



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

"Life is like a cyclorama created by God for us to enjoy."

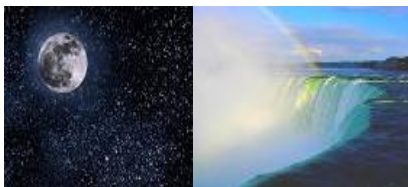
Cyclorama

This July is the anniversary of one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War. It occurred in a town not far from my home called Gettysburg. In 1879, [Paul Philippoteaux](#) was commissioned by a group of Chicago investors to create a cyclorama of the battle. (A cyclorama is a panoramic image on the inside of a cylindrical platform, designed to give viewers a 360° view of a scene or event. As the viewer stands in the center of the painting, there would be music and a narrator telling the story of the event or scene. [Wikipedia](#)) Cycloramas were very popular in the late 19th century. It was the IMAX Theater of the day. There are only two operating Cycloramas left in the country. Gettysburg is one and the other is in [Atlanta](#) but is currently being moved to a new building.

In 1882, Philippoteaux visited Gettysburg and talked with the veterans and Generals from the battle. Then, with a crew of six, the painting was completed in a year and a half. The finished painting was nearly 100 yards long and weighed six tons. (See [Gettysburg Cyclorama](#) at Wikipedia for details.) Below is the 1884, showing of it. He then made four copies (each a little different). Gettysburg has the copy which was displayed in Boston. The Chicago version is in storage and for sale at Wake Forest University.

I recently attended a presentation by [Chris Brenneman](#) about the "Secrets of the Cyclorama". I found him very interesting because I have been to the Gettysburg Cyclorama twice, but I never saw the items that Chris described. He said there is a [picture of Lincoln](#) wounded and being carried. There are three ghost figures painted along a fence. [General Mead](#), the Union commander, was so small that no one could make him out. [General Armistead](#) is floating in the air. (They had him on a horse which was not correct so they just painted over the horse.) Chris, who published a book, had studied the painting for years spending hundreds of hours looking at it even through high powered glasses.

We all live in a kind of an amazing cyclorama. We have a 360° view of God's beauty nature, with its 40,000 varieties of plants, 60,000 different types of trees and 1,600 varieties of bananas. There as many as 8.7 million different forms of life and there are estimated 100 billion stars. "He watereth the hills from His chambers: the earth is satisfied with the fruit of Thy works. He causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man: that He may bring forth food out of the earth. ... The trees of the Lord are full of sap; the cedars of Lebanon, which He hath planted; where the birds make their nests: as for the stork, the fir trees are her house. The high hills are a refuge for the wild goats; and the rocks for the conies. He appointed the moon for seasons: the sun knoweth his going down. ... The young lions roar after their prey, and seek their meat from God. ... O Lord, how manifold are Thy works! In wisdom hast Thou made them all: the earth is full of Thy riches." PS104:13-24



Cyclorama of Gettysburg 1884

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Let us enjoy the wonders of this world
and thank the One who gave them.



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