Creation ILLUSTRATED

YOUR GETAWAY . . .



IN NATURE



IN SCRIPTURE



IN LIVING

FALL 2022 VOL 29 NO 3 US $4.99




"He shall cover you with
and under His wings


His feathers,
you shall take refuge."
– Psalm 91:4
Wayne Easley

Our Why



Seeking truth as well as serenity can be difficult at times in a world full of trials and chaos. Creation Illustrated Ministries is committed to and thankful for the powerful truths revealed in His Word, as well as through the natural world of His creation. God authored both *books* to bestow the peace that passes all understanding. He designed the natural world to be a translator and illustrator of His truth as we study the intricacies of Scripture and nature together.

Even as we seek to share these blessings, many times through the years our family was not sure if *Creation Illustrated* could continue to be published. Ministry can be lean and difficult, but the faith of a child strengthened our hearts as our daughter's favorite verse inspired us to press on—often on our knees. "'Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things'" (Matthew 6:34). These simple yet powerful words echo throughout Scripture with ties to illustrations in nature.

Another such powerful encouragement found in 2 Corinthians 9:10, 11, reads, "Now may He who supplies seed to the sower, and bread for food, supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness, while you are enriched in everything for all liberality, which causes thanksgiving through us to God."

After nearly three decades of publishing, we continue to rely upon His providence daily. God has never left us without an abundance of evidence of His great care and love that can be illustrated through the bounties of fall harvests. He promises, "'While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease'" (Genesis 8:22).

Creation Illustrated Ministries remains so grateful for the promises in God's Word tied to the many lessons found in His amazing creation. We are all sustained every moment by His care. All His creation from life on earth to the far-flung galaxies (now visible through the new James Webb telescope) prevail by His power as a demonstration of His eternal love.

So, as the fall harvest fills our tables, we can all share with family and friends in thanksgiving and praise for His providence. "Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever" (1 Chronicles 16:34). That's why.

The Publishers



Proper stewardship! While we continue to be blessed and guided by God's providence, we must also continue to be good stewards of His resources. Many efforts to cut costs, improve efficiencies, and pursue technologies have helped with our desire to make *Creation Illustrated* affordable to all. Amazingly, we have not raised our prices in more than 25 years! However, paper costs, postage prices, and promotional fees continue to increase. As proper stewards, we will likely need to raise our prices in 2023. YOU can avoid this increase by sharing generously this holiday season—both through *discounted* gift subscriptions and tax-deductible donations. Simply use the envelope in the center of this edition, or logon to **www.CreationIllustrated.com**. **Thank you for sharing!**

Creation ILLUSTRATED

Vol. 29, No. 3

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.

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The cover photo of a large saturniid moth was taken by Worawut Prasuwan.

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Newness

With the typical fall chill in the air, leaves turning their bright hues, crops being harvested, and flower gardens dying back, we don't normally consider this season in terms of *newness*. After all, springtime reserves the notion of fresh beginnings and an abundance of new plant and animal life.

Nevertheless, fall invites God's people to explore new experiences and environs. Such was the goal of a single retired woman who pulled her trailer to campgrounds throughout Michigan's Upper Peninsula as told in this issue's "Re-Creation Outdoors" feature. The variety of new sights, people, and food became secondary to her new relationship with the Creator.

Another single woman forced the demands of college internships and exams aside to partake in a totally new assignment called *Stillness Hunting* with her Environmental Lab class. Venturing into a quiet, forested area alone to sit and be still provided a unique revelation that juxtaposed her frazzled nerves against a newfound peace that could be discovered only while surrounded by nature and nature's God. Embrace this trailblazing marvel in the "My Walk With God" story.

Or come along for another trailblazing triumph with a young family relocating to Alaska that ensures new challenges and blessings at nearly every turn. Dig into this issue's gardening article to discover how they grew bountiful sustenance and oversized produce during the long Alaska days with many items usable in this issue's "Genesis Cuisine Harvest Salad" recipes.

In fact, abundant brand new plants presented the first form of life on earth during day three of the Creation week. But they didn't just show up unannounced. The Creator laid a foundation of elements necessary for the introduction of the vast verdure that would blanket the globe as found in the Creation week article that offers a new perspective on this vital chapter of the Creation story.

Other radically new and unfamiliar exploits this fall may include becoming familiar with some of God's creatures. While some may migrate (as shared in this issue's "Lens On Creation" birding article), other creatures may hibernate or even spawn as explained in the feature on "Tenacious Trout." Hooking a wild fish and reeling it in surely offers a new thrill to most everyone.



And before settling into the confines of the winter to come, the fall harvest must be completed. But in order to have a fall harvest, there must be enough moisture to bring crops to full maturity. Ponder a new challenge if the necessary rains do not come as shared in this edition's "Creation Up Close" story called "Praying for Rain." Current unpredictable weather patterns throw farmers into new realms of planning for the worst while praying for the best.

Furthermore, the Bible speaks of the former rain and the latter rain as being necessary deluges of the Holy Spirit that shower upon the hearts of the multitude before the final harvest of souls takes place at Christ's return. Such vital world-wide spiritual transformation will be something so revolutionary that a newness of self-sacrificing love pervades every thought and action.

The ultimate result of the earth made new for eternity will herald the Saviour's true followers to shout profoundly new praises never before sung or heard. The entire universe will be enveloped in a *newness* of life eternal that is infinitely beyond our current finite comprehension—a new concept for many to ponder in any season. "Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Revelation 22:20, KJV).

Tom Ish

Tom Ish, editor/publisher

Sharing Our Mail

Gift enclosed . . .

Thank you so much for your precious work for our Creator in behalf of this world of pain and sorrow. Enclosed is a gift from my son-in law and me. We value each copy of *Creation Illustrated* that we receive, the pictures are amazing and so is everything else in it. Thank you! God bless you always.

N. Santiao
White Salmon,
Washington

Charter sub . . .

I'm giving thanks for your wonderful magazine. I've been a charter subscriber and watched your family grow.

I first saw your magazine at a doctor appointment with my husband, and I had to subscribe as soon as possible. I love all the scriptures, nature, and living sections that the good Lord has given us in all His wonderful blessings.

I felt very blessed to be able to speak with you on the phone as I renewed my subscription last time and also ordered one for a friend that is incarcerated. He has also enjoyed it a lot and has shared it with others. Thank you so very much, and I am giving thanks to the Lord and praising Him.

Sister in Christ,

L. Olesen
Nice, California

By the box . . .

First, thank you for your beautiful publication! A young couple gave us a subscription, and we are not only enjoying it, my husband is sharing it with his customers—some BY THE BOX so they can share the copies with their customers! And thank you for making our first Sabbath School with our new pastor's young children interesting and meaningful. The article about the sea turtles and the scripture with the elk trumpeting caught their attention and helped generate an interest. I was able to sit with them and get to know them while talking about God's Book of Nature!

As we were looking at the magazine together, the older child pointed to the recipe page and the pictures and declared, "I would like to eat THAT . . . and THAT!" So, I am asking for permission to photocopy the recipe pages for their parents to try the new recipes, as well as the art page for those who would like to color and perhaps submit their finished work. I always give credit for the recipes so people know where the tasty ideas came from, but I want to honor the copyright.

S. Haesche
Groton, New York

Editor's Note: Thank you for asking permission to copy our recipes. We grant permission for a few photocopies for personal use of the material that we produce (such as the recipes) as long as none of the material in Creation Illustrated *is being resold. The copyrights for any photos or articles remain with each photographer and author and may not be duplicated without written permission.*

First article . . .

I saw that you published my first magazine article when I was lying in bed recovering from a C-section that resulted with a blood clot in my leg. I'm not sure if I ever told you, but I cried when I saw my name in your magazine. Many blessings to your family as you keep working for His glory.

J. Gerhardt
Coos Bay, Oregon

Exciting news . . .

Thank you so much for sharing the exciting news—4,000 magazines going to schools and 2,000 to the prison ministry!

I am rejoicing with you and will continue to pray for even greater blessings and breakthroughs to pierce the darkness.

C. Putnick
Norristown,
Pennsylvania

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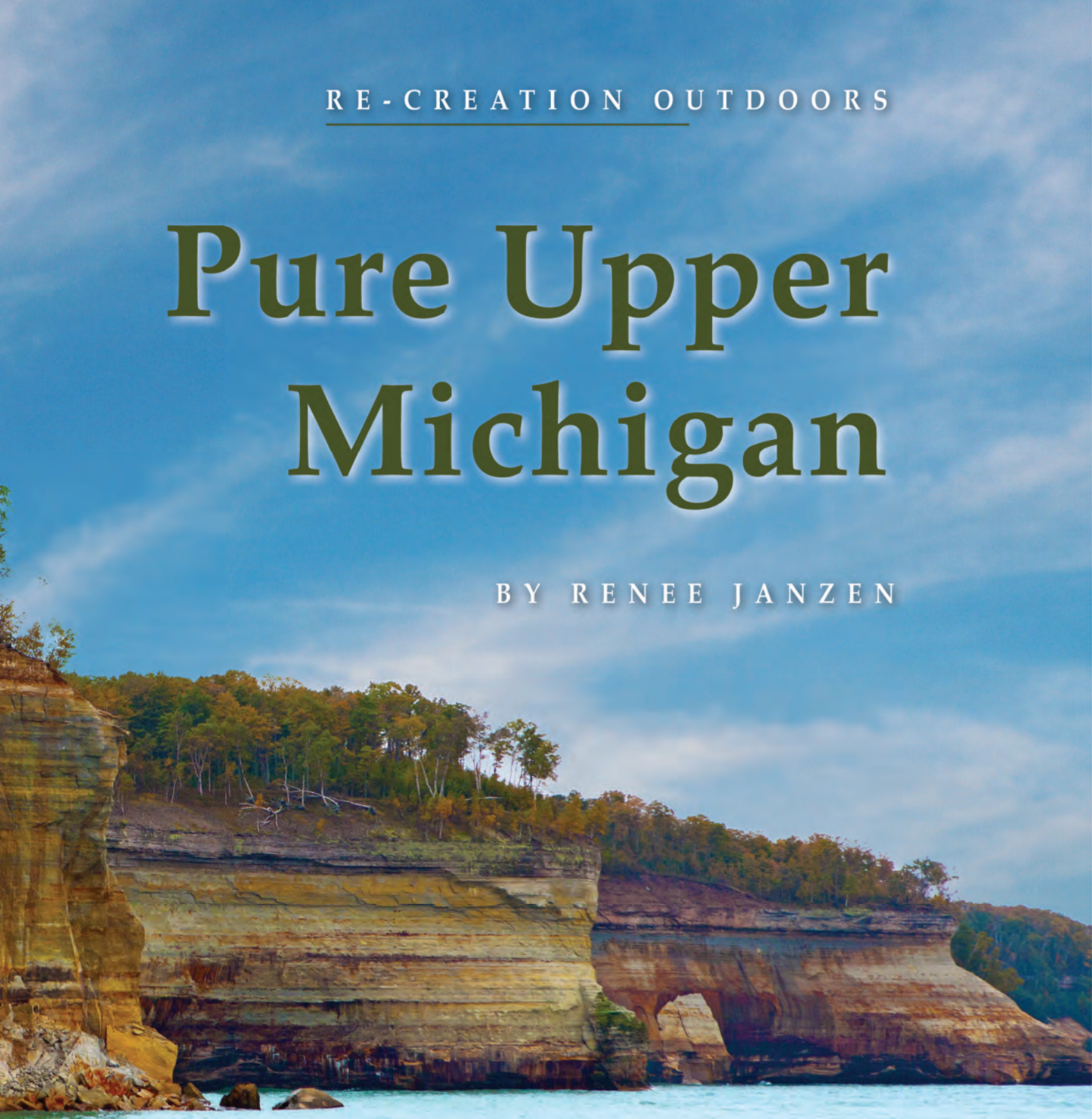


New beginnings lend themselves to new attitudes, and my new beginning loomed within sight as I drove toward the peninsula separating Lake Superior and Lake Michigan. Better known as the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, as opposed to the larger mitten-shaped lower part of the state, this more remote region offers a wild and rugged outdoor experience surrounded by endless towering forests of evergreen, maple, and beech trees.

NPS/Kathy Turner

Pure Upper Michigan

BY RENEE JANZEN



Caught between two of the three Great Lakes, the U.P. (as locals call it) experiences many gusty and cloudy days. In September the broad-leafed trees stood ablaze with innumerable shades of yellow, red, and orange. With the excitement that accompanies a new adventure, along with the fatigue that results from a long drive, I attempted to back my trailer into a campsite at Lake Colwell in the Hiawatha National Forest. Maneuvering my rig took six frustrating and embarrassing tries before I got it settled into place.





Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore (previous pages) Lower Hungarian falls (above)

Renee Janzen

GENTLE SOUNDS

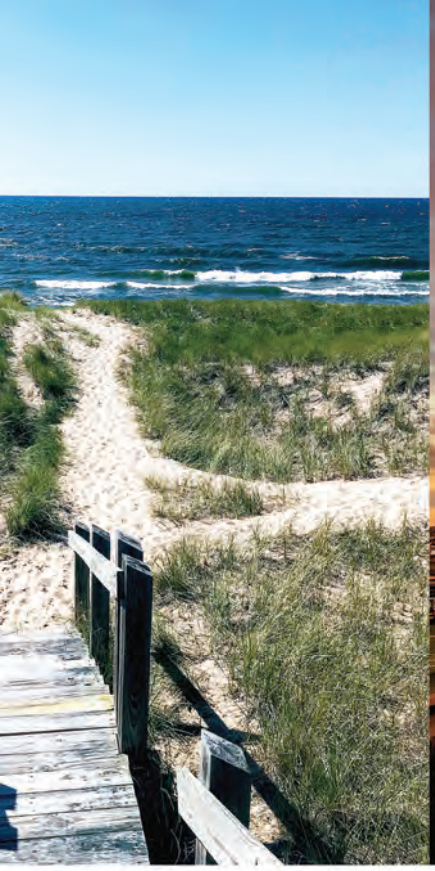
I decided on the national forest campground for one practical reason. Site fees are a fraction of the cost of private campgrounds, and my pass permitted me half off of even the regular price. That first night, snuggled deep under my new down comforter and lulled by the gentle sounds of the forest, I blissfully slept.

By the next morning, I arose eager to begin my U.P. exploration. I planned to spend time mountain biking on Grand Island Recreation Area, spying the shipwrecks submerged in Lake Superior through a glass-bottomed boat and enjoying the 42 shoreline miles of waterfalls, sand dunes, and sandstone cliffs at Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

I then filled another day with a visit to the lakeshore town of Munising where I learned about the people of this region. Descendants of trappers, traders, and tribes of Algonquin-speaking Native Americans, present-day residents are known as *Yoopers*—a spin-off nickname pronunciation of *U.P.* that also denotes a certain English dialect spoken in the region.

For me the contrast in climate and culture was palpable. Arriving from the sultry and genteel south, I dressed in fleece and boots while Yoopers strode about in short sleeves and flip flops. When I acknowledged a stranger on the street with a nod or a wave as we do in the south, the response was often a quick and surprised glance as if to say, "Do I know you?" Yet, the Yoopers surprised me. When I needed help, which was often in those first few days, they were at my side almost before I could ask.

Campground neighbors showed me how to start and maintain my generator. They also graciously explained where and how to empty my holding tank. When the jack on my camper made an unnatural noise, three heads immediately turned in my direction, and the concerned citizens attached to those heads came to my aid in an instant to offer their help. And when my



A trail leads through the dunes.



The Sault Locks join Lake Superior to the Saint Mary's River.

"'Even the least of them, you did it to Me'" (NASB).

carbon monoxide alarm sounded at 2 a.m. and seemed loud enough to wake everyone in the state of Michigan, no one seemed annoyed or mentioned it to me the next morning. I sensed that the Father's warmth and graciousness through their hospitality came as a reminder of Matthew 25:40. "'To the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me'" (NASB).

After a week at Pictured Rocks, I battened down the scant contents of my little home and hitched the trailer to my vehicle. This process consumed an entire morning for this still-novice traveler. Aiming my home on wheels eastward across the Upper Peninsula, I landed just below the Canadian border in the city of Sault Saint Marie where I watched the boats descend in stages through the Sault Locks from Lake Superior to the Saint Mary's River. I marveled at the engineering achievement of the locks and wondered at their effect on so many other aspects of life. Having reached the northernmost point of Michigan, it was time to head south.

At the port city of St. Ignace, I treated myself to a meal of whitefish and admired the scores of recipes the Yoopers had invented to prepare this culinary staple of the Upper Peninsula. Though I understood that God is the only Creator, I also knew that He made us in His image, and I delighted in the creativity involved in making the locks, the bridges, and delicious dishes.

Then on a rare sunny morning, I boarded a ferry and glided over Lake Huron to Mackinac Island—a step back in time. The houses, shops, and hotels appear vintage, and motorized vehicles are not permitted. The only means of transportation are walking, bicycling, or riding horse-drawn carriages. What a peaceful and unhurried way to spend the day.

Mackinac Island State Park encompasses 1,800 acres—approximately eighty percent of the island's total area. The one-lane paved road of slightly more than eight miles circles around



Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore



The Mackinac Bridge

BEACH-LINED LAKE

the perimeter of the park. I took the trek by bicycle and drank in the richness of the forested park on one side and the splash of the beach-lined lake on the other. One of the several stops along the way included Fort Holmes—a fortified earthen stronghold built during the War of 1812 that perched on the highest point of Mackinac Island.

Peddling full circle back to the center of town, I finished the day by relaxing on the wrap-around porch of the Grand Hotel while sipping a cool lemonade and gazing at the whitecapped straits and the forested terrain. I tried to imagine God's presence in this place throughout all its history before the War of 1812, the trappers, the traders, the tribes, and even before the towering trees that made up the mighty forests were mere seedlings. Attempting to get my mind around His initial creation, I found the concept impossible yet fully believed that He is "'the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end'" (Revelation 21:6, NASB). I remained convinced that "Since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse" (Romans 1:20, NASB).

The next day I continued my journey south across the Mackinac Bridge, which spans the strait and connects the two peninsulas. I suddenly realized while towing my house-on-wheels that everything I had was suspended over two huge bodies of water. Gripping the steering wheel with white knuckles, I strained to catch both the architectural magnificence of the bridge along with the spectacular scenery of the region on every side.

Now on the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, I settled in at Platte River Campground in Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, which hugs the northeast shore of Lake Michigan. I embraced a lovely warmer week spent scaling the heights of the Dune Climb, relaxing and



Fall colors reflecting their blaze Renee Janzen

"Where did you see God today?"

leisurely reading on the beach at Platte River Point where the river flows into Lake Michigan and bicycling the Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail that winds through forests and the Port Oneida area with its nineteenth-century farmsteads.

On my last night in Great Lakes State, I lay nestled in my portable abode and reflected on my time in this pure and profound region of the country. As a homechool mom and teacher, I often asked the children around me, "Where did you see God today?" That night I asked myself that same question.

I saw His diversity and His care in the people He brought to me in my time of need. I saw His ingenuity in the Mackinac Bridge, the Sault Locks, and the endless cuisine varieties. I saw His patience in the timeless way of life on Mackinac Island. I felt the warmth of His love in the soothing sun over Sleeping Bear Dunes. And in all of Michigan I found His joy—a heartfelt connection to God, His creation, His providence, and His benevolence. C

Renee Janzen writes from Tulsa, Oklahoma, and has had many roles in life including lawyer, teacher, mother of four, and homeschool parent. She currently writes as she travels the country as a student of God's love and enjoys what He has made. She authors a weekly blog about her adventures at janzenjoyride.com.

Madera

A LENS ON CREATION



Bobby Harrison

Summer tanager



Bobby Harrison

Black-headed grosbeak

"The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God" (Isaiah 35:1, 2, KJV).

While driving across the desert grasslands of southeast Arizona, the view of the Santa Rita Mountains looms heavily on the horizon. These great undulating hills and peaks stand apart as a true wilderness—solitary places that greatly glorify the Lord and the excellence of His creation. My destination, Madera Canyon, rests within the heart of the mighty Sky Island mountain range that is surrounded by varying lowlands. Well-known as one of the most renowned birding hotspots in the United States, the canyon walls rise steeply from the desert floor to the very peak of Mount Wrightson at 9,453 feet.

Madera Canyon offers a hodgepodge of habitats that begins with desert grasslands at the mouth of the canyon. As the elevation rises, the desert grasses, scrub, and cacti give way to Arizona sycamores, cottonwoods, and juniper-oak woodlands. Still higher, maple trees, box elders, and a variety of pine-oak woodlands take over the vegetation. At the highest elevations, montane conifer forests crown the mountain range.

These riparian woodland habitats, along with an intermittent stream, provide the lifeblood of the canyon that create an avian Shangri-la—home to more than two hundred fifty species of birds. Most of these are migrants, but many live in the canyon year-round. While more birds can be seen during migration periods, both winter and summer impart an abundance of birdwatching, as well. One of the best ways to enjoy the various avian spectacles is to hike some of the hundred miles-plus of trails within the canyon.

Birders and naturalists come from all over the world in search of feathered rarities at

Canyon

BY BOBBY HARRISON

Madera Canyon. Birds such as elegant trogon, elf owl, sulphur-bellied flycatcher, Botteri's sparrow, red-faced warbler, and painted redstart are among some of the most sought-after finds. Many of the unique and more common birds can easily be found at pull-outs along Madera Canyon Road. Hot spots along the way include Proctor Parking Area and Trailhead, Whitehouse Picnic Area, Bogs Springs Campground, Madera Canyon Picnic Area, and (perhaps the very best) the bird feeding station at the Santa Rita Lodge. Birds most likely seen at these areas include the rufous-winged sparrow, blue grosbeak, Lucy's warbler, varied bunting, Mexican jay, summer tanager, and yellow-eyed juncos, as well as the acorn and Arizona woodpeckers.

Of course, the most popular species to be found in Madera Canyon are the flashy hummingbirds. If there were no other birds in the canyon, these tiny jewels of the avian world alone would make the trip worthwhile. Madera Canyon hosts up to fifteen different species of hummingbirds. Broad-billed, black-chinned, magnificent, blue-throated, Anna's, rufous, and broad-tailed hummingbirds are just a few of these flying gems that dart through the air.

Madera Canyon bestows a paradise hidden within a vast desert landscape—an oasis within the dry, barren desert of southeast Arizona. Isaiah 51:3 tells us, "For the Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody" (KJV). Thus, Madera Canyon ministers to weary souls as an Eden of joy and gladness where God's creatures sing thanksgiving in melodious voices.



Bobby Harrison

Magnificent hummingbird



Bobby Harrison

Blue grossbeak

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

Praying

CREATION UP CLOSE,





While sitting on our front porch swing, we watched lightning flash through the clouds as they rolled over our area. There's nothing quite like an electrical storm—an amazing show of power as electricity streaks across the sky lighting up the borders of storm clouds in the darkness.

That night, however, the lightning wasn't what peaked our interest. Our eyes searched the sky for answers to our prayers for much needed rain. Two months had passed since we had received any measurable precipitation. Everyone knows, even without personal experience, the devastation that comes from prolonged periods without moisture. Many in the United States also experienced this strain to some extent with 52 percent of the continental states in drought affecting more than two-hundred million acres of crops. Our farm fell in an area of severe drought, and I know large numbers of people in the region continually prayed for rain.

Scripture includes many references to rain—

for Rain

BY MANDY KILBOURN





both when it falls and when it doesn't—as a blessing and a correction. In Deuteronomy and Leviticus, God tells Israel that He will send rain to nourish their land as a reward for obedience. But perhaps the most well known story of needed rain is found in the book of 1 Kings when Elijah prayed for it after a drought fell on the land. In chapter 16 we learn of Ahab who became king over Israel and did evil in the sight of the Lord and went and served Baal and worshiped him. Then Ahab set up an altar for Baal and "did more to provoke the Lord God of Israel to anger than all the kings of Israel who were before him" (1 Kings 16:33). Under the leadership of Ahab, God's people turned away from Him and started worshiping Baal.

Israel knew the covenant; they knew the promises of Deuteronomy 28 when God told them He would send rain to their land for obedience and dust for disobedience. They also knew the commandments given to Moses that admonished, "'You shall have no other gods before Me'" (Exodus 20:3). God would be true to His word and could never bless a people who turned away from Him and bowed before idols.

So in 1 Kings 17:1, we see one tiny sentence: "And Elijah the Tishbite, of the inhabitants of Gilead, said to Ahab, 'As the Lord God of Israel lives, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, except at my word.'" The consequences of their choice to turn away resulted in three years of drought. But Elijah proved faithful. "And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; then he bowed down on the ground, and put his face between his knees, and said to his servant, 'Go up now, look toward the sea.' So he went up and looked, and said, 'There is nothing.' And seven times he said, 'Go again.' Then it came to pass the seventh time, that he said, 'There is a cloud, as small as a man's hand, rising out of the sea!' So he said, 'Go up, say to Ahab, "Prepare your chariot, and go down before the rain stops you." Now it happened in the meantime that the sky became black with clouds and wind, and there was a heavy rain" (1 Kings 18:42–45).

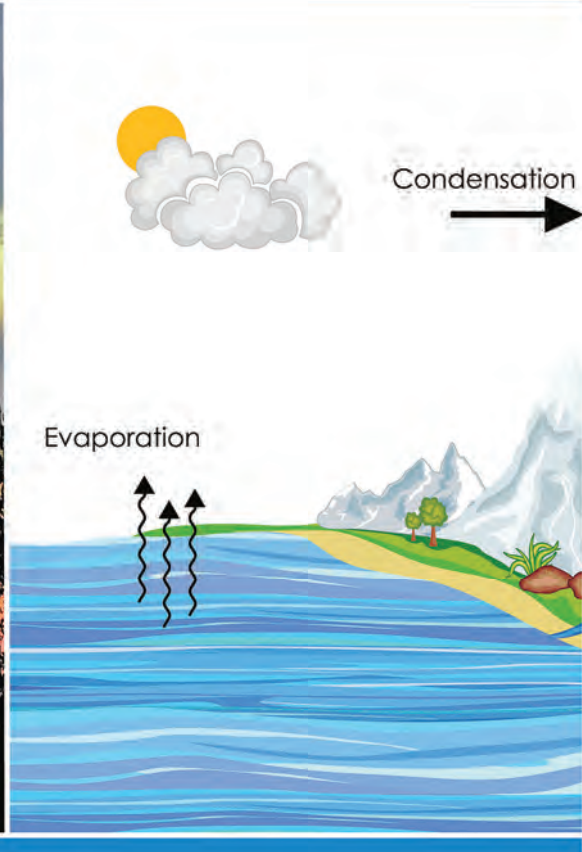
What an amazing depiction of faith! Elijah humbled himself before God and told the servant seven times to go look for the rain God would surely send. Then we see God work first by raising up a tiny cloud, then by filling the sky with rain clouds that gave water to a dry and thirsty land. We sometimes forget, though, that God allowed the drought that came first due to disobedience.

We all want to receive God's blessings, but we tend to forget that when we seek His blessings we enter into a covenant with Him, which is not to be taken lightly. When we claim His promises, we claim every aspect of them—including the corrections that often go along with the blessings.

In Job, when Elihu reminds his friends about the greatness of God, rain is one of the things he mentions. "'Behold, God is great, and we do not know Him; nor can the number of His years be discovered. For He draws up drops of water, which distill as rain from the mist, which the clouds drop down and pour abundantly on man. Indeed, can anyone understand the spreading of clouds, the thunder from His canopy?'" (Job 36:26–29).

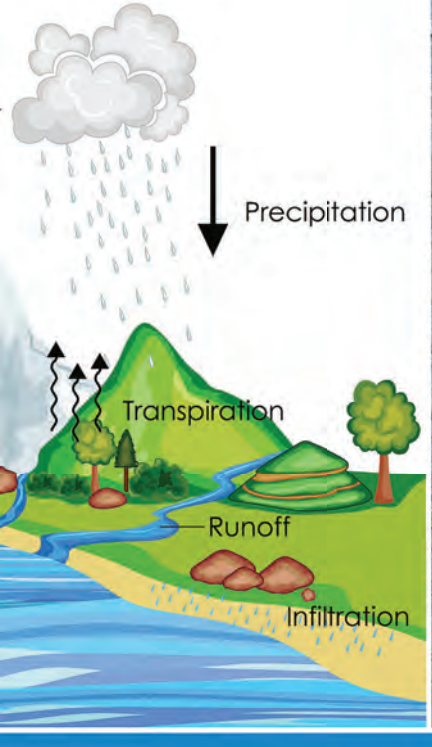


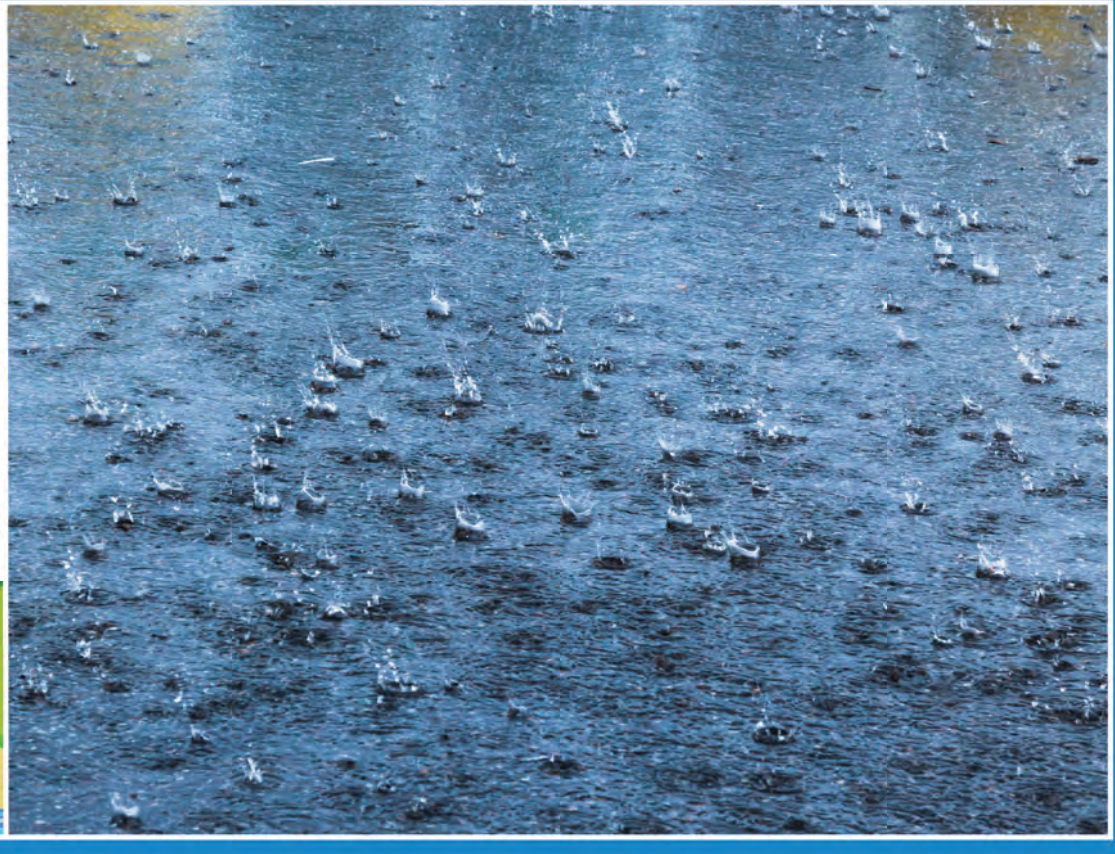
Jim Cunningham



I confess, despite all the times I've enjoyed the rain, I can't really say that I've ever thought about it as something that points to the majesty of God. But stopping to consider it, the water cycle follows a remarkable pattern. First, it requires that evaporation happens around us all the time. But this simple step actually requires a lot of energy to break apart the bonds that hold water molecules together and changing it from a liquid to a gas. Then those molecules must be carried through the air. In order for that to happen efficiently, the water has to change again. Now it must turn back into a liquid droplet through condensation. These droplets then have to combine with tiny particles in the air (called coalescence) to form the clouds that float through the sky and eventually become huge and dark with the promise of rain. So, the Creator uses His handiwork in nature to share truths and lessons that build faith and a relationship with His children.

Have you ever wondered of the sheer weight of the rain floating in those puffy clouds? One acre of land is 43,560 square feet. That's 6,272,640 square inches, which would change to cubic inches if we're talking about this acre of land receiving an inch of rain. This relatively small area receiving one inch of rain equals 3,630 cubic feet of water. Water weighs approximately sixty-two pounds per cubic foot, so that one inch of water falling on an acre of land equals more than two hundred twenty-five thousand pounds of water, or close to twenty-seven thousand gallons! I, for one, am very grateful that rain falls in small drops, because that inch of rain would total 112.5 tons of water if it fell all at once—a force of devastation experienced by many during recent freak storms that dump nearly a year's worth of average rainfall in a matter of a few days or even a few hours. Furthermore, we can never fully comprehend the massive force of the Flood in Noah's day when rain fell over the entire globe for forty days and forty nights. Currently, the rainiest place on earth is located in the state of Meghalaya, India, where the village of Mawsynram receives 467 inches of rain per year!







Steve Lackie



Besides the power of rain itself showing the awesomeness of God, the land and vegetation after the rain reveals wonders and the impact it has on life and the terrain. Everything turns bright and cleansed after the rain. The green returns to the grass, the dust is washed off the leaves, and the flowers bloom in abundance with every color imaginable.

In some places the change is beyond dramatic. The Atacama Desert in Chile remains one of the driest places on earth, receiving a scant 0.6 inches of rainfall each year. Some weather stations in the region have never recorded rain. Most of the time the Atacama stands dormant as a dry, desolate place that looks empty. Following one of the rare rains, however, the desert bursts into color. What was once a barren space transforms into a carpet of pink, white, and purple flowers from the seeds that lay hidden and waiting for any amount of moisture. We, too, sometimes wait during a parched period in our lives when nothing seems to be happening. Yet, faith in God's providence must remain steadfast to claim His promise found in Leviticus 26:4, "'I will send you rain in its season, and the ground will yield its crops and the trees their fruit'" (NIV).

We can easily see the blessings of rain, but sometimes we forget that the division between blessing and correction isn't always clearly defined. In Matthew 5:45, Jesus said, "'for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.'" Droughts don't only affect evil people. Millions of souls around the world who follow Christ also experience the devastation of drought such as faced by the believers in Somalia who have lost most of their earthly possessions due to the lack of rainfall.

In the same way, rain doesn't just fall softly on fields that belong to God's people. God sends rain to nourish the lands belonging to people who oppose Him, as well. At times both God's people and others face catastrophes like floods in equal measure. We need to be thoughtful when we experience rain or drought realizing that God may be using either one in





our lives to bless us or correct us. We must exercise caution not to project onto other people how God may be working in our life or the lives of others. We must not judge others or predict God's will regarding climatic events, as some calamities may be the hand of the enemy.

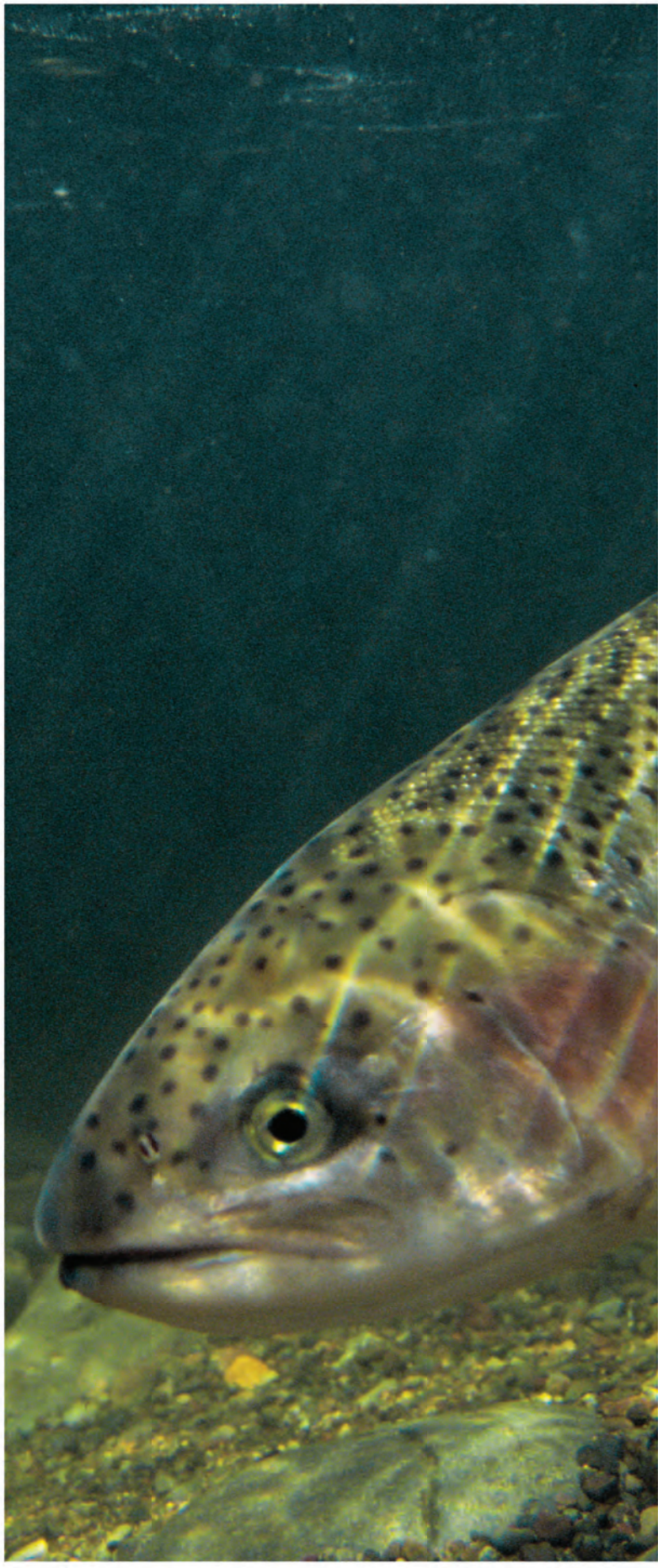
Once rain appeared in the forecast, I can't adequately put into words how I felt at the promise of precipitation for our farm. James 5:7 admonishes, "Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain"—a promise that the outpouring of the benevolent Holy Spirit will lead to a bountiful harvest. We're taught many times in Scripture and in our upbringing to be patient, but not until I had a farm of my own and became responsible for the health and well-being of livestock that depend on the fruit of the earth receiving rain did I really understand what it meant to be patient in the way that a farmer is patient.

It's isn't simply waiting. A farmer knows that without rain his farm is lost. His total surrender and only hope depends on rain falling to nourish the ground, the seeds, and the crops so they will grow and feed the livestock and people who rely on them for sustenance.

A farmer knows that he can't control the rain; so his faith and prayers rest in the One "who covers the heavens with clouds, who prepares rain for the earth, who makes grass to grow on the mountains" (Psalm 147:8). In the words of one of our neighbors, the farmer has to wait and trust that it will rain at least one day before it's too late. And through it all—the rain and the drought—we know God's presence remains steady. He is always faithful whether the weather He sends appears to be a blessing or a correction. **C**

Mandy Kilbourn writes from Huntsville, Arkansas, where she continues to look to the heavens for signs of God's providence and will in order to share His lessons from Creation with others.

Tenacious Trout



A feisty trout made another long run into the fast current peeling all the fly line and some of the backing from my reel. I could feel his strength and resolve as I held the pulsing rod in my right hand. The rushing river flowed way too fast where I stood to land a fish that big. Wading toward some slower water to land him was my only option.

I glanced toward my yellow Lab, Cosmos the wonderdog, watching intently from shore as I trudged out of the strong current toward the bank. The sound of water swirling past the gray boulders surrounding me began to diminish. Then I heard something I had never heard before in all the years I'd fished these rivers. Plop!

I stared in dismay at my feet. There in about three feet of frigid, crystal-clear water and resting precariously on top of a round rock lay the spool from my fly reel. The tiny screw that held it in place had

By Thomas Trock



© Tom & Pat Leeson





A powerful steelhead trout (previous pages) migrates upstream. Waterway habitats get threatened by human encroachments (left), but regulations protect various streams to maintain a healthy fish population and at times add planted trout (below).



"'Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea . . .'"

—Genesis 1:26

loosened. It doesn't take an avid sports fisherman to realize that this was not good.

The chilly streams and rivers of the Pacific Northwest serve as native territory to numerous cold-water fish including trout, salmon, and char. Many of these fish share some of the same habitat at various times of the year. The fish that seized my fly the day my reel self-destructed was a cutthroat trout. Although their coloration varies, much of the spotting on this trout typically appears toward the tail end of the fish. But the easiest way to identify a cutthroat is by the colorful orange stripes on the underside of the lower jaw giving the trout its name and distinction among many other species the Creator bestowed on His earth.

"Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name" (Genesis 2:19). The cutthroat's scientific name is *Oncorhynchus clarki* named after William Clark of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. He first described the fish as the explorers moved through the Missouri River basin (present-day Montana) in 1805.

The cutthroat proves its sensitivity to degrading ecological conditions and therefore provides a good indicator of not just water quality but also the various environmental resources associated with it. This understanding prompted legislators to make the cutthroat trout the state fish and the symbol of natural heritage for both Idaho and Montana.

At the present time, fourteen known subspecies of the cutthroats exist. And since these fish are not tolerant of deteriorating water quality, they are susceptible to environmental disturbances such as road construction, logging, and livestock grazing. Some of the negative effects of these activities can cause the silting or scouring of spawning stream beds, destruction of bank cover, loss of shading, erosion of waterways, and increased water temperatures.

In Genesis 1:26 of the Creation story, God clearly states our responsibility as stewards of His handiwork. "Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.'" We cannot expect to get away with causing harm to His creatures or their environment.

Another serious challenge to the cutthroat population is interbreeding with rainbow trout whose coloration typically appears uniformly spotted from nose to tail. The rainbow species gets it name due to the faint or quite pronounced reddish stripe along its sides that glistens in the sunlight and fades into a light-colored belly and a greenish spine. The rainbow, like many other species of fresh water fish, make good eating as they fall within the guidelines of Leviticus that delineates which fish are clean. "'These you may eat of all that are in the water: whatever in the water has fins and scales, whether in the seas or in the rivers—that you may eat. But all in the seas or in the rivers that do not have fins and scales, all that move in the water or any living thing which is in the water, they are an abomination to you. They shall be an abomination to you; you shall not eat their flesh'" (Leviticus 11:9–11).

"The waters abounded, according to their kind . . ."

—Genesis 1:21

In general, two different species do not interbreed, whether animals, fish, birds, etc. An even rarer event occurs when two different species interbreed and produce viable offspring. This is the case with cutthroat and rainbow trout. Rainbows are more aggressive than cutthroat, and they are able to out-compete other species for food and prime habitats including both spawning and rearing areas. During spawning a male rainbow trout will fertilize eggs from a female cutthroat. This crossbreeding of species produces an offspring called a *cut-bow,* revealing the coloration of both species. Since these offspring are able to reproduce, further diluting and peril exists of the pure genetic strain of cutthroat.

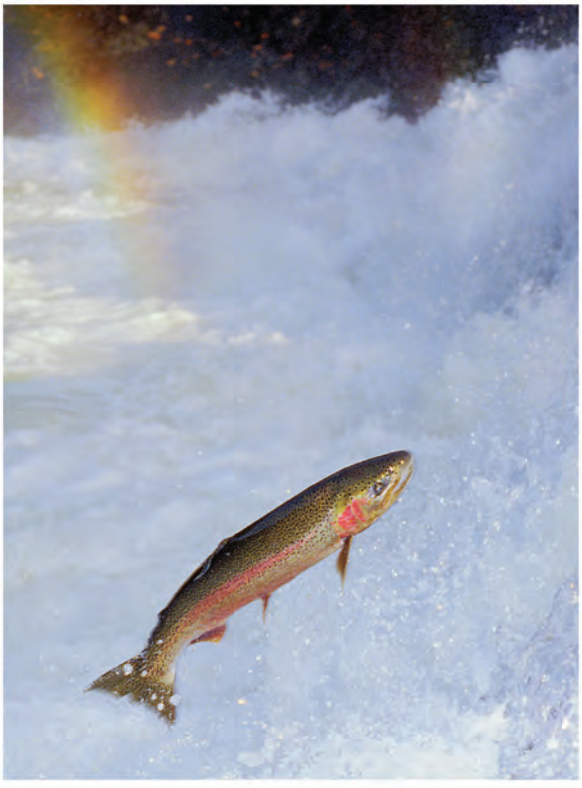
Stories abound of unscrupulous so-called *sportsmen* who release their favorite fish into a body of water where the species is not native. Also, both state and federal fish and wildlife agencies used to stock fish of various species far and wide to provide anglers with abundant fishing opportunities. All of these activities have at times proven disastrous for populations of native plants and creatures including fish. One only has to look at the devastating effects of the introduction of Asian carp into the U.S. to recognize the billions of dollars of damage to aquatic flora and fauna including native fisheries. Proverbs 14:12 warns, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death."

Fortunately most government agencies now do careful analysis of habitat and native species before considering any new species introduction. Even so, only sterile, nonreproducing species get introduced, which more closely follows God's design for creatures to reproduce only "according to their kind"—a phrase that appears many places in Scripture. One example in avoiding crossbreeding involves the stocking of sterile grass carp into lakes for aquatic vegetation control. These fish usually live about eight to ten years and can greatly reduce or eliminate the use of herbicides to control lake vegetation.

An *anadromous* fish is one that hatches in freshwater, migrates to saltwater, then returns to freshwater to reproduce. One unusual thing about rainbow trout is that some of them migrate to the ocean while others stay in freshwater their entire lives. A rainbow that journeys to the ocean is called a steelhead. It will live in saltwater one to three years then return to its native stream to spawn. Similar to other trout, steelhead spawn in the springtime and deposit their eggs in gravely stream beds that remain well oxygenated and clean of silt. Steelhead do not die after spawning and are capable of reproducing multiple years. God instructed His creatures from the beginning when "the waters abounded, according to their kind. . . . And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas'" (Genesis 1:21, 22).

Other anadromous fish in the Pacific Northwest include the five species of fall-spawning salmon—the Chinook, coho, chum, pink, and sockeye. Unlike the steelhead, after Pacific salmon return to freshwater and spawn, they die upon this completion of their life cycle.

Kokanee are landlocked sockeye salmon that do not migrate to the ocean. Although these fish do not get as large as their anadromous cousins, they have similar appearance during spawning including an olive-green head and blaze-orange body. The



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Steve Lackie

A rainbow shines down upon a rainbow trout (left) whose coloration shows similar hues. The thrill of hooking a wild trout (above) must be matched by an angler's skill. Vibrant Kokanee salmon (below) fill a stream with activity.



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Steve Lackie

Area wildlife compete for their catch with fishermen including a river otter (above) and a bear (right). The author landed the trout that almost got away (below).



Thomas Trock

"Speak to the earth, and it will teach you; and the fish of the sea will explain to you."
—Job 12:8

nutrients from spawned-out salmon return to the watershed to help build the food chain for other life in and near the river system. Spawning salmon can attract various fish-eating birds and animals such as eagles, otters, and bears.

Smoltification is a big word used to describe adaptations that occur in a fish when it travels from fresh to saltwater. Changes in appearance, behavior, and physiology take place. One of the most amazing changes includes internal water and salt regulation. In fresh water, a fish's gills need to retain salt, and its kidneys excrete great amounts of diluted urine. But when a migratory fresh-water fish enters saltwater, the process is reversed. The gills must now excrete excess salt, and the kidneys actually slow or even stop urine production to reduce water loss. This process occurs in each of the millions of ocean-going migratory fish every year in just the Pacific Northwest alone.

Then, when the adult fish return from saltwater to their native fresh-water spawning grounds, the water/salt regulatory process must be reversed once again! "'Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints!'" (Revelation 15:3).

Some other cold-water fish that inhabit streams in the Pacific Northwest include bull trout and to a lesser extent both brook trout and lake trout. Yet, these fish are not really trout at all; they are *char*. Although in the same family as trout (Salmonid), these fish are of a different genus (Salvelinus not Oncorhynchus). Trout tend to have dark spots on relatively light-colored bodies, while char have light spots on darker bodies. And the leading edge of the lower fins on a char are white. A big difference in behavior is that char (similar to salmon) spawn in the fall, while trout are spring spawners. Unlike salmon, however, char do not die after spawning.

Returning to my fishing expedition and a comical balancing act on slippery rocks, I did manage to retrieve the fishing line spool for my fly reel without falling into the river and all the while keeping the hooked trout on the line, as well. Eventually I stumbled my way to shallow water and landed the fish. After a hasty sniff of approval from Cosmos, I cradled the fish in my hand for a precious moment keenly aware of the privilege of touching a wild creature while admiring its stunning beauty. I took a photo then released this very special part of God's creation back into the stream. As it darted toward the deep, dark water, I knew it was where it belonged.

I still smile when I see that picture, and I'm reminded once again of my glorious Creator God. "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, in whose hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind?" (Job 12:8–10). C

Thomas Trock writes from Orofino, Idaho, where he enjoys getting outdoors to experience the blessings God bestows upon all His children through the wonders of Creation.



© Jason Stone - Stone Nature Photography

Many elements existed prior to Creation day three.

"Then God said, 'Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear'; and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. . . .

CREATION DAY 3

■ BY GARY WAGNER
WITH TOM ISH

The Creation of Land and Plants

Editor's Note: This article is the third part 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 fourth day of the Creation week when God created the sun, moon, and stars. 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.



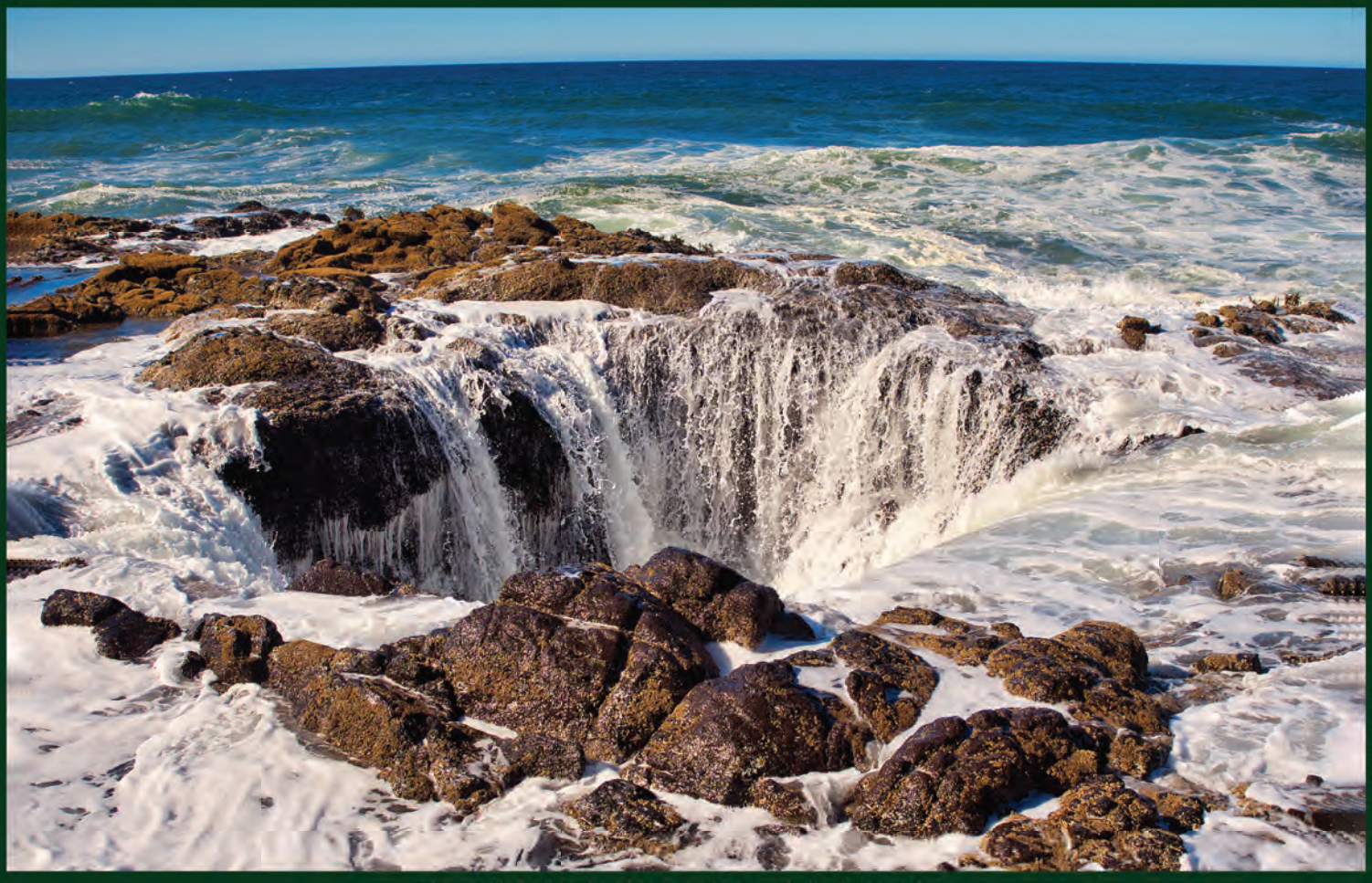
Mark Gottlieb

The dry land appeared as a sturdy foundation.

A structural engineer, geologist, or theologian might be able to get excited about days one and two of the Creation story, but as wonderful as the beginning of the Creation week may be, not all that much happened during those initial events to play on the passions of the common observer. However, the *third* day of the Creation week stands apart as very different. Just consider the countless created resources of rocks and minerals unveiled, as well as many other elements not mentioned in the brief Genesis account, especially the vast variety of verdure that soon covered the earth.

When the Bible commences in Genesis 1:1, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth," it establishes that all the building blocks were put in this place in space. Every component that was needed for the construction and the continuity of life and a myriad of environs became available on day one. The profound and major element made after days one and two was life itself, but we will learn that even life had a precursor. It didn't develop on its own. Organic compounds had to already be created in order for life to exist. Everything made rests on the building blocks established on day one that were placed under a canopy of protection around the globe on day two.

As the Creator established at the beginning the integral parts that make up our atmosphere and earth, verse two of Genesis one mentions the waters over which the Spirit of God hovered. Scripture doesn't specifically mention the creation of water, but it was obviously present on day one. God knew



Deborah Rew

The earth had to be able to withstand the forces of sin.

before He began the week of Creation what He would need throughout the Creation process. We see this in remarkable clarity as we watch what God made on day three.

Some of the structural necessities include dirt, rocks, minerals, and water. And day three could not have been possible without oxygen, nitrogen, carbon dioxide, and many other gases. Although not mentioned anywhere in the Bible, these gases had to be placed there by God before day three.

Scripture chronicles in the first part of Genesis 1:9, God said, "'Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear'; and it was so." Establishing this architectural framework on earth had at least two purposes. First, God intended for the earth to last forever if sin did not occur. The second consideration demands the earth had to be built strong enough to survive the effects of sin until the plan of salvation could be completed. God knew before He began creating that the risk of sin becoming the norm among his children existed. Sin causes death and destruction, and we know the world has been affected by its corruption and ensuing decay. The long list of effects of sin includes earthquakes, erosion, volcanoes, wind, rain, corrosion, waste, war, and many other forms of trauma. It had to be built to withstand what causes the groans and birth pangs described by Paul in Romans 8:22. "We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time" (NIV).

Upon this sturdy foundation the world changed dramatically as life appeared for the first time. "Then God said, 'Let the land

And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth'; and it was so. . . .



The DNA is unique to each plant kind.

produce vegetation: seed-bearing plants and trees on the land that bear fruit with seed in it, according to their various kinds.' And it was so. The land produced vegetation: plants bearing seed according to their kinds and trees bearing fruit with seed in it according to their kinds" (Genesis 1:11, 12, NIV). A tool God uses in Scripture to focus special attention on a topic employs multiple uses of a word or phrase. One such focus exists here with the phrase, "according to their kinds." In days three, five, and six of the Creation week, we find ten similar pronouncements of the way life would perpetuate. These terms seem to show God proclaiming answers to the questions of our day relating to evolution that *kinds* remain constant with the genetic capability to undergo *adaptations*. However, there would be no macroevolution from one *kind* to another.

God tells us repeatedly that life reproduces from parent to offspring using the blueprint given by the One who created it. "After its kind" tells us God placed something into earthly life that would allow it to consistently reproduce and even create community. That is, the next generation will be like its parent. In scientific terms, this points to the existence of DNA. Scripture doesn't specify DNA, which is understandable because the first photographic evidence of the structure of DNA didn't happen until 1952. Had God inspired His prophets of the Old and New Testaments to discuss DNA, it wouldn't have made much sense.

However, God knew at Creation about genetics and had a complete understanding of genes and reproduction because He made them. In a discussion of the resurrection of



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Christmas in Prison

"I was in prison, and you visited me."

–Matthew 25:36



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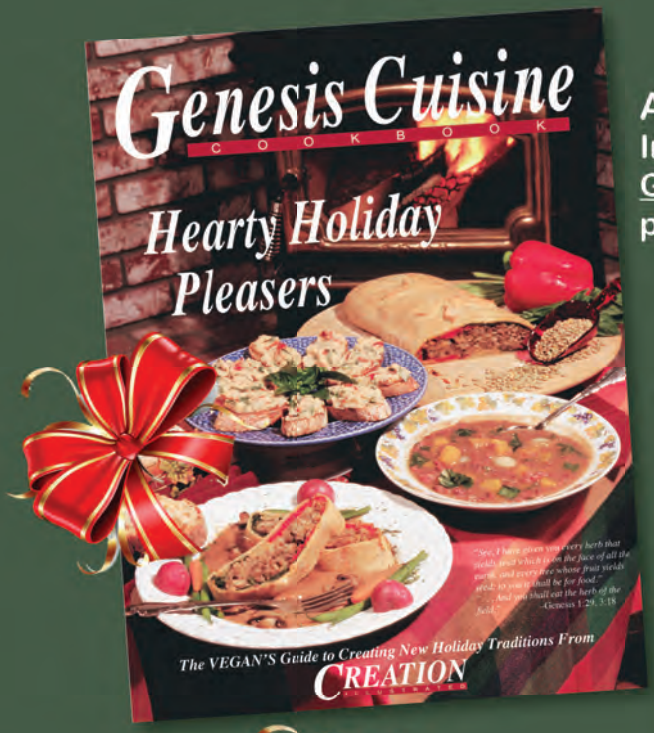
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Seed pods contain the DNA to reproduce its kind.

And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the third day." —Genesis 1:9–13

our bodies, Paul disclosed, "Not all flesh is the same: People have one kind of flesh, animals have another, birds another and fish another" (1 Corinthians 15:39, NIV). These differences are due to genetics. Furthermore, the next verse reveals a real shocker. "There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another" (1 Corinthians 15:40, NIV). Paul was inspired to make this comparison between heavenly bodies and earthly bodies. While these two *kinds* of bodies (using the same word found in Genesis 1) describe differences in their splendor; it is written in the context of what seems to be a discussion of genetic comparisons—heavenly and earthly. It stands to reason that the precursor of life on earth was life in heaven.

So, DNA didn't evolve on earth. Rather, it seems to have existed before earth's creation. God appears to have used certain life-defining processes here on earth that also have some of the same functions in the heavenly realms, but He undoubtedly changed some for special purposes like procreation and other earthly functions to keep the living things according to their *kind*. DNA does not appear to be new or developing from simple to complex; it was the model for all life from everlasting to everlasting. This may explain why there are so many similarities between the species.

The other phrase or word that repeats in the Creation story is *seed*. Here we find a clue to the importance of a second major focus relating to the creation of life on day three. God uses genetics in a seed to set life into



All of the plants, grasses, flowers, and fruit exist according to their kind.

motion, and anyone who has grown a garden knows how astounding the experience can be to see a tomato plant or a fruit tree grow from a tiny seed. Paul underscores in 1 Corinthians 15:37, 38 the importance of the Creator's hand in developing seed. "God gives it a body as he has determined, and to each kind of seed he gives its own body" (NIV).

Soon we discover that Creation is more than just a physical exercise. It is more than just making something, or even more than making it *good*. It is also a spiritual undertaking.

The seed is more than an annoying hard morsel in the middle of a piece of fruit. It shows us a model or *type* of our Savior, Jesus, who died so that others could live. "'I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel'" (Genesis 3:15). Every seed we see provides a promise to us that Jesus came to save us from the penalty of sin. So, the grass, the trees, the flowers, and the herbs God planted over all the earth on Creation day three (not just on land but under the water, as well) illustrate this eternal truth.

And while all of the plants served many functions, the Creation story mentions only one purpose regarding day three. The Creator provided food for man and animals as revealed in Genesis 1:29, 30. "And God said, '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. Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life,



On day three of the Creation week a vast variety of plant food was created.

I have given every green herb for food'; and it was so."

But God wasn't satisfied to make plants merely functional; He also made them to be inspiring. He was first to say "I love you" with flowers. The beauty, the functionality, and the inspiration of plant life is so overwhelming that we often get lost in their study. But it should not be lost to us that on day three of the Creation week, which presented the first life on earth that God spoke into existence, He was also revealing His love in the seeds, in the flowers, and in the fruit of His plan of salvation in order to underscore His desire to spend eternity with us. C

Gary Wagner, D.Min. writes from Chattanooga, Tennessee, where he is a retired pastor and continues to explore the wonders of Creation. He is the author of the book Creation's Rescue Mission, *which is now in its second edition. Tom Ish is editor of* Creation Illustrated.



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Mapping After the Flood

One of the fascinating things about maps is that they give us a bird's-eye view of God's creation. While filming the *Is Genesis History?* sequel at Cedarville University in 2021, Dr. John Whitmore shared a map of the Grand Canyon to offer some perspective on what he and Dr. Andrew Snelling accomplished during their research trip.



Dr. Snelling's research provides the backbone for the film sequel. In 2017 he and Dr. Whitmore traveled by boat down the Colorado River to collect a series of rock samples at different points in the canyon. Their primary interest focused on the enormous folded rock layers at the bottom of the canyon.

Were those layers soft and pliable when they formed, or were they hard and brittle? If it could be demonstrated they were soft when they folded, they couldn't be hundreds of millions of years old. This new research could provide important new evidence of a global flood and a young earth.

Condensed from an article at Is Genesis History? www.isgenesishistory.com

Gender in Archeology Research

When archaeologists find buried human skeletons in an excavation, the specimens can usually identify them as male or female according to their bone structure and DNA. The Black Trowel Collective of America, a group self -identified as *anarchist archaeologists*, now claim that "archaeologists must center the fluidity of gender in their archaeological practice." This means they want archaeologists to classify human skeletons as *nonbinary* or *gender neutral* rather than identifying them as male or female, according to a story in the *Daily Mail* July 24, 2022.

However, mainstream archaeologists and historians are not persuaded. Jeremy Black, emeritus professor of history at the University of Exeter, labeled this to be "An absurd proposition, as the difference between genders, just as the difference between religious, social, and national groups, are key motors in history." Frank Furedi, emeritus professor of sociology at the University of Kent also warned against imposing modern gender ideology on past societies. He said, "If you look at history, one of the foundations of civilization is the distinction between man and woman, whether it be in the Bible or the yin and yang in Chinese philosophy, so when you distort that, you get a completely different version of what has happened."

Here at Creation Research, we feel the written records of what people believe, not just their preserved bones, are important. And if enough of the skeleton or if DNA can be extracted, they can be identified as male or female. It is interesting that a secular sociologist should mention the Bible, which does make a distinction between men and women. That distinction is significant because the Bible claims to be the word of the Creator who stated He made human beings male and female in the beginning.

Condensed from *Creation Research Email News Update*, August 2022, www.CreationResearch.net

Yellowstone Creation App

Intriguing geysers, dazzling thermal pools, magnificent waterfalls, and virulent wildlife flourish in Yellowstone National Park. You may have visited and wondered how to understand it better from a biblical perspective. What happened there on a grand scale and in the context of Creation and the Flood?

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Condensed from Alpha Omega Institute's *Think Believe*, July/August 2022, www.discovercreation.org

CREATION STEWARDSHIP

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

Sharing Facts and Figures

Fall harvests accumulate massive stockpiles of food staples including grains, legumes, and tubers. The Bible reveals much about God's providence and our responsibilities as stewards of such resources while exercising faith in His faithfulness.

Facts and Figures

With 50,000 edible plant species in the world, fewer than twenty species provide ninety percent of global food consumption. The four main staples that five billion people rely on include rice, wheat, potatoes, and maize, which is the most productive in the world with 1.1 billion tons in 2019. Other major staples are soybeans, cassava, sweet potato, yams, and sorghum defined as those eaten regularly and in amounts that make up the main part of a population's diet supplying high quality energy and nutrition.

Very few countries supply the majority of important staples to the world, which can lead to disruptions due to war, weather, trade restrictions, poor harvests, and stockpiling. Leading grain-producing countries such as China, United States, Russia, India, and Brazil face increasing demands for their staples; yet, they must retain supplies for their own populations. The US remains the largest exporter with more than ten percent of total global exports in 2020. Brazil is the second largest with most exports going to China.



With grain as the key foundation of the world's diet, maintaining reserves to help with food emergencies and to stabilize grain prices is vital and should cover three to four month's consumption plus a cash reserve to import food. The US holds around four million metric tons of wheat, corn, sorghum, and rice in reserve for international humanitarian purposes. Wheat stored in typical metal silos can safely last up to eighteen months at less than fifteen percent moisture content.

Tips for Simple Living

Nearly one in three people in the world (2.37 billion) did not have access to adequate food in 2020, an increase of almost three hundred twenty million people in one year. Learning how to grow and share excess food is vital even on a small scale. Here are some ways.

- Build a root cellar with no energy costs to store produce including: potatoes, carrots, beets, onions, cabbage, turnips, parsnips, dried beans, winter squash, sweet potatoes, and some fruit like apples and pears.
- Freeze or can many foods to preserve for use throughout the year.
- Share excess food with charities and food banks or invite families to come and glean from your fruit trees and garden if you have excess.
- Teach families in your community how to preserve, store, and share food with others.

Biblical Stewardship of Creation

The Bible shares important lessons regarding the stewardship of His resources, as well as the assurance of His providence and faithfulness.

In Genesis 41–46 we learn of a powerful dream from God to Pharaoh where Joseph became instrumental in helping the Egyptian government orchestrate one of the largest grain stockpiling events in history! By storing abundant harvests in good years and sharing during the drought years, many lives were saved, including his own family.

God also encourages us not to worry about our food or His providence. Isaiah 33:16 promises His followers that their bread and water will be sure. Matthew 6:26 assures that even the birds "'neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them.'"

But both instances of sustenance require involvement. The stockpiling requires planning and hard work; the birds must still scratch and seek to find the food God provides; and both require an act of faith that no one will be forsaken.

So, faith, stewardship, hard work, thrift, and charity all go together in God's plan of providence.

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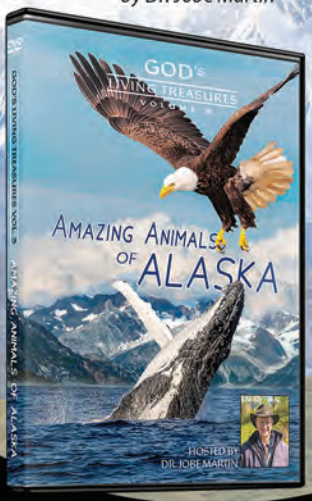
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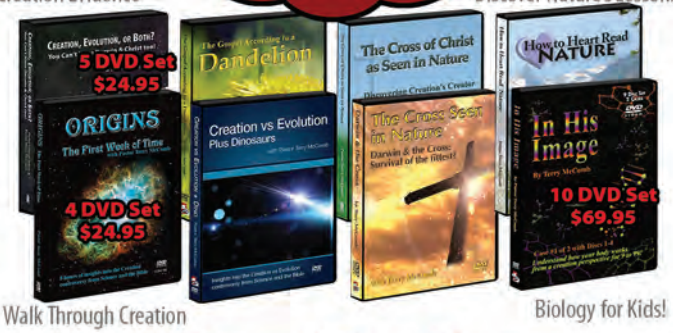
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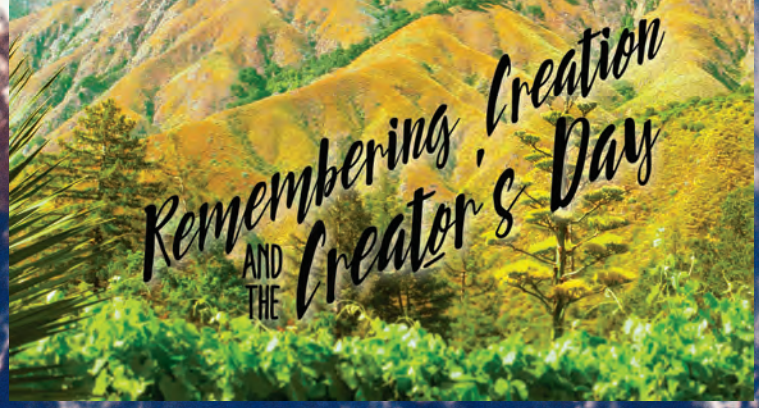


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MY WALK WITH GOD



My professor drove our Environmental Science lab group to the edge of a large forest. Our only instruction was to go *stillness-hunting*, which meant strolling through the woods, sitting in a quiet place, and observing nature for one hour on our own.

Our class of twenty students followed a beaten trail until we reached a clearing where everyone dispersed. Equipped with more details of the lab procedures, a journal, and a pen, we were all prepared for *the hunt*.

Wandering left and right, I scoured the area for a place to sit. My ears rang in the quietness of the woods. I dodged prickly bushes and stepped over logs.

The world around me formed a wall of green, yellow, and brown as the foliage colors began to change in the fall weather; the sky above was shielded by more leaves. Crunch, crunch, crunch—the leaves beneath my tennis shoes alerted every creature in the forest.

Suddenly I came upon a dry streambed. Cautiously I hiked down the sloped ground to the bottom of the gully and spotted a large, gray rock with a relatively smooth surface as my chair for the next forty-five minutes. I exhaled a deep breath.

At first I felt overwhelmed by the emptiness of the silent woods and fearful of being lost and alone. Then the weariness of constantly going from class to class and meeting to meeting,



Stillness Hunting



applying for internship positions, and balancing schoolwork and social life hit my frazzled body. My shoulders slouched, and my head felt like a brick.

"Why am I exhausted?" I questioned. I was doing fine. I shouldn't be tired. I haven't worked on any homework all day. What am I doing? Why am I sitting in the woods for an hour when I have three internships to apply to by Friday and a research paper to complete? Bitterly I opened my journal and began to

BY JESSICA BELLAMY



write my observations as a cloud of worry hung over my head.

After finding my place in the woods and sitting still for several minutes, a chipmunk peered from behind a tree, scampered across a fallen trunk to the stream bank, and disappeared into the leafy plants. Crickets chirped from all sides of the forest. A woodpecker pecked at a tree, and a variety of other birds cooed from the treetops. Were these creatures here all along? The forest wasn't as quiet and lonely as I thought. It's alive!

The more I sat embracing my surroundings, the more details I noticed. A beam of sunlight from an opening in the canopy of leaves above my head illuminated a single plant in the streambed that thrived alone in the dry soil. Beautiful, I thought. This place is beautiful.

My shoulders relaxed; my mind eased. "Lord, You are here," I confessed. "You are here with Your creation, and it is soothing my soul." My heart opened to experiencing God's presence amidst the soothing trees and lively forest creatures.

Immersed in His creation, the peace of God surrounded me. "You are My child," the wind seemed to whisper. "Be present with Me. Trust Me. I am with you, always." Psalm 46:10 beckoned, "Be still, and know that I am God."

As a gust of wind swayed the canopy above me, brown leaves parachuted from the treetops and softly landed on the ground. I journaled my observations, then turned to the reading for our lab procedures. On the page several nature quotes were by naturalist John Muir. The first sentence read, "When we spend time in nature, cares will drop off like autumn leaves." With each falling leaf, I imagined each care falling one by one. First Peter 5:7 calls us to "give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you" (NLT).

Then came the flood of distractions. You must get an internship this summer. You keep being rejected from internships because you aren't smart enough. You don't have the qualifications companies require. You aren't trying hard enough in school. You must write a research paper by Friday. You haven't called your grandparents in a month. You're not doing enough. Each doubt, lie, and guilt that clinged to me dropped one by one.

The Muir quote reminded me that God is Lord over all creation and has the power to cast away all our fears. He can do anything He wills and reminded me that He "made the

heavens and the earth by Your great power and outstretched arm. There is nothing too hard for You" (Jeremiah 32:17). The sunlight spotlighting that vibrant plant amidst a dry, rocky streambed and the trees spanning far above my reach pointed to the heavens and their Creator.

I soon realized that I had been so focused on preparing for the next day, semester, and even the summer that being in the present seemed exhausting. With this breath of rest, I finally recognized the heavy workload and pressure I had placed upon myself during the past month. Why should I worry when God takes care of this little plant and provides food for the chipmunks and the birds?

A familiar verse came to mind. "I will lift up my eyes to the hills—from whence comes my help? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth" (Psalm 121:1, 2). My help comes from the Creator of all things—the very Creator who breathed life into my soul and who brought me here to this forest today. He's the One who deeply knows and loves me.

With each leaf falling, I felt God's invitation to rest and to put my trust in Him. He seemed to be saying, "You are Mine, and I love you; do not worry, child, I am with you."

God will guide me each step of each day when I am alert to His voice and experience His presence. Spending time with Him in nature refreshed my soul, I was reminded to "'seek first the kingdom of God'" (Matthew 6:33) and to "be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God" (Philippians 4:6). I can trust God, and He will provide all I need.

Packing up my journal and climbing back up the bank of the streambed, I was at peace. One hour of *still-hunting* proved far better than one hour of worrying. **C**

Jessica Bellamy writes from Hudsonville, Michigan, and is a student at Taylor University. She enjoys hiking and being in awe of her Creator.





Keren Strickland

Leafy vegetables flourish in the long Alaska daylight.



This potato may be small,

Gardening

I could hardly believe my eyes! Stretching before us a true Alaskan garden burst forth fully flourishing under the long days of the arctic summer sunlight. We had painfully driven our van over bumpy, gravel-dirt roads to visit our friends who lived off-grid north of Fairbanks.

My five children at that time delighted in picking handfuls of carrots, parsley, zucchini, cabbage, peas, and dill from our friends' garden in early September. Clothed in deep shades of green, the various forms of leafy verdure appeared breathtaking in the middle of a black spruce forest grove. Our benevolent friends shared their extravagant and bountiful harvest with us that fall.

Paul tells us the harvest of love produces a fullness hardly comprehended, "so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

gardens from eden



Jeannie Gerhardt

but the joyfulness is colossal.



Jeannie Gerhardt

The whole family gets involved in the harvest.

in Alaska

may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3:17–19, ESV).

Amazed at the bounty, I learned that it took our friends years of practice, trial and error, and perseverance to develop gardening skills in Alaska. The experience and success they gained as a family (including their six children) came with lots of challenges along the way. We grow into spiritual maturity in much the same way. Through trials we develop perseverance and talents for the Lord. As we undergo difficulties, we learn to reap eternal rewards.

I think back to my first efforts at gardening in Alaska when we had lived there for only one year at the time. After the snow melted in the spring, we began clearing refuse off the land to make room for our garden. The previous owners left mounds of trash-filled garbage bags in

by jeannie gerhardt



Keren Strickland

Huge rutabagas the size of soccer balls



Alaska state fair winners include a 111 and a 2.65

a pile. Once we cleared our land and started to dig, we realized they had also dumped buckets of cat litter on the land. Not to be discouraged, we continued to scrape until we found clean soil. Finally the days became warm enough to begin planting. There were really only about two months of growing time in our area from mid-June to mid-August, but the days were very long with sunset at 12:47 a.m. and sunrise at 2:59 a.m. during the summer solstice. For those two hours between sunset and sunrise, it appears as dusk or dawn because the sky never actually gets dark.

As we dug deeper in our new arctic garden to place our seed potatoes, we hit permafrost. I remember thinking, "Why all this difficulty, Lord? I just want to plant a nice garden with my children!" Unwilling to be deterred from our end goal, we found some old tires in the bushes to use as a rim to fill with dirt and plant seed potatoes. We also planted them in the bare soil above the permafrost to see what would happen.

By the time September came and the weather turned cold at night, we began to harvest our potatoes that felt like unburying hidden treasure. Even our dog dug right alongside us without taking a bite of the tubers. The seed potatoes we had planted over the permafrost ended up smaller than the ones in the tires that benefited from the added heat generated by the black rubber absorbing the sun's rays. We all felt victorious together knowing that our hard work from last spring proved fruitful!

In subsequent years we worked the soil and cleared land on a hillside overtaken with wild vegetation surrounded by birch trees. In addition to planting a larger garden (which still wasn't huge since giving birth to our seventh child in May of that year), we grew a few peas



Steve Lackie

pound cabbage, a 7.6 pound zucchini, pound beet.



Steve Lackie

A single cabbage can cover nearly twenty square feet of garden space.

and vegetables in our greenhouse, as well. We learned that anything leafy like greens, cabbage, or other above-ground vegetables grow huge because of the long days. In fact, at the fair, people bring in some jumbo cabbages weighing close to one hundred pounds! Potatoes also do very well and can get quite large when planted in mounds of dirt. Our potatoes had beautiful greenery, but they were quite small probably due to planting them over permafrost. But carrots and peas taste much sweeter than anything available in the lower forty-eight states. However, certain produce like spinach and beets do not like all that sunshine. Other root vegetables like rutabagas get quite big if well fertilized and watered. A variety of fruit also grows well in Alaska including haskaps or honey berries, raspberries, strawberries, plums, saskatoon berries, currants, gooseberries, cherries, and apples—although the apples are very small and only a little larger than a crabapple.

Eventually our trials came in the way of family medical issues that paused our Alaska stay with necessary trips back to Oregon. So, we gave up gardening and let the land produce a stunning harvest of fireweed and wild raspberries surrounded by brilliant yellow fall leaves adorning the birch trees. Our subsequent harvest wasn't any larger than our first year of living in Alaska when we'd planted potatoes and picked wild raspberries, blueberries, and cranberries.

Yet, our friends typically reaped a bountiful yield from their off-grid gardening efforts that generated ten times more than what we ever managed to grow—produce that they dried, canned, froze, and shared with others. However, more recently they, too, faced challenges as the voles killed almost all of their established fruit trees that had blessed them tremendously the year before. The winter snow was so deep that the critters could get through the wire placed



Jeannie Gerhardt

A bouquet of jumbo carrots blesses many hungry workers.



A stalk of rhubarb grew

around the trees and eat off all the bark. Our friends basically had to start their fruit trees all over, which will take years to get back to where they were.

While we felt rather sheepish about our garden and found we still had a lot to learn about gardening in Alaska, we entered into the joy and rejoicing of our friends' generous bounty without minimizing what we'd accomplished. This experience provided an important spiritual lesson.

Paul addressed the jealousy and strife he saw within the new church when he wrote, "So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. He who plants and he who waters are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building" (1 Corinthians 3:7–9, ESV). He wants us to be unified as Christians and experience the reward and joy God intends to bestow.

Paul continued to explain to the early church about God's grace and the role and function of it in their lives. He moved from the planting analogy to building on a foundation. He cautioned them to be careful how they built, as "each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done" (1 Corinthians 3:13, ESV).

We will reap spiritual rewards in much the same way as we do from proper gardening. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10, ESV).

As we live out our Christian lives, some of us will be fruitful and bountiful due to the



Jeannie Gerhardt

nearly four feet long.



Keren Strickland

A real-life display of cabbage patch kids—reminiscent of the 1983 Cabbage Patch Doll craze—yields an abundance of smiles.

nature of how we grew up and how our characters were cultivated. We may end with a glorious harvest of joy depending on our faithfulness and what kind of effort we put into living for Christ mixed with the kinds of trials we've faced along the way. Others may produce little due to the circumstances in which they lived and what they chose to do with the time they had here on earth. Yet, in the end if we are fully surrendered to Christ and cooperate with the tending and pruning of the Holy Spirit, we shall all share equally apart from the harvest we can produce—in much the same way that our friends shared their bounty with our family.

God's grace is always sufficient to bless everyone. We are His field. When we decide to yield to Him, He will produce much fruit for His glory. God will give the increase. C

Jeannie Gerhardt writes from Coos Bay, Oregon, where she enjoys sharing the lessons she's learned from following Christ. To hear more of her Alaska adventures, find her devotionals at mama-moose.mailchimpsites.com.

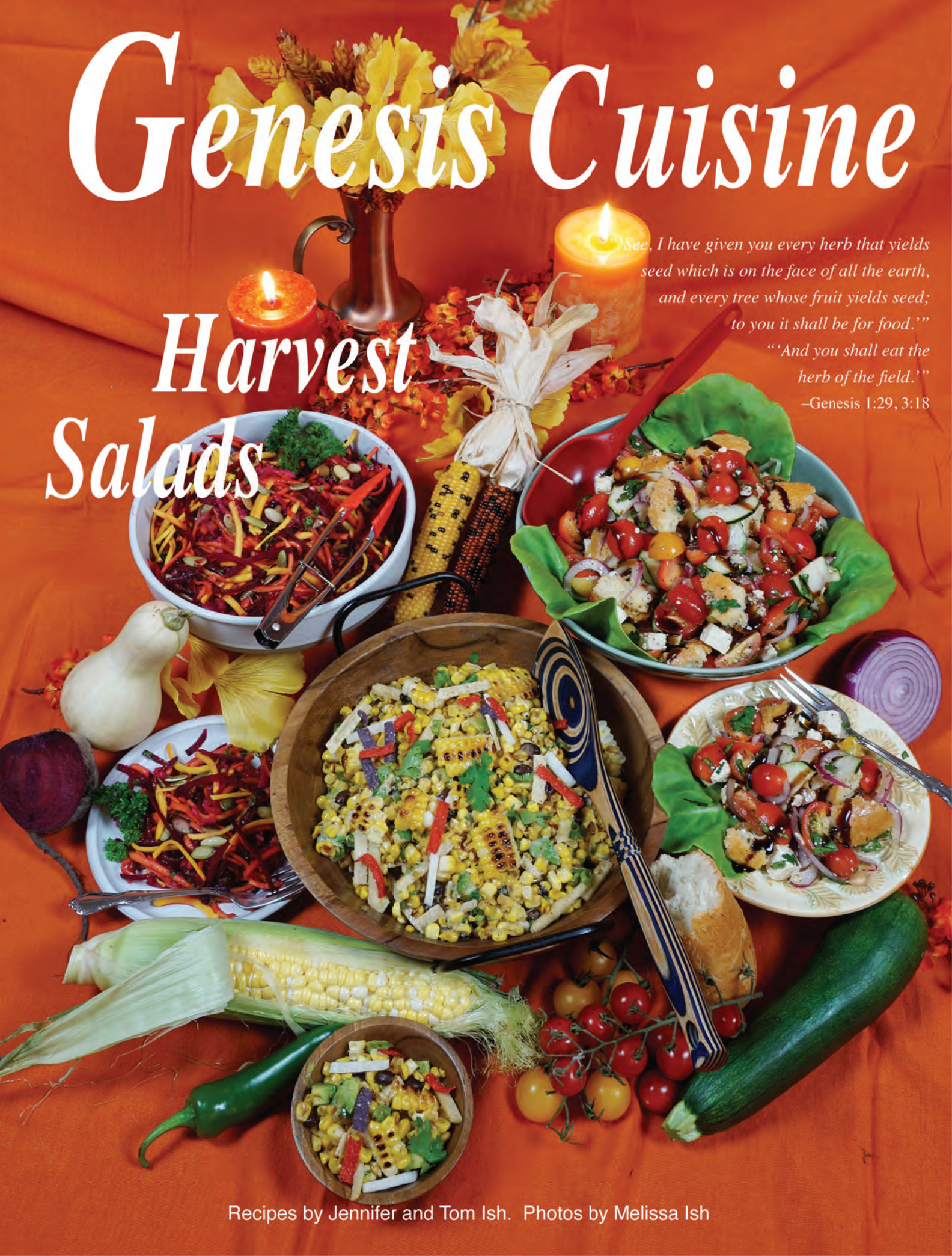
Genesis Cuisine

Harvest Salads

"'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 and Tom Ish. Photos by Melissa Ish



Italian Panzanella Salad

3 C. cherry tomato varieties, cut
1/2 C. zucchini slices
1/2 C. red onion, thinly sliced
1 C. firm tofu, cubed & marinated
2 Tb. fresh basil, shredded
2 Tb. fresh Italian parsley, chopped
day-old baguette bread
Balsamic reduction drizzle
butter lettuce leaves

Tofu marinade & salad dressing:
Mix together 1/4 C. olive oil, 1/4 C. vinegar, 1/2 lemon juiced, 1/2 tsp. dried basil, 1/2 tsp. oregano, salt and pepper to taste

Prepare tofu and add to marinade; place in refrigerator. Cut tomatoes, zucchini, red onion, basil, and parsley and mix in a bowl. Tear off small chunks of baguette and add it to the salad. Just before serving, mix in the marinated tofu cubes and dressing. Serve on a leaf of butter lettuce leaves.



Mexican Roasted Corn Salad

3 1/2 C. roasted corn
1/2 C. black beans
1/2 C. jicama, julienne strips
1/3 C. avocado, cubbed
3 Tb. cilantro, chopped
2 Tb. scallions, finely sliced
2 Tb. jalapeno, seeded & minced

Dressing:
2 Tb. lime juice
1/2 tsp. lime zest
3 Tb. mayonnaise or Vegenaise
1/2 tsp. garlic, minced
1/4 tsp. red chili powder
salt and pepper to taste

Roast corn on a grill or skillet, cut kernels off the cob, and place in a large salad bowl. Add remaining ingredients and mix. Place in refrigerator to cool. Mix the dressing ingredients together and add to salad just before serving. Alter the amount of jalapeno and chili powder if you prefer a more spicy salad.



Slavic Beet-Butternut Slaw

2 C. raw beets, shredded
2 C. butternut squash, shredded
1 C. granny smith apple, shredded
1/2 C. pumpkin seeds, toasted
2 Tb. surly parsley, chopped

Dressing:
1/4 C. avocado oil
1/4 C. apple cider vinegar
1 Tb. fig jam

In a food processor, shred the raw beets, squash, and apple keeping them separate. Keep the apple from oxidizing by coating with lemon juice. Place the three shredded ingredients in refrigerator to chill. Rinse the raw pumpkin seeds in water then place on a cookie sheet, lightly salt, and toast under the broiler until the seeds dry and puff up. Gently mix the ingredients all together in a salad bowl. Add dressing and serve.

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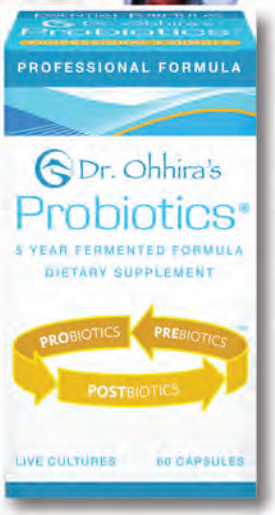
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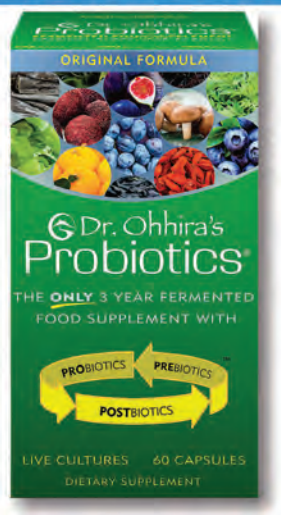
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The Hunt for Quail and God



Early one morning David and his grandma, whom he calls *Bma,* leaned over the back of the couch and watched California quail drink dew from a blade of grass.

"Bma," said David, "That's so cool."

"Yes, David. It's pretty remarkable how God provides even a drop of water for the quail. Let's watch."

The quail, with its black face and white beard, sipped another drop of water from the grooved blade of grass. Then, starting at the lower pointed end of the blade, the bird opened his bill and ran his lower jaw up the entire length of the blade of grass and scooped up the droplets of dew along the way. Then he stood back and swallowed.



© Jason Stone - Stone Nature Photography

R Y B Y K I M K R E S S



Quail families typically stay together for protection and for instruction to the offspring.

Bma and David laughed because the quail apparently had taken in too much water, because a tiny droplet remained on the tip of his bill. He shook his head hard back and forth. Droplets flew through the air. Bma and her grandson laughed again as they enjoyed watching the quail.

"David, because you live next door, would you be willing to work on a project and hunt for other interesting things about the quail and how they reveal to us the character of God?" Bma asked.



David turned around, plopped down on the couch and agreed, "Okay. I'll get some books from the library."

"That would be good, David, but search the Bible for scriptures, too, that tells us how God provides for everything He made," she added.

"Okay, Bma," he said and ran home.

The next morning David yelled, "Bma, Bma, I'm here!"

Bma opened the front door and invited, "Come in, David. What did you find out?"

David sat down on the beige carpet, crossed his legs, opened a library book, and read. "The quail like to eat ants, flies, and occasionally mosquitoes. And they eat the soft body part of a honeybee." David made a sour face and continued, "But they don't eat the head of the bee. And they eat inchworms, but not angle worms." Then he asked, "What are angle worms, Bma?"

"Those are the worms that people use as bait for catching fish," she explained. "So, David, what do you think about what you just read? Who provides the food?"

"God does, Bma," he answered.

"Yes, David. I found a verse in Luke 12:24 that says, 'Consider the ravens: They do not sow or

reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them' (NIV). "We must remember that God feeds all animals, even the quail. They do not have to worry about food. Come back tomorrow with another interesting fact about the quail and a verse you find on your own."

The next morning after doing chores at home, David dashed down Bma's driveway. But before he got to the front door, he stopped short. In front of him was a female and a male quail. They both dragged one wing and acted like it was broken.

David stood frozen like a snowman because he didn't know how to help. In the next minute, three tiny balls of fluff scampered across the driveway to safety. Then twelve other tiny balls of fluff darted into the bushes.

When their babies were safe, the mother and father stood up and hurried to care for their bevy of young chics. David could hardly wait to tell Bma about what he had just seen.

"Bma, Bma, I've got something to tell you. Please open the door!" he shouted.

After opening the door, Bma asked, "What happened?"

Her grandson rushed into the house and breathlessly told Bma what God had let him witness.

"That's an incredible blessing, David," she affirmed.

"Yes. It was amazing how the mother and father took care of their babies. And I know, after watching them, that God not only cares for the birds, but He promises to protect me."

Bma clapped her hands and assured him, "Yes, David. That's right. But what about a Bible verse we talked about?"

"Well," said David, "I remember a song about the sparrow that says God's eyes are on the sparrow. I know His eyes were on the quail today, and I know he watches me."

"And a Bible verse, David?" Bma persisted.

David thought hard and said, "My verse is found in Psalm 32:7. It says, 'You [God] are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance'" (NIV). David thought for a minute then continued, "Bma, God showed me how the quail drink, eat, and how they protect their babies. I learned that God's eyes and His hands are always protecting the birds and everything He created. That means me too!"

"You," said Bma, "are such a good student. You have learned well." C

Kim Kress writes from Salem, Oregon, where she enjoys exploring the wonders of God's creation and the life lessons it provides so she can share the blessings with others to inspire them to explore Creation too.



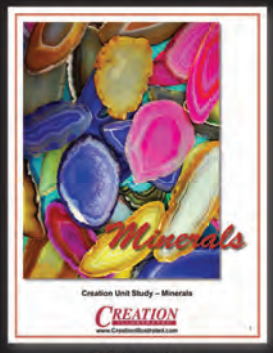
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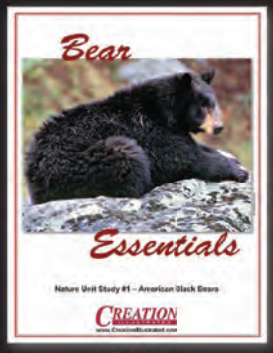


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Bible-based Unit Studies



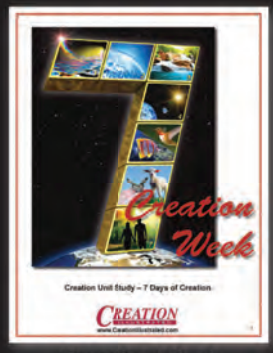
Minerals



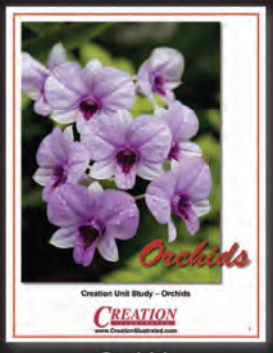
Bears



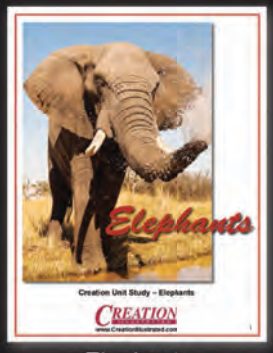
Butterflies



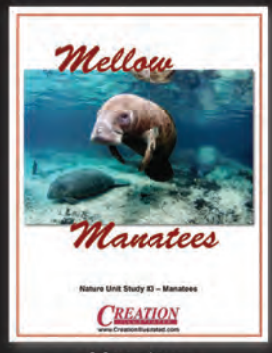
Creation Week



Orchids



Elephants



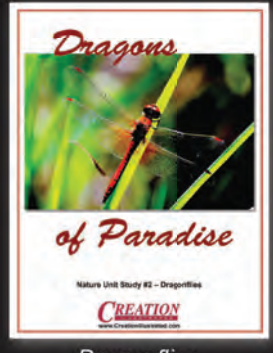
Manatees



Horses



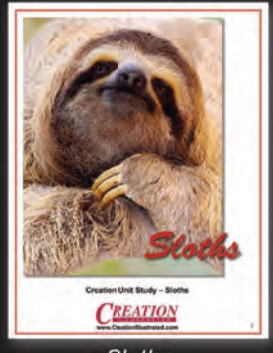
Chickens



Dragonflies



Alpacas



Sloths

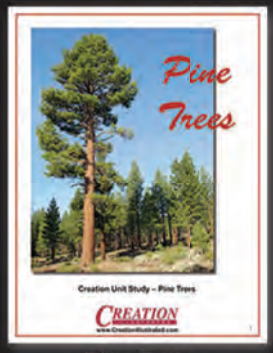
with Cellphone Addiction!

R  This

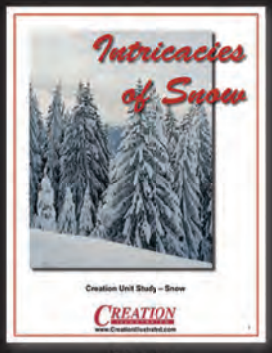
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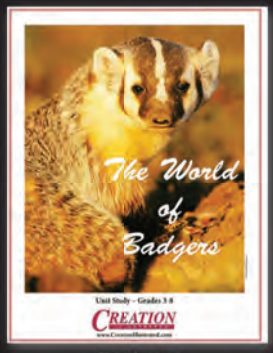
Fragrance



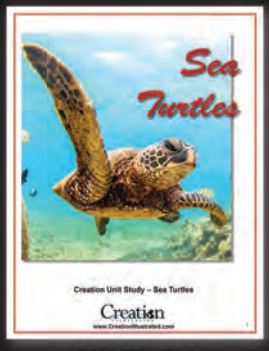
Pine Trees



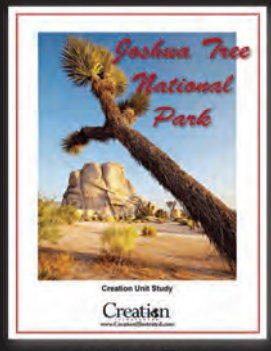
Snow



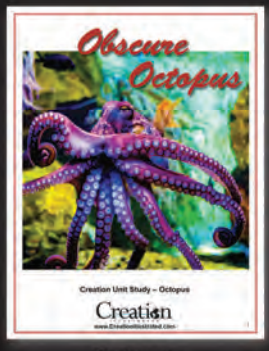
Badgers



Sea Turtles



Joshua Tree National Park



Octopus

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Branches

A branch is not the tree, but it is like a miniature tree. The branch often looks like the tree only it grows sideways instead of up and down. In this case the tree branch is rooted and grounded in the tree itself. How is a limb fastened to the tree. What glue holds it there? What is the source of its strength? The branch receives water and vitality from the tree. The tree receives sugars and manufactured energies from the leaves through the branches back to the tree.

As you look at a tree, you will notice that the limbs higher up on the tree grow almost straight up, and as you move down the tree, they get bigger, longer, and curve, until gradually gravity pulls them closer to the ground. It is almost as if the tree is pointing heavenward in a position of prayer and praise- the attitude we need in order to be alert and alive.

Each year the tree adds a layer of life, adding a layer to the branch also; thus its strength is acquired from many layers of spring and summer xylem cells. All branches keep on branching, getting smaller and smaller, until finally the limb ends and there we find a bud. All this branching is so the food manufactured in the leaf may be effectively transported back to the tree by the phloem cells and down to the roots where it will be available to the tree for use now and later.

The branch depends on the tree for its total support. So it is with us and Christ. Jesus said 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." All the growth of the limb depends upon what it receives from the tree. Likewise, any fruit we bear depends upon what we receive from Christ. The key word is abide - a living connection of our humanity with His divinity.

In a similar way, children are like limbs on the family tree. To a great degree, all comes via the genetics of father and mother. Children are a miniature extension of the family tree. When we honor our parents, we are honoring the name that we took from them. What we are on the inside will eventually bring either glory or shame to the family name.
"Honor your father and mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you" Exodus 20:12.

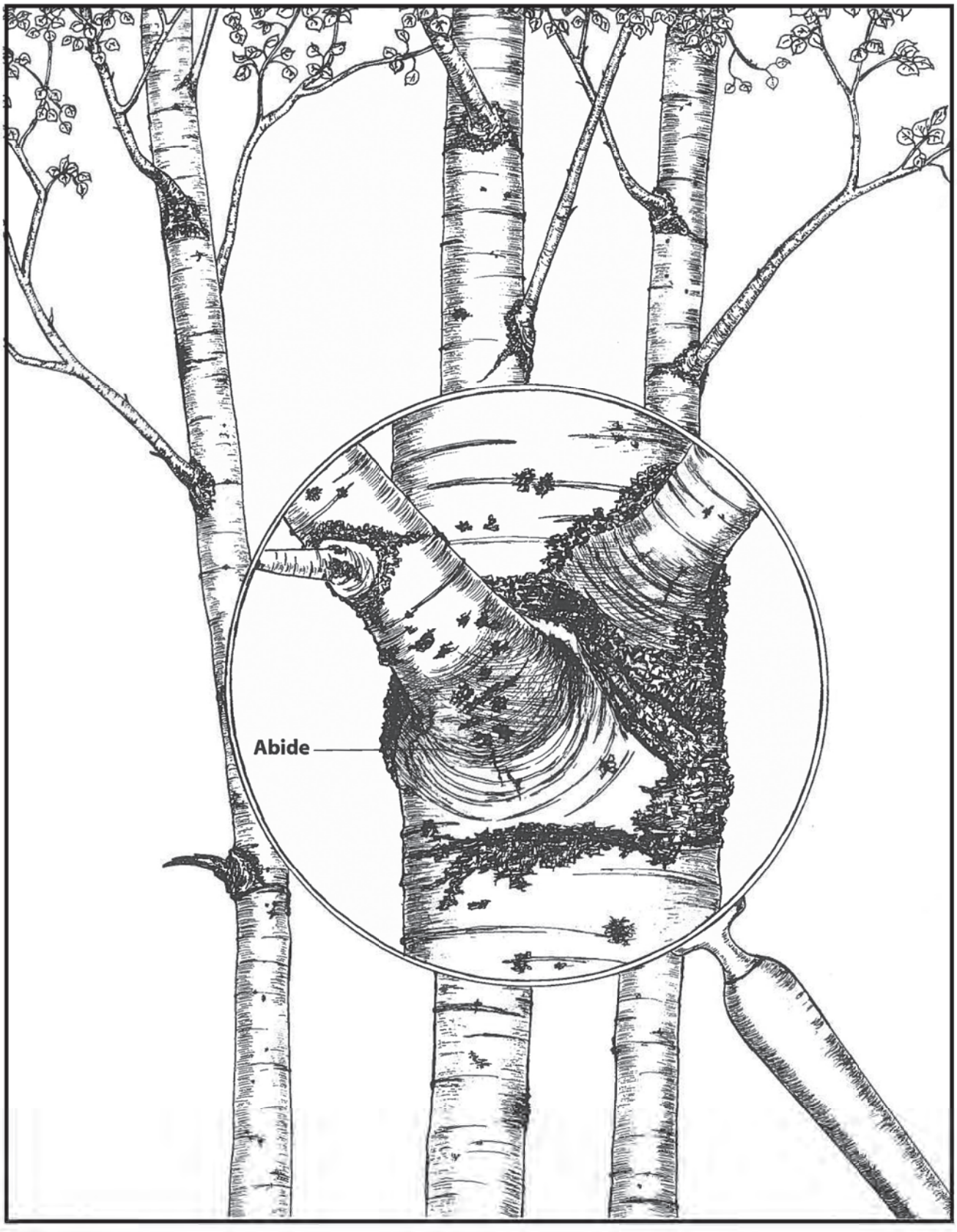
PRACTICAL PROJECT:

Take a sheet of paper and try sketching a tree. Sketch a branch.
Is there a pattern to the branching?
Does the tree minister to the life of the branch or does the branch minister to the life of the tree?
Do children minister to the family tree or does the family tree minister to the children?
How is it in your family?



This character-building lesson was excerpted from ***The Gospel According to a Tree*** book by Terry and Jean McComb as part of their series of *Gospel According to . . .* books.



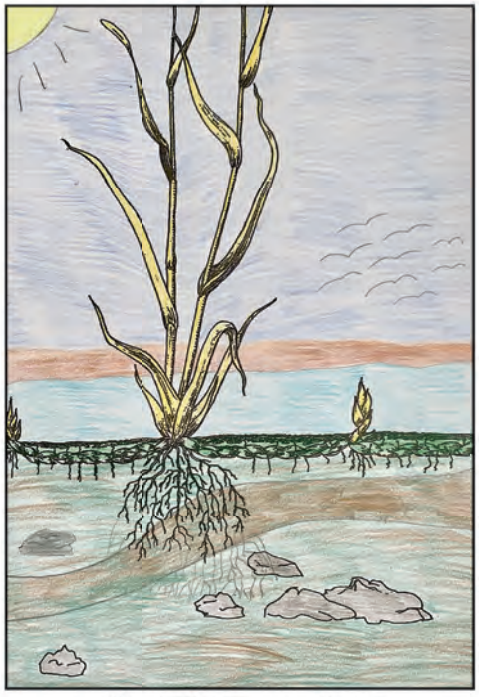


Fall 2022 Coloring Contest First Name:_____ Last Initial:_____ Age:_____

(deadline & details on page 60) City:_____ State/Prov._____

Creation Illustrated Coloring Contest

Winners From the Summer 2022 Edition Character-Building Lesson



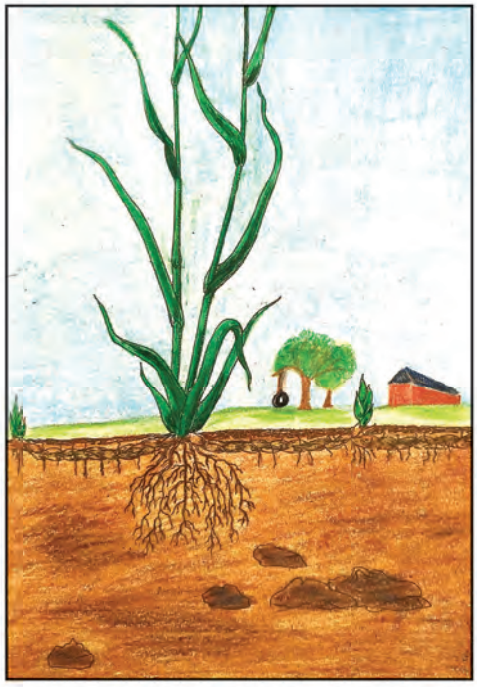
First Place, ages 6–11

Benjamin S., age 11, of Litchfield, Ohio



First Place, ages 12–18

Diyanna M., age 14,
of Whiteville, North Carolina



First Place, ages 19+

Ava W., age 19, of Saint Cloud, Florida

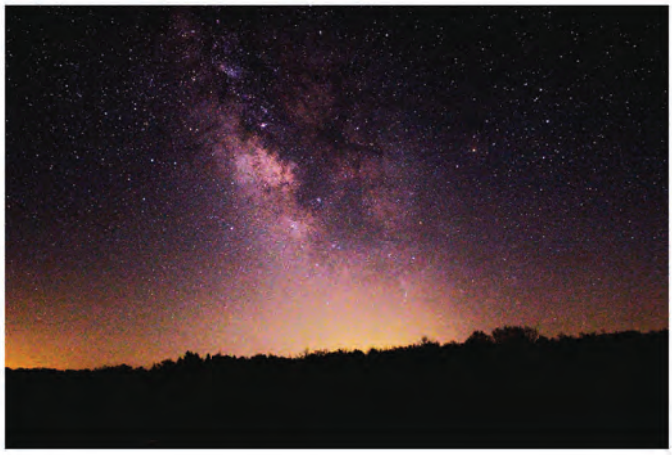
Here's how to enter the ***Creation Illustrated*** **Coloring Contest for ALL Ages!** Color in the picture on the previous page from the Character-Building Lesson. You can even add other creatures, clouds, sky, etc. Then scan or photograph your work (maximum one per quarter) and email an attached jpeg 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 fall 2022 entries is November 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 December from fall-edition pictures, the first week of March from winter-edition pictures, the first week of June from spring-edition pictures, and the first week of September from summer-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 Summer 2022 Submissions



First Place, ages 6–11 (left)
Aaliyah L., age 9, of Iron City, Tennessee, wrote: "I call this picture, 'The Firstfruits,' and I'll quote Exodus 23:19, 'As you harvest each of your crops, bring Me a choice sample of the first day's harvest. It must be offered to the Lord your God' (TLB). Although this wasn't our first harvest, our crops surely do belong to the Lord!"



First Place, ages 12–18 (right)
Yuliya H., age 17, of Freeport, Maine



First Place, ages 19+ (left)
Sharon H., age 57, of Freeport, Nebraska, wrote: "I took this photo of a lesser yellowlegs on the mid-coast of Maine. While out kayaking at half tide, I came upon the birds eating as they walked on top of the floating seaweed. God's creation is amazing!"

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 fall 2022 entries is November 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 December from fall submissions, the first week of March from winter submissions, the first week of June from spring submissions, and the first week of September from summer 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,* Fall 2022 Edition, Vol. 29, No. 3

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. Re-Creation Outdoors—"Pure Upper Michigan" story, pages 6–11

1. What fun adventures were planned for the author's first day exploring the U.P.? p. 8
2. What name are the residents of the U.P. area known as? p. 8
3. How was Matthew 25:40 demonstrated toward her while camping? pp. 8, 9
4. Explain why Mackinac Island State Park is so peaceful. How many acres is the State Park? p. 9
5. On her last night in Great Lakes State, what question did she ask herself, and how did she answer it? p. 11

II. Creation Up Close—"Praying for Rain" story, pages 14–19

1. What percentage of the US is dealing with drought? How many acres of farm crops are affected? p. 14
2. What lessons can we learn from the drought during the time of Elijah and King Ahab as told in 1 Kings 16 and 17? p. 16
3. Explain how the water cycle follows a remarkable pattern with all of its stages and locations. p. 17
4. What is the weight of one inch of rain that covers one acre of land? p. 17
5. Why is it important to exercise caution in not judging others who must deal with climatic events? p. 19

III. Creatures Near and Dear to Us—"Tenacious Trout" story, pages 20–27

1. What is the easiest way to identify a cutthroat trout? Who is this fish named after? p. 23
2. How many known subspecies of cutthroat exist? Explain why this fish is a helpful ecological indicator. p. 23
3. How is a rainbow trout different from the cutthroats? What complications come from the interbreeding of these two fish? What are these offspring called, and what are their limitations? pp. 23, 24
4. What scripture phrase appears many times and helps guide us to avoid crossbreeding? p. 24
5. Explain what an *anadromous* fish is. List some of the common names of these type of fish. p. 24
6. Explain what *smoltification* is. Draw a diagram showing the remarkable journey and changes that take place with these fish. p. 27

IV. The Creation Week—"Creation Day 3—Land and Vegetation" story, pages 28–36

1. List some of the structural necessities that were needed on day three of creation. p. 30
2. Explain the significance of the phrase "after its kind." What existence does this point to? p. 31
3. What special creation does God use to set life into motion? What scripture helps to underscore this process? pp. 34, 35
4. Explain how the seed is a model or type of our Savior. p. 35 (See Genesis 3:15.)
5. What is the main purpose of plants that the Creation story mentions? p. 35 (See Genesis 1:29, 30.)
6. Write an essay explaining why plants had to be the first form of life that God created on earth. Think about all parts of nature that are dependent on the plants and the various functions they perform to help sustain the life of the rest of Creation that followed in the Creation week story.

Fall Family Fun Activities

Even though the temperatures begin to get chilly in the fall, there are fun family activities that you can do to keep everyone going outdoors before the weather really turns harsh. Here are some ideas to help you get started. Then you can get creative and develop your own fall activities for everyone to enjoy!



Leaf Collection Game: Go on a walk in a park or through a neighborhood that has a good variety of deciduous trees. Instruct each participant to try to collect at least seven different types of leaves while putting them in a bag. When you return home, sit at a table and take turns pulling out one leaf at a time. With a tree book or online research, have fun identifying each leaf and learn and share some interesting facts about the trees from which they came. Then have everyone else try to find the same type of leaf in their collection. After you have gone through each bag of leaves, everyone can have fun using some of these leaves to create crafts by making holiday decorations or gifts.



Leaf Crafts: Here are a few leaf craft ideas. Make leaf note cards, a leaf wreath, a leaf garland, a leaf mobile, or leaf impressions in dough or clay. Some craft supplies to use might include construction paper, clear contact paper, wax paper, scissors, tape, a leaf/flower press, coloring pencils, watercolors, acrylic paints, salt dough, clay, ribbon, glitter, glue, hemp cord, and other nature items like cranberries, pine cones, dried seed pods, twigs, etc. Look up some fall crafts online and then use your own creativity to make something you can give to someone you care about.

Leaf Raking Outreach: Some neighbors or friends may not be able to get outdoors to rake up the leaves that fall in their yards. This creates a great opportunity for you to offer to rake up their leaves as a free service and gesture of kindness. Even in the chilly air, you will feel warm inside your heart!

P	T	W	T	A	R	E	E	E	K	A	L
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B	F	J	L	Q	T	S	R	E	V	I	R

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. ALASKA
2. COLORS
3. CROPS
4. CUTTHROAT
5. DNA
6. DROUGHT
7. FOLIAGE
8. HARVEST
9. HERB
10. LAKE
11. LAND
12. PLANTS
13. QUAIL
14. RAIN
15. RIVER
16. SEED
17. STEELHEAD
18. STILLNESS
19. TROUT
20. VERDURE

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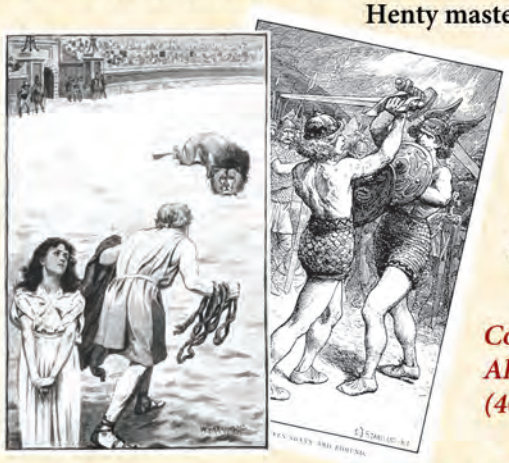
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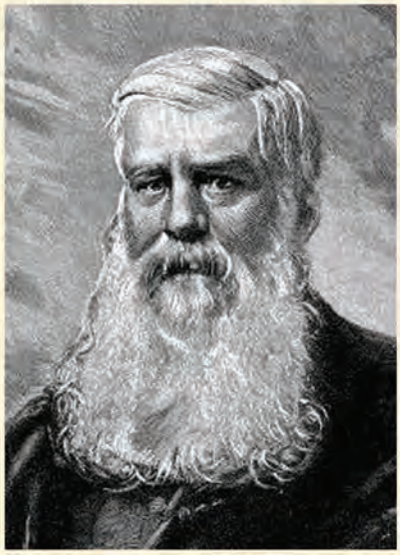
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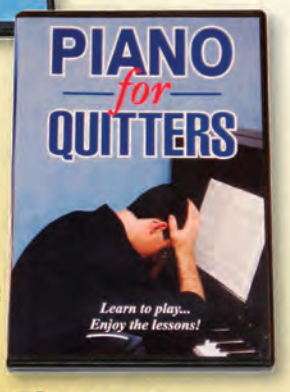
Age 4 – Grade 12

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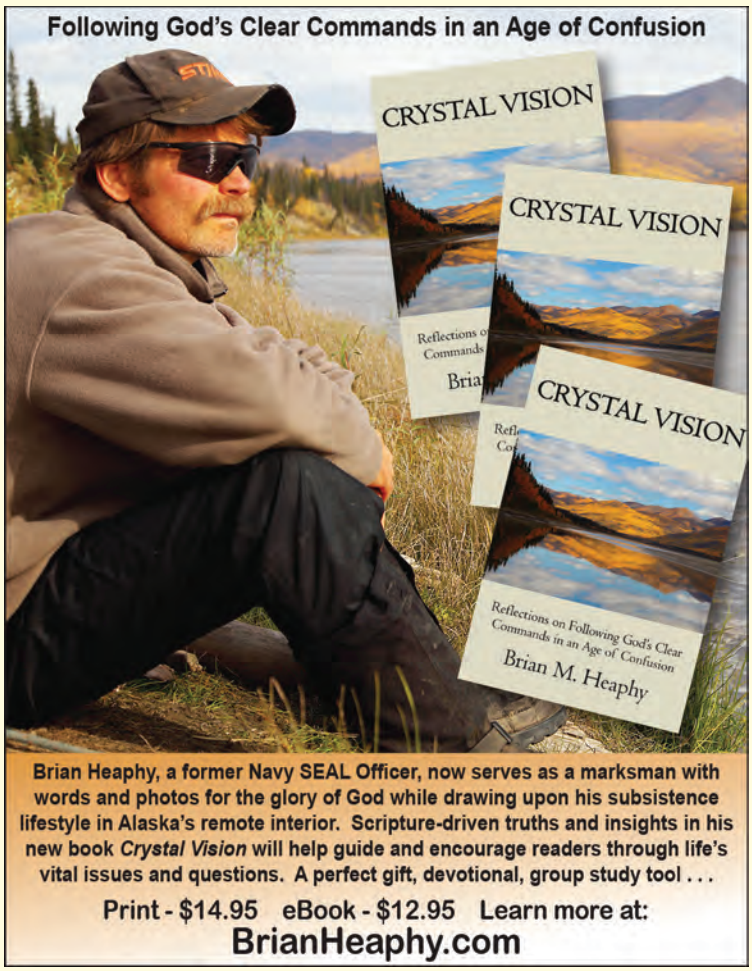
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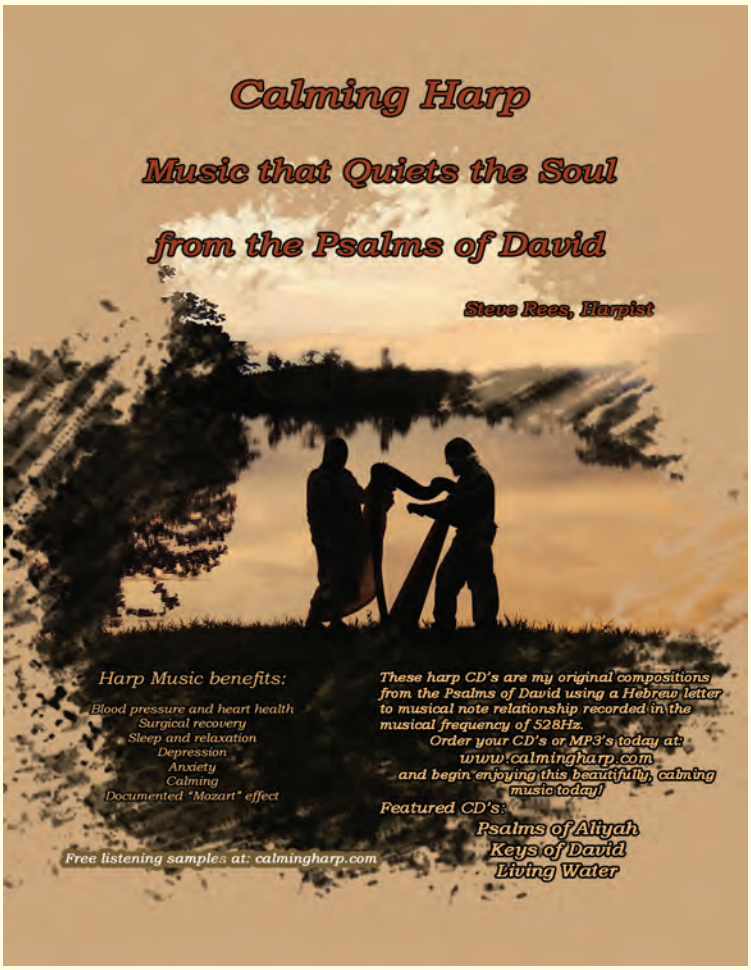


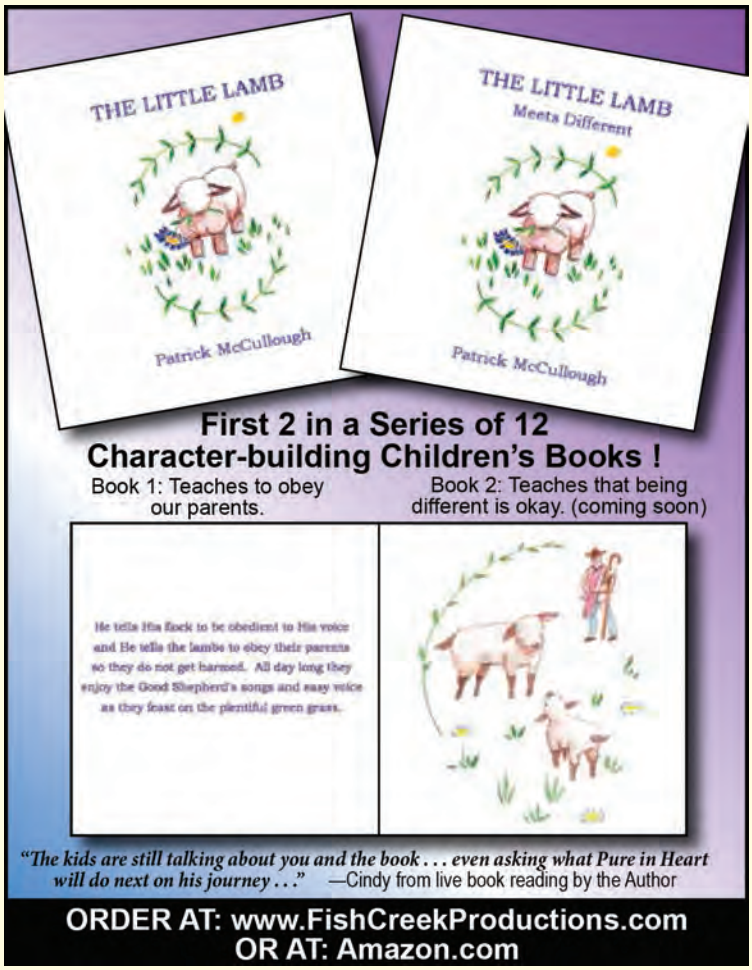
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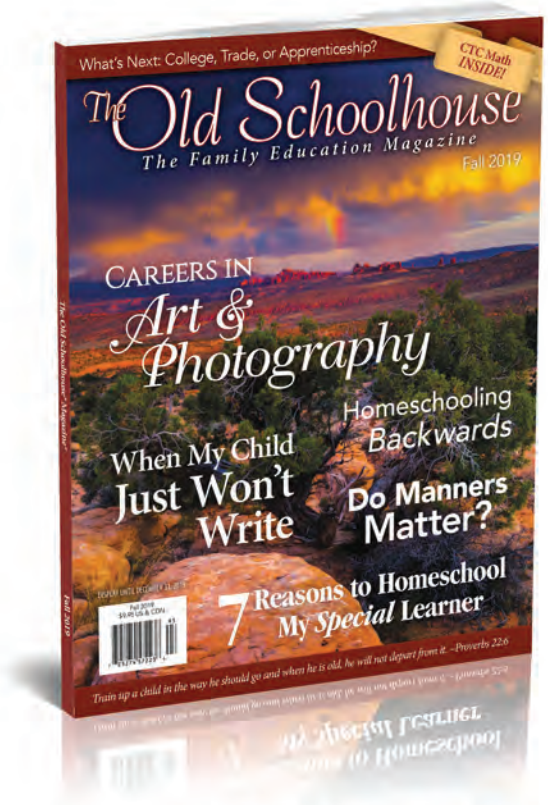


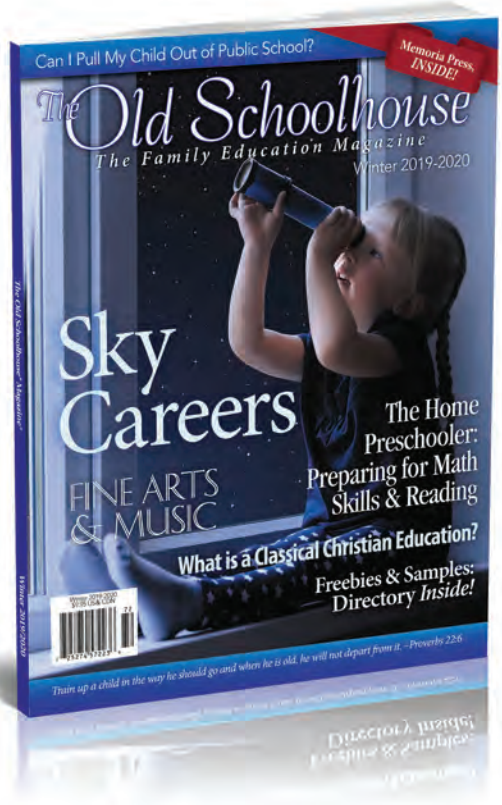
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"A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher."

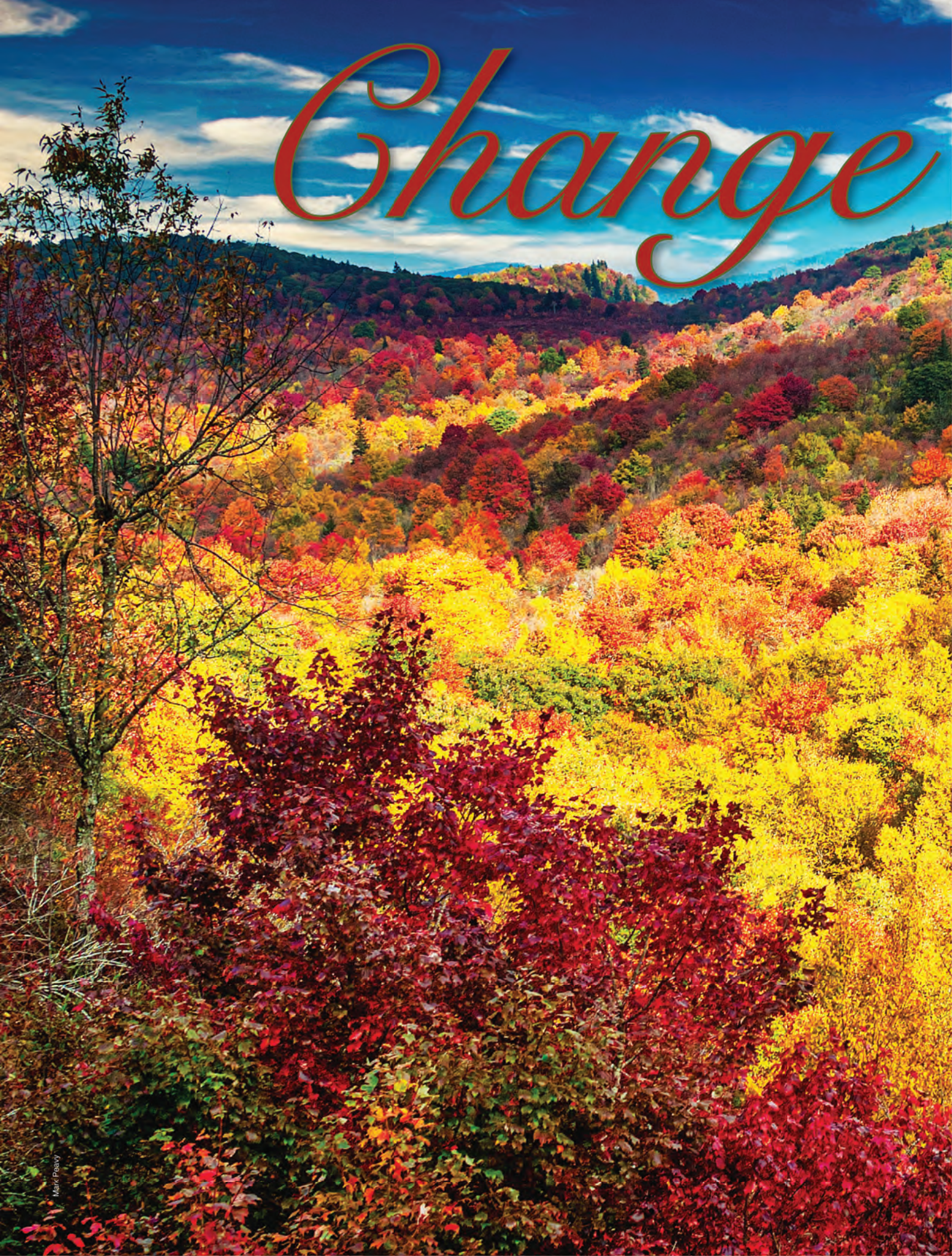
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