

Creation

I L L U S T R A T E D

YOUR GETAWAY ...



IN NATURE



IN SCRIPTURE



IN LIVING

SUMMER 2022 VOL 29 NO 2 US \$4.99



*"I shall run the way of
for You will enlarge*



*Your commands,
my heart.”*

— Psalm 119:32, NASB



Our Why



We are humbled to follow in the footsteps of our Creator God, Jesus Christ, who provides for us insights to learn from His example on how He successfully conveyed powerful truths to the common people of His day. These precious souls were not literate and were likely common laborers. Obviously, there were no books, computers, or smart phones in biblical times. So, Jesus had to rely on the common daily activities of life and the things in the immediate surroundings that each person could relate to and remember.

Jesus used storytelling, parables, object lessons, and teachable moments to *illustrate* great truths that could transform the listeners' lives. 2 Timothy 3:16 heralds, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching" (ESV). In the biblical stories He chose things from His creation that were memorable and easy to share with others. His example should inspire the rest of us to follow His method of teaching through the things He made.

This is *why* we seek to *illustrate* eternal truths and character-building lessons throughout the pages of *Creation Illustrated*. "Whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked" (1 John 2:6, ESV). Here at *Creation Illustrated* we try to follow His example and make it easy for readers to share these important life-changing truths that also benefit each of us. "You, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself?" (Romans 2:21, NASB).

Jesus' use of object lessons is proven to be effective by current research which reveals that 65 percent of the population are visual learners. Furthermore, the 3M Corporation found in their research that using visual aids in classrooms improved learning up to four hundred percent! Therefore, we should teach like the Master Teacher.

Our name, logo, cover highlights, and contents page demonstrate the significance of this through the three main sections found in every edition. *Creation Illustrated in Nature, in Scripture, and in Living* provide the balance of mental, spiritual, and physical enrichment that we all need for a purposeful life, greater understanding of truth, and a deeper abiding in the Godhead.

Romans 1:20 clearly admonishes, "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, **being understood by what has been made**, so that they are without excuse" (NASB). That's why.

The Publishers



Summer is a time to get outdoors! But not everyone is able to get up and leave their surroundings. This is why we are dedicated to reach out to the countless souls who are confined to their homes, hospitals, and prisons. Nature has a healing and liberating effect even on those who are restricted for whatever reason. **But we need HELP to serve** those who cannot experience the wonders of God's creation firsthand. We send thousands of copies of *Creation Illustrated* to prisoners, classrooms, and hospitals. Thank you for assisting our ongoing nonprofit ministry with a tax-deductible contribution of any size! Simply logon to: **www.CreationIllustrated.com** and **click on donations**. **Thank you for helping!**

Creation

I L L U S T R A T E D

Vol. 29, No. 2

Our Purpose . . .

is to share the wonders of God's creation. By revealing fresh insights of His infinite wisdom, gentle touch, undeniable justice, redeeming love, and flawless design, pure truth shall bring renewed peace. Each part of this publication is offered as a reprieve from the daily rigors of life so that all can look to the future with unbridled gratitude and hope.

Editor/Publisher: Tom Ish

Associate Editor: Jennifer Ish

Assoc. Art Director: Melissa Ish

Copy Editors: Marilyn Morgan and Ed E. Quiring, PhD

Contributing Writers:

Sarah Fay Buckland, PhD, Susan C. Burritt, Tatiana Claudy, Kathleen Fessler, Bobby Harrison, Elma Helgason, Tom & Jennifer Ish, Christa Jewett, Heather MacLaren Johnson, Terry and Jean McComb, Jean Van Houten, and David West.

Contributing Photographers:

Janae Bowman, Dave Bruner, Mark Gottlieb, Bobby Harrison, Tom Ish, Roland Honeyman, Heather MacLaren Johnson, NASA, NPS, Deborah Rew, Albert Russell, Renae Smith, Kathy Turner, Theodore Roosevelt Center, and Jeff Zylland.

... IN NATURE

- Our Why 2
- Giving Thanks 4
- Sharing Our Mail 5
- Creation Up-Close 6
- Lens On Creation 12
- Re-Creation Outdoors 14
- Obscure Octopus 22 ▶



... IN SCRIPTURE



- ◀ 28 Creation Day 2
The Creation of the Firmament
- 38 Creation Highlights
- 39 Creation Stewardship

... IN LIVING

- My Walk With God 40
- Gardens From Eden 44
- Farm Pond Poem 50
- Genesis Cuisine 52 ▶
- Children's Story 54
- Character Lesson 58
- Contests 60
- Study Guide 62



Like us:



Follow us:



The cover photo of a snowy egret displaying its mating plumage was taken by Bobby Harrison of Gurley, Alabama.

Creation Illustrated (ISSN 1086-1645) (USPS 013-553) Vol. 29, No. 2, Summer 2022 Copyright © Creation Illustrated Ministries 2022; all rights reserved. Creation Illustrated is published quarterly by a nonprofit, nondenominational ministry dedicated to the eternal impact of sharing biblical truth through the wonder of God's creation. The brief Bible texts in this publication are from the King James Version and a few other versions including the New King James Version. Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982, Thomas Nelson, Inc. Editorial offices: Creation Illustrated Ministries, 813 S. Wilbur Rd., Spokane Valley, WA 99206 (mailing address: P.O. Box 141103, Spokane Valley, WA 99214-1103), 1(800) 360-2732. Email: ci@CreationIllustrated.com. Internet: www.creationillustrated.com. Periodicals Postage Paid at Spokane, WA, and additional mailing offices. Advertising: Creation Illustrated, P.O. Box 141103, Spokane Valley, WA 99214-1103, Phone (530) 269-1424. Writers and Photographers: We welcome unsolicited manuscripts, poetry, and color High Resolution digital images with identification of subject, location, and photographer. We cannot be responsible for or return materials that are not accompanied by a self-addressed stamped return envelope. Subscription prices: in U.S. \$19.95 for 1 yr.; \$36.95 for 2 yrs. For Canada add \$10 U.S. per year for additional postage; subscriptions outside North America add \$20 U.S. per year additional postage. To place your order, send all new subscriptions, questions, and address changes to Creation Illustrated, P.O. Box 141103, Spokane Valley, WA 99214-1103. Allow 4-6 weeks for new subscriptions or changes. The Postal Service will not forward your magazine unless you guarantee forwarding postage with your local post office. We cannot replace magazines for those who do not give sufficient notice or guarantee forwarding. Postmaster: Send address changes to Creation Illustrated, P.O. Box 141103, Spokane Valley, WA 99214-1103.

Defense

The long-standing adage, "The best offense is a good defense" gets used in the sporting world; yet, the converse "The best defense is a good offense" dominates military thinking. So, which is divinely inspired?

Amid God's handiwork we witness plenty of defensive designs including the sand that borders and limits every sea as a boundary from further encroachment upon the land. "I placed the sand as the boundary for the sea, a perpetual barrier that it cannot pass; though the waves toss, they cannot prevail; though they roar, they cannot pass over it" (Jeremiah 5:22, ESV). This purposeful construct, among the many characteristics of sand, can be explored further in this edition's "Creation Up-Close" feature.

But perhaps the greatest example of a powerful defense was created on day two of the Creation week when God provided the firmament as a canopy of protection around the entire earth. No other life could exist on the planet without the five layers of the atmosphere that defend against harmful rays and debris from space as explained in the article on Creation day two.

Furthermore, a multitude of creatures exhibit various forms of defense, but one sea specimen, the octopus, possesses an uncanny ability to blend in with its surroundings as both a defense from predators *and* as a means of attracting prey. Learn of some fascinating examples of this adaptability in the "Obscure Octopus" feature.

Defending the environment has become an urgent issue in recent decades, and our national parks are being defended as a waning refuge and national treasure for all Americans, as well as visitors from foreign lands. The creator and defender of the national park system—Theodore Roosevelt—is the only U.S. president who remains a national park's namesake. North Dakota's Theodore Roosevelt National Park serves as a defensive buffer for bison, elk, deer, and feral horses, among other creatures. Roosevelt himself found solace there when dealing with tragic life circumstances, which can be understood more deeply in this issue's "Re-creation and Restoration Outdoors" story.

Natural surroundings serving as a defense to the onslaught of life's stresses can also be witnessed through the account of a woman who found peace by simply passing by a home with a stunning garden in her neighborhood. Experience the reprieve she felt in this edition's "My Walk With God" article called, "Nancy's Garden."

But the most sought after gardens in recent years produce *organic* produce that often grows, tastes, and stays superior due to the top-quality soil nutrients that make the plants and the harvest have a natural defense against pests. One such plot flourishes due to the composted loam that is a byproduct of horses. Learn of the soil transformation told in the gardening story "From Manure to Black Gold" and even the spiritual parallels that can be gleaned as the Holy Spirit breaks and cultivates our hearts in defense of humility, sacrifice, and a fruitful life.

Consider the evidence of such divine defense systems exhibited in creation juxtaposed against a civilian world that relies on aggressive military-style weaponry for defense in the name of *freedom*. Psalm 28:7, 8 conclusively assures us of a lasting defense as part of the Creator's omnipotent design. "The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; therefore my heart exults, and with my song I shall thank Him. The Lord is their strength, and He is a saving *defense* to His anointed" (NASB).



Tom Ish, editor/publisher

Sharing Our Mail

Day 7 story . . .

I just received the winter issue in the mail today, and it is absolutely stunning! The owl on the cover and the beautiful red fox seeing his reflection on the second page—wow!—such amazing photography!

Of course I had to skip to the poetry page next to find the awe-inspiring, majestic mountain scenery (we don't have that in Wisconsin), and I liked Evelyn Saylor's poem with it; what a gorgeous combination!

I just read

your beautiful article entitled "Creation Day 7." In my opinion you did an excellent job on explaining the creation and purpose of the Sabbath! You made it all so attractive, warm, and loving. I loved your phrase "immense comfort" for describing the definition of the Sabbath! Good job, Jennifer! I didn't know that you contributed to the magazine as a writer also.

What a great team effort that you and your husband share in blessing others with this magazine. It seems like each issue gets better than the previous one, and I have no idea how you do that!

G. Wilde

De Pere, Wisconsin

San Quentin . . .

I just wanted to give you a little update from our son. He called me today and said he received five of the *Creation Illustrated* magazines you sent to him at San Quentin prison. He was able to explain to the inmates that he used to go to church with you. He read Michael Lombart's story about

being a missionary in Indonesia, and he was excited about that and has told people he knows Michael.

When he was walking down the hall one day, he heard a guy say something about God creating the world and there was beauty all around us. He stopped and said, "Just a minute; I will be right back." He went and got some copies of *Creation Illustrated* and brought them back to show to the guy. The guy said he felt like this was "a God thing" that our son overheard him and came back with the magazines.

Then he asked our son if he had ever heard of *Amazing Facts*. Our son laughed and said that his grandparents used to work there, and his parents had something to do with it too. He told the guy about Doug Bachelor's book about living in a cave and finding a Bible, and he lent the book to the inmate.

Our son said he received five issues and has loaned out three of them. He says a few of the other inmates

are really enjoying the magazines and are even sharing them with their families. Some inmates are drawing and painting pictures out of the magazines. He's going to ask some of them if they would like more and will send me their names. He says they like the stories, pictures, and everything in them.

Our son seemed very upbeat, and I told him that donors sponsor the magazines going into prisons. Please thank whoever that is and tell them that the magazines are very much appreciated.

Our daughter's two young boys chose to pray for our son during their forty days of prayer. It was then that I started seeing a change in him during his phone conversations with me. He's not so defensive or self centered, and he is more appreciative of what we have done for him.

It's really so amazing to see this miracle happening. I hope it continues after he is released. God is good.

Anonymous
Northern California

Dear Friends:

We appreciate hearing from our readers. Please let us know how you are using Creation Illustrated.

How to contact us:

By Mail:

Creation Illustrated
PO Box 141103
Spokane Valley, WA 99214

By E-Mail:

ci@creationillustrated.com


By the Internet:

www.creationillustrated.com

By Phone:

1(800) 360-2732

Visit our Website

HERE  using a Smart Phone camera



The Nitty-Gritt

C R E A T I O N U P C L O S E,



Whitehaven Beach, Australia



Can you name a tiny inanimate object that can whistle and bark? The answer can be found on riverbanks, in deserts, and along seashores throughout the world. If you guessed *sand*, then you win! The prize is a wealth of knowledge that expands beyond the thousands of square miles and outnumbers these countless grains adorning the earth.

How can such an abundance of blessings exist? Because the lessons found among these tiny morsels

can have a lasting impact—even an eternal impact.

But can sand really whistle and bark? Yes, places with *singing sand* exist on every continent except Antarctica. Some locales include: Basin Head (Prince Edward Island, Canada), Singing Beach (Massachusetts), Whitehaven Beach (Australia), and Isle of Eigg (Scotland). This phenomenon occurs when three conditions are met: a certain degree of humidity, the presence of silica, and the size of the sand grains being 0.1 to 0.55 millimeters in diameter. When the wind passes over this sand or people walk on it, the sand

y About Sand

B Y T A T I A N A C L A U D Y



Grains of sand are not all the same.



Pink sand from crustaceans contrasts with turquoise ocean hues.

moves and emits sounds that resemble a blasting low-pitch ramble. “How many are your works, O Lord!” (Psalm 104:24, NIV).

Getting down to the nitty-gritty, sand forms when rain, wind, waves, and rivers erode and pulverize rocks of various compounds. Thus, a grain of sand contains a myriad of minerals but mostly quartz and calcite; others come from volcanic rock, coral, olivine, iron, crustaceans, manganese garnet, and other unusual substances or minerals. Not surprisingly, no two regions have an identical makeup

in their grains of sand. They differ in structure, size, color, and shape. The most widespread version appears pale cream, yellow, or caramel in color. But many areas have sand in unusual hues including: orange (Ramla Bay, Malta), purple (Pfeiffer Beach, California), gray (Ocean Cape Area, Gulf of Alaska), red (Prince Edward Island, Canada), black (Black Sand Beach, Iceland), green (Kourou, French Guiana), dark brown (Rockaway Beach, California), pink (Rangiroa Atoll, French Polynesia), and white (Hyams Beach, Australia). Such startling spectacles of something that

may seem common inspire one to proclaim, “Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty!” (Revelations 15:3).

The first mention of sand in Scripture (*chol* in Hebrew) can be found in God’s great promise to Abraham, “I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore” (Genesis 22:17, NIV). If we consider that a cup contains up to fifteen million grains of sand, we can better comprehend how sand relates to the multitude of God’s people.

Isaiah 10:22 uses the imagery—“For though your people, O Israel, be as the sand of the sea,” and other examples include: “the sand of the sea” (Genesis 32:12) and “the sand on the seashore” (1 Kings 4:20, NIV). Indeed, about thirty percent of our planet’s coastlines are sandy. The Lord solemnly declared, “I made the sand a boundary for the sea, an everlasting barrier it cannot cross. The waves may roll, but they cannot prevail; they may roar, but they cannot cross it” (Jeremiah 5:22, NIV).

Sand on coastlines not only creates boundaries for water that the Lord “shut in the sea with doors” (Job 38:8) but also provides a habitat for many animals and plants. Walking along beaches we can learn more about God’s creations and design amid the sand. Sand crabs (or sand fleas) dwell in wet or dry sand feeding on microorganisms and algae. These critters, being smaller than a person’s thumb, are harmless to people but provide rich sustenance to sea birds. Other creatures hiding in wet sand are isopods (small nocturnal crustaceans known as roly-polies), clams (like coquina), and sea dollars (brown, flat sea urchins). Care must be taken not to disturb inhabitants of the sand. Various sea birds, such as seagulls and snowy plovers, often search for food in the wet sand and shallow waters.

Sand also plays an important role in the procreation process of some animals. The book of Job tells about a female ostrich; “She lays her eggs on the ground and lets them warm in the sand” (Job 39:14, NIV). Sea turtles, crocodiles, reptiles, and even certain



Sand dollars are basically flat sea urchins.



Sea oats waft in the ocean breeze.

mammals—platypuses and echidnas—also lay their eggs in the protective and incubating grains that form an important nesting ground.

Surprisingly, various plants tolerate sandy soil and salty water quite well including: seagrapes (with large dark-green leaves and fruits resembling grape clusters), buttonwood (with pointy green leaves and rusty-brownish cone-shaped fruit), and beach sunflowers (with low-lying verdure and bright yellow blooms). Prevalent palms include: the dwarf palmetto (up to three feet tall) to the magnificent Sylvester palm (up to fifty feet tall). Their cascading and elegant fronds remind onlookers of God’s promise that “the righteous shall flourish like a palm tree” (Psalm 92:12), and their slender, stalwart trunks bring to mind the scripture that the righteous will be “upright, like a palm tree” (Jeremiah 10:5).

Although sand, according to God’s design, serves as “bars and doors” (Job 38:10) for the sea, it still can be moved by natural forces. When winds blow sand upon slightly elevated areas, lofty, undulating

dunes get formed. They vary in height from the one-foot-high coppice dunes in Death Valley National Park, California, to the gigantic Duna Federico Kirbus in Argentina that towers 9,335 feet tall. In the U.S., the biggest dunes are found in the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve in Colorado, with the Star Dune as the tallest at 750 feet.

Serving as natural barriers from coastal winds, sand dunes provide paramount protection for whole ecosystems. Grasses growing on dunes (such as sea oats with their long, flat green blades) offer safe nesting places for animals, as well as food for birds. Kangaroo rats (nocturnal rodents native to North America) also dwell in the dunes. They have broad, hairy hind feet that enable them to make quick moves on shifty surfaces.

When I first saw dunes in Indiana, I became fascinated with the beauty of these sandy hills shimmering under the sunlight. My favorite dune is Mount Baldy near Lake Michigan. As much as our family enjoyed our time there, we remember that



Renae Smith



Mark Gottlieb

Trekking up the world's tallest sand dune in Namibia, Africa



Bedouin nomads and camels survive the harsh elements of the Sahara Desert.



Building a house

“sand is weighty” (Proverbs 27:3), and the dunes can be dangerous. When they collapse, heavy piles of sand can bury people and animals.

Naturally, the greatest abundance of sand lies in deserts that cover more than one-fifth of our planet’s land surface. The world’s largest desert, the Sahara in Africa, spreads over three and a half million square miles, covering one-third of the African continent. The largest desert in America, the Chihuahuan Desert, spans 193,783 square miles, which covers a southwestern portion of the country in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. Its sandy soil supports such plants as the creosote bush, yucca, and fire-barrel cactus.

While sand is widely used in several applications of concrete construction such as foundations, walls, columns, patios, driveways, and paving projects today, one powerful biblical illustration demonstrated its shifty instability in the construction of a spiritual house. Jesus used sand in

vital lessons as a symbol of weakness in the parable of the wise and the foolish builders. The Lord compared those who hear His words but do not put them into practice to “a foolish man who built his house on the sand” (Matthew 7:26). Loose sand easily shifts and cannot serve as a strong foundation. Predictably, this structure will not withstand natural calamities. “The rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall” (Matthew 7:27). Conversely, people who are both listeners and doers of the Word can be compared to “a wise man who built his house on the rock” (Matthew 7:24). This man’s hard labor was rewarded when “the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock” (Matthew 7:25).

For Christians, the Lord Jesus is the only “spiritual Rock” (1 Corinthians 10:4). When our faith is “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief



on the sand has risks.



Strolling along a sandy beach affords countless blessings.

cornerstone" (Ephesians 2:20, NIV), we can survive hardships, persecutions, loneliness, and rejection. Despite many adverse circumstances, our spiritual house will be unshakable because "there is no Rock like our God" (1 Samuel 2:2, NIV). We can "trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord, is the Rock eternal" (Isaiah 26:4, NIV). While so many things are shifting in the world like sand amid the winds of strife, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

But is there hope for those who wander astray from the true Rock or for the foolish ones who build their hopes on sand or for those who are trapped in spiritual deserts? Absolutely! Our God can bring revival so "the burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs" (Isaiah 35:7, NIV). When people diligently seek God, they will find Him. For He promised, "You will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13). After they confess their sins and proclaim

Jesus Christ, "a living stone . . . chosen by God and precious" (1 Peter 2:4) as their Lord and Savior, they become children of God. From now on, protected by their heavenly Father, they can boldly proclaim, "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31).

So, come and walk on the white sandy beaches of Florida and rejoice while contemplating the numerous blessings the Creator bestows on His children that outnumber the countless grains. "How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand" (Psalm 139:17, 18). **C**

Tatiana Claudy writes from Indiana and continues to explore the wonders of God's handiwork in order to share inspiring insights as a regular contributor to Creation Illustrated.

The Dance o

A L E N S O N C R E A T I O N



A snowy egret displaying its full courtship aigrette



Tri-colored heron

“Let them praise his name with dancing and make music to him with timbrel and harp” (Psalm 149:3, NIV). These are the words I think of when I stand in a heron rookery. The cacophony of squawks, rattles, and croaks of birds can be deafening, and the flurry of birds flying to and fro is a scene of endless motion.

Rookeries are where herons, egrets, and other long-legged waders congregate to form a protected collective—a place to perform their nuptial dance, breed, and rear their young. There are numerous accessible heron rookeries across our nation, but my favorite is the wild heron rookery at the Alligator Farm Zoological Park in Saint Augustine, Florida.

A boardwalk traverses

the rookery giving the visitor an up-close and personal view of the great, snowy, and cattle egrets; tri-colored, little blue, and green herons; roseate spoonbills; and wood storks. Some egrets and other waders nest within a few feet of the boardwalk. At the right time you can observe egg laying, chicks hatching, adults brooding, and young feeding only a few feet away.

The zoological park provides all the essential needs for rearing young water birds. Perhaps the most important feature includes the park’s two-acre swamp that is infested with American alligators. The alligators insure protection against marauding predators such as raccoons, opossums, skunks, and bobcats. Without the gators, these hungry thieves would raid the nests and destroy most of the eggs before they could hatch.

The second very important feature of the area is an abundance of trees and shrubs in which to build nests and provide nesting materials. Thirdly, an abundance of nearby lakes and ponds provide the nesting waders ample food for their growing young.

While a rookery can be a chaotic place, it remains festive in a way and the best place to observe the breeding behavior of these elegant divas of the avian world. The reproductive rituals of wading birds offer stunning, graceful, yet

Bobby Harrison

Bobby Harrison

f the Egret

BY BOBBY HARRISON

entertaining gestures of courtship and displays of plumage that are quite beautiful.

Each species has its own unique *dance* that gets preformed to attract its mate. The dance typically involves awkward motions of bobbing up and down with the head and beak pointing skyward. As part of the exhibition, the egret flares its delicately refined aigrette (pronounce *agret*) nuptial plumes on its back. The long, wispy strands flare up and around the egret's body to form a delicate spray of feathery filaments.

No nuptial display, in my opinion, is more stunning and captivating as the dance of the snowy and great egrets. Watching such a display presents a reminder of God's great creative design described by the words of the psalmist. "How many are your works, Lord! In wisdom you made them all; the earth is full of your creatures" (Psalm.104:24, NIV).


Unfortunately, these elegant adornments nearly cost the snowy and great egret their final demise. For almost forty years beginning around 1870, the fashion craze of decorating women's hats with aigrette feathers was in vogue. But egrets grow aigrette pinions only during the breeding season. Thus, during the nesting season adult birds were killed, leaving the nestlings to die of starvation. This practice devastated many wader species to near extinction.



Bobby Harrison

A roseate spoonbill nurturing its young

Fortunately, protection of heron rookeries around the turn of the twentieth century provided by the newly formed Audubon Society (along with the establishment of national parks in Florida) saved these astonishing birds from extinction.

Because of the work of such organizations, the egrets still dance, and the unmelodious squawks, rattles, and croaks of the rookery are still music and songs of praise to their Creator and to the naturalist's ear. 

Bobby Harrison writes from Oakwood University where he is an associate professor of photography. He also serves as CEO of The Ivory-Billed Woodpecker Foundation. Enjoy more of his work at:

www.bobbyharrison.blogspot.com



Bobby Harrison

Cattle egret

RE-CREATION OUTDOORS

Finding Good in a Bad Land

BY JEAN VAN HOUTEN



How could a national park exist in such a lonely place where prairie grasslands meet the badlands of North Dakota? Yet, this vast expanse of wilderness teeming with wildlife was named for the man who did more for the national park system than anyone—President Theodore Roosevelt.

Traveling west from Bismarck in the center of the state, we passed acres of sunflowers with heads as big as dinner plates and immense fields of wheat and canola. Here and there the weathered remains of an old homesteader's cabin poked up from the level landscape. Hand-hewn logs and caved-in roofs offered stark reminders of the brave and determined people who settled this forsaken, wind-whipped land of arid summers and brutal winters. It seemed as if the land was as cursed as Gilboa by David in 2 Samuel 1:21, "'O mountains of Gilboa, may you have neither dew nor rain, nor fields that yield offerings of grain'" (NIV).



NPS/Jeff Zyland

Massive bison roam the open prairie.

AN UNFORGIVING PLACE

Just grass and endless sky stretching from horizon to horizon filled our view until gradually the flatness began to undulate ever so slightly. An occasional butte jutted skyward from the parched ground offering an iconic picture of the West—reminiscent of a time when Lakota natives hunted the thousands of bison that roamed these plains and provided food, clothing, shelter, and tools for the area's tribes.

Suddenly the earth all around us split open, and a rugged grandeur appeared in the broken landscape that is hard to describe. Sweeping views of the jagged badlands revealed the Little Missouri River winding its way through a fascinating, mysterious land. Scattered clumps of aged cottonwood trees slumped over the river with its muddy water the color of strong coffee with rich cream. Broken limbs stripped bare by wind and lightning storms suggested an unforgiving place. As if on cue, a few wild horses ran through the scene with their manes and tails freely flowing in the wind.

Upon arrival at Theodore Roosevelt National Park, we were greeted by a large, imposing bison casually munching grass at the edge of the visitor center parking lot. Males can weigh 2,000 pounds and stand six feet at the shoulder, and although their huge barrel shape makes them appear clumsy, these creatures can outrun a horse at thirty-five to forty miles per hour. As good swimmers they can change directions very quickly. Females and their young live in large herds while the males usually live alone or in groups of two or three. At times a herd can block the roadways, and buffalo have the right-of-way to pretty much going wherever they want. This lesson was driven home one summer night when my husband discovered his campsite was located on the main thoroughfare between the river and a patch of grass. A large bull snorted its way between the tent and campfire, not needing directions or permission.



A winding path through a craggy land



Theodore Roosevelt in the Badlands

NPS/Theodore
Roosevelt Center

"The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad . . ."

But on this first-time visit to the park, the unusual, dramatic landscape mainly caught our attention; the stark grandeur of buttes eroded by wind and rivulets that carved into their flanks by infrequent but driving rains present a startling spectacle. Multilayered bluffs separated by deep painted canyons stretched for miles in every direction. Sandstone formations stood like mega sandcastles—some topped with mushroom-like caps of stone.

This strange, mysterious land prompted Theodore Roosevelt to write in his journal, "The Bad Lands grade all the way from those that are almost rolling in character to those that are so fantastically broken in form and so bizarre in color as to seem hardly properly to belong to this earth." The hills and valleys of the badlands present a fascinating desert landscape of ever-changing colors. The yellows and browns of a hot, summer day turn to shades of teal, pink, orange, and red as the late afternoon sun brings a burnished glow to the sandy landscape. Other geologic strata and colors include the black coal layer that can be ignited by lightning strikes and prairie fires and burn for many years. The pink-to-red colored stripes consist of hard, natural brick formed from burning coal, and the hue comes from oxidation of iron released from the coal as it burns. The brown and tan layers are sandstone, siltstone, and mudstone. The blue-gray layers that appear teal in certain light are composed of bentonite—a type of ash that is believed to have filtered down from distant volcanoes.

Coulees filled with stunted ash trees and ground-hugging junipers break up the brownness of the desert, and when the long, bitterly cold North Dakota winter ends, spring and summer generate impressive wildflower displays with the flair of wild roses, yuccas, and sunflowers growing along the trails next to prickly pear cacti. In this land of clay baked hard by hot summer sun, God makes the desert bloom. Even here nature sings praise to the Creator as



Prairie dogs guard their homes.



The River Bend Overlook was built by the Civilian

UNSPOILED BY COMMERCIALISM

told in Isaiah 35:1, 2, "The wilderness and the wasteland shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose; it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice. . . . They shall see the glory of the Lord, the excellency of our God."

The native Lakota Indians called the impassable terrain *Mako Sica*, which translates to *land bad* or *no-good land*. Early French trappers decided it was too miserable to traverse. Centuries later, Theodore Roosevelt found the badlands to be a place of solace after the death of his wife and his mother on the same day. Jesus offers hope for such trials in His sermon on the mount. "'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted'" (Matthew 5:3, 4). In this place where the elk and deer provided excellent hunting, the solitude also brought healing, and his love for conservation of the wild places was birthed. A land that seemed so inhospitable and barren at first sight also became a haven for my husband and me. Unspoiled by commercialism or crowds of tourists, we found peace and sensed God's nearness in its stillness as Psalm 46:10 assures, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!"

Visitors to this national park will discover that it comprises three units. The only way to access portions of the North Unit is through the interior of the park by horseback or on foot. Deep in the interior of the park rest the remains of Roosevelt's Elkhorn Ranch, accessible by a short walk. Only the cornerstones of the cabin are left, but the wilderness appears the same as it did centuries ago.

The South Unit is the largest and the most visited. Beginning in the old western town of Medora, rich with history of cowboys and cattle drives, a thirty-six-mile scenic loop winds across the rolling landscape with fantastic scenery in every direction. Vistas and trails along the



Conservation Corps atop a multilayered bluff.

NPS/Dave Bruner.



Wild feral horses fight for dominance.

NPS

“Come aside . . . and rest a while.”

high ridges and into the back country reveal deer, elk, wild horses, and bison, as well as smaller animals and birds.

Several prairie dog towns crop up in the flat, sparsely vegetated areas where these industrious little brown rodents use their long claws to burrow and build complex tunnel systems. Numerous community *watchdogs* can be seen poking their heads out of their burrows scouting for danger. To a human ear, prairie dog whistles sound simple and repetitive, but those calls contain an advanced vocabulary and can convey incredibly descriptive details to mark their territory, sound danger alerts, and signal all is clear. Almost every predator in the prairie ecosystem—coyotes, eagles, hawks, great-horned owls, foxes, bobcats, and rattlesnakes—relies on the prairie dog as a food source. We saw this firsthand as a majestic golden eagle suddenly flew over us and swooped down to catch his lunch.

But aside from predator versus prey, the panoramic view from the highest point of Ridgeline Trail offers stunning sunsets and vast appreciation for this rugged national treasure. But the smaller, less-visited North Unit became the most captivating with its raw allure and solitude. The abundant deer, herds of bison, and occasional bighorn sheep kept us coming back to refresh our spirits. Christ bids His followers, “Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while” (Mark 6:31), which we (along with Roosevelt) all need in this puzzling world.

Passing a herd of longhorn cattle grazing on the prairie grass provides a reminder of bygone days of north/south cattle drives by horseback-riding cowboys. The Oxbow Overlook high above the river grants a magnificent view of the surrounding badlands for miles in every direction. Oddly-shaped geological formations and cannonball concretions spark our interest as perfectly round rocks appear to have fallen out of the butte behind them with some still partially



NPS

Round boulders of minerals



An elk bull with his harem

NPS/Rolan Honeyman

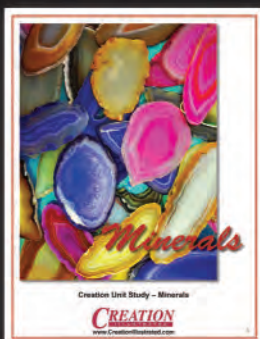
FEAST ON THE SPLENDOR

embedded in the cliffs ranging in size from soccer balls to large boulders. These spheres form in the porous layers that make up the badlands when mineral-rich water seeps down into spaces or gaps. The minerals act as a kind of glue holding these sediments together that often form around a core. As more and more layers are deposited, the concretion builds outward like a pearl before being exposed by erosion. This elusive process rings true to the biblical parable that Jesus told in Matthew 13:45, 46, “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.” These pearls of minerals get birthed from a hideous craggy mass and cast aside as the badlands, yet remind us that something unique and rare can come from the unlovely.

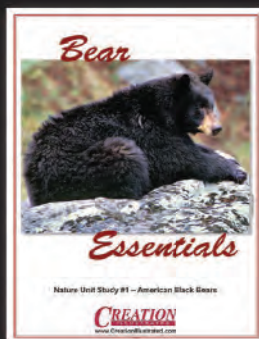
A favorite stopping point is the River Bend Overlook shelter, a sturdy stone and log structure built by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Great Depression. Perched high above the Little Missouri River on a sandstone bluff, it is a solitary place to feast on the splendor of the scenery and to commune with the One who created it.

The badlands’ wealth of history and curious characteristics beckon even the most languid onlooker to become fascinated and bask in the glory of the One who made it all. “Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let Your glory be above all the earth. . . . For Your mercy reaches unto the heavens, and Your truth unto the clouds” (Psalm 57:5, 10). **C**

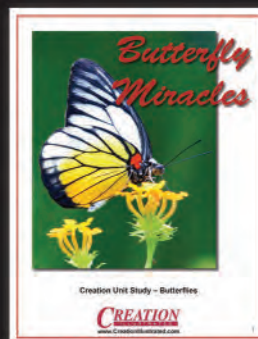
Jean Van Houten writes from Hudsonville, Michigan, where she enjoys traveling and exploring the Creator’s handiwork and sharing her experiences to inspire others to do the same.



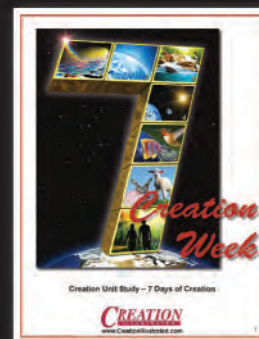
Minerals



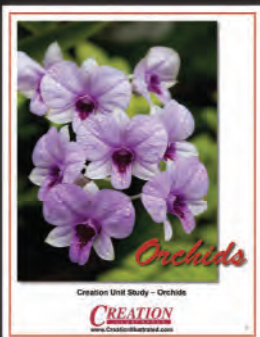
Bears



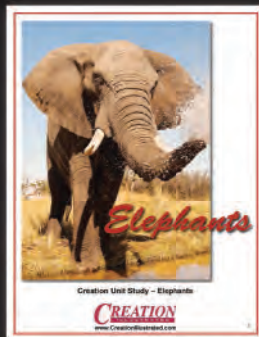
Butterflies



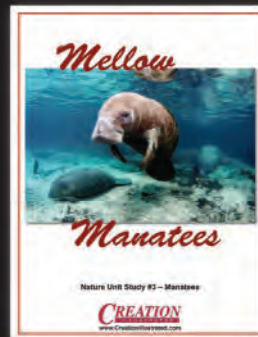
Creation Week



Orchids



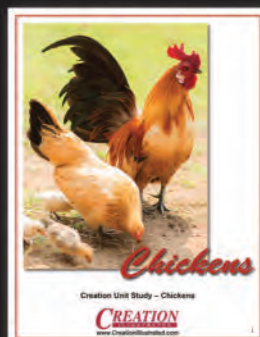
Elephants



Manatees



Horses

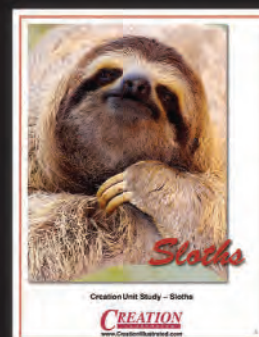


Chickens

PERFECT FOR CLASSROOM or AT-HOME LEARNING! Bible-based Unit Studies

18 AVAILABLE Nature Unit Studies Include:
Science, History, Math, Bible Study,
Geography, Vocabulary, Art, Puzzles, Activities
& Character-building Lessons!
(plus homeschool/teacher answer key)

Octopus Unit Study coming SOON!



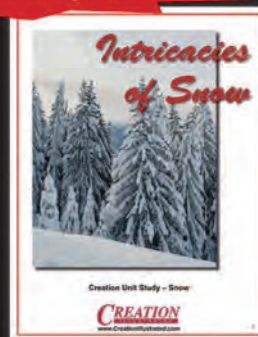
Sloths



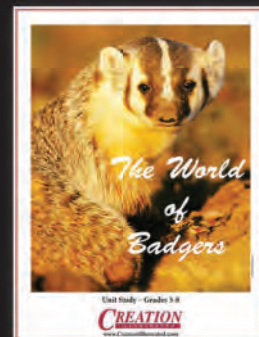
Fragrance



Pine Trees



Snow



Badgers

*"But ask now the beasts, and they shall teach thee; and the fowls of the air, and they shall tell thee:
Or speak to the earth, and it shall teach thee..."* —Job 12:7, 8

from the publishers of *Creation Illustrated* magazine

Order Downloadable Digital PDFs
(Reg. \$9.95) **NOW just \$7.95, SAVE 20%**
Go to: www.CreationIllustrated.com
Choose from 18 Unit Studies!



SEE them HERE with
your cell phone camera!







Obscure

Octopus

In deep recesses of the ocean amid sandy floors, rocky outcroppings, and coral reefs slinks one of Creation's most fascinating creatures—the octopus. Remarkable accounts of the octopus's various characteristics testify to God's amazing design and providence.

In 2016 *Inky* the octopus made international news headlines when he staged a great escape from the New Zealand Aquarium. Taking advantage of a gap in the aquarium lid, Inky waited until nightfall before squeezing out of his tank and making his way across the floor to a drainpipe that led to the nearby ocean. After compressing his soccer ball-sized body into a drain hole just six inches in diameter, aquarium staffers realized the slithery invertebrate pulled himself along a 164-foot-long drainpipe before reaching freedom in the sea.

It took workers quite a while to deduce where Inky had gone. After finding his tank empty the morning after his escape, they searched the aquarium's plumbing but could not find the sneaky cephalopod. Months later they determined that he

By Christa Jewett

must have left the building through the drain. But the question remained: how did Inky choose the correct conduit and avoid becoming lost in the building's plumbing?

The answer may be found in an octopus's impressive sensory abilities. Each of an octopus's eight arms is lined with one to two rows of suction cups. While assessing the octopus in a variety of activities, scientists discovered that the suction cups also have a sensory function allowing the octopus to *smell* and *taste* its surroundings. These sensory suckers enable the creature to continuously gather information about its environment as it moves. It's conceivable that Inky was able to use this feature to detect the salty aroma from the nearby ocean water and choose the correct way of escape.

Inky isn't the only octopus to make international news. The tale of another octopus being studied as part of a neuroscience research project also went viral via social media in 2015. A man filming the project staged a video camera in the octopus's tank. The curious octopus apparently learned how to operate the camera by observing videographer's actions. The octopus demonstrated its acquired know-how when it grabbed the camera and turned it toward the cameraman before snapping a picture.

Octopus intelligence and curiosity has been well-documented by research scientists, aquarists, and even SCUBA divers through the years. With about three hundred species of octopus in nearly every ocean, those studying the creatures have revealed that they are capable of observational learning, using tools, and even problem-solving. Researchers have documented one ingenious species in the Indo-Pacific, the veined octopus, using empty coconut shells as hiding places. Instead of just choosing a discarded shell within the vicinity, these octopuses carry their

preferred shell with them and deploy it as a makeshift hiding place as needed to avoid being seen by predators and prey alike.

Perhaps the most extraordinary behavior demonstrated by octopuses is their ability to blend in with their surroundings. These masters of camouflage have only a single photoreceptor in their eyes, which limits them to just black and white vision. Despite this apparent limitation, they can use three different types of pigment cells just below their skin to appear in a myriad of colors. This remarkable ability is not yet fully understood, but scientists from the University of California, Berkley, and Harvard University think it may be related to the oddly-shaped pupils in the octopuses' eye that allows them to detect color in their surroundings in a different way than other creatures.

Octopuses' camouflaging abilities are not just limited to color change, however. They can also change their body shape and the texture of their skin. Some species can even mimic the appearance and behaviors of other ocean creatures. While this ability is astounding, the situational awareness displayed in their shape-shifting skills remains the most incredible. For example, the mimic octopus can imitate a variety of different animals. The most well-known of its impersonations include the lionfish, banded sole (a type of flatfish), and sea snake—all of which are toxic.

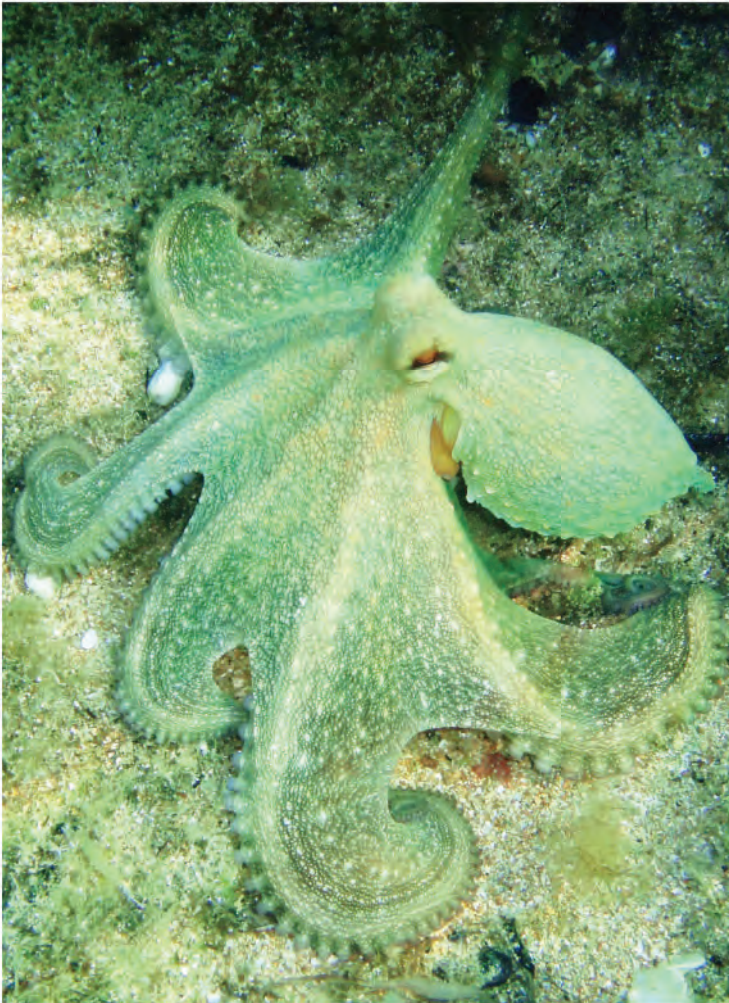
Scientists have noted that the mimic octopus seems to select a different creature from its repertoire of acts based on the current threat level. When it mimics a sea snake, the octopus forces its body and six of its eight arms into a hole, changes color to reflect the banded color pattern of a sea snake, and waves its two remaining exposed arms in an undulating motion. However, the mimic octopus only mimics a sea snake in the presence of a damselfish. While the damselfish are predators of mimic octopuses, the fish is prey to

*“But now ask . . . the fish of the sea
will explain to you.”*

—Job 12:7, 8



Octopus suction cups (above) have sensory abilities to taste and smell. Camouflaging to its surroundings (left) is useful to the octopus, but so are distinct markings (below).



“I have loved you with an everlasting love.”

—Jeremiah 31:3



A color-blind eye (above) still aids the octopus in changing colors. The creature uses its tentacles to swim (right). And the mimic octopus (below) morphs to appear like a starfish.



sea snakes. When threatened by a damselfish, the mimic octopus uses this masterful disguise to change from prey to predator very quickly.

A review of these animals and their unique design features loudly testifies of God's creativity in His handiwork. Octopuses bring to mind the sentiments of Job: "But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; and the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; and the fish of the sea will explain to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?" (Job 12:7-9).

A color-blind animal with the ability to change color to match its environment stretches the mind of even the most imaginative thinker. An invertebrate shape-shifter that outsmarts its predators by turning itself into an even greater threat goes beyond reason. An enterprising escape artist that vanishes using its sensory-lined arms could not be anticipated. How could anyone ponder these behaviors and not marvel at God's design? Yet, there is still another of the octopus's behaviors that offers an even greater comparison to God's character.


In the Bible we find the account of the greatest love story of all time. God creates and designs a perfect world for His glory and the enjoyment of humankind only to have it marred by the effects of a human's sinful choices. Through an incomparable display of His grace, love and mercy, God offers His children the opportunity for repentance and redemption via the brutal sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus Christ.

Since the Bible tells us that all of Creation was made by, for, and through Jesus Christ (Colossians 1:16) and that all of Creation testifies of God (Romans 1:20), we should see evidence of Jesus Christ's sacrifice echoing through the natural environment. And we do

in the form of altruistic behaviors evidenced by a wide variety of species.

While altruistic behavior in nature causes great debate among secular scientists who struggle to find its evolutionary purpose, the followers of Jesus Christ find clarity when Creation is viewed through the lens of Scripture. Creation provides physical examples of spiritual concepts expressed in the Bible. And the example of Jesus Christ's sacrifice can be easily illustrated in the behavior of female octopuses that reproduce only once in their lifetimes.

Each female lays a set of eggs and then, once they are fertilized, guards them until they hatch. She remains impressively devoted to her task refusing to leave her eggs for any reason even though it may drag on for months or years. She instead spends all her time tending, cleaning, and brooding over her clutch of eggs. Female octopuses are so vigilant in their task that scientists believe they fast until the eggs hatch. After the eggs hatch, the mother octopus dies having successfully completed her lifecycle.

Such devotion and self-sacrifice displayed by a female octopus finds its origins in scripture when God tells us "I have loved you with an everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3). Just as a female octopus sacrifices herself to care for her offspring, so God offers His sacrificial love toward us so that we may live. God's love is so powerful, so radiant, so prevalent, we can even find it illustrated in the depths of the sea. 

Christa Jewett writes from Boynton Beach, Florida, where she is founder of Saltwater Studies, Inc., a ministry of Biblically-Based Marine Science Education including courses, field trips, and camps. She holds both Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in marine biology with nearly twenty years of experience in marine sciences. Learn more at: www.saltwaterstudies.com.



The firmament protects the entire globe.

*“Then God said,
‘Let there be a
firmament in the
midst of the waters,
and let it divide . . .*

CREATION DAY 2

■ BY SARAH FAY BUCKLAND, PHD

The Creation of the Firmament

Editor’s Note: This article is the second in our twelfth series of features that focus on the Creation week. Some days are divided into segments, and in the next issue we will explore the third day of the Creation week when God created land and vegetation. Each series of stories varies with new writers and fresh images. We hope you enjoy this closer look at God’s handiwork aimed at inspiring you to study His Word in depth.



Renae Smith

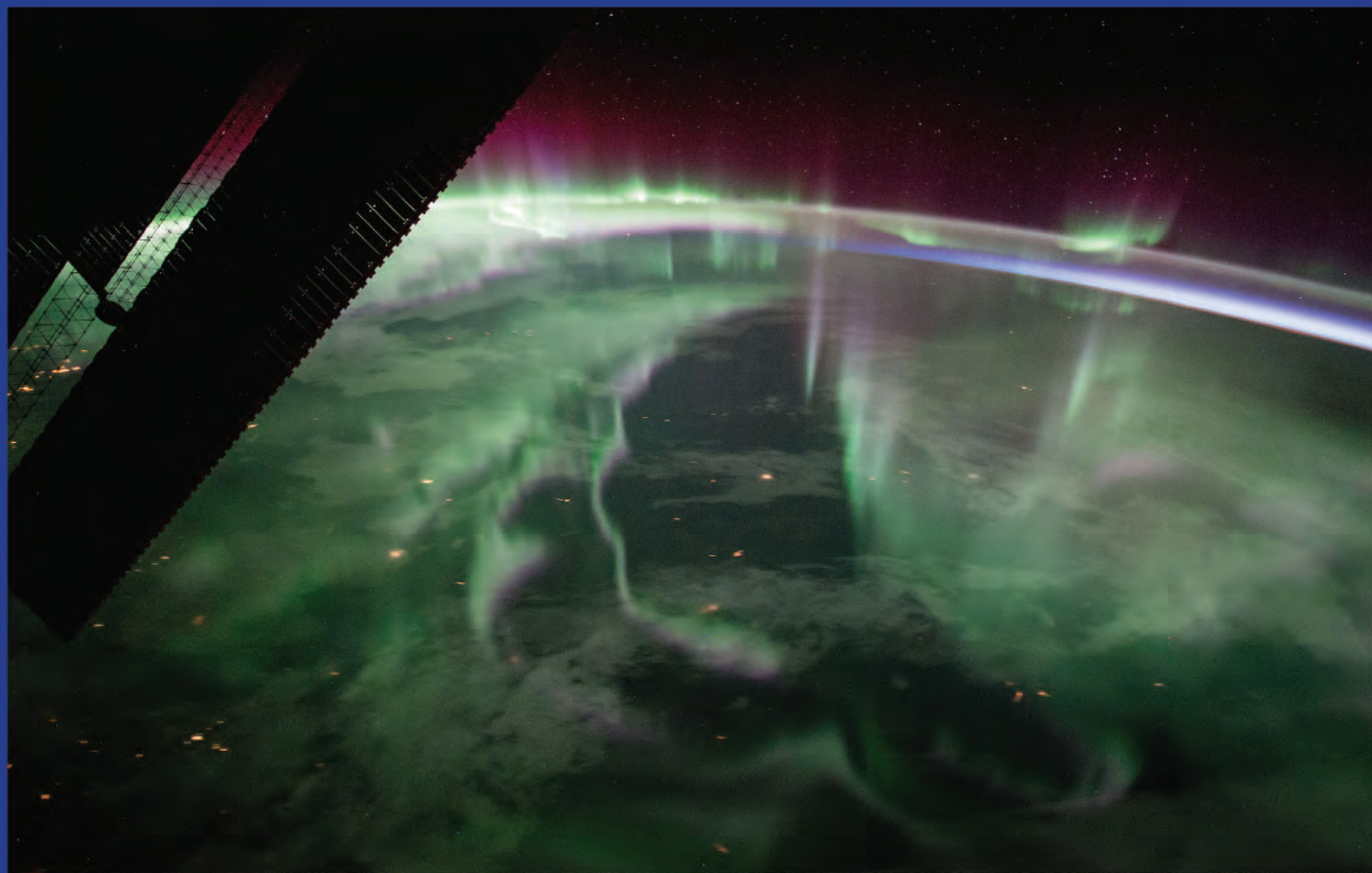
Looking down from above the clouds

“**T**hen God said, ‘Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.’ Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day” (Genesis 1:6–8).

What do you think or feel when you watch the sky? Reading the responses on an online forum, the overwhelming pattern pointed to the pleasant aesthetic color blends as on a large canvas. From childhood I was fascinated with watching clouds of all shapes and sizes slowly float overhead and imagined what we as humans must look like down below.

Later, in my study of geography, I grew interested in the designs and functionality of the natural world and its impact on human societies. As I grew older and traveled, being in a plane even had an impact and made me feel closer to God and His view of the world.

Going about our daily routine, we often take for granted the importance of the atmosphere around us, and the purpose and order of this part of creation is not explicitly stated in Genesis. Creation of the firmament as the waters above uses the Hebrew word *rakia*, which can be translated as expanse, dome, or vault. When examining the origin of the word *firmament* as used in older English translations of the Bible, the term also has the meaning of fixed or settled as derived from the Latin word *firmamentum*.



NASA

A satellite view of the aurora borealis that occurs in the thermosphere.

The idea of this fixed arch or vault of separation holds immense scientific foreknowledge of the existence of two facts that would be unknown to ancients of the time: (1) the spherical shape of the outer layer of the earth, and (2) the gravitational force that continues to keep this dome of gases that surround the earth fixed in place.

The idea of this dome-shaped firmament is expressed in many other places in Scripture including the monologue in Proverbs 8:27, 28, "When He prepared the heavens, I was there, when He drew a circle on the face of the deep, when He established the clouds above. . . ." This circle or dome-like firmament, while separated from the waters below, is still held firmly in place. While gravity was only officially discovered in the 1660s, the description in

Genesis existed more than three thousand years before gravity was discovered!

The gravitational field is exactly the strength needed to keep the atmosphere in place without exerting too much air pressure on to the earth's surface to crush life and not too weak to allow for any portion of our atmosphere or water to escape into outer space. Furthermore, the air pressure is just within the right range to allow our human lungs to function and to allow for the waters below to readily evaporate to sustain the water cycle. Proverbs 3:19 states, "By wisdom the Lord laid the earth's foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place" (NIV).

God's creation of the earth's mass on day one not only enabled the optimum gravitational pull for our atmosphere's thickness to be just right, a different sized

the waters from the waters.’ Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were . . .



No other planet has an atmosphere like the earth.

earth and resulting magnetic field being smaller or larger would result in our planet becoming barren much like our neighboring planets. And while there are storms within the atmosphere, the basic composition, thickness, and layers are stable. “For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast” (Psalm 33:9, NASB).

In addition to gravity being inherent in the creation of the firmament, another descriptive statement reveals a separation between the waters above from the waters below. Curiously enough, analyses of the earth’s atmospheric composition show that there are indeed waters above that make up three to four percent of the total freshwater on the planet. While the atmospheric water vapor may appear miniscule, modern science has shown that the gaseous

composition of this water vapor is just right for sustaining life on earth. In an article published by the United States Geological Survey (2019), “2.5 percent of earth’s water is freshwater—the amount needed for life to survive.” Despite outer space exploration for such water-rich atmospheres across galaxies, no other observable planet’s firmament contains water vapor in the form or proportion necessary for life to exist.

Among the thousands of other galaxies, it is clear that God created the earth with our survival in mind. As Jeremiah stated, “Are there any among the idols of the nations who give rain? Or can the heavens grant showers? Is it not You, O Lord our God? Therefore we hope in You, for You are the one who has done all these things” (Jeremiah 14:22, NASB).

The existence of waters above



Creation

Your
GETAWAY to
NATURE and
CREATION

Subscribe ▶

Christmas in July?

That's right! 'Tis always the season to share
the wonders of Creation with those you care about.
Includes a FREE Digital Subscription! (a \$12.95 value)

Simply fill out the attached **Subscription Form** and mail it in the envelope provided,
OR Mail to: PO Box 141103, Spokane Valley, WA 99214 OR call (800) 360-2732

Prisoners Requesting Subscriptions

From: Jerre [unclear]
Federal Correction Institution, Unit A
P.O. Box 1731
Waseca, MN 56093

Dear Creation Illustrated,

A cellmate blessed me by sharing your magazine with me. I enjoyed it very much. I really liked that it is a Christian magazine with scriptures and beautiful stories about nature. I would really appreciate receiving your magazine. Could you please add me to your list to receive. My address is listed above. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,
Jerre [unclear]



Prisoners appreciate your support to bring them uplifting, Bible-based nature materials inside walls of cement and steel.

Donate
HERE >>>
using your
Smart Phone
camera!



Please partner with us to help prisoners become a **NEW** creation in Christ.
Tax-deductible contributions from caring people like YOU will help get it done!

Please send any assistance in the envelope provided,
OR mail to: PO Box 141103, Spokane Valley, WA 99214
OR on our secure site at: www.creationillustrated.com

YOUR GENEROSITY will help reach souls with an **ETERNAL** impact!
THANK YOU!



Character-building
Nature Books
\$16.95 + s/h



Creation
Illustrated
Back Issues
~~\$4.99~~
Now From
\$3.99 + s/h

Shop Top Quality Creation Products!

Start Shopping at:
CreationIllustrated.com

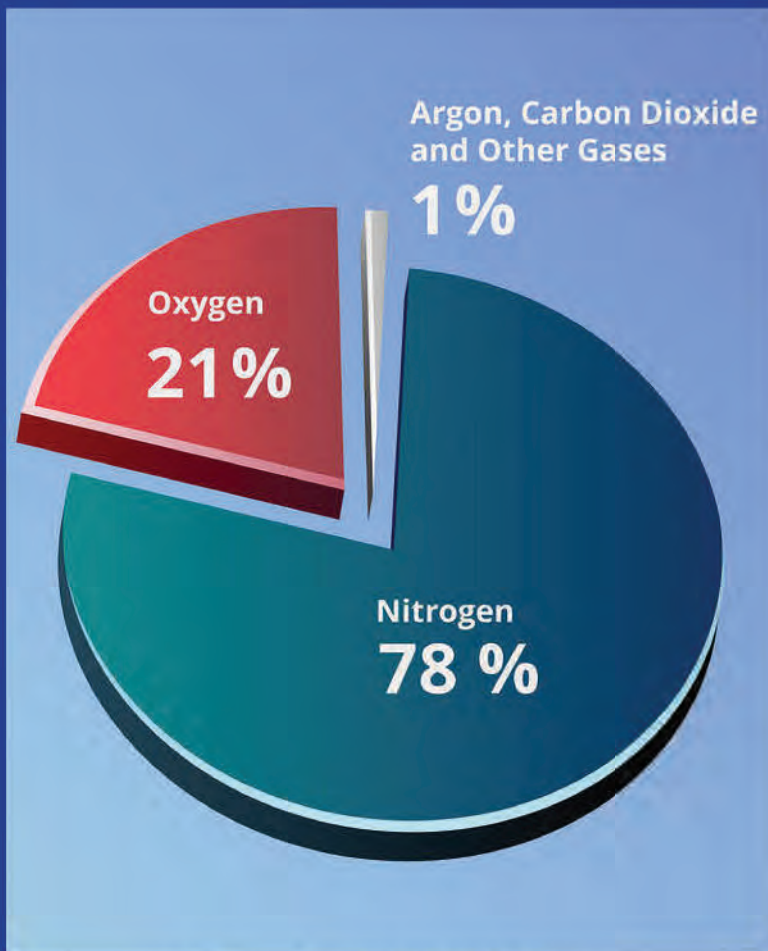
Visit our Store **HERE >>>**
using your Smart Phone
camera!



Digital
Unit Studies
~~\$9.95~~
now
\$7.95



Creation
DVDs
from
\$12.95 + s/h



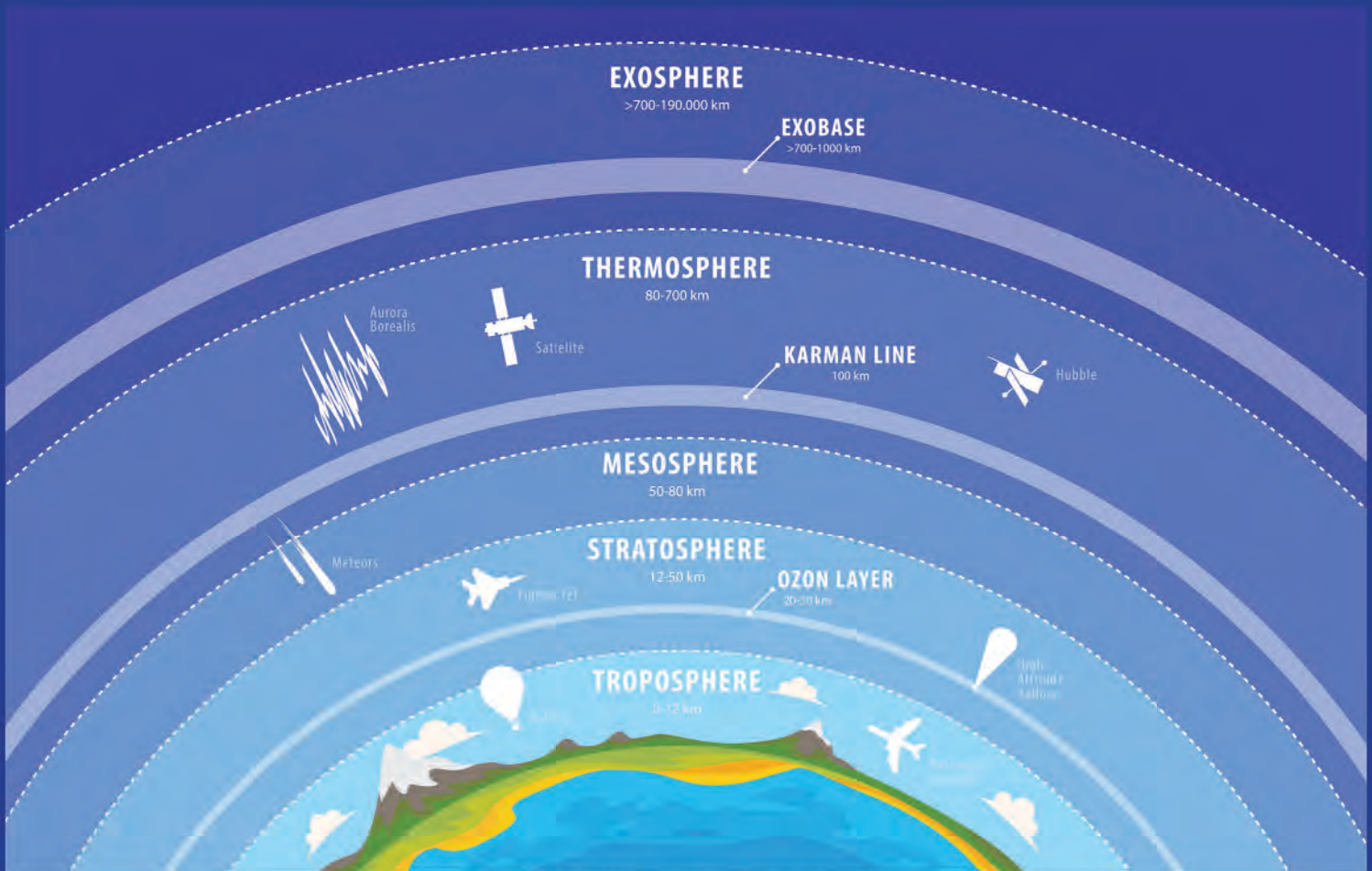
The air we breathe is the perfect balance.

*under the firmament
from the waters
which were above
the firmament; and it
was so.
And God called . . .*

continues to play a key function in sustaining life created during the subsequent days of the Creation week with a uniquely balanced mix of just enough carbon-dioxide (0.04 percent), water vapor (4 percent), and oxygen (21 percent). Despite God's most treasured creation (humans) needing oxygen, scientists now know that more oxygen in earth's atmosphere (even as little as 10 percent more) would increase the risk of the atmosphere igniting or increase the number of fires on the earth's surface. Although hydrogen and helium are the most dominant elements in the universe, these form only traces in the earth's atmosphere. This fact was even admitted in a 2016 article in the secular *Forbes* magazine entitled: "Why Is Earth's Atmosphere So Different From Other Planets?"

The most abundant element in the earth's atmosphere is nitrogen (78 percent); this element formed an important foundation for the life God would create. Despite not playing a role in respiration, nitrogen is essential for healthy plant growth, as well as enabling animals and humans to manufacture proteins.

Imagine living on a planet where instead of rainfall you experience rockfall—outer space meteors hitting the earth hundreds of times per day! Thankfully, we do not have to experience such life-threatening hazards because of a protective function God designed into the earth's atmosphere. Although the exact nature of the light created on day one of the Creation week is left unexplained in Scripture, our present understanding of the vast spectrum of energy includes

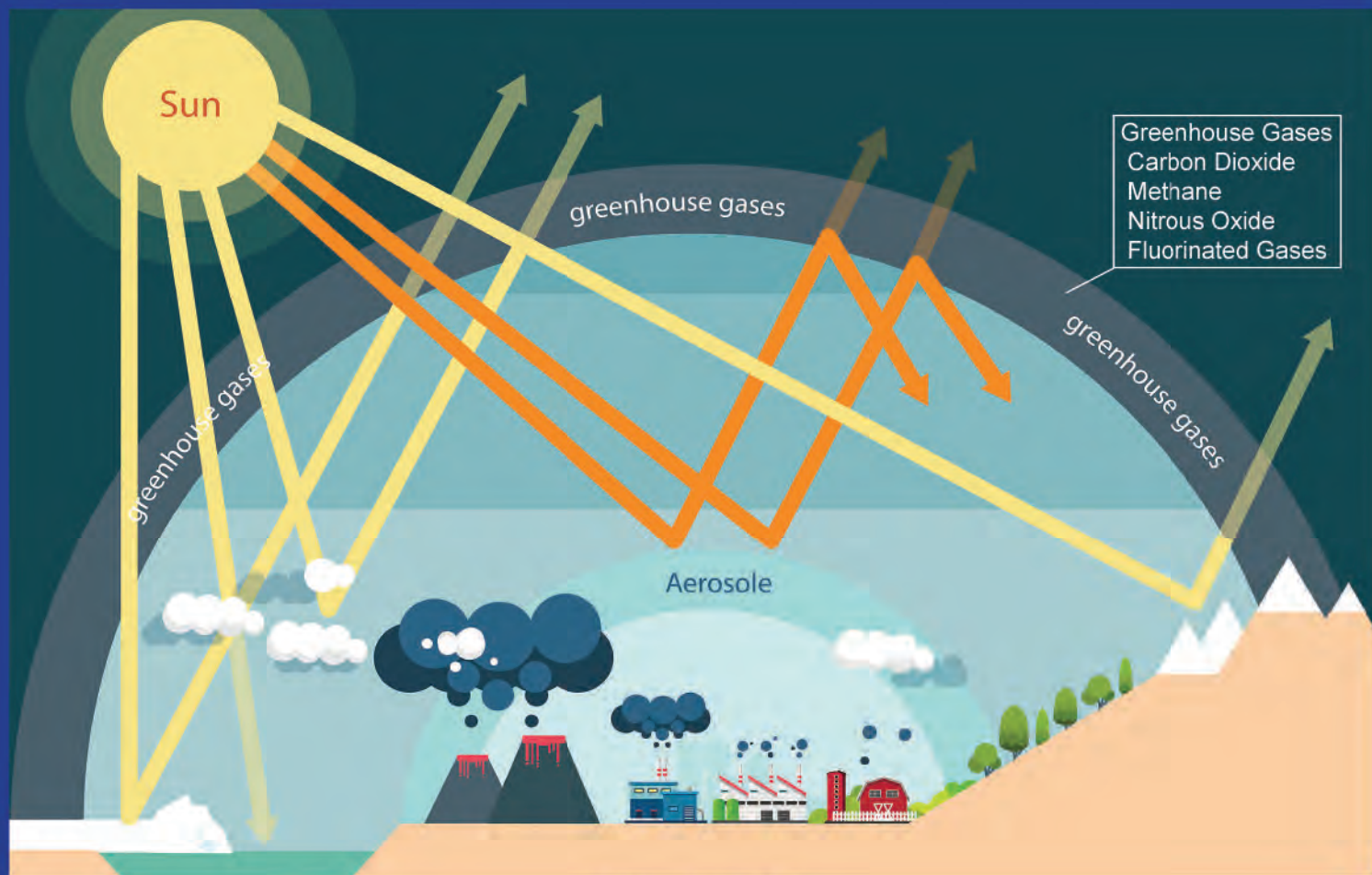


The five layers of our current atmosphere

radiation at various frequencies and strengths from destructive cosmic, gamma, and ultraviolet rays to less destructive visible light, infrared, and radio waves. If the order of the Creation week were shifted even slightly, plants or other life would be harmed by the energy without a protective shield.

Scientists divide the earth's atmosphere into five layers—the troposphere, stratosphere, mesosphere, thermosphere (including the ionosphere), and exosphere. Each of these provide a layer of protection and usefulness. For instance, in the lowest layer (troposphere), most clouds are formed, which enable the *albedo* effect in shielding everything below from excessive radiation. The strongest protective function exists in the layer above the troposphere called the stratosphere, which is rich in ozone

that protects the earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation. The third layer, the mesosphere, burns up rock fragments such as meteors with only rare instances of meteors penetrating this layer and reaching the earth. The ionosphere within the thermosphere traps cosmic rays, further protecting the earth from this harmful radiation. The result of this protection becomes visible as the northern and southern lights (Aurora Borealis and Aurora Australis) are caused by high-energy particles from the sun reaching earth and interacting with the polar magnetic fields. When the particle electrons reach earth's upper atmosphere, they collide with nitrogen and oxygen molecules that causes an excited state, and when they calm down, light is released that we see as an aurora. The final layer (exosphere) is the interface between outer



The greenhouse effect

space and the earth's atmosphere. How loving is our God to place multiple shields of protection over our planet for life to flourish.

In addition to the care and forethought shown by God in engineering the firmament as a protective canopy of grace with just the right mix of gases, He provided a thermostatic system to regulate the temperature of the earth for a habitable climate. Think what life on earth would be like if various levels of energy arrived here uninterrupted with no way of spreading the heat around. The earth's atmosphere acts as a thermostat control to trap enough heat to sustain life but not too much heat. Water vapor, along with other gases such as carbon dioxide, serve as the two main gases responsible for this balance by trapping heat energy and reflecting the excess. This process is

known as *the greenhouse effect*.

Carbon dioxide's balancing function is so reliable that even secular scientists have used the term *thermostat* to describe the function of atmospheric CO₂. Despite even our closest planetary neighbor (Mars) having a reasonable distance from the sun to allow life, its atmosphere is too thin, which allows temperatures to drop too low during the night. The earth's moon is also at a workable distance from the sun for life, but without an atmosphere to trap heat in or to block excess heat or radiation, life cannot be sustained.

When we reflect on what science reveals about the firmament, we begin to appreciate the depth of God's care and love for the world He created. Truly, the wisdom of God is clearly seen when we look at the sky above us. It is no

*the firmament
Heaven. So the
evening and the
morning were the
second day”*

—Genesis 1:6–8



The waters above are separated from the waters below.

wonder the psalmist proclaimed, “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world” (Psalm 19:1–4).

With God placing such intricate forethought and impeccable design into creating earth’s firmament, how much more care, providence, protection, love, and concern would He bestow throughout the Creation week to ensure the absolute best for our lives and souls? The next time you look up at the sky, remember to trust His foresight for our eternal well-being. Just as the clouds float and stay suspended in the troposphere, we can rest and stay caressed in the

assurance of His Word and wholly entrust our lives to the Creator of the firmament. **C**

Sarah Fay Buckland, PhD, writes from the island of Jamaica, where she is an environmental researcher, Spanish language enthusiast, and inspirational author. She holds a doctoral degree in geography from the University of the West Indies and is a published researcher in the field specializing in drought risk management. She has an avid interest in exploring how patterns of regularity in God’s creation can be used to help farmers prepare for and manage risks. Sarah merges her research career as a ministry tool, as she believes that scientific explorations in the natural world are among the most powerful testaments to the wisdom and love of our Creator.

CREATION HIGHLIGHTS

Providing capsules of research on Creation to encourage the pursuit of Bible-based convictions.

The Great Missoula Flood

Creationists and evolutionary geologists don't agree on the dating of the great Missoula flood. But both agree that it happened. Actually, evolutionary geologists took a long time to accept it despite the overwhelming evidence because it seemed too biblical to have a catastrophe of such massive proportions.

So, what was this flood? Well, within a few centuries of the global Flood of Noah's day, there was an Ice Age, and at the peak of the Ice Age, approximately five hundred and forty cubic miles of water were dammed up in Lake Missoula in Montana. That's three times the volume of Lake Erie!

Eventually the lake burst through with rushing water 400 feet deep that carved its way to the Pacific Ocean. The fast-moving water quickly laid down layers and carved out canyons, including Grand Coulee—a canyon fifty miles long and nine hundred

feet deep!

Secular geologists believe that rock layers are laid down slowly over millions of years, and canyons are carved over time by rivers. But that wasn't the case with much

of the geography in the Western United States. It was carved rapidly by a flood of water from a burst glacial lake, . . . and I've talked to PhD evolutionary geologists. Most trained geologists agree that it happened extremely quickly.

If a comparatively small flood such as this one could do so much damage and completely change the landscape, imagine what the global Flood described in Genesis could do!

Condensed from an article in *Creation Club*

***Magazine*, May 2022, www.davidrivesministries.org**

Update on Creation movie

The production team for the *Is Genesis History?* Part 2 movie have recently finished filming and are in the final phase of post-production. They hope to release the film in late 2022 or early 2023. The new

film's focus and title is *Mountains After the Flood* and explores the question: what was the world like after Noah stepped off the ark?

Condensed from a post on www.isgenesishistory.com

Unsolved Ice Ages Puzzle

Secular scientists struggle to explain what caused the cyclical ice ages. But a new study has laid out how initial changes in climate could have triggered the chain of events resulting in these supposed ice ages.

"We are pretty confident that the carbon balance between the atmosphere and ocean must have changed," Malte Jansen, coauthor of the study, said. "But we don't quite know how or why."

Based on new evidence, researchers suggest that increasing sea ice in the Antarctic might have altered the exchange of carbon dioxide between the atmosphere and the ocean. More sea ice would have retained more carbon dioxide keeping this greenhouse gas out of the atmosphere and leading to even more cooling in a sort of feedback loop. But what started the process and what caused the supposed cycles is still unclear.

"The most plausible explanation is that there was some change in how carbon was divided between the atmosphere and the ocean," Jansen said. "There's no shortage of ideas about how this happens, but it's not quite clear how they all fit together."

Creation scientists believe the effects of the Flood triggered just one ice age. The violent upheaval and drastic environmental changes caused by the worldwide catastrophic event, including an ocean that covered the entire surface of the globe for many months, certainly would have altered the exchange of carbon dioxide. These secular researchers' statements unwittingly confirm the biblical model.

Secular scientists don't know the whole story; so, they don't have a mechanism for an ice age. But Scripture offers the explanation that fills in their missing pieces.

Condensed from an article in *Answers Magazine*, March 2020, www.answersingenesis.org



CREATION STEWARDSHIP

Providing helpful suggestions on how to better care for God's Creation.

Sharing Facts and Figures

Every cell in the body needs oxygen to live. The average person breathes around two gallons of air each minute or 3,400 gallons of air each day. Our bodies are equipped to filter this air to keep each cell in the body functioning. If the quality of air is poor, then our bodies start to suffer. Air pollution is now the world's fourth largest risk factor for early death. To define air pollutants, the World Health Organization states that the two most prevalent types are smog (when emissions from combusting fossil fuels react to sunlight) and soot that is made up of tiny particles of dust, soil, chemicals, and fire smoke. These small particulates can be so small they can move through cell membranes and into the bloodstream, organs, and brain. Some 8.9 million people are killed by air pollution a year.

One country's air pollution affects others. Manufacturing pollutants in Asia even increase pollution in the western United States. Statistics show that at least forty percent of premature deaths from air pollution in the forty-eight contiguous states result from pollutants that originate from other states. (*Nature* 2020).

The Clean Air act in the United States has reduced harmful air pollution from transportation and manufacturing, but recent increases in wildfires and record-breaking heat add new challenges. California cities rank the highest in pollution even after great gains. Burlington, Vermont; Honolulu, Hawaii; and Wilmington, North Carolina are the three cities that rank among the country's best in air quality.

Indoor air quality is also very important to monitor. About 2.6 billion people cook over open flames and use fuels such as wood, animal dung, kerosene, and coal that increase indoor air pollution. Secondhand smoke still contributes to 880,000 deaths worldwide each year.

Tips For Simple Living

Everyone can benefit from working to achieve cleaner air. Some helpful tips to help you and your family breathe healthy air are:

- Check daily air-pollution forecasts.
- Check your air quality by simply entering your zip code at airnow.gov.
- If the air quality is poor, alter outdoor activities. Exercise at the gym or walk at a mall. Limit the time children are playing outdoors.
- Choose areas to walk or jog that have less traffic. Open areas in parks and school yards are preferred.
- Avoid burning trash and fuels that contribute to pollution.
- Choose cleaning products that do not contain harmful chemicals.
- Use HEPA air filters that can remove ninety-nine percent of harmful particles.
- Provide proper ventilation in your home.
- Use of indoor plants helps purify your air. Some good varieties are the spider plant, cornstalk, peace lily, and common ivy.



Biblical Stewardship of Creation

The Creator made our environment to be perfect for all aspects of life to thrive, and the creation of good air was an important part of it on day two of the Creation week. In Genesis 2:7, "The Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature" (ESV). What an important lesson to remember. It was the breath of God that enabled man to live. This is echoed in Job 33:4, "'The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life'" (ESV). It is easy to forget about how important this breath is to our continuing existence. But we are given good counsel in 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20, "Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, who you have from God? . . . So glorify God in your body" (ESV). It is our high calling to glorify our Creator by having good air to breathe so our bodies can stay healthy and function to honor Him.

Exciting New Magazine About the Three Angels' Messages!

Perfect for Sharing and Mass Mailing!

BRAND
NEW FROM
AMAZING
FACTS



Earth's Final Warning: The Three Angels of Revelation

This captivating, beautifully designed, full-color magazine makes essential prophecy easy to understand and is the perfect resource for sharing with friends, family, and neighbors!

This attention-grabbing magazine, as well as Amazing Facts' 11 other sharing magazines, are available at great bulk prices—so stock up today! Please call us at 800-538-7275 for more information about tax-deductible mass-mailing opportunities!

BK-3AMR ... \$2.95

BULK PRICING:

10+ \$2.45 ea. | 25+ \$2.10 ea. | 50+ \$1.95 ea. | 100+ \$1.50 ea. | 500+ \$1.20 ea. | 1,000+ \$1.10 ea.

Or you can check out our ...

MASS-MAILING OPPORTUNITY

Mass mail *Earth's Final Warning: The Three Angels of Revelation* for as low as \$1.26 per home.*

Now you or your church can share the truth in every home in your community for a low price. Reach more people with less expense by mass mailing *Earth's Final Warning: The Three Angels of Revelation*!

MASS-MAILING DISCOUNTS

Our mass-mailings offer the same product prices as buy-in-bulk; the prices below also include shipping costs to homes:

500+ homes, approx. \$1.88 per home*
1,000+ homes, approx. \$1.56 per home*
5,000+ homes, approx. \$1.26 per home*

*Prices are subject to change. Please call 800-538-7275 for current prices.
Price per home includes both material and postage.



AMAZING FACTS
INTERNATIONAL

ORDER NOW at afbookstore.com.
Or call 800-538-7275, Mon–Thu, 8:30 AM – 6:00 PM PT.

Discover Creation!

with
Alpha Omega
Institute



From the mountains to the tropics, enjoy life-changing **camps** and **tours** that will demonstrate the fallacies of evolution and help you trust God's word beginning in Genesis.

AOI **seminars** are fun, affordable, and engaging! To schedule a seminar in your area, call **800-377-1923**. Visit **DiscoverCreation.org** for more info on camps, seminars, training, and curricula.



AOI

ALPHA OMEGA INSTITUTE



Christ-Centered
LIVE
Online
Science
Classes

Taught by former college professor and homeschool dad, Greg Landry

Superior Instruction that leaves out the guesswork in:
• Biology • Chemistry • Physics • Anatomy & Physiology •

What others say:

"Your orientation toward training students to be researchers and critical thinkers is just what our girls needed. It has also spilled over into how they approach history and literature ..." – Carol

Learn More at:

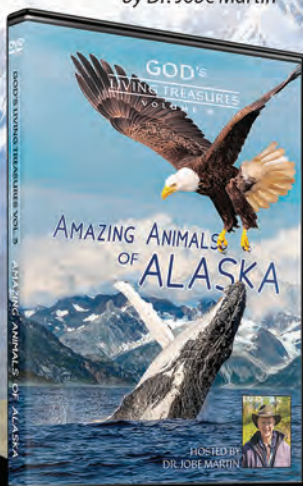
CollegePrepScience.com

WWW.BIBLICALDISCIPLESHIP.ORG

Announcing Volume 3

OF GOD'S LIVING TREASURES!

by Dr. Jobe Martin



God's Living Treasures:
Amazing Animals
of Alaska
—
Volumes 1-3



CLICK ADS to ORDER

IF YOU WERE ME AND LIVED IN...
CULTURE SERIES

BE AN ARMCHAIR TRAVELER
Fact-filled and entertaining in this popular and award-winning series.

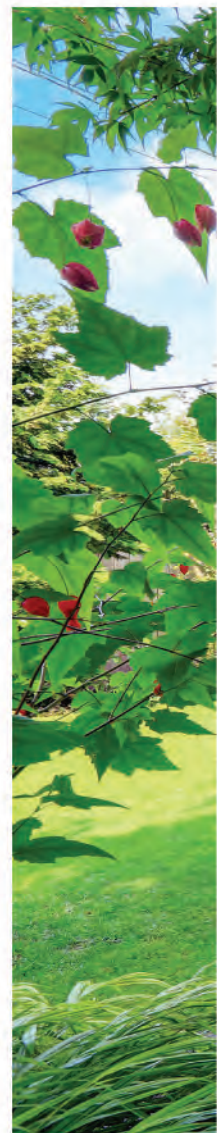
CULTURE, TRADITIONS, FOOD
Celebrate a favorite holiday and discover popular names for both boys and girls.

AND WHAT YOU MIGHT DO FOR FUN
Rich history and colorful activities take the reader on a globe-trotting adventure.

22 COUNTRIES
IN THE SERIES

amazon

Nancy's Garden



One morning I felt stressed and angry being forced to listen to my upstairs neighbor's loud, pounding rock music, as well as the ceaseless barking of another neighbor's dog. Fortunately, I had time for a walk.

Walking and talking to God is the best remedy I've found for times when there's stress-induced tightness in my chest, throat, and fists. Then the mean thoughts that can spin around in my head come



when I'm overwhelmed by the pressure of living in a crowded city with very inconsiderate neighbors who continue their racket even after I've politely asked them to stop. I'm sad to say, at times like this, I want revenge!

I blush to admit that I did some pounding of my own as I banged open the closet door to get my shoes and slammed the front door as I stomped out. While I knew this wasn't the best way to behave, the red-hot frustration growing inside me swallowed up

and overruled Solomon's godly wisdom: "Do not hasten in your spirit to be angry, for anger rests in the bosom of fools" (Ecclesiastes 7:9). Proverbs 22: 24, 25 also warns, "Make no friendship with an angry man, and with a furious man do not go, lest you learn his ways and set a snare for your soul."

So, I put one foot in front of the other—quickly, one foot in front of the other. Then I took a deep breath followed by another deep, deep breath and very slowly let it out. The angry fire inside my chest

started to fade. I looked up at the sky. Oh my! How beautiful. How vast. How filled with God's glory. How calming.

Then I happened to come upon a lovely green wooden house with a well-tended garden in front. Two red Japanese maple trees stood on either side of the house like scarlet uniformed guards. Purple butterfly bushes bent gracefully in front of the trees as a water fountain's tinkling melody serenaded the monarch butterflies fluttering by.

B Y S U S A N C . B U R R I T T



Rows of roses and lavender filled the garden's central space. I bent down to sniff a rose while touching its velvety petals. God gave these gems such sweet perfume for us to enjoy. The luscious lavender appeared to beckon, "Sniff me too!" So, I did. The delicate, calming fragrance doused the last smoldering flames of my anger.

What's this that suddenly caught my eye? A hummingbird hovered over the fountain as the sunlight caused the jeweled creature's iridescent hues to sparkle. I love hummingbirds. Thank You, God. Thank You for this soul-rescuing garden. Thank You for the blossoms and hummingbirds. Thank You that I can see, walk, and smell the aromas. Thank You for the beauty

of Your creation, which serves as a reminder of how excellent, ever-present, and loving You are. "O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth" (Psalm 8:1). Thank You for Your Word that reassures me You care about everything that concerns me in such minute detail that You even know the number of hairs on our heads! "'Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows'" (Matthew 10:29).

Even though I live in Los Angeles—a very busy city filled with crowded freeways, aggressive drivers, and non-stop activity—I can still look up and see the beauty

of God's creation. The sky, the trees, and the birds all remind me that God is the Creator, and He's in control.

Completely calm now, I thought about what God might be trying to teach me through this stressful morning. Colossians 3:12, 13 came to mind. "Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."

But, Poppi (I call God Poppi), I can't do that. The noise drives me crazy. How can I be loving and kind when I feel so stressed, and my neighbors are inconsiderate toward me? As I

pondered this, the front door of the little house opened. I hope the owner didn't mind my being there!

"Hello," I said. "I hope it's okay that I admire your garden. It's so beautiful!"

The owner, a kind-looking woman with honey-colored hair and a warm smile said, "Yes, it's fine. I'm glad you like it."

Relieved, I commented, "I see God's beauty in it, and it reminds me of how He's always watching over us which calms me down."

"Yes, I feel that way too," she agreed.

A warm, tingly glow filled me. When I meet someone who loves the Lord, I feel a surge of uplifting energy that seems very empowering.


"It's nice to meet you. My name is Susan," I said.

"It's nice meeting you too. My name is Nancy," she said and added, "I have to go now," as she headed toward a car in the driveway. "But stay as long as you like. You're welcome here anytime."

Ah, just then I think I figured out Poppi's lesson for me that day. No matter how I'm feeling, no matter what I'm struggling with, no matter how bad I've acted, I'm welcome to come to Him anytime. And while I can't of my own strength love my aggravating neighbors, I find assurance in knowing that *He's* the One who can give me the power along with the Holy Spirit to do it! As illustrated in John 15:5, "'I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him,

bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.'" Hebrews 4:16 admonishes, "Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

God is such a loving and patient Father. We can come to Him anytime and anywhere; He never turns us away. We're always

welcome at His throne of grace just as I am always welcome at Nancy's garden. 

Susan C. Burritt writes from Los Angeles, California, where she has taught school for many years and specializes in writing children's books including a children's book of prayer poems called SOS GOD.



Renee Smith



Cochise, Autumn, and Libby produce plenty of material for composting.

from manure

I pop one more sweet strawberry into my mouth as I stand up swiping the rich garden dirt from my knees. Gazing around our 44-acre horse farm and sighing in contentment, the familiar neigh of horses, sweet bird songs, and wind chimes on my porch soothe my ears as the pungent farm fragrances fill my nostrils—heady spring lilacs, the bounty in the garden, and the one I have come to most appreciate, horse poop. Yes, I said horse poop.

When we first moved to what we call “a slice of Eden” in eastern Wisconsin, the space to have our beloved horses and enough land to grow our own food thrilled me, but I soon faced a steep learning curve on both dreams.

Did you know that an average thousand-pound horse produces about fifty pounds of manure daily (or roughly nine tons annually)? Multiplied times four horses, that means more than thirty-six tons of manure every year! We dealt with our massive waste management

g a r d e n s f r o m e d e n



Heather MacLaren Johnson

The author's husband, Todd, turns the compost, which has come a long way compared to the mounds in the background.

to black gold

challenge by creating a spot next to our barn where we could dump our horses' byproducts. But this is not the smell I came to appreciate. It just stinks! Yet, composting that manure into what I call *black gold* produces a dark, crumbly, sweet-smelling loam that is not only good for the soil but beneficial to those who feed off the earth. Rich in nutrients to nourish garden plants, it also improves the texture of the soil.

For the microorganisms to do God's bidding in a horse manure/compost pile, five components are necessary. First, to manure we add vegetable scraps, eggshells, and coffee grounds. Second, moisture keeps the concoction *cooking*. Third, turning the pile regularly mixes in oxygen and moisture. Fourth, monitoring the temperature keeps the compost pile at a steamy 130 to 160 degrees Fahrenheit because if it gets too hot, the microbes die, the composting process stops, and it results in nothing but a big pile of muck. Finally, time and patience allow the

by heather macLaren johnson



Heather MacLaren Johnson

Working with the garden soil and plants builds and transforms character and fruitfulness.

compost to *mature* for a year. Composted horse manure is not fast-food for gardens, as placing it around plants too soon can burn the roots. Ultimately, the finished product is well worth the time and effort.

I think of composting when I ponder growing into the likeness of Christ. Transforming horse manure into garden food reminds me how God works to transform our hearts and lives. He loves us and wants us to grow strong and healthy just like I want my gardens to flourish and produce abundant flowers that feed butterflies and birds, as well as vegetables and fruit that feed our family and others.

So, how does God turn the refuse in us into goodness for all? He tends to the unloveliness, decay, and dregs in our lives. He warms us with His love like the sun warms the compost pile. He churns us up when we get too comfortable to let us know through His Word and our conscience that staying the same leads to rot and sadness. He allows the *heat* of certain challenges to decompose our pride and transform our hearts toward gratitude, strength, and abundance in order to serve others. He promises, “Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 36:26, NASB). Allowing God to cultivate fallen humanity into selfless goodness allows His plan of salvation to flourish like a garden far beyond what we can imagine. Jeremiah 29:11 reveals, “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

When we first began gardening, we noticed the soil consisted mostly of clay—understandably since our farm is down-slope from a street named Clay Ridge. The roots



Heather MacLaren Johnson

Plants flourish in the rich black soil that fills planter boxes and garden patches.

couldn't grow in the thick, gooey globs and dense clods. So, we began improving the garden plot by removing clay, adding topsoil, and turning in peat moss. Still, the soil needed the nutrients of organic compost to feed the plants. We had tons of that! Organic gardening without chemicals nurtures the environment by protecting animals and producing healthier, better tasting, more nutritious fruit and vegetables than you can buy in most stores. We've learned it's more economical, productive, and satisfying when an organic garden, at the height of harvest, provides a lush visual feast for the eyes, the body, and the soul. Our yearly harvest provides for our family, as well as an abundance to share the fruit of our labor along with the fruit of His spirit.

Jesus knew an abundant harvest only comes from sowing seed into a fertile, prepared field rather than a clay-hardened rocky one—especially in the garden of our hearts. He taught by parables, “As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty” (Matthew 13:23, ESV).

Working in my garden provides the perfect place to open my heart to the Creator. I can smell the sweet earth as I press seeds into its darkness, then water and wait. Lord, remove the clay, plant the seeds, water my heart, and teach me to wait. All good things in life require the faith of waiting. Faith to believe in what we don't see sprouting will soon break free from the darkness and lift its spindly arms toward the sun. The garden beds soon become blanketed in the verdant green of new life.

I take kitchen scissors and a vintage basket to the raised garden beds and begin



Heather MacLaren Johnson

The author's daughter, Anna, helps harvest the bounty from the black gold.

harvesting the fresh lettuce that provide healthful salads the rest of the summer. I toss in a couple cherry tomatoes, warm from the sun, into my mouth, close my eyes, and enjoy a burst of sweet, rich flavor I never taste from the grocer's aisle. Green beans grow long and thick; I pick them right before dinner to capture every bite of freshness. Just a sprinkle of salt is all they need to create a tender and tasty accent to our meal. Or maybe we'll crunch into cool cucumbers combined with tomatoes, yellow onions, a drizzle of white vinegar, and a sprinkle of basil from the herb garden.

Come August I'll be on my knees again, thanking God for another year of abundant harvest and for the aroma of sweet, composted horse manure filling the air. **C**

Heather MacLaren Johnson writes from Cedar Grove, Wisconsin, where she is an author, speaker, photographer, retired clinical psychologist, and Master Certified Life Coach. She has worked in education with special needs students, developed a private practice in Chicago, adopted three children with hidden disabilities and mental illness from Russia with her husband Todd, and continues to bring hope to others through writing and teaching the secrets of overcoming through her blog, www.truelifewithgod.com.



**Help
Students
Embrace
Nature
with**



\$15 Worth of FREEbies



Get them HERE
with the camera on your
cell phone!


INCLUDES:

- A FREE CREATION ILLUSTRATED DIGITAL BACK ISSUE (\$2.99 value)
- A FREE NATURE UNIT STUDY (\$9.95 value)
- A FREE CREATION CHARACTER-BUILDING LESSON (\$1.99 value)
- A FREE DIGITAL NEWSLETTER WITH UPLIFTING DEVOTIONALS, NATURE ACTIVITIES, WHOLESOME RECIPES, AND SPECIAL OFFERS!

Simply LOGON To:
www.CreationIllustrated.com
and Click on FREEbies

Farm Ponds





A quiet place to rest,
Watching setting sun,
Sitting at the pond,
After day is done.

The musky scent of water,
Fills the evening air.
Frogs begin their croaking,
Their lovely evening prayer.

Fish jump up for insects,
Leaping in the air,
Rippling the water,
Movement everywhere.

Evening light diffuses,
Day now turns to night.
Time to end my stay,
Worries all take flight.

Everyone should have,
A place to find respite.
Farm ponds are perfect,
Places of sheer delight.

— Kathleen Fessler

Genesis Cuisine

Sea Savors

"See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food."

"And you shall eat the herb of the field."

—Genesis 1:29-3:18



Recipes by Jennifer Ish. Photos by Tom Ish



Northwest Pacific Mock Lox

- 3 large carrots
- Vegan cream cheese spread
- Everything bagels or crackers
- Marinade ingredients:
- 2 C. water
- 1 1/2 Tb. soy sauce
- 1 Tb. liquid smoke

- 1 large sheet of nori, cut in strips
- 1 tsp. onion powder
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp. sea salt
- Toppings:
- Capers, dill weed, and sea salt flakes to taste

Scrub carrots well and shave into strips with a spiralizer or vegetable peeler. Place in a pot with the marinade ingredients. Bring to a slow boil, cover and cook for 10 minutes. Refrigerate and let carrots marinate for one to three days. Assemble with your favorite bagels, crackers, vegan cream cheese spread, and toppings.



Hawaiian Mock Poke Bowl

- 1 small seedless watermelon
- cooked rice of choice
- Marinade Ingredients:
- 1 sheet of nori, ground
- 6 Tb. liquid or coconut aminos
- 3 Tb. sesame oil
- 2 Tb. ea. rice vinegar & lime juice

- 1 Tb. agave or maple syrup
- 1 to 2 Tb. garlic hot sauce
- 2 Tb. tahini
- 1 Tb. ginger, grated
- Items to add to your bowl:
- avocado, papaya, cabbage, green onions, edamame, radishes, etc.

Cut watermelon into bite-sized cubes and place onto two non-stick baking pans. Mix marinade ingredients and drizzle a quarter of it over the watermelon cubes, sprinkle with salt, and bake for 45 min. at 350 degrees. Add the remaining marinade and refrigerate for one to three days. Cook rice and prepare the other items for your bowl. Place a generous mound of rice in each bowl, and add the marinated watermelon/mock poke. Arrange the bowl with other items and sprinkle with sesame seeds. Mix some of the marinade with vegan yogurt or veganaise to drizzle on top.



Caribbean Mock Saltfish

- 2 cans, hearts of palm
- 1 yellow onion, chopped
- 1/2 ea. red, orange, green pepper, chopped
- 1 hot pepper of choice (optional)
- 2 green onions, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, minced

- 2 Roma tomatoes, chopped
- 6 sprigs fresh thyme
- 1/2 tsp. garlic salt
- 1 tsp. onion powder
- 1 sheet of nori, ground fine
- 1 Tb. cooking oil
- Sides of fried plantain and biscuits

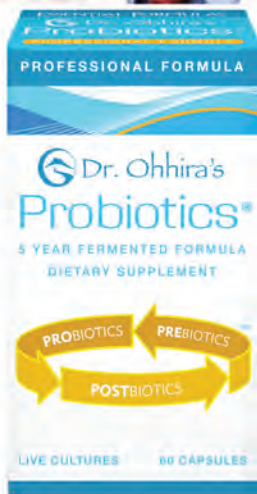
Drain the canned hearts of palm and coarsely chop. Heat oil in a skillet and add thyme sprigs, ground nori, chopped vegetables, garlic salt, onion powder, and hearts of palm. Saute until tender. Serve with fried plantain and biscuits for a Caribbean favorite dish.

10% OFF any order of 2 or more boxes with Coupon Code: CREATION10

Dr. Ohhira's Probiotics.com



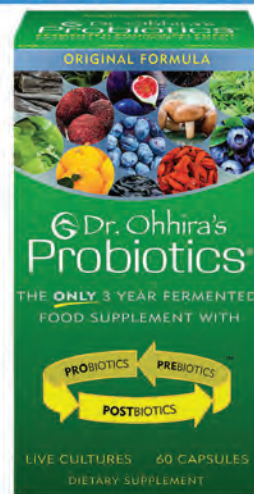
Formulated by Award-Winning Microbiologist, Dr. Iichiroh Ohhira, Ph.D



- **PREbiotics** - fermented vegetables and mushrooms that nourish the probiotics*
- **PRObiotics** - friendly bacteria that help you digest food and support immune system response*
- **POSTbiotics** - support digestive function and whole health*

Call (800) 605-5032

10% OFF any order of 2 or more boxes with Coupon Code: CREATION10



CLICK ADS to ORDER

Sprouting With Steve

"You Can Do It!!!"

Learn how through his all-in-one Sprouting Course!

[CLICK HERE](#)
for more info.



Clover

Broccoli

Mung Bean

Alfalfa

Garbanzo

Lentils

Purple Barley

Adzuki

Peas

Winter Rye

Buckwheat Groats

Sunflower

Chia

Red Amaranth

Enjoy healthful benefits for the whole family!



FEEL CLOSER TO GOD UNDERWATER

Make underwater exploration a worshipful experience with this online course

ENROLL NOW

REEF MINISTRIES



Watch 8 FREE Lessons

@
PianoForLife.com

PIANO for LIFE
If playing the piano is your dream...

PIANO for QUITTERS
Learn to play... Enjoy the lessons!

Affordable Piano Instruction

- IDEAL Lifetime Foundation
- Perfect for all ages
- For all playing levels: beginners through advanced

Read Reviews at these sites:

- Timberdoodle • Sonlight
- Rainbow Resource • CBD

www.PianoForLife.com
(888) 742-6653
Email Questions to: info@pianoforlife.com

CLICK ADS to ORDER

Back Issue Blowout!

"Every issue is a keepsake!"

As Low As \$3.99 ea. (+S/H) SAVE 20%

VISIT: CreationIllustrated.com

FOR DETAILS & BUNDLES
(Special Issues & Nearly Sold Out Prices Vary.)
OR CALL (800) 360-2732





The enormity of the giant sequoias in the Calaveras Big Trees State Park defy description. In fact, when these botanical behemoths were discovered by gold-rush settlers in the Sierra Nevada foothills of central California, the thick bark from one tree was stripped and reassembled on a towering frame so it could be taken on tour and exhibited to crowds around the world. People had to see it to believe it.

Our family camped among these towering trees for three days of trail walking, cooking over a fire, roasting marshmallows, and fending off what we initially thought were bees. These pesky little critters (known as *yellow jackets* or a type of wasp, to be precise) seemed to be everywhere. They buzzed, darted, hovered, and pursued everything including our food, tent, car, and ourselves. My wife even found one crawling on her in the middle of the night!

The camp host told us that particular

C H I L D R E N ' S S T O R



Big Trees & Tiny Bees



year was especially bad for these persistent pests. Ignoring them offered our best defense. They didn't aggressively attack us; they just became an intruding nuisance—at least until our daughter disturbed one of their nests.

My wife and youngest child napped while I took the other children for a closer look at what I call "The biggest trees you ever saw." We decided to measure some of the trees listed in the trail brochure. Taking a string and wrapping it around the trunks

Y B Y D A V I D W E S T



remains for visitors to walk upon and marvel at, as it was once used as a dance floor for hotel guests when the grove was exploited by early settlers. Twenty or thirty park visitors read information about the tree and took pictures while we began our *scientific* observations and measurements as Lydia started around the tree with the string.

When she was out of sight on the other side, I remembered that Abigail wanted to measure this tree. I called for Lydia but she didn't answer. I didn't see Abigail, so I told my son, "Go find Abigail; she was supposed to measure this one." Calling Lydia again, I wondered why she didn't hear me. Then, off to my side and away from the tree, I saw her. Lydia was frantically waving her arms and had an expression of pain and anguish on her face.

"What's wrong," I said. She let me know that she had been stung, and I told her to go to the ranger station nearby, and I would be there shortly. Throwing her jacket to my youngest son, Lincoln, she headed toward the ranger station as I started reeling in the string that was wrapped halfway around the tree. Suddenly I heard Lincoln crying. I looked over at him, and he was holding out his arm. A yellow jacket was biting him, and he seemed powerless to swat the little critter away.

"Fling it off," I urged. He just looked at it

of various trees gave us a comparison from tree to tree. After encircling a tree trunk (at the same level above the ground for each tree), we lay the string on the ground and measured it with a steel measuring tape. You wouldn't believe the circumference of these gargantuan trees. Several have a circumference of 40 or 50 feet, but the largest in the grove was once measured at twice that, or 90 feet around! Some tree experts estimate that about forty homes with five rooms could be built from the wood of one tree!

Measuring the trees made the trail walk much more interesting as we enjoyed a hands-on experience in the natural cathedral-like setting. One woman walked by us and commented to her walking partner, "They must work for the park service." We chuckled.

My children took turns wrapping the string around the trees, and Abigail reserved the last and biggest for herself. The final measurement went around a stump that remained of the "Discovery Tree" which had been cut down long ago. The stump



and cried. Running to him, I slapped it away. In the midst of this, Calvin had also been stung. Lydia had apparently stirred up a nest on the far side of the tree and ended up with two stings. Oddly enough, none of the other park visitors were stung.

"Abigail, we are all headed to the ranger station to get ice. You can wrap up this string and meet us there," I instructed. Once everyone began treating their stings, the picture we got of all three children holding ice on their wounds will be preserved as a memory of this unexpected chain of events.

The next morning the park rangers led young campers in an outdoor lesson about yellow jackets. One of the things they discussed included defense strategies that creatures have to fend off threats. This information, combined with what we had previously learned regarding the fire resistance defense of redwood tree bark, gave me an idea.

I offered a short devotional talk to my family while the lesson of defense was fresh on their minds. Talking about the defenses of the trees and the yellow jackets, I then asked, "What defenses do we have against our spiritual enemies?" Answers came from my children including reading the Bible, praying, and seizing the power of the gospel.

So, how do these three things my children mentioned provide good defense strategies for any spiritual battle? The armor of God from Ephesians chapter six provides a useful guide. Paul calls reading Bible scripture "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (Ephesians 6:17). The image of a sword may indicate an offensive use of God's Word, but Scripture also provides our best weapon of defense against false teaching. Paul charged Timothy to "preach the word" as written in 2 Timothy 4:2-4 because a time was coming when people would turn away from the truth. God's Word keeps us from stumbling through life as it is called "a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119:105). Children should know the Scriptures in order to avoid false teaching.

Secondly, regarding prayer, Paul told the believers in Ephesus to be "praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance" (Ephesians 6:18). And Jesus prescribed prayer as a means of avoiding



temptation when He spoke to those disciples with him in the Garden of Gethsemane. "Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation" (Matthew 26:41). With Christ our prayers can be a powerful and effective means of defense. Children need to know how to pray, to make prayer a regular habit, and to use prayer as a means of battling temptations.

Thirdly, in using the gospel truths Paul told the Ephesians, "For by grace you have been saved through faith" (Ephesians 2:8). This salvation was a gift of God and not based upon any works they had done. Children must be guarded from a false gospel of legalism and guided toward the glorious truth that stirs us to righteousness and obedience under the power of the Holy Spirit. (See Galatians 5:18-26.) This is the gospel that children need to know and observe.

My children will long remember the grandeur of the giant sequoia trees, along with the pain of the yellow jacket stings. Each time this story is told, a fresh opportunity arises as a reminder that the thick fire-resistant bark on the trees and the yellow jacket stings are God-given defenses and that God provides defense strategies for each of us. Some day my youngsters will take their children to experience "The biggest trees you ever saw." When they do, they will retell this story so the character-building spiritual lessons will not be forgotten. **C**

David West writes from Sacramento, California, where he enjoys gleanings of truth from the things the Creator has made.

ROOT STRENGTH



More than one-third of the grass plant grows underground in the form of roots. These form a stable foundation for the plant to grow on.

Botanists grew winter rye in a box containing two cubic feet of soil. In four months the slender grass grew 20 inches tall. During this same time the main roots, if laid end to end, would reach a length of 373 miles. The root hairs would be 6,000 miles long. The combined absorbing area was estimated at nearly twice the size of a tennis court.

With such long fingers, the roots firmly anchor the plant to the soil and the soil to the plant. Neither can easily be blown or washed away by wind or rain. Some grass roots grow more than ten feet long. With this extensive underground system the plant absorbs nutrients and moisture from the soil.

The Christian, like wise, is to be "rooted and built up in Him [Christ]" Colossians 2:7. We are to be "rooted and grounded in Christ's love" Ephesians 3:17.

Strength for victory over sin comes from above. A divine power outside of ourselves is to come in and transform us. We are to grow more dependent daily upon the agencies of

the Holy Bible, the Holy Spirit and the ministry of the holy angels. These will work like the roots of the grass to fasten us to Jesus. The more we exercise our minds to think on scripture the more we become rooted in His love.

As the roots of grass absorb nutrients so we are to allow the Holy Spirit to penetrate every area of our lives.

Roots are a major way lawn grass reproduces itself. Likewise, the Christian is commanded to go make disciples of all men (See Matthew 28:19,20). When we are rooted and grounded in Christ we will have something to tell of what Jesus has done for us.

If the root grows above the ground and starts another plant it is called a stolon. If the root grows underground and starts a new plant it is called a rhizome. In a similar way, the Christian who goes to another country to share what Christ has done for him is called a missionary. However, if we live like Jesus at home and school, we shall be called a friend and neighbor.

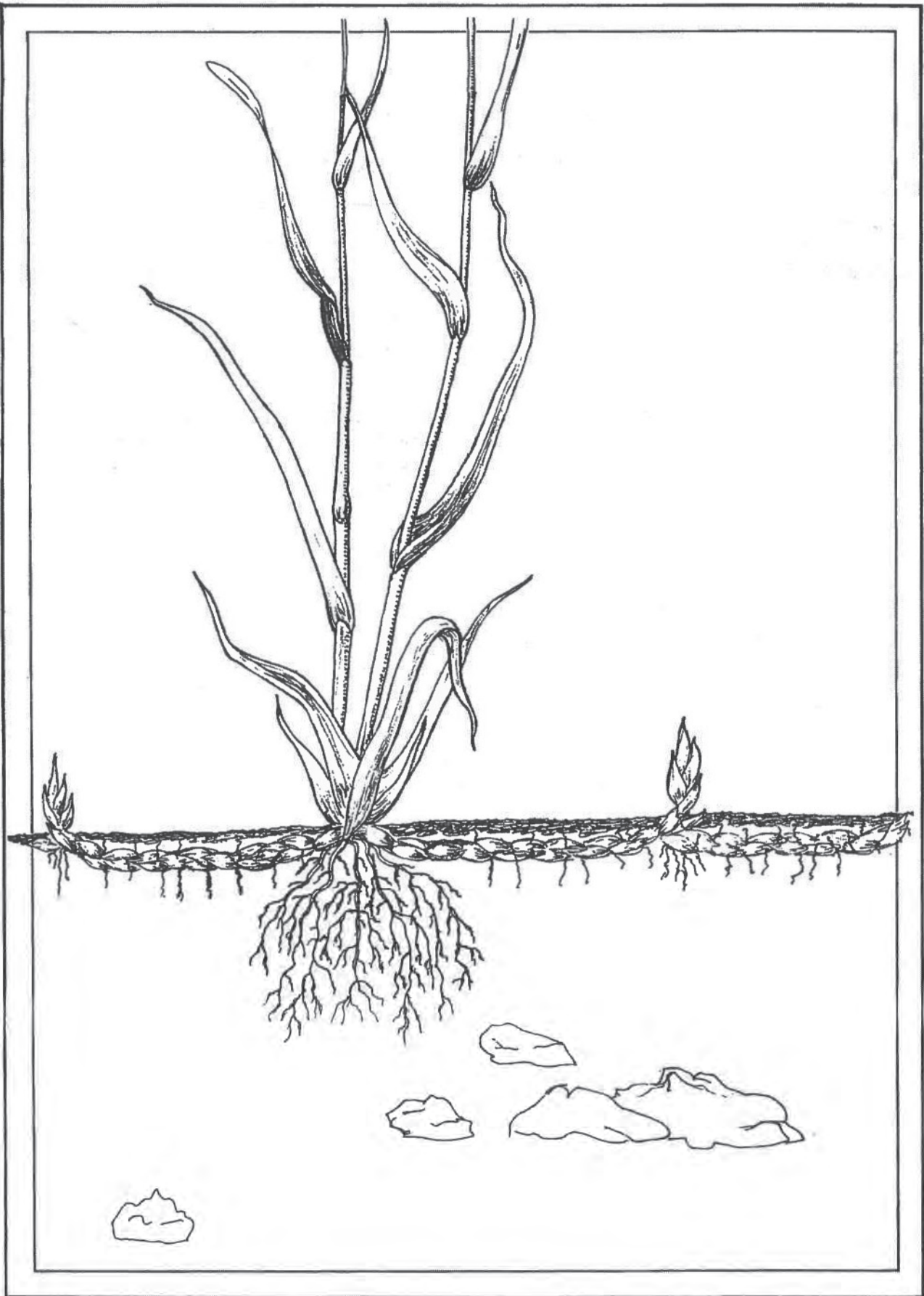
FAMILY PROJECT:

As a family choose someone to be your mission field, someone that needs to be loved for Christ. The family next door? Across the street? Across town? How can you share Jesus with them?



This character-building lesson was excerpted from *The Gospel According to a Blade of Grass* book by Terry and Jean McComb. To order the complete book and others in their series, go to: www.CreationIllustrated.com.





Summer 2022 Coloring Contest First Name: _____ Last Initial: _____ Age: _____
(deadline & details on page 60) City: _____ State/Prov. _____

Creation Illustrated Coloring Contest



First Place, ages 6–11

Say T., age 11, of Phoenix, Arizona



First Place, ages 19+

Mickey W., age 66, of Saint Cloud, Florida

Winners From the Spring 2022 Edition Character-Building Lesson



First Place, ages 12–18

*Kelsey W., age 13,
of China Grove, North Carolina*

Here's how to enter the **Creation Illustrated Coloring Contest for ALL Ages!** Color in the picture on the previous page from the Character-Building Lesson. You can even add other creatures, clouds, sky, etc. Then scan or photograph your work (maximum one per quarter) and email an attached jpeg to: coloring@creationillustrated.com, Subject Line: Coloring Contest. Each entry **MUST** include your name, age, mailing address, phone number, and email address. The **DEADLINE for summer 2022 entries is August 15, 2022.** Your work will be uploaded to our Web site and Facebook pages where you and others can vote for (Like) any favorites. (No last names or contact information will be included in any postings.) Winners in age groups 6–11, 12–18, 19 and older will be chosen the first week of September from summer-edition pictures, the first week of December from fall-edition pictures, the first week of March from winter-edition pictures, and the first week of June from spring-edition pictures. First-place winners will receive \$25, have their entry posted on our Web site after the next edition is printed, and *may* be published in *Creation Illustrated* as space allows. For more details go to: www.CreationIllustrated.com

Creation Illustrated Photo Contest

Winners From Spring 2022 Submissions



First Place, ages 6–11 (left)

Josephine W., age 9, of Creswell, Oregon, quoted Isaiah 35:2, “It shall blossom abundantly and rejoice even with joy and singing . . .” (ESV).

First Place, ages 12–18 (right)
Alexander L., age 15, of Iron City, Tennessee



First Place, ages 19+ (left)

Edgar Z., age 57, of Pehuénia Neuquén, Argentina, quoted Psalm 105:40, “They asked, and He brought quail, and satisfied them with the bread of heaven” (NASB).

Here's how to enter the **Creation Illustrated Photo Contest for ALL Ages!** Get creative with your camera in nature and email an attached jpeg (maximum one per quarter) to: photos@creationillustrated.com, Subject Line: Photo Contest. Each entry **MUST** include your name, age, mailing address, phone number, and email address and one or two sentences on what your photo says about our Creator. The **DEADLINE for summer 2022 entries is August 15, 2022**. Your work will be uploaded to our Web site and Facebook pages where you and others can vote for (Like) any favorites. (No last names or contact information will be included in any postings.) Winners in age groups 6–11, 12–18, 19 and older will be chosen the first week of September from summer submissions, the first week of December from fall submissions, the first week of March from winter submissions, and the first week of June from spring submissions. First-place winners will receive \$25, have their entry posted on our Web site after the next edition is printed, and *may* be published in *Creation Illustrated* as space allows. For more details go to: www.CreationIllustrated.com



STUDY GUIDE

for *Creation Illustrated*, Summer 2022 Edition, Vol. 29, No. 2

This instructional guide is designed to help readers of all ages integrate practical spiritual lessons available through the study of God's handiwork. Studying nature will help lead individuals to a personal, awe-inspiring relationship with Jesus Christ, the Author of Creation.

I. Creation Up Close—"The Nitty-Gritty About Sand" story, pages 6–11

1. What are the three conditions that create whistling and barking sand? p. 6
2. How is sand formed? List eight of the most common minerals that are in sand. p. 7
3. List some of the many varying colors of sandy beaches and their locations. p. 7
4. What does God's design of sand serve to illustrate? (See Job 38:10.) p. 9
5. What is the largest desert in the world and the largest desert in America? p. 10
6. What scripture did Jesus use to illustrate lessons about sand and rocks? p. 10

II. Re-Creation Outdoors—"Finding Good in a Bad Land" story, pages 14–21

1. What catches one's attention the most upon arrival at Theodore Roosevelt National Park? pp. 16, 17
2. Which runs faster, a bison or a horse? p. 16
3. How many different colors did Theodore Roosevelt mention he saw in the Bad Lands? p. 17
4. What did the native Lakotas call the impassable terrain? p. 18
5. How did nature in the Bad Lands area minister to Theodore Roosevelt? p. 18
6. How were the geological concretions called cannon balls created? p. 20

III. Creatures Near and Dear to Us—"Obscure Octopus" story, pages 23–27

1. How did Inky, an octopus with a soccer ball-sized body, choose the right six-inch drainpipe that led to a sea escape? pp. 23, 24
2. How did an octopus demonstrate its intelligence during a neuroscience research project? p. 24
3. How many different species of octopus are there? p. 24
4. Explain the various ways an octopus can become camouflaged. Explain how the mimic octopus imitates other animals. p. 24
5. What altruistic octopus behavior offers a wonderful comparison of God's character? p. 27
6. Where does the devotion and self-sacrifice of the female octopus find its origins? p. 27

IV. The Creation Week—"Creation Day 2—The Firmament" story, pages 28–37

1. What do you think and feel when you watch the sky? p. 29
2. How does the word origin of *firmament* lead to two facts that would have been unknown to ancients? p. 30
3. Explain how the creation of a gravitational field around our earth keeps our atmosphere in place. pp. 30, 31
4. What has modern science shown us about the gaseous composition of water vapor and life? p. 31
5. What is the most abundant element in the earth's atmosphere, and what is it essential for? p. 34
6. Explain carbon dioxide's balancing function and the term thermostat. p. 36

Summertime Family Fun Activities

Launch some family fun this summer with a walking step-counting contest! Sometimes summer is when kids gain weight from sitting around and not being active at school or outdoors when the temperature begins to rise. There are several smart phone apps that can track how many steps you take in a day. Create a chart where every family member records the total number of steps each one does per day, and at the end of the summer, add each person's steps up and see who wins. You can even have weekly or monthly prizes. Perhaps create a nice reward for the winners like walking poles, new walking shoes, etc.

Another creative summer activity is to have your kids select a night either weekly or monthly where they plan, shop for, and cook a meal for the whole family. Make a theme meal such as veggie mini pizzas, and see how many local fresh ingredients can be used. Maybe they can have fun trying some of the *Creation Illustrated* Genesis Cuisine recipes. Take a picture of your meal and share it with us!

Take the meal up a notch by taking the family to visit the local farmer's markets and /or u-pick farms in your area. Have everyone choose a favorite vegetable or fruit to share or use in a recipe. If you have your own garden, pick some yummy items that can be added to the kids' night cooking menu! Helping the family enjoy fresh food throughout the summer will help make it extra special, fun, and nutritious.

Another favorite family summer activity is camping! You don't have to go far, and there are plenty of nature activities you can find on the internet or in *Creation Illustrated*. Have each family member come up with an activity for the day. This can include going for a hike, finding constellations in the stars, and searching for rocks, pine cones, or seashells. Keeping a nature journal provides life-long memories with drawings, maps, pine needles, dried flowers, feathers, and pictures.



G	E	T	O	C	T	O	P	U	S	R	R
T	B	F	K	M	T	S	O	P	M	O	C
R	Y	A	I	U	V	W	P	C	E	J	Q
E	T	M	D	R	V	A	P	O	R	W	R
Q	I	X	O	L	M	Q	F	U	U	Q	O
C	V	T	M	H	A	A	D	L	N	E	O
O	A	R	E	E	D	N	M	E	A	G	K
L	R	E	S	W	U	C	D	E	M	R	E
O	G	S	P	A	I	Z	B	S	N	E	R
R	X	E	A	X	N	G	R	I	T	T	Y
S	Z	D	C	P	O	D	E	Y	K	S	U
C	I	T	E	N	G	A	M	L	A	C	W

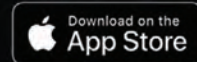
WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

The puzzle at the left contains words that are associated with this edition of *Creation Illustrated*. Simply find the words listed below and circle them. They can be spelled backward, forward, up, down, or diagonally. When you are finished, try to find the story or other part of the magazine from which each word came.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. BADLANDS | 11. GRITTY |
| 2. CALM | 12. MAGNETIC |
| 3. COLORS | 13. MANURE |
| 4. COMPOST | 14. MIMIC |
| 5. COULEES | 15. OCTOPUS |
| 6. DESERT | 16. ROOKERY |
| 7. DOME | 17. SAND |
| 8. EGRETS | 18. SKY |
| 9. FIRMAMENT | 19. SPACE |
| 10. GRAVITY | 20. VAPOR |

Social Media That Draws Us Together

Many people struggle with trusting God's love and our love for each other. iPray is a prayer app that restores confidence in God's love for us and between us by helping us be more faithful in our prayers and communities of prayer.



iPray.me

CLICK ON ADS – Go Right to WEBSITES FOR INFO. & ORDERS!

Calming Harp

*Music that Quiets the Soul
from the Psalms of David*

Steve Rees, Harpist

Harp Music benefits:

Blood pressure and heart health
Surgical recovery
Sleep and relaxation
Depression
Anxiety
Calming
Documented "Mozart" effect

Free listening samples at: calmingharp.com

These harp CD's are my original compositions from the Psalms of David using a Hebrew letter to musical note relationship recorded in the musical frequency of 528Hz.

Order your CD's or MP3's today at:
www.calmingharp.com
and begin enjoying this beautifully, calming music today!

Featured CD's:

*Psalms of Altyah
Keys of David
Living Water*

Following God's Clear Commands in an Age of Confusion



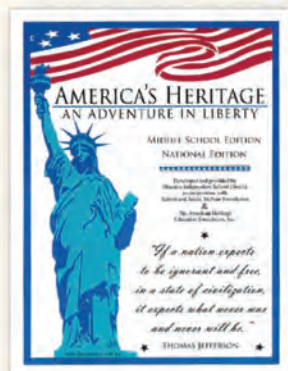
Brian Heaphy, a former Navy SEAL Officer, now serves as a marksman with words and photos for the glory of God while drawing upon his subsistence lifestyle in Alaska's remote interior. Scripture-driven truths and insights in his new book *Crystal Vision* will help guide and encourage readers through life's vital issues and questions. A perfect gift, devotional, group study tool . . .

Print - \$14.95 eBook - \$12.95 Learn more at:

BrianHeaphy.com

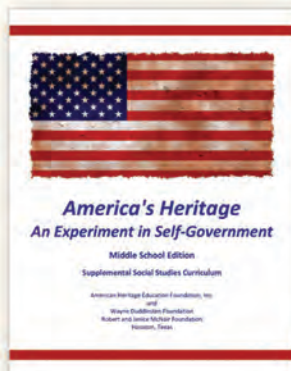
Learn and teach America's Bible-inspired founding principles.

Studies show that Americans today are largely uninformed about the principles that shaped our nation. AHEF provides FREE award-winning, patriotic, supplemental resources for K-College teachers, families, and students.



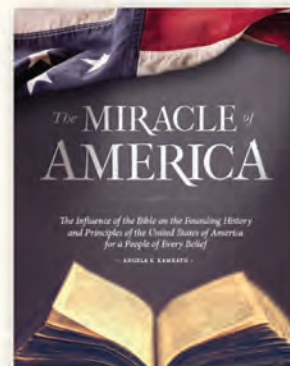
America's Heritage *An Adventure in Liberty*

K-12 award-winning
Lesson Plans focused
on American Freedom,
Unity, Progress, &
Responsibility (FUPR™).
FREE ONLINE



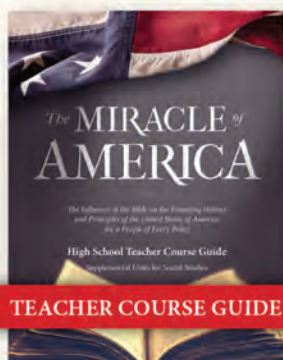
America's Heritage *An Experiment in Self-Government*

The latest and best
MS and HS Lesson Plans
focused on America's founding
documents & principles.
FREE ONLINE



The Miracle of America *The Influence of the Bible on the Founding History and Principles of the United States of America for a People of Every Belief*

The critically-acclaimed,
most informative sourcebook
on the Bible's connection
to the American idea.
A "must have" text.



ALSO AVAILABLE

The Miracle of America HS Teacher Course Guide

An in-depth study on America's founding philosophy, with ideas and activities for teaching *The Miracle of America* book topics as a course or units.
FREE ONLINE



AMERICAN HERITAGE EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC.

A non-profit organization dedicated to the understanding and teaching of America's philosophical heritage—including the Bible-based principles that shaped America's foundations. A trusted non-profit educational foundation for over 25 years!

WWW.AMERICANHERITAGE.ORG

101 of the Greatest Adventure Stories Ever Told



Start your own G. A. Henty Library Today!

Now for a limited time: \$18 for Hardcover and \$12 for Softcover. Special pricing on Sets.

For more than a century the G.A. Henty adventure stories have been beloved by boys and girls all over the world for their fast moving and engaging narratives of great times in history. Each Henty hero exemplifies the traditional virtues of hard work, courage, and high personal honor.

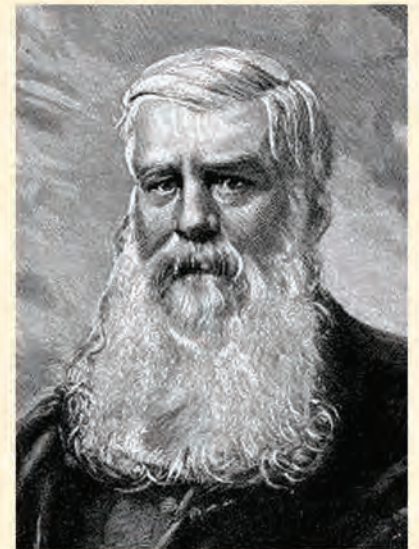
And, each hero is at the center of fast-moving adventures that capture the reader's interest and will not let go - adventures that take place during great historical events. Through the eyes of the hero, readers experience the horrors and trials of the French Revolution, life in Colonial Australia, and the Fall of Jerusalem. These books have made history come alive for generations of children, and provided them examples of the highest Christian character.

Henty knew his subject. First as a British soldier in the Crimean War, and later as a war correspondent covering campaigns throughout the British Empire, Henty experienced first hand many of the events he describes. For this reason Henty's descriptions of places and events have an element of realism to them which makes them stand out from other historical fiction. Many of the descriptions are of places that Henty visited or of events that he actually witnessed.

All of Mr. Henty's books are published by Robinson Books in beautifully bound hard and soft cover editions. These preserve the typesetting and formatting of the Henty masterpieces that were printed in Scotland

over a century ago. Profusely illustrated with the original woodcut and lithograph illustrations, a set of our heirloom quality Henty editions is an investment that will be a family treasure for generations to come.

Complete Hardcover Special!
All 101 G.A. Henty books for \$1199
(40% off the individual book price)



As special correspondent for the Standard Paper during the reign of Queen Victoria, G. A. Henty not only wrote about history - he lived it. Many of his wonderful stories are centered around great historical events that he personally witnessed.

Creation Illustrated readers get Free Shipping on all orders. Enter the promo code CREATION during checkout

Contact us: Robinson Books
P.O. Box 1250
Cave Junction, OR 97523
(541) 499-8914
matthew@robinsonbooks.com

www.RobinsonBooks.com

GREEK 'N' STUFF

My kids love Greek.
Even my two year old
walks around the house
singing her Greek alphabet.

Elizabeth



**Kid-friendly curriculum
works at your own pace!**



www.greeknstuff.com

*Thy Way, O God,
is in the Sanctuary.*

Songs for Children

Sung by Ruth & Les Andrieux.

and the Ruth Andrieux Children's Choir.

This USB flash drive has 45 Bible verse songs to
memorize- on the subject of the Sanctuary.



This USB Flash Drive Contains:

1. Children singing the 46 songs—Audio
2. Children singing the 46 song— Visual
3. Instrumentals for 45 of the songs to use for accompaniment or as an educational aid.
4. A "Word Only Songbook" that may be copied and used as an educational aid.

To purchase or listen to samples of the music go to:

<https://www.andrieuxhousemusic.com/thywayusb.html>

Or call (707) 965-3081, Or email ruth.andrieux@att.net

CLICK ON AD – Go Right to WEBSITE !

*If you can
imagine it,
Katrina can
create it!*



KATRINA HOSS

- Illustrator
- Artist
- Graphic Designer
- Web Designer

www.KatrinaHoss.com
www.instagram.com/earth.essentia

BCE Academy

Your Success is our Goal!

A fully accredited homeschool program

Basic Christian Education offers:

- Full-service homeschool curriculum
- Biblical based, character building
- Accredited
- Full record keeping
- Official transcripts
- FREE Diagnostic Testing & Placement with enrollment (\$50 value)



Call for personal
assistance:

866-567-2446

Open enrollment with
BCE Academy, or
purchase individual
curriculum at your
convenience.

[Download our free catalog](#)



**BASIC CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION
& BCE ACADEMY**

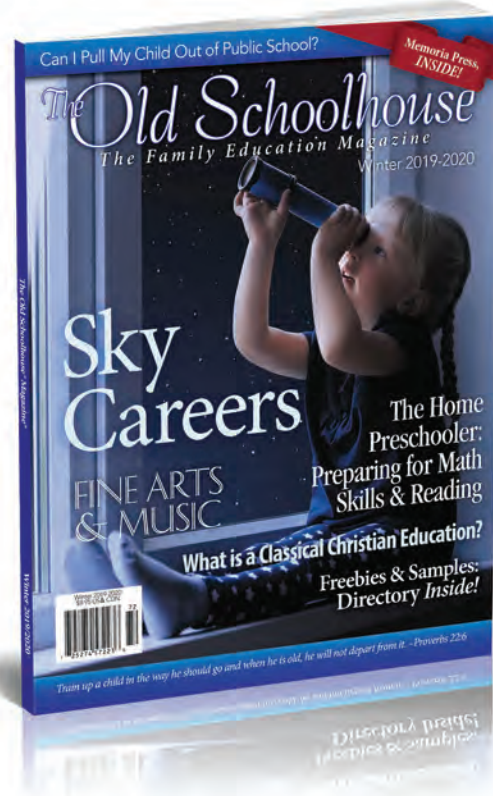
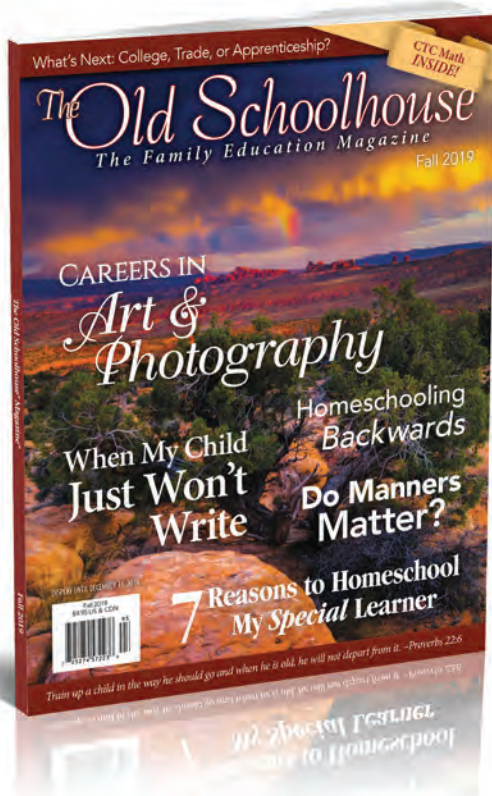
www.BasicChristianEducation.com

Christian Children Don't Belong in Public Schools.


"A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher."

Luke 6:40

www.TryHomeschooling.com



The Old Schoolhouse®
The Family Education Magazine



THE LITTLE LAMB
Patrick McCullough

THE LITTLE LAMB Meets Different
Patrick McCullough

First 2 in a Series of 12 Character-building Children's Books !
Book 1: Teaches to obey our parents. Book 2: Teaches that being different is okay. (coming soon)

He tells His flock to be obedient to His voice and He tells the lambs to obey their parents so they do not get harmed. All day long they enjoy the Good Shepherd's songs and easy voice as they feast on the plentiful green grass.

"The kids are still talking about you and the book . . . even asking what Pure in Heart will do next on his journey . . ." —Cindy from live book reading by the Author

ORDER AT: www.FishCreekProductions.com
OR AT: Amazon.com

Terry McComb's Resources - Books & DVDs

To order visit us online: GospelCreation.com
instant video rentals and book downloads - online only,
Prices in CND funds, shipping extra.

Books: \$16.95 ea
or all 4 for \$69
plus FREE DVD!

Single DVD's: \$12.95 ea

The Gospel According to a DANDELION
The Gospel According to a BLADE OF GRASS
The Gospel According to a TREE
The Gospel According to a SNOWFLAKE

Powerful Bible-based character lessons for the WHOLE family.

Creation Evidence
Discover Nature's Lessons

5 DVD Set \$24.95
ORIGINS
The First Week of Time

4 DVD Set \$24.95
Creation vs Evolution Plus Dinosaurs

The Cross of Christ as Seen in Nature
The Cross Seen in Nature
Darwin & the Cross: Survival of the Fittest

How to Heart Read NATURE
In His Image
10 DVD Set \$69.95

Walk Through Creation
Biology for Kids!

www.GospelCreation.com
To book a nature seminar call toll free 1-866-847-6696

CLICK ON ADS – Go Right to WEBSITES FOR INFO. & ORDERS!

Vincent Hoss

Internet Sales Manager | Digital Marketing Manager | Since 2000

CALL 916-626-2982 CELL

"Wow! The way Vincent massages search engines is like magic. He has a special touch. Highly recommended." — Scott Farquhar

VincentHoss.com

Light



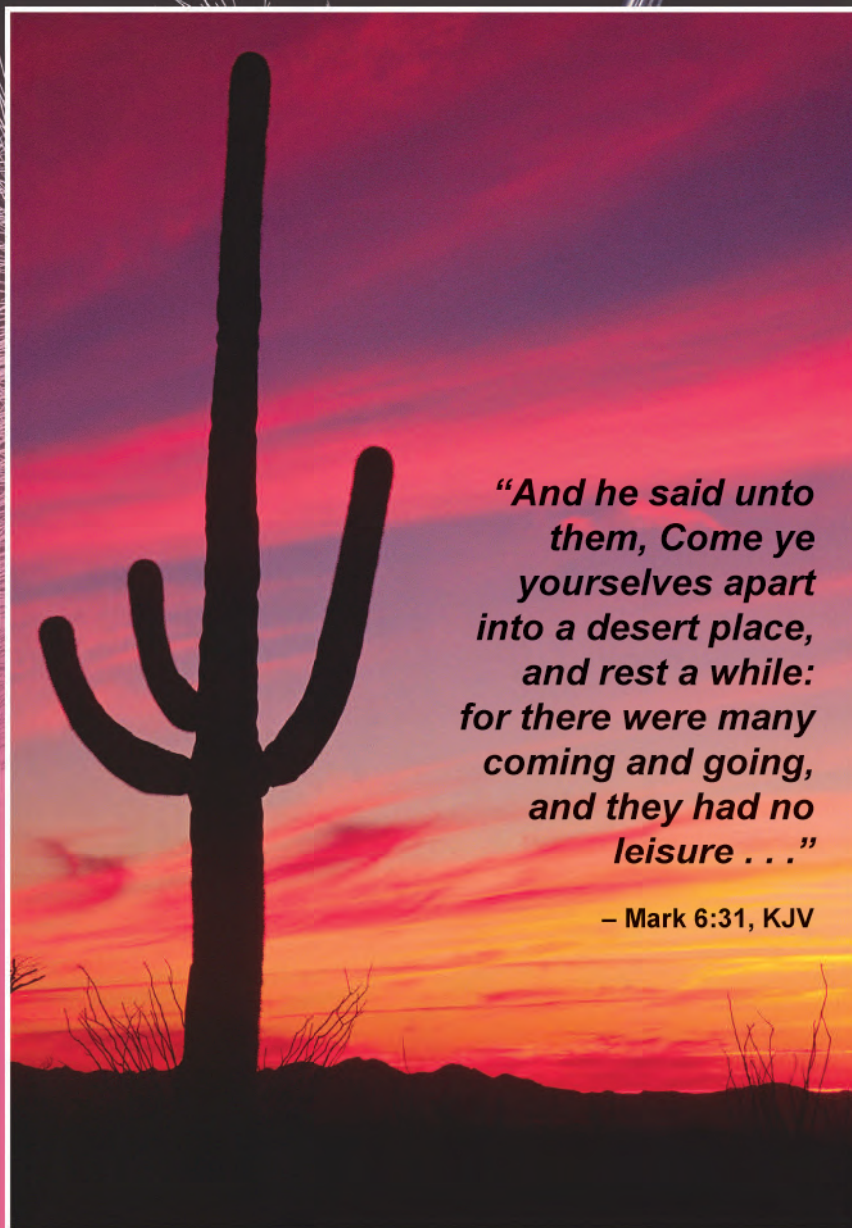


and Bright

Sunflowers always face the sun;
They make our days so bright.
And as we face the Son of God,
We travel in His light.

Then joy will fill our lives on earth,
Though troubles come our way.
He is our refuge, sure and safe,
To guide us every day.

— Elma Helgason



Albert Russell

***“And he said unto
them, Come ye
yourselves apart
into a desert place,
and rest a while:
for there were many
coming and going,
and they had no
leisure . . .”***

– Mark 6:31, KJV

Creation
ILLUSTRATED

YOUR GETAWAY . . .

IN NATURE, IN SCRIPTURE, AND IN LIVING

www.creationillustrated.com • (800) 360-2732