

Nat Theo Club

FIELD NOTES

ISSUE #63



Aurora Borealis

SOLAR STORM

FUN FACT

Sometimes the Aurora Borealis can be seen “ribboning.” When they ribbon, it looks like these lights twist and dance across the sky! This happens when the solar particles (explained to the right) hit Earth’s magnetic field, which sends them in different directions. It’s a natural light show that reflects God’s glory. “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the skies announce what his hands have made.”

Psalm 19:1

The Aurora Borealis out the plane window! Taken by Eryn.



WHAT DO YOU PICTURE WHEN YOU THINK OF A STORM?

Storms often come with strong winds, rain, lightning, and thunder. Or, in the case of a snowstorm, a lot of snow! But have you ever heard of a solar storm?

While flying on an airplane last week, I saw a solar storm! Only this storm isn’t loud or scary. Instead, it is calm and beautiful. A solar storm causes the Aurora Borealis or the northern lights. The Aurora Borealis causes the night sky to light up with bright colors, including green, pink, red, blue, purple, and yellow. But how does it work?

The sun can send out tiny pieces called “solar (sun) particles.” When those tiny pieces hit the invisible atmosphere around Earth, they act like little sparkles, lighting up like a glow stick lights up when you crack and shake it.

Aurora Borealis are nicknamed the northern lights because they are most often visible from the northern parts of Earth. In this case, I was flying to Alaska, far up in the northern United States. One thing I hoped to see while in Alaska was the northern lights, and God gifted me with this special sighting from the plane before even landing! What is something in nature you really want to see? Maybe God will one day allow you to see it. Whether or not you get to see that particular creature or thing, watch for God’s special gifts today.

God’s good gifts are all around us in nature! James 1:17 says, “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” God does not change like the dancing lights of Aurora Borealis or shadows that shift as the sun moves across the sky. God is always the same and always good; every gift, from the majestic northern lights to the tiniest shiny beetle, is a blessing from Him!

