

# Looking at the bigger picture

*The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.*

*Proverbs 15:3 (NIV)*

Eighty years ago on this day - 2 November 1936 – the world's first regular high definition public television service started. Broadcasting from Alexandra Palace in north London, the BBC offered viewers in the English capital a mixed fare of entertainment and newsreel. Two years earlier, Isaac Shoenberg, one of television's pioneers, uttered the words, "Well gentlemen, you have now invented the biggest time waster of all time. Use it well."

Whether that statement has proved to be true is open for debate, but in 1936 it was suddenly possible to see and hear what was happening many miles away, as it occurred. For many people it was almost a miracle. Today, we take it for granted that we can see what is happening on the other side of the world – and even beyond, such as aboard the International Space Station or even on the moon.

But all this pales into insignificance as we think about the capabilities of God. At any one time, He can hear and see the prayers of people on opposite sides of the earth. Not only hear, but understand in numerous languages. And if that wasn't enough, He sustains this immense universe – and perhaps many other universes besides. Places where even the most sophisticated television equipment cannot penetrate.

As the Psalmist observed "Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?" (Psalm 139:7). And God doesn't need TV cameras!

When we watch television pictures from other locations, we cannot 'see' the wireless technology that is transmitted through the air that makes viewing possible. Many people have little idea of how television 'works'. That doesn't matter. We can 'see' the results. And surely, that is the same when it comes to the presence of God. We cannot see Him with our human eyes, we cannot understand the dimension in which He operates - but we can readily perceive the results of His existence. The creation

all around us is the 'television picture' that provides undeniable evidence of a mind that is far beyond human comprehension.

Television may be a time waster in some instances, but when we do switch on and watch proceedings unfold many miles or kilometres away, let it remind us that God is not only able to observe that event, but also millions of other 'happenings' elsewhere at the same time. And He was able to do that long before 1936!