

# ALL NATURE SINGS



May 28, 2023. A barbeque! BBQ! Shrimp on the barbie! As we soar toward summer, the aroma of food sizzling on outside grills wafts through the air, evoking delicious memories or provoking hunger! Some like only veggies, some like only meat, some grill both. For many years the standard BBQ equipment consisted of a container (the kettle), charcoal briquets (French for “little brick”), maybe some “lighter fluid”, and a match or fire-lighter, i.e. some fire! They are all needed. The container could be a hole dug in the ground—or the fanciest rock fireplace. Fuel can be anything from briquets to propane to wood chips to an electric heating element. Lighting fluid comes in handy for burning most fuel, but probably not a good idea for an electric grill! And still something is lacking: fire! The briquets, wood chips, propane won’t burn without fire—and even an electric grill won’t heat without plugging the cord into power. But when all the elements work together—pow! We have a marvelous, dynamic system that does what it’s supposed to do. Cook! The essential element is the fire. Briquets are no good without fire, even if we overload the container with a whole bag. Our minds are like the containers. We can fill them with bags of briquets or information or stories or words, and we should. But the briquets or words we fill our minds with don’t ignite until we apply fire to them. With no fire, the words can even bog us down, like piles of lumpy coal or cords of chaotic wood. The writer of Hebrews said that even God’s words don’t help us unless they are “mixed with faith.” Could faith be the essential fire that God uses to touch our minds and ignite all we read, see, hear, or touch—as Michelangelo so vividly painted with God and Adam reaching out to each other? Yes, we humans gain lots of information in many ways, but to truly understand what God says or does, we need His illuminating fire—each time we read a verse, each time we listen to a word, each act we do, each prayer we make. His briquets are filling us. Will we, by faith, ask for His fire?

All Nature Sings: *Songs from Earth, Sky, and Sea* - May 28, 2023