are often counting, measuring, timing, computing and solving problems by using your mathematics.

Mathematics fits in with everything we do, and everything fits in with the world God has made with His plans.

How precious to me are your thoughts, O God!

How vast is the sum of them!

If I were to count them they would outnumber the grains of sand. (Psalm 139:17-18)

Can you count all the things that GOD has done for you today? When you have made up this list, which would be infinite, you can add to it – God gave me Mathematics!