

Creation

I L L U S T R A T E D



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SPECIAL CREATION WEEK
30TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

*“We all, . . . seeing the
glory of the Lord
as in a mirror,*

*are transformed into
the same image from
glory to glory.”*

– 2 Corinthians 3:18, WEB



Sharing Our Mail From The Past

Read every page...
(Spring/Summer 1994)

Congratulations on creating the most beautiful magazine I have ever seen! I just had to take time to read every page. I love *National Geographic* and many others, but you have combined beautiful pictures with Scripture for a unique balance. I hope it reaches thousands upon thousands.

G. Davidson
Oxnard, California

Moved to tears...
(Fall 1998)

I was moved to tears many times by the beautiful photography and Scripture mixed together. It brought out the majesty and awesome creative power of our Father in heaven. I do intend to use your magazine for part of my curriculum next year. My son is six years old and has

that natural innocent wonder about the world around him.

H. Cochran
Belgrade, Montana

He at it...
(Fall 1999)

My precious little great-grandson was so enraptured over my Premier Edition, he almost totally ate it. What is left is rather mushy. So, I pray you can conjure up another copy to send me.

E. Dean
Grass valley, California

Doctor's office...
(Spring 1995)

No other material in my office gets as many positive comments from my patients as *Creation Illustrated*. The stunning photos and uplifting content speak so highly of the Creator God.

S. Mellgren, M.D.
Roswell, New Mexico

Son's education...
(Winter 2017)

Our family was looking for something for our young son to use in his school projects, but we were avoiding magazines because of their inappropriate ads and pictures. We cannot express how

refreshing it is to enjoy every single page of *Creation Illustrated*. We are thrilled that our son now has a resource for his educational journey.

The Putnick Family
West Norriton,
Pennsylvania

Replace NG...
(Fall 1998)

I must say I was immediately impressed with the photography and biblical content. God bless your work. Your magazine is just what we wanted to replace *National Geographic*!

C. Terpstra
Holland, Michigan

Christmas gift...
(Spring 2022)

I got four back issues of *Creation Illustrated* as a Christmas present. I think your publication is one of the highest quality printed pieces for both production and content that I have encountered.

I was the head of the New Hampshire state printing agency for twenty-seven years and also a former pressman. So, I know high quality printing, and yours ranks in the very top.

As my second career, I became a pastor

over twenty years ago, and I'm so thankful for the content of your articles that give God credit and include His Word in every article. Thank you for the teaching of God's truth.

Pastor J. Dufour
Cherryfield, Maine

Only magazine...
(Winter 1998)

Your *Creation Illustrated* is the only magazine I buy. It focuses on God and His beautiful Creation, as well as providing ideas for sharing His love throughout the home. It's uplifting and causes me to praise the Almighty for His ultimate care for His children. I am so thankful for the time and care put into it.

C. Reeves
Vacaville, California

Takes me away...
(Fall 2015)

Your magazine takes me away. As you say, it is "a reprieve from the daily rigors of life." I hate to come back to my reality. It is so different and makes me slow way down. This is a very good thing that I believe God intended life to be.

P. Reiches
Auburn, California

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Creation

I L L U S T R A T E D

Vol. 30, 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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Day 1
Light
6-13

Day 2
Firmament
14-21

Day 3
Land and Plants
22-27






Day 4
Sun, Moon, and Stars
28-35

Day 5
Fish and Birds
36-45

Day 6
Animals, Insects, and Humans
46-55

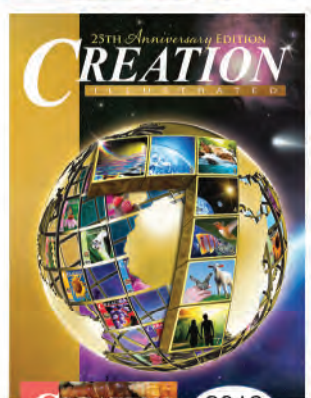
Day 7
Rest and Worship
56-63

Genesis Cuisine 64
Character Lesson 66
Contests 68
Study Guide 70

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1993



2018



2020

Giving Thanks from the Publisher's Desk

And It Will Be

In the beginning a couple wanted to serve the Lord together. They worked in another ministry for a number of years, and it was good. Then in the fifth year, God blessed them with a daughter, which was *especially* good.



The Publishers in 1993

So, the couple decided to create a ministry where they could still work together from their home. Much prayer, hope, and faith led them to publish *Creation Illustrated* so people could enjoy a reprieve and be inspired to worship their Creator. God blessed the ministry with His design to provide a balance of mental, spiritual, and physical enrichment, which He knew was good.

So, the family tilled the field of publishing by the sweat of their brow and transplanted biblical character-building lessons found in nature into *Creation Illustrated*. Following Christ's method of reaching souls with eternal truths through the things He made, the ministry avoided confrontations with evolution, which was good for all.

Technology allowed for top quality printing at a reasonable price. Then schools, homeschoolers, hospital and prison chaplains, doctors' offices, and individuals embraced the publication as a powerful education and outreach tool. Readers said it was good.

As with any ministry or business, challenges emerged that impacted their finances, health, and faith, which forced the family to their knees. This was also good.

So, God continued to answer many prayers and even performed miracles through supporters, foundations, subscribers, advertisers, consultants, contractors, writers, and photographers. The many amazing blessings spanning three decades have all been good.

Then digital media undermined many printed publications. Setbacks mixed with opportunities to utilize new methods to share the Creation message. Yet, the ministry was



2015



2010



Very, Very Good

committed to provide a tangible publication to be enjoyed by individuals and families who appreciate marveling at God’s handiwork without a screen. Always seeking to improve the ministry, their daughter utilized her education in graphic design to enhance the publication. And our readers said it was even better than good. Many found *Creation Illustrated* to be a meaningful gift to family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers—especially since the subscription price had not increased in 26 years—which was helpful and good.

So, the trio remain unimaginably grateful and humbled as they complete their third decade of publishing. Certain that they could not do it alone, the publishers extend heartfelt praise and prayers of adoration to God for sustaining and encouraging them along with readers who have sent favorable comments and support—all beyond good.

The publishers’ remain hopeful and continue to step out in faith with new digital access, homeschool materials, and speaking engagements to help individuals, churches, and schools fully embrace the Creation message that God is *still* the Creator who can transform each heart into a *new* creation in Christ Jesus—so miraculously good!

We pray this special 30th Anniversary Edition of *Creation Illustrated* covering all seven days of the Creation week blesses each reader beyond measure while revealing God’s glory in a way that inspires unfettered peace, anticipation, and hope in a new heaven and a new earth upon Christ’s soon return! That will be very, *very* good!



The Publishers in 2023

Tom, Jennifer & Melissa

Tom, Jennifer, and Melissa Ish, editors/publishers




Day 1

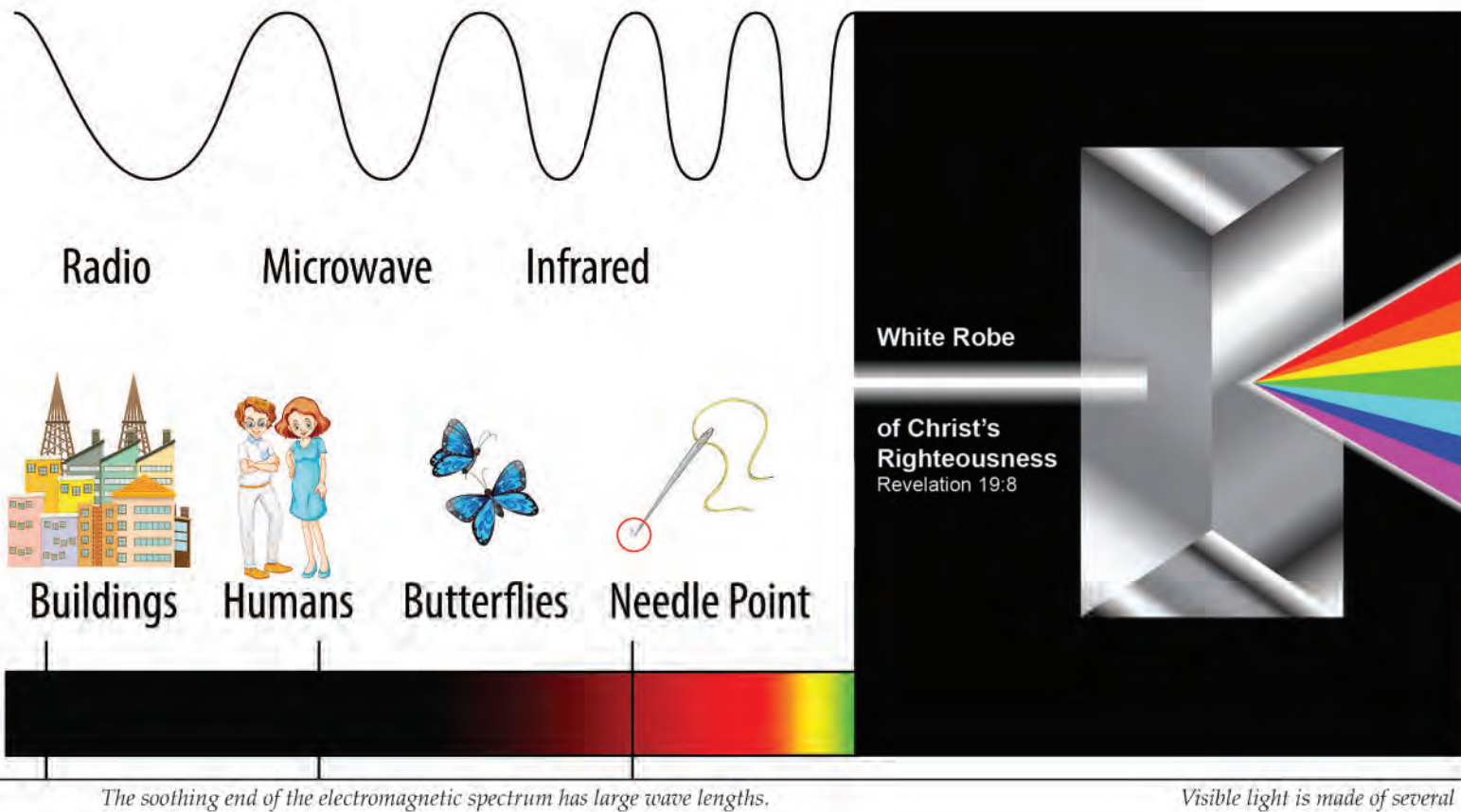
L I G H T

After scanning the first few verses of Genesis, many readers simply conclude that God created light on the first day of the Creation week. Such a thought falls short of embracing the full magnitude of this preeminent event. Creation's inception clearly includes other key elements after the preamble, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."

Verse two continues, "The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on



the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters." We must recognize that (1) a watery mass and (2) the spirit of His love preceded the light. Not until verse three did God say, "Let there be light." And the first word of this authoritative statement is vital to understand. *Let* comes from the Hebrew word *haw-yaw*, which means to come to pass—to be allowed to happen with nothing obstructing or resisting it. God did not have to force the light to come forth.



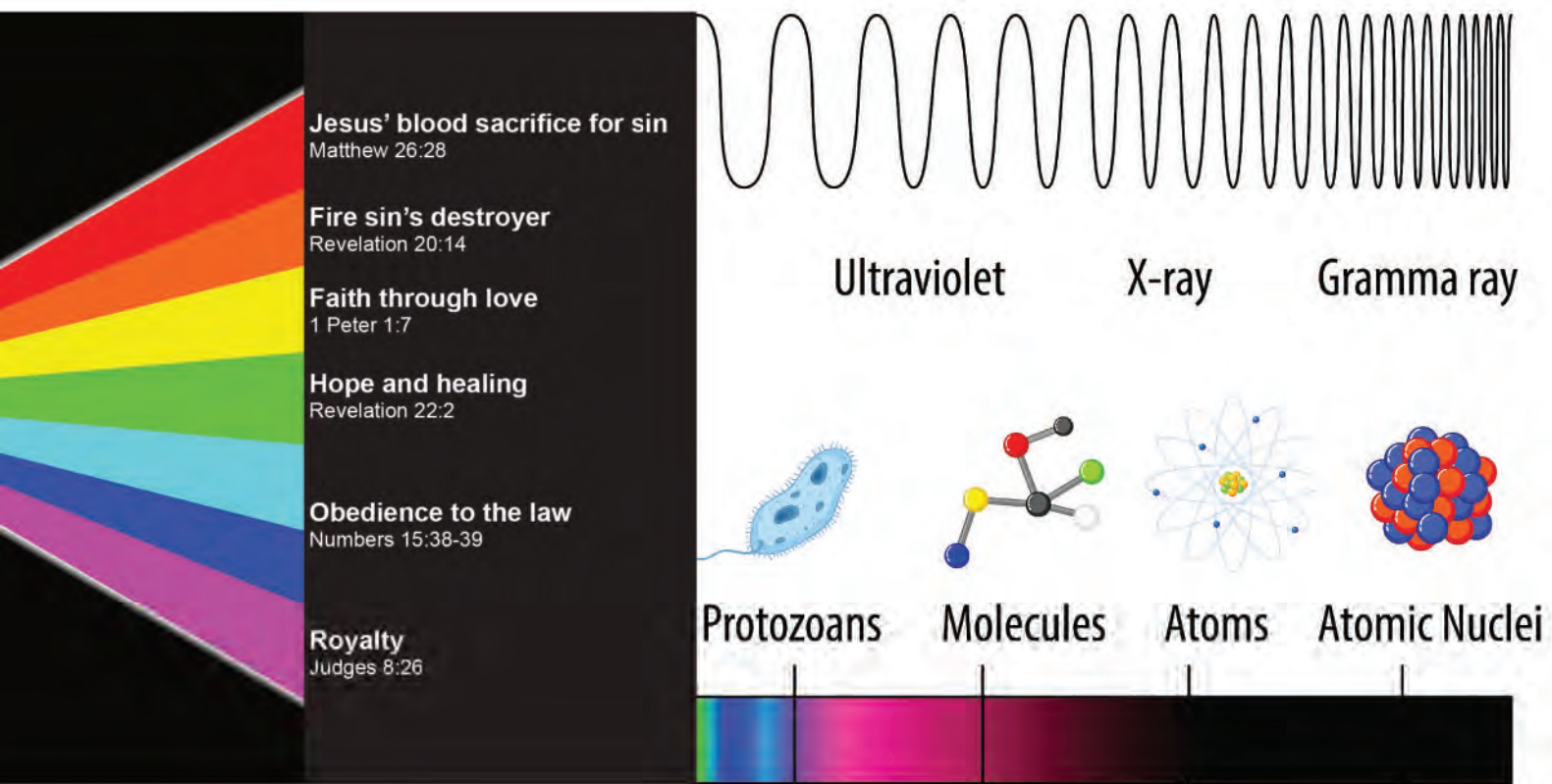
GOD'S GLORY ILLUMINATED

To examine this light further, we turn to a story published in the very first 1993 edition of *Creation Illustrated*. At the outset we must remember that the sun was not created until day four of the Creation week, so this light that appeared on Creation day one encompasses much more than the gleaming rays we see every day emanating from earth's closest star. How do we know this? Revelation 22:5 clearly speaks of the promised new heaven and new earth where, "There shall be no night there: they need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light." This same light from the presence of God's glory illuminated His creation from the very beginning and includes all the energy available within the full electromagnetic spectrum.

We can divide this spectrum in three sections—the soothing and the searing energy—with visible light in the center. If a model of the full spectrum were stretched from the earth to the moon, the segment of visible light would be about four inches in length. Nevertheless, some important spiritual lessons exist within this little bit of visible light. Passed through a prism, light divides into the colors of the rainbow, and there are references in the Bible that point to what each color signifies.

For example in Numbers 15:38, 39 we read, "Speak to the children of Israel: tell them to make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the tassels of the corners. And you shall have the tassel, that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the Lord and do them." So, blue signifies obedience to the law and authority that can even be observed today with the blue uniforms of police that show their authority in enforcing the law.

The significance of gold or yellow can be found in 1 Peter 1:7, "The genuineness of your



colors that relate to various biblical texts.

The searing end of the electromagnetic spectrum has very small wave lengths.

“The healing of the nations.”

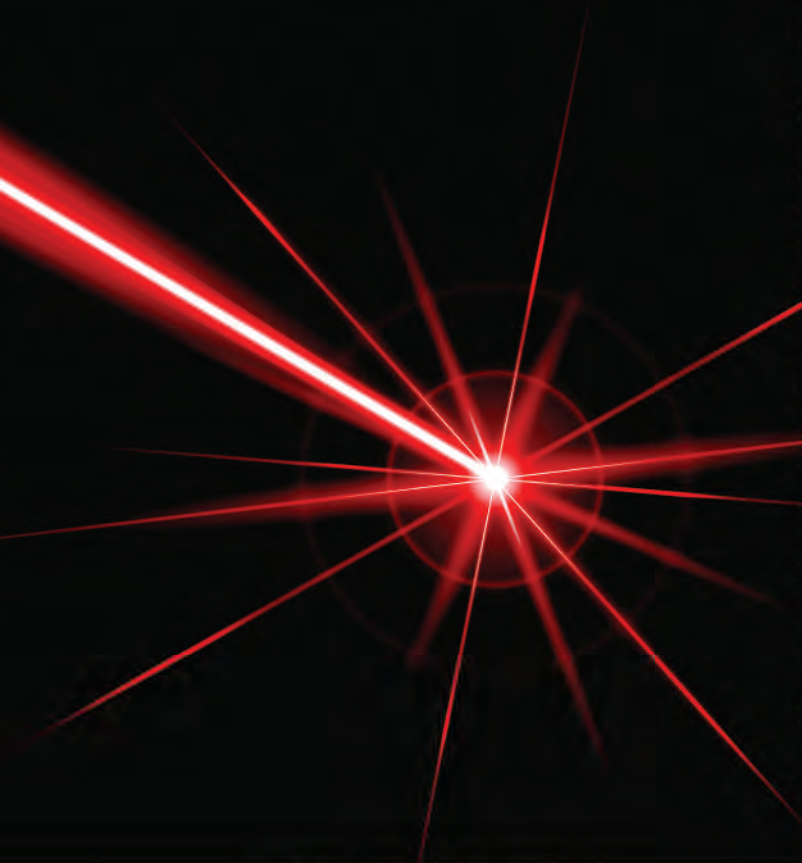
faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” Then Matthew 26:28 shows the power of the color red. “For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.” These three primary colors—blue, yellow, and red—can blend into the secondary colors with additional symbolism.

For example, when combining the blue keeping of the law with the gold genuineness of faith, you get green, which points to healing where the “leaves of the tree [of life] were for the healing of the nations” (Revelation 22:2). Then combine the acceptance of the red sacrificial blood of Christ with the blue obedience to the law, and purple indicates being part of the royal family of God with purple robes as worn by nobility. (See Judges 8:26 and Ezekiel 23:6.)

The color orange is not in the Bible, but *fire* is orange. Revelation 20:14 tells us that anyone not found written in the *Book of Life* is cast into the lake of fire, which shows that rejecting the sacrifice of Christ and a lack of faith tried by fire results in utter destruction.

Conversely, if all of the colors of the rainbow and their symbolism get passed back through the prism, the result is white light and pure righteousness. “And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints” (Revelation 19:8).

These vital elements illustrated in the minute segment of visible light invite further study of the full spectrum to discover the benefits of the rest of the light and energy of God created on day one and how it affects us today. The soothing portion of the electromagnetic spectrum to the left of the visible light includes infrared, which we’ve all felt on a soothing, warm day.



Laser beams can cut most anything.



CERN Laboratory

The Large Hedron Collider forms a massive

SEARING ENERGY

Or maybe you stood under one of those red heat lamps in a bathroom at a motel and felt the infrared wavelengths. Further to the left on the spectrum are the microwaves used in cooking by bombarding food and causing polarized molecules to move and heat up.

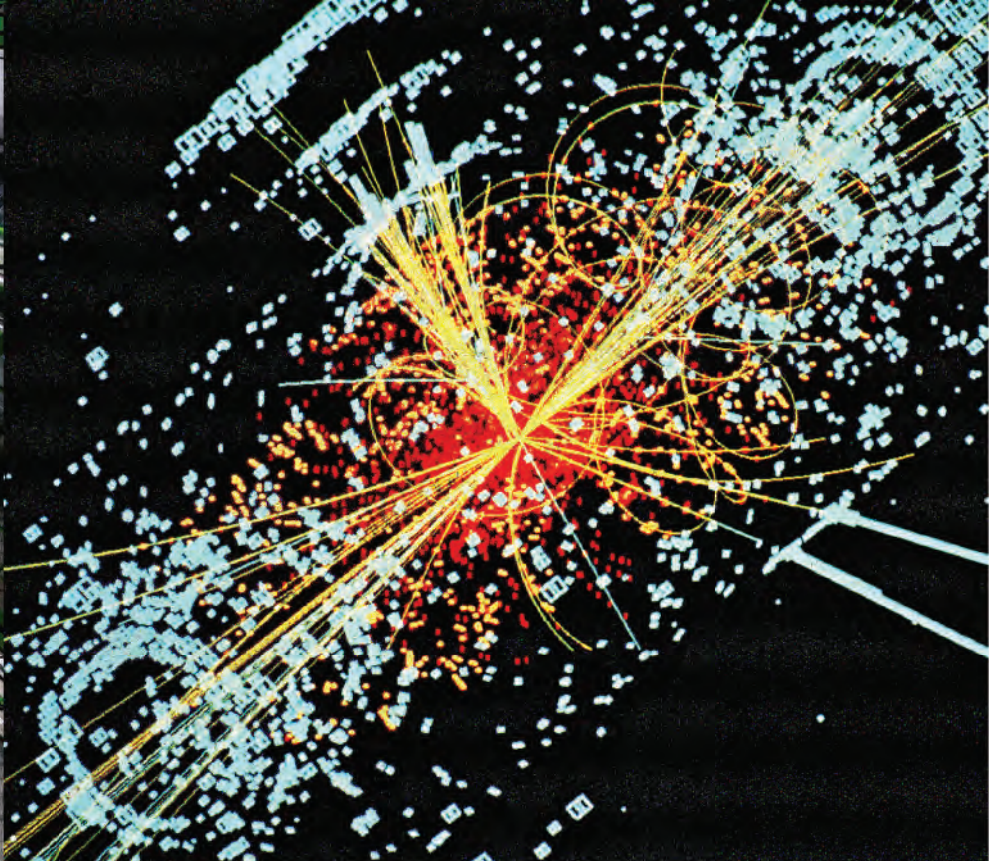
Next are the very large radio waves you can't see coming through the walls, and Psalm 139:7, 8 talks about how we can't escape from the broad reach of God's power and energy. "Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?" reveals that this energy of God's glory permeates the entire universe. Remember that the spirit of God was also present at the beginning of that first day. So, the great comfort of the Holy Spirit also provides a soothing effect on our minds and helps God's character to dwell in us.

Then to the right of the visible light on the spectrum, the searing energy can penetrate nearly anything. Beginning with the ultraviolet rays from the sun, we know from experience these wavelengths can pass through the clouds and give us a bad sunburn. X-rays can penetrate our skin but not bone, which provides useful images widely used in medical care. Smaller and smaller wavelengths like gamma rays can even penetrate lead and help in inspecting welds and metal castings. Luke 12:2 reminds us that light from the Creator penetrates and illuminates the deepest reaches of our souls. "For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known." Hebrews 4:12 underscores how deep this power can cut to root out pride, resentment, greed, lust of the flesh, etc. "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Laser light is a bit different as it intensifies by synchronizing various wavelengths that



research structure underground.



A rendition of the God Particle

CERN Laboratory

“For the word of God is living and powerful.”

can cut steel and diamonds and is used with precision in surgery. Such exactitude removes the sin problem through the surgical power of the Word of God. The only thing that lasers cannot cut is a mirror because it reflects the beams of light, which illustrates that only when we reflect the glory of God can we dwell in His presence. We will not be consumed because we are completely devoid of self. So, should we fear or welcome the light brought forth from the throne of grace to penetrate our minds and souls and dispel the darkness and the sin in our lives? The Creator invites us not to resist it.

This spectrum of energy continues far beyond what humans have been able to measure; yet, some researchers try to determine how matter and energy work together to bring order to the universe. They seek to explain this at the subatomic level, and to better understand this exploration, we journey near Geneva, Switzerland. Now proceed three hundred feet underground where the Large Hadron Collider was built from 1998 to 2008 by the European Organization for Nuclear Research in collaboration with more than ten thousand scientists, hundreds of universities, and more than a hundred countries at a cost of ten billion dollars.

We’ve all heard about the atom being split in an accelerator back in 1932, but a physicist named Peter Higgs theorized in the 1980s that there must be a particle of energy so strong that it holds matter together. To help comprehend what particles exist in matter, molecules are made up from atoms, and there’s 43 quintillion atoms in one grain of sand. A quintillion is a thousand quadrillion, and a quadrillion is a thousand trillion—astronomical numbers! Atoms consist of three even smaller basic particles—protons, electrons, and neutrons.

The theory and massive Large Hadron Collider sought to discover the *Higgs Boson* or



God spoke light and matter into existence.

The woman touched

THE GOD PARTICLE

particle of energy by using huge magnets to force protons to travel at near the speed of light, and when they collide, a flash of energy that lasts only one-septillionth of a second could only be captured through computer imaging with extremely fast cameras. This particle is so powerful that it holds matter together. And what did researchers call this minutest fragment of energy?—*the God particle*. This elusive piece of the cosmic puzzle is believed to be the energy that conglomerates together to form matter.

Let's examine what Scripture says about how this particle came to be in Psalm 33:6. "By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth." Verse nine continues, "For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast." The powerful voice of the Creator called all matter into existence.

Notice that this is past tense at the time of the Creation week and before. As mentioned concerning light in the future, "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea" (Revelation 21:1). After the new Jerusalem descends to earth, verse 23 continues, "The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it, and the Lamb is its light." This is what we have to look forward to when we are in the presence of the glory of God!

But what about today? Do we have any evidence that this powerful light of creation and re-creation is available to us today? To answer this, look at Mark 5 that tells of the woman who was hemorrhaging for twelve years. There were no medical procedures to stop it, no sanitary products to deal with it, no warm bathtub to sooth her discomfort, and no compassion from those who cast her out as unclean. She could have easily become distraught or depressed, but



the blue hem of Jesus' robe, and His power healed her by her faith.



A single candle can light up a room, and so can we.

“Let your light shine.”

she had faith that the Great Healer was her only hope. She heard that Jesus, the Light of the world, was nearby, and she said, “If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well” (Mark 5:28).

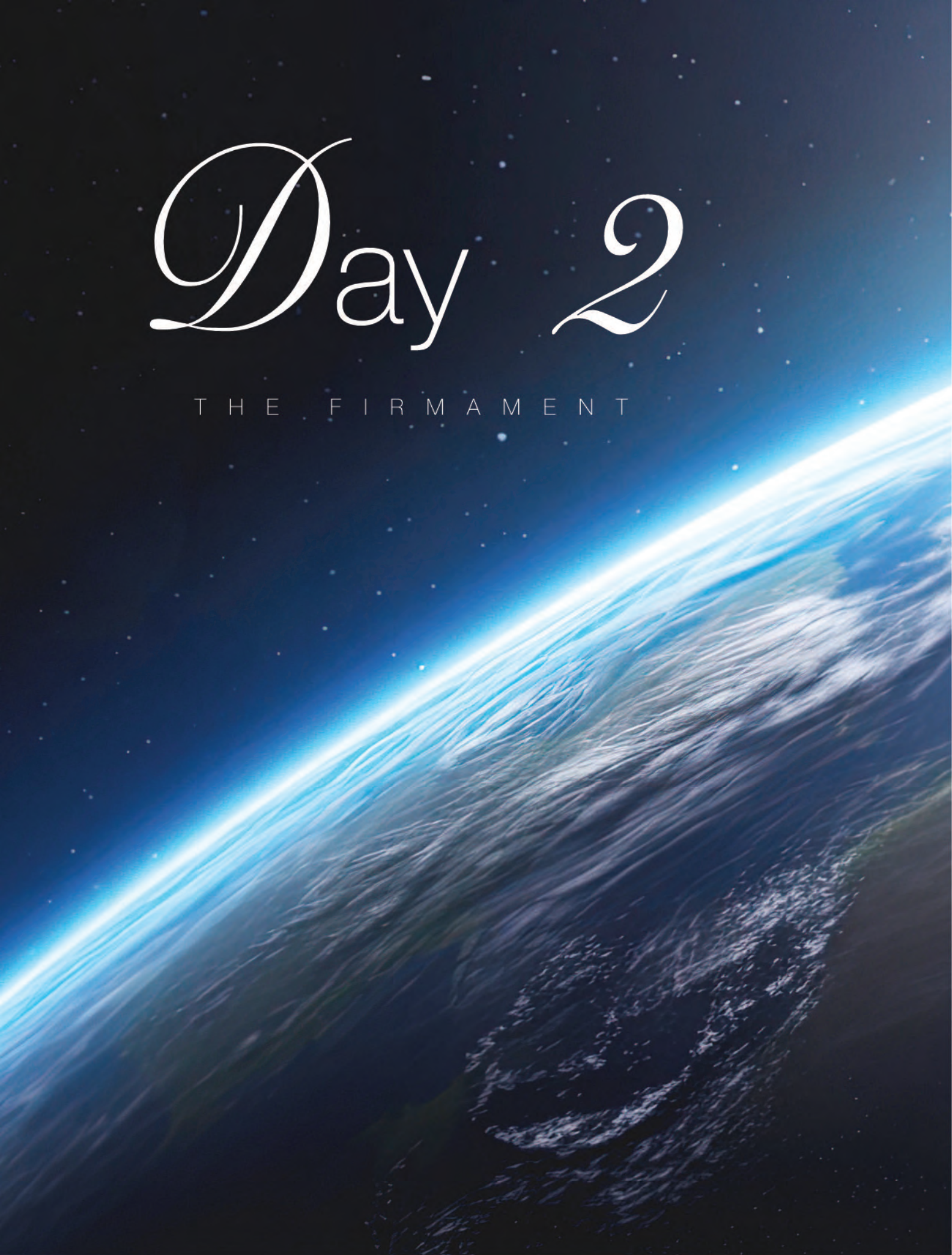
Remember our earlier discussion of the colors found in visible light? Notice on this page the image depicting this biblical story that shows the blue hem of Jesus’ garment signifying His obedience to the law. Also be aware of the golden glow around her hand signifying faith. The green background points to the healing of the nations. Scripture records in Mark 5:29, 30, “Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, ‘Who touched My clothes?’” In verse 34 Jesus assured her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction.”


So, the power of creation and of re-creation is available to us *today!* We can by faith embrace Jesus and be healed of all unrighteousness. 1 Thessalonians 5:5 heralds, “You are all sons of light and sons of the day.” Matthew 5:14, 16 further assures, “You are the light of the world. . . . *Let your light so shine . . . and glorify your Father in heaven.*” The full spectrum brought forth on day one from the throne of Grace is available to transform the mind, to stop the bleeding, to soothe the pain, to purge the discouragement, to remove sin—but only if we don’t resist the Light He freely offers each of us. **C**

Tom Ish has served as editor/publisher of Creation Illustrated for thirty years in order to share His light.

Day 2

T H E F I R M A M E N T





Scripture condenses Creation day two events into the shortest text of any day of the Creation week. Genesis 1:6–8 chronicles, “Then God said, ‘Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.’ Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament;

and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.” That’s it—four brief sentences. Yet, without the atmosphere created that day, no life could exist on earth.

You’ll also notice that each of the other five creation days in the Genesis account all end with an affirmation from the Creator who

declared “it was good” or “very good.” Not so with Creation day two. But why? I would like to suggest that God saw the firmament and the atmosphere surrounding the earth as not only good; it was *necessary!*

The Bible translators chose this unique word that we don't hear very often—*firmament*—that comes from the Hebrew word *rakia*, simply meaning an expanse or space. So, the water below and above the firmament provided protection around this space that was called *heaven*. Thus, an ideal environment for habitation of God's earthly creation was established. This reservoir supplied all life on earth with a vital necessity—the perfect balance of oxygen and other elements where the soon-coming flora and fauna could flourish. In fact, scientists believe the oxygen

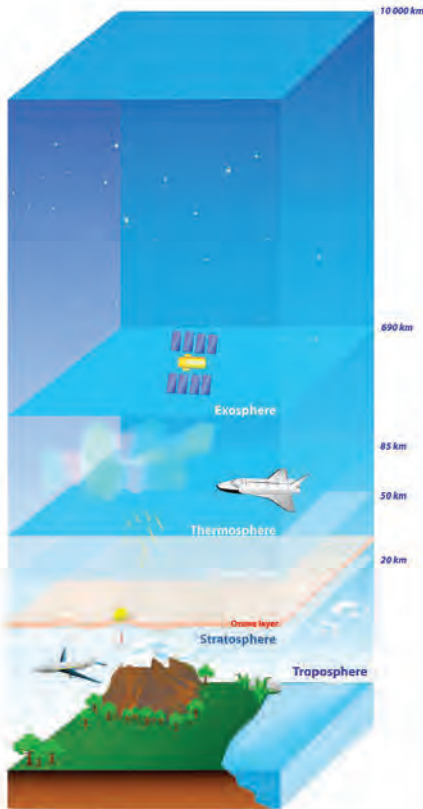
content was higher than what we have now. So, the original atmosphere around the entire earth was kind of like a hyperbaric chamber where life and vitality thrived without much, if any, deterioration.

Further examination of Scripture actually reveals four heavens. (1) Starting with the space created on day two just above the surface of the earth was the first heaven. We know this because we read in Genesis 1:20, "God said, . . . 'let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.'" And Jeremiah 4:25

underscores, "I beheld, and indeed there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens had fled." (2) Then there's the celestial heaven that we learn about in Genesis 1:14. "God said, 'Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens'" —plural. (3) Next is the heaven of God as told in Hebrews 9:24, "For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true but into heaven itself." (4) And lastly, the heaven of God's throne is the heaven of heavens or the entire universe. And we know this from 2 Chronicles 2:5, 6, "Our God is greater than all gods. But who is



The four heavens mentioned in Scripture



Levels in the atmosphere

able to build Him a temple, since heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him?" So, God can't be contained in the celestial heaven or even around His throne. His existence expands to the heaven of heavens or the entire universe!

But let's bring things back down to earth. The firmament created on day two supplied a heavenly *space* under a protective shield, and it was indeed necessary. Some scientists theorize that this protective shield existed as a canopy of water while others think it may have been a solid shield. Scholars object to this second notion because the friction would cause too much heat with the rotation of the earth.

Logic dictates that the shield had to be transparent so earth's inhabitants could see the heavenly bodies for signs and seasons. A good analogy would be to imagine

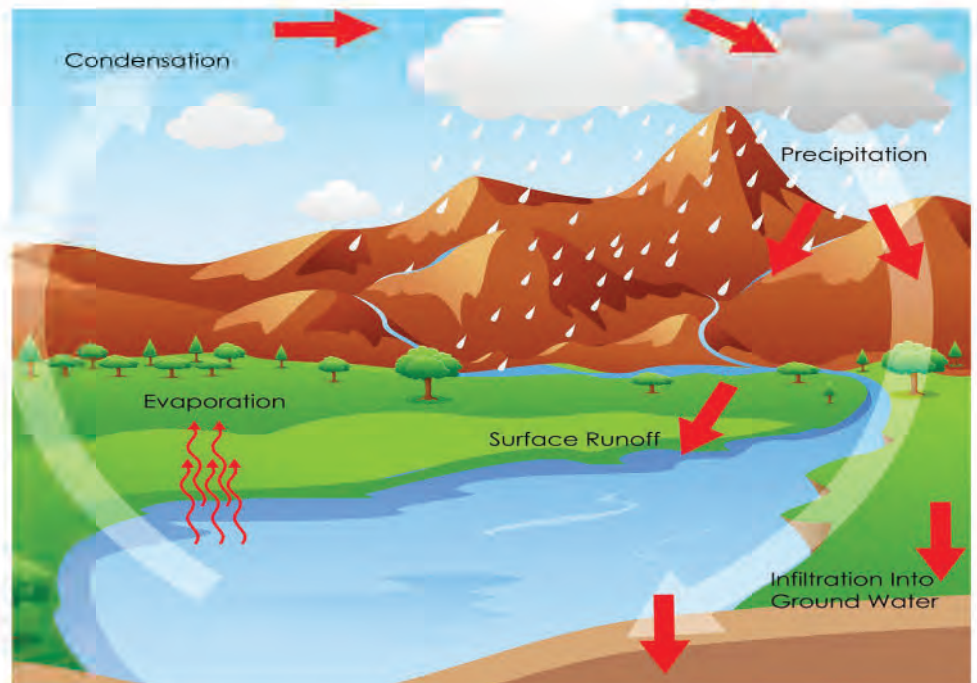
a greenhouse where the light gets evenly diffused and hardly a shadow exists, which the vapor canopy around the whole earth likely generated. Some creationists even theorize that the shield gave off a kind of pinkish hue with a soothing and uplifting milieu for life to abound. There wasn't even any rain under this canopy as Genesis 2:6 explains, "a mist went up from the earth and watered the whole face of the ground."

This optimal environment continued until the time of Noah. But then what happened? Genesis 7:11 records that God cleansed the earth of evil as, "all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened," causing a global Flood. So, the canopy of mercy created on day two collapsed and torrentially rained down for forty days and forty nights.

However, God's grace did not end there. As the flood waters receded and the dry land appeared,

the Creator sustained His handiwork with an alternative atmosphere. Remember from your junior high school science classes the model of the hydrologic cycle? Evaporation of water from lakes and streams (as well as the *transpiration* of moisture from the leaves and grasses) form clouds at a certain elevation where the temperature is cool enough to create condensation. Eventually precipitation falls either as snow or rain that again flows down streams and rivers into lakes or oceans. Some of the precipitation percolates underground to replenish the ground water. God provided for His creation even after evil led to the destruction of the original protective canopy and heavenly firmament. To this day the hydrologic cycle remains a vital *necessity* for life to exist.

The good news is that the firmament will be restored after Jesus returns! He promises a totally restored habitat in Revelation 21:1, "And I saw a new heaven and a new



The hydrologic cycle

earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away.” After Jesus comes back and a millennium passes, where is heaven? Is it somewhere up in the stars or in the vast reaches of the universe? No, it is right *here!*

As we have looked at Creation in the past and touched on the future, we need to examine what the firmament or atmosphere teaches us today. In Deuteronomy 11:14, we discover an atmospheric illustration called the early and the latter rain. “Then I will give you the rain for your land in its season, the early rain and the latter rain, that you may gather in your grain, your new wine, and your oil.” James 5:7 shows this could take some time. “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.”

This hydrologic cycle that



Steve Lachke

*A rainbow offers a sign of welcomed precipitation (above).
Workers eek out a crop in the dry climate of Africa (below).*

dominates the revised atmosphere around the earth reveals a very important spiritual lesson for the early and the latter rain as part of

God’s plan for a bountiful harvest. In fact, the most profound day in Christianity, since the death and resurrection of Jesus, was Pentecost,



Dao & Karen Fisher

when the early rain of the Holy Spirit opened thousands of hearts to receive the preaching of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ and His self-sacrificing love as hungry souls prayed together in one accord.

This same atmosphere filled with the Holy Spirit must consume our lives in order for the latter rain to fall and ripen the harvest for the second coming of Christ. God gave us the hydrologic cycle, not only to sustain life on earth but as a demonstration of what must take place before the harvest. A story called "The Water of Life" published in the Fall 2005 Edition of *Creation Illustrated* explains that in Botswana rain is synonymous with life. In fact, rain is so important that Botswanan currency, called *Pula*, literally means rain. Then their culture further differentiates two types of rain—the male rain and the female rain. The male rain comes with a thundering flash that is very sudden and quickly runs off with no time to soak in and moisten the ground. But the female rain calmly and gently falls and is able to seep into the soil and allow the seeds to germinate, mature, and lead to a good harvest.

I witnessed the effects of a harsh thunderstorm on the wheat harvest in Kansas when I traveled across the United States on my bicycle many years ago. A pounding hailstorm came crashing down and damaged most of the wheat stalks. The harvesting combines had difficulty getting close enough to the ground to gather the heads of grain that had broken off. Unfortunately, the farmers lost about sixty percent of their wheat crop in one day

because of a single hailstorm. This event demonstrates that the weather generated within the atmosphere can have a lasting impact.

We, too, have a personal atmosphere around us revealed by our attitude and the spirit we each display toward others, which can also have a lasting impact. Our individual atmosphere impacts and influences whether or not precious souls will be broken down by our thunderous words forcefully sharing our convictions and opinions, or our attitudes and spirit can gently nurture them to grow in truth, to sprout, to mature, and to be ready for the harvest at Christ's return.

We've all been around different kinds of people—family members, co-workers, and fellow church members—with various personal atmospheres that we can



Various signs of a personal atmosphere

sense by being in their presence. Some can be happy, some sad, some joking, some obnoxious, some ambitious, and even some who are mean. We all know what kind of people we like to be around and which ones to avoid. But in the interest of not judging others, we need to stop and examine our own atmosphere to know whether we are the thunderous type or the gentle, nurturing type. Matthew 7:20 teaches, "Therefore by their fruits you will know them." And Galatians 5:22, 23 lists the fruit of the spirit as "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."

To further understand how to gain an inviting personal atmosphere, let's explore another phenomenon from the hydrologic cycle—the snow that falls from the clouds. "Have you entered the treasury of snow?" the Lord asks in Job 38:22. It must be important because David pleads to God in Psalm 51:7, "Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow." But what could possibly be whiter than snow?

First, in the interest of full disclosure, snow really isn't white. I can prove this by simply holding some snow in my hand long enough for it to melt into clear liquid. So, what makes it appear white? The answer lies in the fact that all of the facets of the snow crystals refract and scramble the light so it appears white.

As followers of Christ, we are called to exhibit purity with a Christ-like character and don the pure white robe of His righteousness. So, to understand how we can exhibit this pure atmosphere, we

need to examine the snowflake more closely to grasp what David meant by “whiter than snow.”

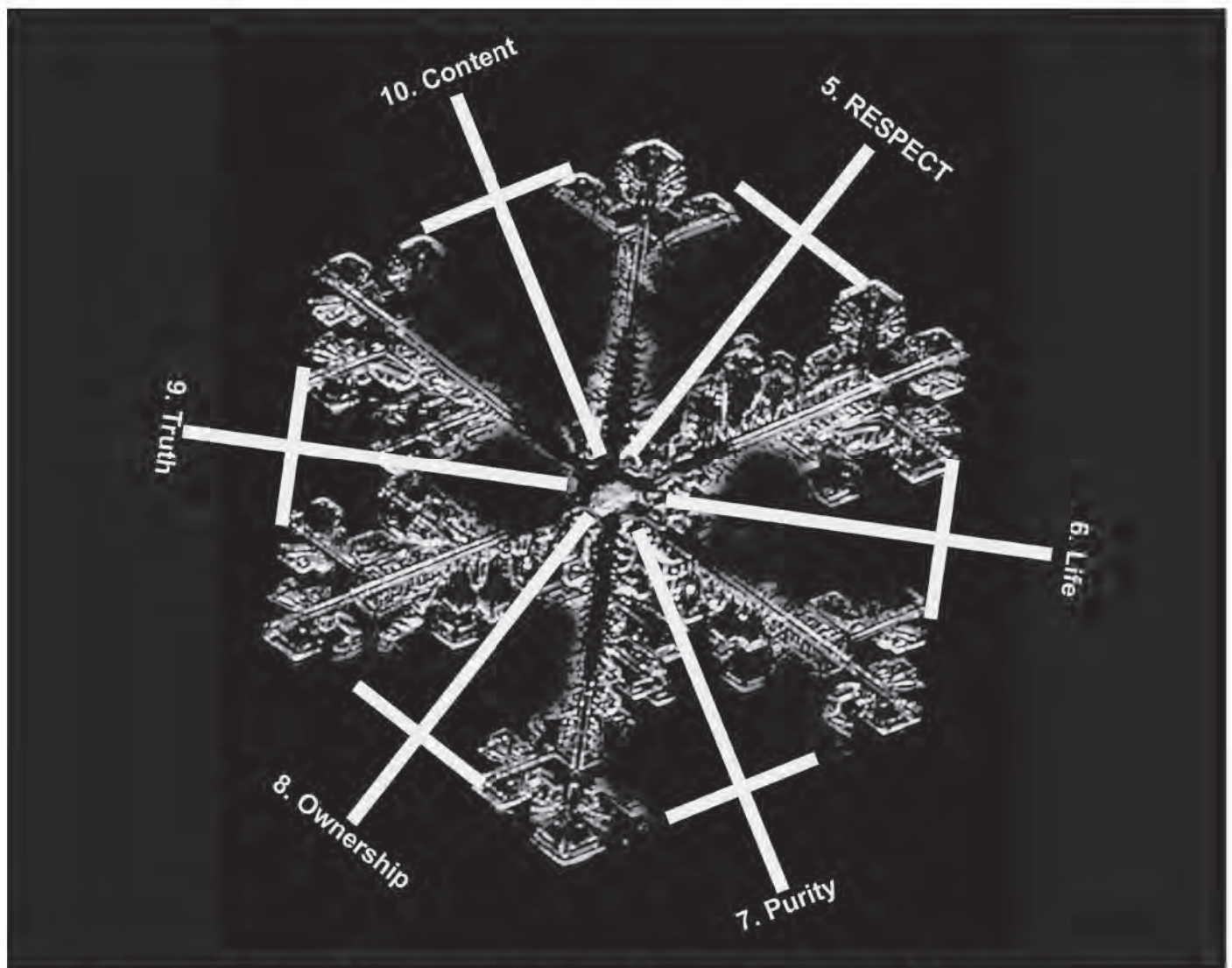
You’ll remember when Adam and Eve sinned, they lost their pure robe of light that surrounded them, and they were separated from God. Christ came to repair this breach, and it must be repaired among all of us as well for the latter rain to fall. The six-sided snowflake provides a powerful illustration on how this purity is regained.

We know the first four commandments are about honoring and loving God, and the last six commandments are about our

relationships with one another in order to honor and love our neighbor. So, if none of the commandments were broken, we could reflect the pure light of Christ’s righteousness just like a pristine and perfect six-sided snowflake.

But sin causes damage between us and others. Fortunately, Christ can repair all the breaches where the last six commandments have been broken as shown by the six arms of the pristine snowflake that have been wounded. The power of the cross and His sacrifice for our sins mend and bridge each of the six commandment breaches

where we have not respected our parents, where we have hated our enemies, where we have given into lustful desires, where we have taken something that does not belong to us, where we have not spoken the whole truth, and where we have cherished things we cannot have. Each breach of the last six commandments are rooted in three dirty five-letter words—greed, power, and pride—which Lucifer manifested to deceive a third of the angels who fell from heaven. When each breach is repaired by surrendering to the power of the cross and embracing the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus,



The cross repairs the breach in various aspects of damaged relationships covered in the last six commandments.



Prayerfully seeking harmony (above) can lead to a bountiful harvest (below).

our personal atmosphere (illustrated by the six-sided crystal illuminated and healed by the cross) reflects Christ's spotless character and appears *whiter than snow*.

In closing, there's one key element of this illustration that must not be overlooked. A particle of dust or pollution in the air is required for a snowflake to form. That particle of dust represents each of us in our sinful state. Adam was formed from the dust of the ground (Genesis 2:7), and to dust we shall return (Ecclesiastes 3:20). So, our dusty, carnal nature can become whiter than snow if we surround ourselves with the cross of Christ and allow it to repair each breach between us and others. Thus, we can truly be of one accord in the last days. By reflecting Christ's glory to people who can witness His healing power in our

lives manifested by the fruit of the Spirit, searching souls can embrace His glory, grace, and mercy in this hurting world.

As stated at the outset, the

atmosphere created on day two provided a vital *necessity* for all life to exist on earth. And our personal Christ-centered atmosphere also presents a vital necessity for that latter rain to fall as we share the life, death, and resurrection of the One who came to rescue every soul He puts in our path.

So, now is the time to meditate and contemplate what it means to be *whiter than snow* and to seize the opportunity to have a personal atmosphere that draws others to Christ because we demonstrate a self-sacrificing love for others. We must pray together for the Holy Spirit and the latter rain so that all of us can be included in that final harvest at Christ's return. Soon we will enjoy the new heaven and the new earth surrounded by the restored original atmosphere created on day two of the Creation week. **C**

Tom Ish writes from Spokane, Washington, in an atmosphere of hope for the earth made new.





Day 3

On the third day of the Creation week, two major developments took place. The dry land appeared, and plant life sprang forth. We could launch a fascinating, in-depth geological study of earthquakes, volcanoes, sedimentary layering, and continental shifts. Or we

could follow the massive amounts of water running off the land to form rivers, lakes, and oceans, along with the web of subterranean waterways and abundant springs.

Amazingly, these gargantuan global phenomena emerged from two short verses of



Dry Land & Vegetation

Scripture. "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. And God saw that it was good" (Genesis 1:9, 10).

But instead, we choose to focus on the first life that appeared on earth. Genesis 1:11–13 records, “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. 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.”

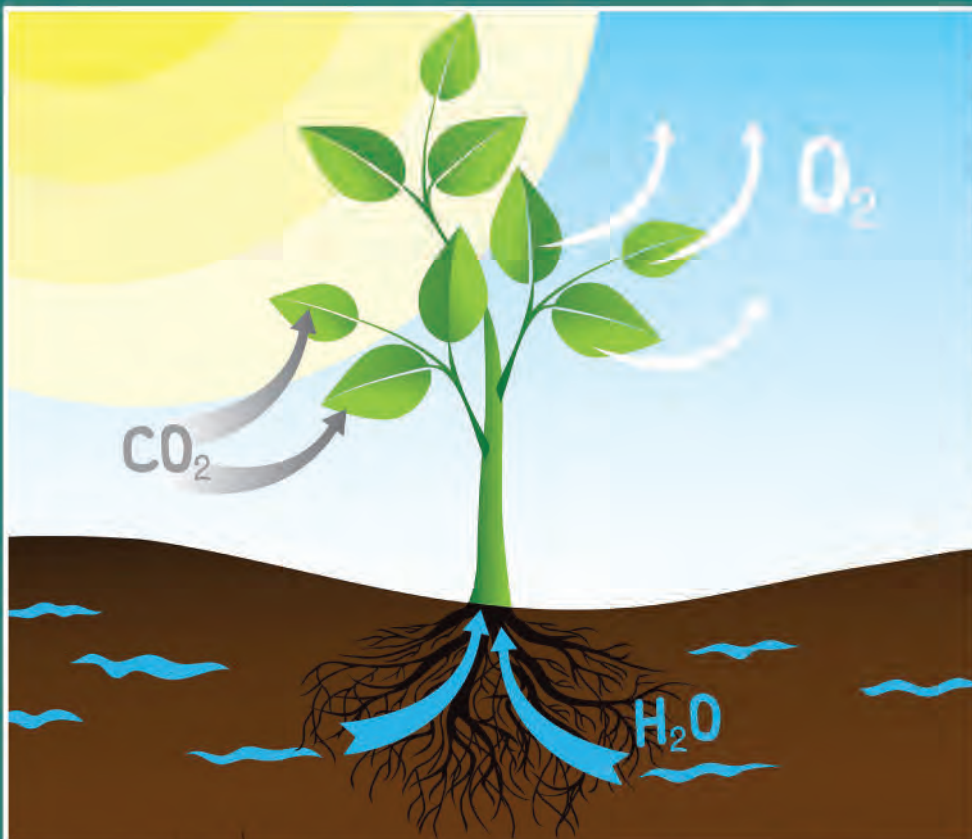
Notice that grasses came first with approximately seven thousand five hundred species dominating the plant kingdom. Some of these engineering marvels stand five-hundred times the width of their base. To fully grasp this ratio, imagine the Washington Monument with a base of one square foot. Often taken for granted, grasses endure endless abuse by getting stomped on, chewed up, cut down, and burned up. Yet, they spring back as vital, oxygen-generating factories that sustain life. This amazing factory in plants called photosynthesis takes in the bad carbon dioxide and gives off the good oxygen. Isn't

that a providential gift God created on day three so that we could breathe? But wait; there's more!

A byproduct of glucose provides the carbohydrates consumed by creatures (including humans) to sustain life by converting it to energy, bone, muscle, and nerves. Minerals from the soil add to the mix, which invites further study, and of course water and sunlight have a role in this miraculous arrangement.

But the sun did not appear until day four of the Creation week. Some people think that each Creation day lasted for thousands of years, but plants needed the sun of the very next day in order for this factory to work. So, each day had to be a literal twenty-four hours.

Remember on Creation day two the hydrologic cycle included *transpiration*, which is simply moisture escaping from plants and going into the atmosphere. Amazingly one acre of grass exchanges 600 tons of water a day. But the hydrologic cycle was not part of the Creator's original design as Genesis 2:6 tells of a mist that went up from the earth and watered the



Plant life takes in the bad air and gives off the good so we can breathe.

Huge palms grow

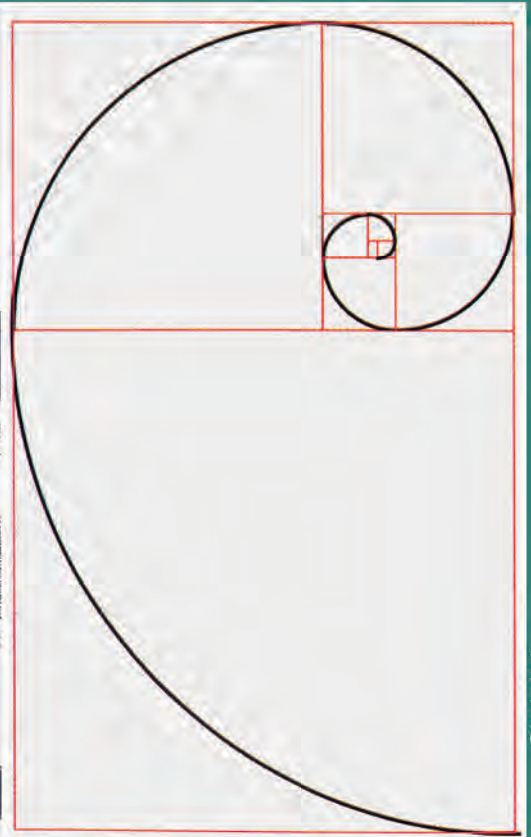
whole face of the ground with mineral-rich moisture. Currently, rain and irrigation leach many minerals from the soil as water seeps down from the surface of the land.

But some produce growers attempt to emulate God's Edenic design by spraying nutrient-rich solutions on plant leaves while playing music with a special cricket-like pitch that helps open the tiny pores (stomata) on the leaves to allow the nutrients to enter the plants. Researchers discovered this when about a half hour before sunrise the bird songs have that same pitch that opens the stomata. These songs are not mating calls or territorial defenses but instead seem to be singing praises to God as the morning dew collects on the leaves. Some experimental farmers have experienced a 200 to 400 percent increase in the crop yields using this Genesis-based method.

Now, another amazing discovery in the Creator's universal design includes the pattern of spiral symmetry noticed in many parts of plants and can be found in things as large as the galaxies. This spiral pattern appears the same in pine cones,

ferns, cacti, sunflower seeds on a blossom, and tree branches that follow a very precise pattern for a good reason. God designed plants on day three to grow with a strong structure while gathering the maximum amount of light possible.

At first glance, the branches, twigs, and leaves on a tree appear random and scattered, but they actually follow a pattern discovered by twelfth-century mathematician Leonardo Fibonacci. The Fibonacci numerical series grows from the sum of the two preceding numbers. (i.e. $0 + 1 = 1$, $1 + 1 = 2$, $1 + 2 = 3$, $2 + 3 = 5$, $3 + 5 = 8$, $5 + 8 = 13$, etc.) Then the ratio of any two of these sums equals 1.66. Now if a square is created to represent each sum (i.e. squares that are 1×1 , 2×2 , 3×3 , 5×5 , 8×8 , 13×13 , etc.), we find that they fit together nicely when placed side by side to form rectangles. Using a compass to connect two corners of each square with a third corner as pivot point, we discover that a spiral emerges, as well as various sizes of rectangles of the same shape. This spiral design referred to as *the golden spiral* can be found throughout nature as the most efficient pattern



Talmaage Lewis

well spaced to allow each tree to benefit from the sunlight.

Deborah Rew

A perfect spiral is found throughout Creation.



Trees bear bountiful fruit containing seeds according to their kind.



Associate Art Director Melissa Ish stands by a branch

of growth and even exists throughout the universe with the spiral patterns of galaxies!

Day three also talks about the herbs and seeds that point to God's multiplication system. We've all seen how dandelions can quickly spread throughout our lawns as a result of the wind or an innocent child blowing the feathery seeds off the head of a dandelion plant.

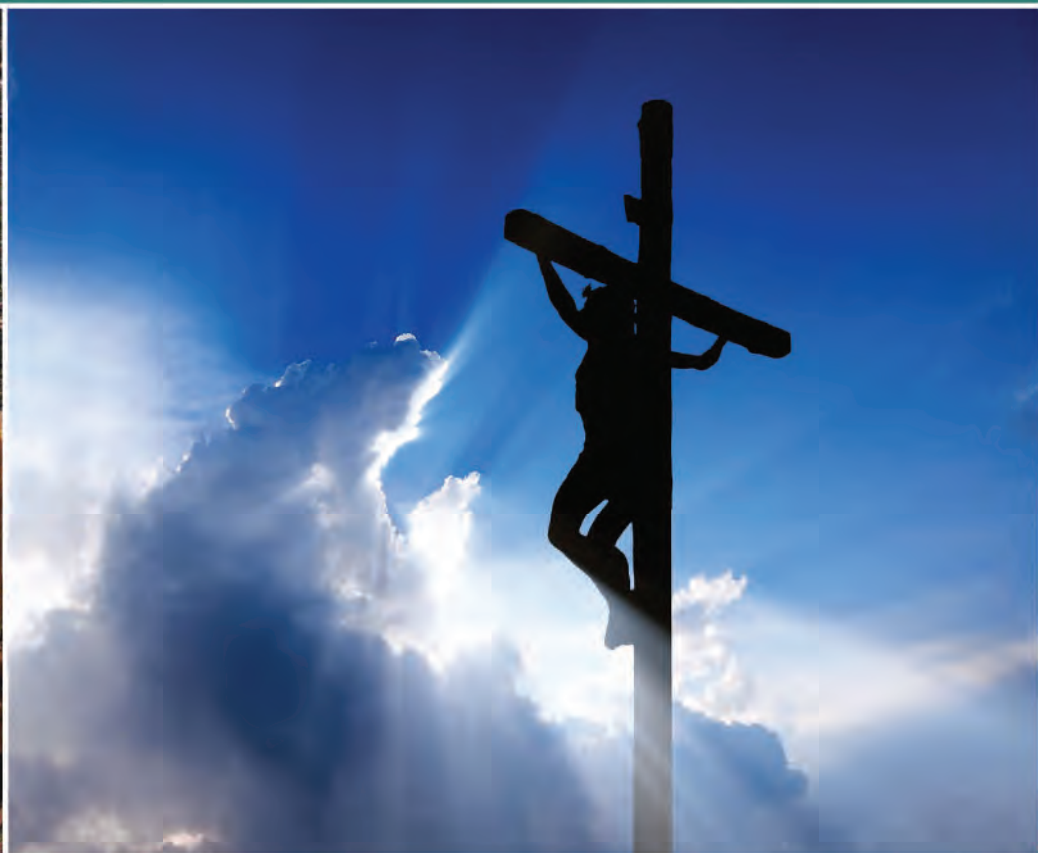
Creatures also play a key role in seed distribution as well, either by carrying seeds that hitch a ride on their fur or by eating plants and fruit with seeds that get deposited elsewhere in their droppings. Further study of the Creator's multiplication system is revealed in the parable of the sower found in Matthew 13, Mark 4, and Luke 8 where some seeds "'fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty'" (Matthew 13:8) if the soil is prepared just as the heart must be broken, softened, nourished, and watered to let truth grow and multiply.

The next phase of Creation day three speaks of trees that bear fruit according to their kind. We're

taught in Matthew 7:18, "A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit" (KJV). And you shall know them by their fruits—love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. So trees are very important and can be observed pointing heavenward.

Massive redwood trees in California stand as a testament to the power of God's design. Calaveras Big Trees State Park in the foothills of the Sierra Mountains preserves a stunning grove of these botanical behemoths, including one standing 262 feet tall with a diameter of 31 feet named to honor nineteenth century Swiss-American biologist and geologist Louis Agassiz, who the park brochure lists as the last known creationist. Perhaps they need to update their handouts.

Further south in the Sequoia National Park stands the General Sherman tree consisting of the largest mass of any living thing on earth. Our family visited the park in 2006 shortly after a heavy, wet



that fell from the largest tree in the world.

Jesus created the implement of His torture on Creation day three.

spring snowstorm that broke a branch off that tree that was about five feet in diameter!

There are many other kinds of unique trees throughout the world, and you may have special memories of trees in your life perhaps with a tree swing or a tree fort. Or maybe you recall the trees that provided shade for a family picnic or camp out. Some trees are included in famous paintings, poems, and songs. For example, George Frederic Handel not only composed the cherished *Messiah* symphony with its inspiring “Hallelujah” chorus but also wrote a beautiful aria in 1738 about the soothing shade of a plain tree called “Ombra mai fu.”

We are invited to look forward to eternity where on “either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. . . . The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations” (Revelation 22:2). But before we see that tree, we must fall at the foot of the most profound tree that ever existed—the cross of Christ’s sacrifice.

Really, Lord? On the third day of the Creation week when life first appeared, You designed the implement of your torture where You would take in all the bad (the sins of the world) and give off only the good (eternal life to those who believe). May each of us look at every tree differently from now on in order to recall the ultimate tree of His sacrifice—the cross of Calvary. We can then share this life-changing Creation story with others so we can bear good fruit leading to a bountiful harvest at Christ’s return. **C**

Tom Ish writes from Spokane, Washington, where he shares the wonders of God’s Creation through parables and object lessons in Creation Illustrated with the help of his family and many submissions from contributors.

Day 4



The Sun, Moon, and Stars

When the Apollo 8 astronauts orbited the moon in 1968, they broadcasted a Christmas message while gazing upon earth's blue orb from space. They read, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth . . ." and continued to recite the full Genesis account of the first day

of Creation with the whole world listening in. What a powerful testimony to give God the glory for the stunning spectacle they were witnessing.

As we explore the fourth day of the Creation week, Scripture records, "Then God said, 'Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth'; and it was so.





The phases of the moon known as the lesser light (above) reflect the radiance of the sun (below).

Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the fourth day" (Genesis 1:14-19).

Both the astronauts and this text focus mainly on the earth, sun, and moon, along with a passing mention of the stars. Starting with the lesser of the two great lights, the moon reflects the sun at different angles and can be observed in different phases as it revolves around the earth. As our closest celestial object, it can even be examined with a pair of binoculars.

One of the most amazing accomplishments of the twentieth century was when Neil Armstrong became the first human to set foot on the moon. Remember his famous words on July 20, 1969,

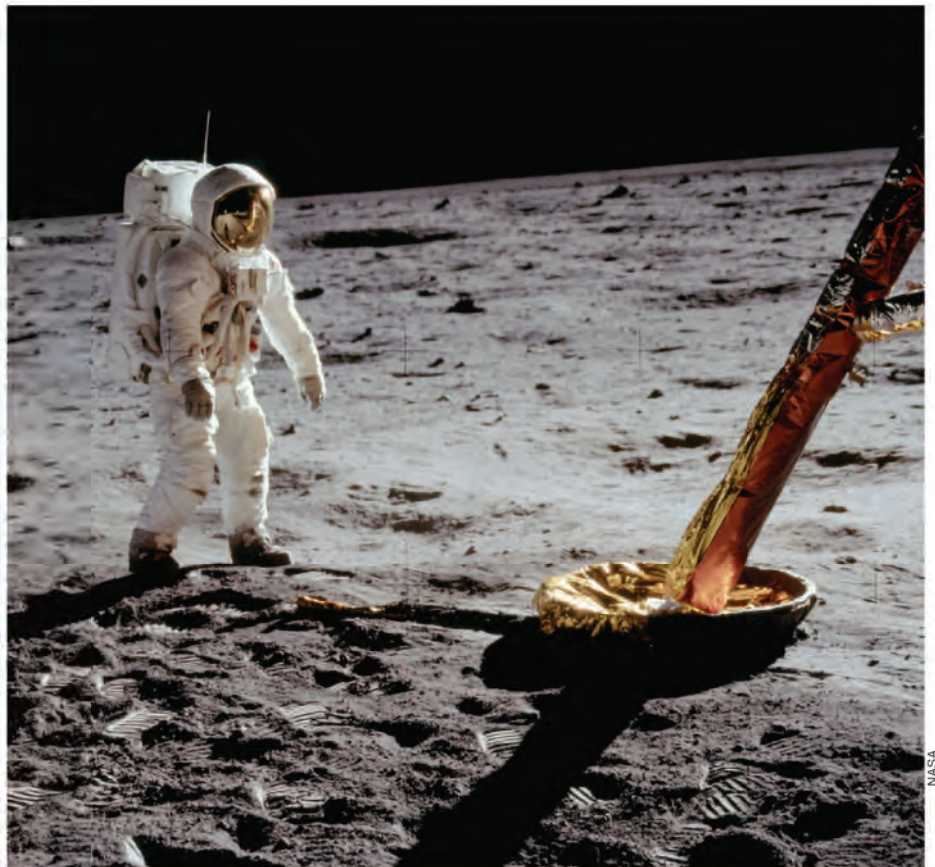
as about six hundred fifty million people watched from earth. "That's one small step for man. One giant leap for mankind"; then they erected an American flag to lay claim to this historical event.

Some may also recall the large discs at the base of each leg on the lunar module designed to keep the craft from sinking into several feet of cosmic dust that scientists anticipated on the moon. But the deep dust wasn't there. The boot prints of the astronauts revealed about an eighth of an inch of dust which, based on calculations, would take about 6,000 years to accumulate. Creation science points to this as evidence of a young-earth worldview.

The greater light at the center of our solar system that rules the day is just an average-sized star, yet it seems very large as close to one million nine hundred sixty thousand earths could fit inside it. If the sun were the size of a basketball, the earth would be the size of a peppercorn, and the next closest star would be about thirteen

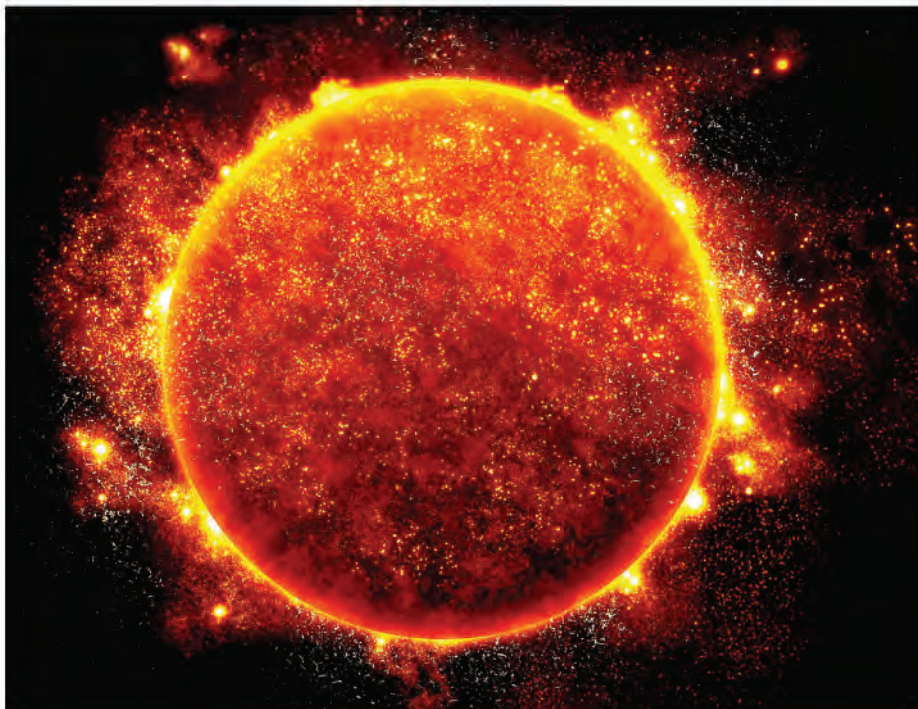
thousand miles away. Some of the superstars like Betelgeuse would make our sun look like a peppercorn compared to their gargantuan size. Imagine how small our earth is in comparison, which begs the question, "How big is your God?"

In the Genesis account of Creation day four we read a brief phrase, "He made the stars also" (Genesis 1:16), which seems like a passing comment. Some try to argue that God made all the stars in the universe on day four, but we know that Lucifer and a third of the angels were cast out of heaven before Creation; so, the universe had to have celestial bodies prior to Creation day four. Hebrews 1:2 speaks of God referring to Jesus "whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds" (plural). But we don't want to get into a heavy debate about this because we never want to attempt to put the infinite power of God in a box just to be



The lunar landing module with its large disc pads were thought to be needed for landing in thick cosmic dust, but the dust wasn't deep at all.

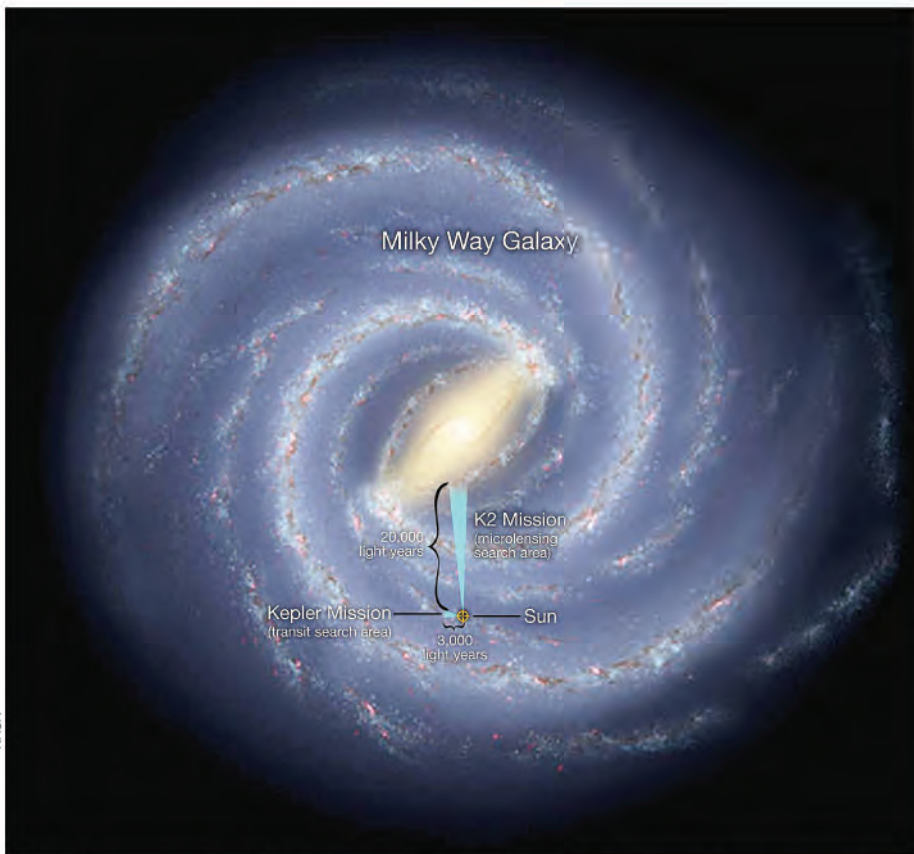
able to pacify our finite minds. He's capable of anything. We do know one thing for sure—that He created our sun on day four.



To try to comprehend the number of stars in the universe; our own Milky Way galaxy has 400 billion stars and is eighty thousand light years across. Light travels at 186,000 miles per second, so it would take eight minutes for light to get from our sun to the earth. Until 1926, which isn't that long ago, scientists thought the Milky Way was the only galaxy in the universe. On a clear evening in the desert without a telescope, we can see about five thousand individual stars. But in recent years we've learned from powerful satellite telescopes that the Milky Way is just a speck in the observable universe. Estimates range from a hundred billion to perhaps two trillion total galaxies. How big is your God?

To help us comprehend the number of stars in these galaxies, there are roughly a hundred thirty-five thousand grains in one cubic inch of sand and about two hundred thirty-five million in a cubic foot. Researchers estimate approximately two hundred twenty thousand miles of sandy coastline and six million square miles of desert sand on our planet and have calculated that all the grains of sand in the world total 10 to the 18th power, which is an astronomical number. Yet, the stars outnumber the grains of sand by at least ten-to-one, totaling around two hundred billion trillion or two hundred sextillion stars. But this may not be the most amazing part of the story as a single grain of sand contains approximately five hundred million billion individual atoms, which is 125 million times the number of stars in the Milky Way Galaxy. In fact, if you hold a grain of sand at arms length, it will cover enough of the sky that contains ten thousand galaxies. How big is your God?

The cosmos is unimaginably large and complex, and our planet is filled with countless atomic and subatomic particles that are inconceivably small and even more complex; yet, each are held together and controlled by our God who created everything. Isaiah 40:26 invites us, "Lift up your eyes on high, and see who has created these things, who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, by the greatness of His might and the strength of His power; not one is missing." Wait a minute. Ten



This diagram of the Milky Way Galaxy depicts the location of our sun and some NASA missions.



NASA, ESA, CSA, STScI

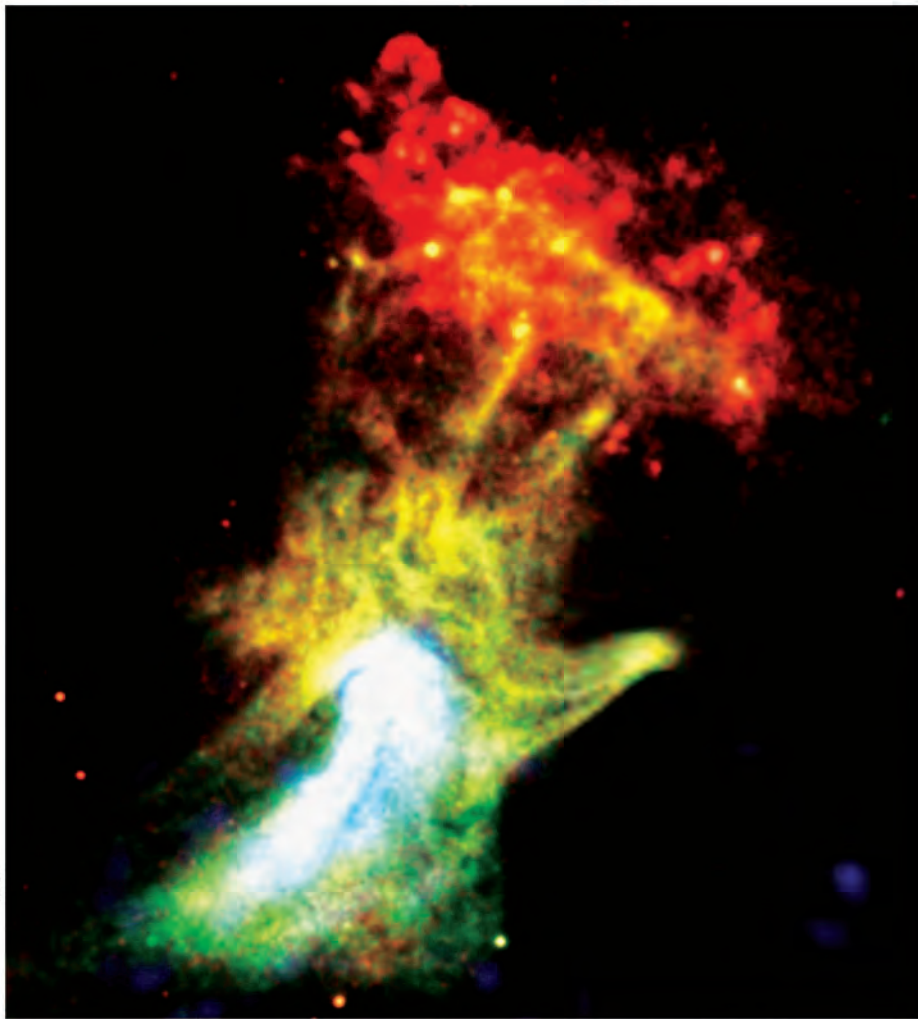
Thousands of galaxies fill the deep sky as observed by the Webb satellite telescope.

times the number of grains of sand on earth and God knows the name of every star? How big is your God?

Arcturus, Orion, and Pleiades are mentioned in Job 9:9 long before telescopes existed. Since Job lived around 3000 B.C. and the telescope was invented in the 1600s, that's more than 4,600 years. So, how could he know the names of stars and constellations? Perhaps God taught the names to Adam, whose perfect eyesight could see these objects; then the names got passed down through his offspring to several generations. But why would God want His

children to know so much about the objects in space?

Psalm 19:1–4 reveals their importance. “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.” So, when you go outdoors and look at the stars, you can point others to the heavens and share God’s glory without ever having to preach a sermon.



NASA

The nebula formation known as The Hand of God (above) and The Mountains of Creation (right) show that the heavens indeed reveal His glory.

Other celestial phenomena include the black holes at the center of galaxies where the mass is so great and the gravitational pull is so strong that not even light can escape. Scientists theorize that large galaxies have a central black hole mass ranging from millions to billions of times the mass of our sun. Quasars, like black holes, are surrounded by gases and radiate power with luminosities thousands of times greater than our galaxy. Pulsars are incredibly dense and rotate their axes about seven times per second. With a pulsar seven miles in diameter, think of it as a city the size of Philadelphia

spinning as fast as an idling car engine. Some pulsars spin only once every six hours while others spin seven hundred times a second! How big is your God?

Other formations in space can be quite dramatic where stars are born with massive clouds radiating a rainbow of colors. Providentially, some carry God-glorifying names such as *The Mountains of Creation* or *The Hand of God*. Romans 1:20, 21 underscores that these celestial objects and formations bring about convictions so nobody can deny His handiwork. “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.” He keeps upholding the universe by the power of His word as exalted in Hebrews 1:3.

Allow the Holy Spirit to fill your finite mind with a glimpse of the infinite universe. Philippians 2:5–11 captures the vast sacrifice that the Author of the universe made to rescue us on this tiny dot in space. “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became

obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Psalm 139:7–10 sheds some light to answer the question: How big is your God? “Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend into heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there. If I take the wings

of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me.”

Verses 17 and 18 continue, “How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand.” That’s how often God thinks of us and loves each of us—more than ten quintillion times, more than the grains of sand or the stars in all the universe. That’s how big our God is. **C**

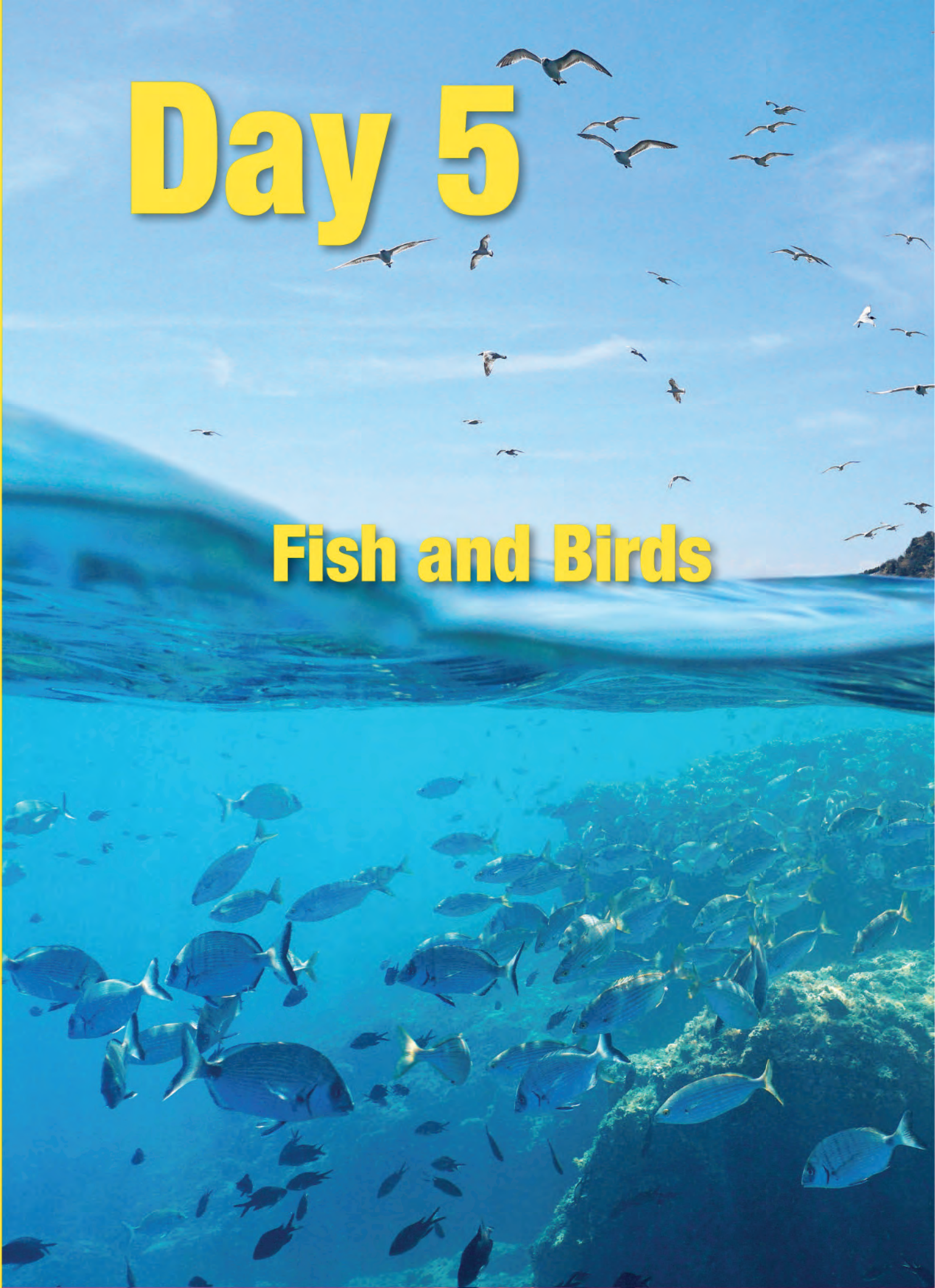
Tom Ish writes and speaks about the wonders of Creation and will present biblical truth wherever he’s invited.

NASA



Day 5

Fish and Birds





On day five of the Creation week, God created the first breathing creatures—the fish and the birds. As chronicled in Genesis 1:20–23, “Then God said, ‘Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.’ So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.’ So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.”

First came the fish then the birds. But we will examine these creatures in reverse order. Researchers thought about nine thousand to ten thousand species of birds existed with all of their stunning plumes, sizes, and songs, but recently they determined 18,000 species to be more accurate. How could they have missed the number by half? In any case, there is no way to cover or fully grasp the vast variety of water birds, tropical birds, song birds, or migrating birds; so, we will focus on a few features of God's amazing avian handiwork.

These winged marvels range in size from a two-inch bee hummingbird of Cuba to the nine-foot-tall Somali ostrich. And what bird is the most common? You guessed it—chickens. There's an estimated twenty-four billion chickens in the world, or three times as many chickens as there are people! The most common *wild* bird is the brownish, sparrow-sized red-billed Quelea. And the Creator cares about each one and about each of us even more as explained in Matthew 10:29–31, “Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. . . . Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.” Really? The Creator even cares for the common sparrow on this tiny dot in His infinite universe?

We praise Him for being such a caring and loving God as we explore other fascinating features of birds—aerodynamic body shapes, various types of feathers, unique beaks, hard-shelled eggs, four-chambered hearts, and hollow bones connected to the respiratory system. Bone cross sections reveal air pockets buttressed by little struts for strength that aeronautic engineers study to design airplane wings. Such a functional design had to be instantly present for birds to be able to fly.

While we've all heard the condescending

comment *bird-brain*, many avian species are very intelligent. Not only can parrots and cockatiels be taught to speak, some species can make and use tools. For example, ravens figured out how to drop stones in a jar of water in order to raise the water level to get at a floating morsel of food. Some birds pass on knowledge to generations via visual signals, calls, and songs that is considered a form of culture among the birds. They also migrate great distances including the Arctic tern that travels 55,923 miles every year from pole to pole. The longest migration by a bird without stopping for food or rest is the bar-tailed godwit flying 7,580 miles from Alaska to New Zealand. Some species even return to the home of a previous generation.

We could continue to uncover amazing avian talents and traits, but we're going to focus on one very special bird—the bald eagle. As one of the most revered birds of prey, the bald eagle provides illustrations for us to apply to our own lives as told in a story from our Fall 2009 Edition. Regal, pensive, and majestic, the eagle has been worshiped by ancient cultures and was thought to carry the souls of kings to the heavens. Embodying power, grace, and laser-sharp vision, the bald eagle remains our national bird featured in the Great Seal of the United States as a symbol of freedom and justice.

But God chose the eagle to help illustrate His love for the children of Israel. “You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself. Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people . . .” (Exodus 19:4, 5).

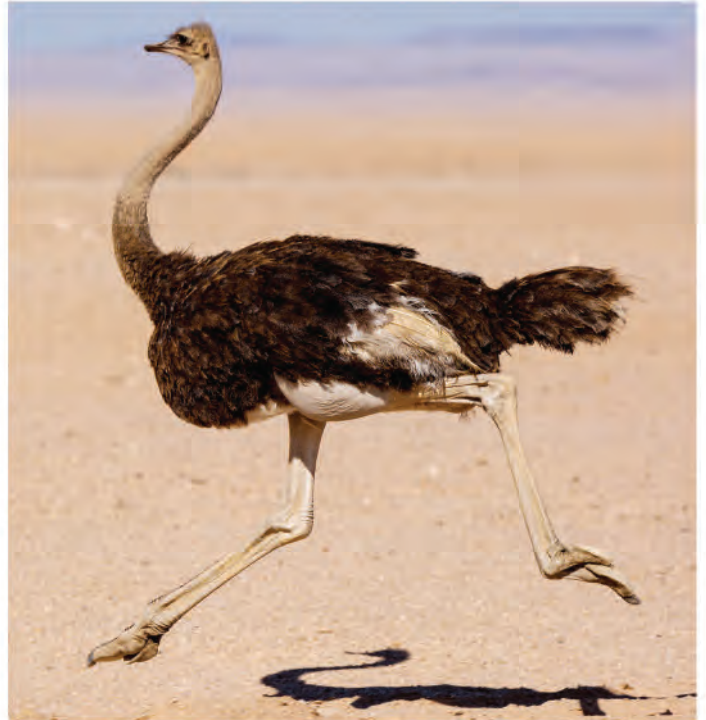
He further shows His intent for our well being with the nest of the bald eagle that can be six feet high and six feet wide. Before laying any eggs, eagle mates will put all kinds of sharp brambles, stickers,

“Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

—Matthew 10:31



Steve Lackie



Hummingbirds (left) and ostriches (above) are among the smallest and largest birds on earth. Some species rely on fish for sustenance including gannets (lower left) and eagles feeding their young (below).



Deborah Frew



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Christmas in Prison

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one and absolutely loved it
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wonderful pictures of God's
creations. I have been locked up
for 2 years. During this time I have
rededicated my life to God. I was
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unit. I spend most of my free time
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with Jesus. I will look forward
to receiving whatever you can send
me. God Bless you!

Thank you -
Miranda ~~Ray~~



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*“As an eagle stirs up its nest, hovers over its young,
... taking them up, carrying them on its wings.”*

—Deuteronomy 32:11

God wants us to leave the nest and spread our wings like the eagle (below). Schools of fish (middle left) swim in unison without crashing into each other. Dazzling colors cannot be seen by tropical fish (middle right). Whale sharks (bottom) are the largest fish on the planet at around fifty feet long.



© Tom & Pat Leeson

and bones in the bottom and then pad this layer with grass, fur, and feathers plucked from its own breast to form a nice soft bed for their hatchlings. It's like a luxury hotel with a view and even room service as the parents bring food right to their young's bedside to nurture the eaglets' growth. Young Christians who accept Christ and come into the church also need to be fed and nurtured. But God doesn't want the eaglet to stay in its nest or the Christian to stay in comfortable pews being spoon fed His spiritual feast each week. Eagles are born to fly, and Christians are born-again to mature in Christ and spread their wings to share the gospel beyond their comfort zone.

So, when the right time comes, the eagle parents stir up the nest and get rid of the soft lining to expose the prickly stickers, brambles, and sharp bones as taught in Deuteronomy 32:11. "As an eagle stirs up its nest, hovers over its young, spreading out its wings, taking them up, carrying them on its wings." Just as the eagle trains its young to fly, God uses this striking illustration to show how He leads His people into spiritual maturity. Sometimes this includes unpleasant or heart-pounding experiences as He lifts us to new heights through faith-testing risks and adventures. We can trust Him because He's going to be right by our side and catch us on His wings just like the eagle.

Let us look at an even more powerful lesson from the other creatures created on day five—fish that include roughly twice the number of bird species. But we hardly see even a minuscule fraction of the 33,600 kinds of fish because about twelve thousand species live submerged in fresh water above sea level while another 25,000 species inhabit the depths of the salty seas. They reside in anything from hot boiling springs to icy waters of Antarctica, from a pure mountain stream to water that is four times saltier than the ocean. Fish come in all sizes from a half-inch-long

pygmy goldie to a fifty-foot-long whale shark.

Often swimming fast in large schools, fish somehow manage to not crash into each other. Thousands of them can turn, dart, and swarm together in ballet-like harmony. But how do they know when and where to go? God equipped them special hair-like sensors and slight indentations on the sides of their bodies where sensory nerve cells can detect movement, pressure, and waterflow. This design also helps them avoid predators by detecting a slight increase in the pressure of the water coming toward them.

To have such a keen awareness while being unable to clearly see can be vitally important. Sometimes we can be in situations where we cannot observe everything that's going on; so, God gives us special awareness and impressions from the Holy Spirit to be cautious or even flee. But what about brightly colored tropical fish? How can they avoid predators? Our eyes have three receptors whereas fish have a fourth receptor for ultraviolet light, which disrupts the colors and helps the fish blend into their surroundings. While the colorful markings may help them communicate and identify each other, the bright hues we see is not what the fish see.

In addition to the astounding number of fish species, about two hundred thirty thousand other species of marine creatures reside in earth's vast waterways including nudibranchs, crustaceans, jelly fish, seals, whales, and myriad others. The Bible uses some of these to tell miraculous fish stories like when Jesus told the disciples to fish off the other side of the boat, when He said the first fish Peter caught would have a coin in its mouth to be used for taxes, when He used the five loaves and two fish to feed about five thousand men, and, of course, when Jonah was swallowed by the whale.

But we want to examine one special fish from

a story we published in the Summer 2008 Issue of *Creation Illustrated* on the life cycle of the salmon and how they migrate. Salmon are a large family of fish that reside in both fresh and salt water, as well as from shallow mountain streams to the coastal depths of the sea. After their eggs hatch in the streams, the juvenile salmon remain in the fresh water for months and sometimes years before migrating to the ocean where they mature. After one to seven years in the sea, they suddenly want to return home to spawn in the same stream from which they came. After traveling all of those years, miles, and depths throughout the ocean, it is astounding that their innate desire to return home is unstoppable.

Similarly, the converted soul has a single-minded desire to return home to be with Jesus. We are told in Romans 8:37–39, “Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Are we like Paul who was convinced that nothing could keep him from drawing closer to the Lord?

Today our senses need to be even more keen than a salmon’s to avoid worldly distractions. So, how do we do that in this hectic world? I would like to share ten loving directions that God provides to guide us on a clear path home. (1) Let no other gods get in your way. (2) Let there be no idols in your life, either human or man-made. (3) Let your tongue be gracious and full of divine praise. (4) Let your worship be only toward your Creator. (5) Let honor be given those who gave you life. (6) Let respect be shown for the life of others. (7) Let lust give way to purity. (8) Let others retain their property. (9) Let only the truth be spoken. (10) Let greed turn to benevolence.

Notice the word *let* in every one of these selfless opportunities. And when you *let* something happen, just as we learned about Creation day one when God said, “*Let* there be light,” there is no resistance. If you don’t resist, these ten compassionate clarions will open the pathway to return home. Just as God promised in Jeremiah 29:11 to those in Babylon, “I’ll show up and take care of you as I promised and bring you back home. I know what I’m doing. I have it all planned out—plans to take care of you, not abandon you, plans to give you the future you hope for” (MSG). We need not *fight* our way home like the salmon as it struggles upstream pushing against the current while avoiding rocks and predators. We are much more blessed when we surrender our will to our loving God with all our heart, mind, and soul and put others above ourselves through these ten Edenic norms.

We will be drawn to float on the buoyant faith of Jesus who escorts us through all obstacles and trials toward still waters. But where is home? Where we will spend eternity with Christ? Surprisingly, many believers don’t realize that it is right here in the earth made new. “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea” (Revelation 21:1). If we stop resisting His love and care and *let* Him have His way, we allow Him to usher us on a one-way journey to our final destination—home with Him for eternity where “there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying; and there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away” (Revelation 21:4). **C**

Tom Ish writes from the Pacific Northwest where he and his family currently call their temporary home.

*“I’ll show up and take care of you as I promised
and bring you back home.”*

—Jeremiah 29:11



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Sockeye salmon (above), snow geese (left), and coho salmon (below) all have an innate desire to return home which should be our goal as well.



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Day 6

Creatures, Creeping Things, and Humans

Creation day six provides a glimpse of how capable God can be as the domestic and wild creatures, the creeping things, and humans all made their debut in one day! In the first segment of the Genesis account of this phenomenal feat, we read, "Then God said, 'Let the earth bring forth the living creature according

to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind'; and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good" (Genesis 1:24, 25).

Notice that the Bible talks about *kinds* whereas

contemporary science categorizes creatures into a system of eight levels—species, genus, family, order, class, phylum, kingdom, and domain. For example, all breeds of cattle would be a *kind* in the Bible, whereas today all species of cattle would be included in a genus. These distinctions will help us understand the vast numbers of creatures God created.

Wild Animals

Scripture tells us that Adam's first job was to name all the animals so he could have a relationship with them. "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). What a great responsibility to have! I wonder if Adam had any favorites?

One favorite creature of mine is the giraffe with its lanky legs, long neck, graceful stride, and placid expression. God benevolently gave the giraffe a very unique design in the blood vessels of its neck because you can imagine that long neck swinging down for a drink of water, and the creature



A bear protects her cubs, and the Bible uses this as an object lesson.

could pass out with all that blood rushing to its head. But God in His benevolence added special valves within those blood vessels to regulate the blood flow.

Proverbs 17:12 uses wild

bears to demonstrate the demise of dealing with the foolish. "Let a man meet a bear robbed of her cubs, rather than a fool in his folly."

God also created creatures that have convenient transportation systems like the kangaroo's pouch that keeps their offspring safe.

Even large beasts like elephants have meaningful relationships with each other that exhibit care for the herd and especially for their young—an important example for us as a church. God also wants various wild and domestic animals to have a peaceful relationship with each other as promised in Isaiah 11:6, 7 that one day, "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox."



Wild creatures thrive on useful relationships within the herd.

Domestic Animals

A vast number, 5.4 million different species of mammals exist on land, yet only 14 of them are currently considered domesticated—cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, horses, dogs, cats, ferrets, donkeys, llamas, alpacas, camels, oxen, and yaks—which make up 94 percent of the mammal population on earth. The Creator also wants us to have special relationships with these few domesticated creatures. For example, young girls and their horses seem to have a bond made in heaven. And this desire to bond with creatures continued even after the Flood even though the domesticated animals' main purpose became the production of food rather than collecting it from the wild. Domestic animals serve vital functions in farming crops and producing meat, milk, and clothing.



Domesticated animals play a vital part in benefiting humans.

God uses some of these creatures in powerful parables in the Bible such as the shepherd's willingness to leave the ninety-nine and search for the one lost sheep demonstrating Christ's unselfish love for us. Other domestic animals play vital roles in the Bible including the humble donkey that

not only carried Jesus' mother prior to His birth but also carried Him during His triumphal entry into Jerusalem prior to His death on the cross. But we choose to focus on a humble farm animal—the lowly goat—from a story in the Winter 2003 Edition of *Creation Illustrated*.



The Bible promises that creatures will not be at odds with each other.

First, 300 domesticated breeds of goats make up a global goat population of about four hundred fifty million, and they differ in size from 22 pounds to 275 pounds. Male goats are called a buck or a billy; females are called a doe or nanny; and the babies are called kids. One unique trait is the rectangular pupil in their eyes that helps with night vision. They will eat dry twigs, poison ivy, roots, and almost anything except rotten food. Psalm 104:18 says, "The high hills are for the wild goats," which points to their surefootedness. Nomadic people roaming the



Goats climb an argan tree in Morocco. Scripture includes goats in many lessons including being separated from the sheep.

barren desert rely on goats as promised in Proverbs 27:27, “You shall have enough goats’ milk for your food, for the food of your household.” Some breeds are highly valued like the cashmere goats of India that have very long, fine, and sought after hair. But goats not only serve as important farm animals; they play a role in vital object lessons in Scripture.

To name a few, (1) Jacob used a meal of goat to deceive his

father and steal the blessing from Esau (Genesis 27). (2) Laban’s agreement for Jacob to take as his wages the speckled and spotted sheep and goats that he deceptively bred to build his wealth (Genesis 30:25–43). (3) Goats’ hair was used to weave the curtains for a tent that covered the tabernacle in the wilderness (Exodus 26:7). (4) When Jesus comes again, He separates the compassionate sheep that will find salvation on God’s

right hand from the hard-hearted goats that will sit on the left to face damnation (Matthew 25:31–46).

Most importantly, goats played a profound role in teaching God’s plan of salvation as told in Leviticus 16. On the yearly day of atonement when the high priest cleansed the sanctuary of all sin, two goats were chosen—one to be sacrificed so the blood could be sprinkled on the mercy seat in the Most Holy Place signifying Christ’s atoning sacrifice and one to have the blood placed on its head and then carried out into the wilderness as the *scapegoat* to die a slow and lonely death signifying Satan’s penalty as the author of sin. So, the Creator used the lowly goat as a symbol of Satan being banished from the world when sin is destroyed forever. But how do we partake of this atonement where the enemy’s temptations have no power over us today? Read on.



Creeping Things

By exploring the next part of day six when the *creeping things* like insects were created, we'll discover object lessons that give us hope in order to cope with the onslaught of the ever-present enemy.

About nine hundred thousand insect species have been identified, which is a fraction of the estimate as high as thirty million species with a total insect population of ten quintillion or ten billion billion, including ten thousand trillion ants.

Some of these creatures are fascinating and even viciously beautiful with their colors, claws, and defenses. Some look like twigs or leaves and others such as dragonflies inspire useful inventions including the helicopter. Ecclesiastes 1:9, 10 reminds us, "there is nothing new under the sun. Is there anything of which it may be said, 'See, this is new'?"

To answer the question on how to avoid temptations, we will explore the miracle of butterflies,



Some insects are wickedly stunning.



Blue morpho butterflies are among the most dazzling insects.

called *metamorphosis*. If you break this word down in the Greek, *meta* means "beyond," and *morpho* means "change." So, they undergo a total transformation or go *beyond change*. A story published in the Spring 1998 Edition of *Creation Illustrated* focuses on the monarch butterfly with a powerful parable from the Creator that assures each of us that we can become a *new* creation in Christ and become a living testimony of what it means to fully surrender to God's will.

This miracle begins with a small egg the size of a period. The female lays four hundred to eight hundred eggs on the underside of the milkweed leaf; each egg appears as an architectural masterpiece with 20 vertical ridges and about five hundred elliptical links. When it hatches, the larva voraciously eats and molts about five times in three days. In 20 days the caterpillar is full-grown at about two inches long. Such gluttony equals a six-pound baby

growing to 2,700 pounds in 20 days and illustrates nearly non-stop consumption that resembles the behavior of an unconverted heart grabbing at anything to fulfill its selfish desires of greed, pride, and power.

Finally, when the soul is tired and fed up with being self-serving and gluttonous, it will surrender and hang its head down. Miraculously, a mere 60 seconds after complete surrender (about the time it takes to pray the sinner's prayer), the caterpillar sheds its final outer coat and transforms into a beautiful jade-green chrysalis—an example of how quickly a selfish heart can change when there's total repentance. Within about sixty hours, all the internal parts of the caterpillar have turned into a green jelly-like goo with nothing resembling the caterpillar.

Are we willing to hang our head in full surrender and become a gelatinous goo not knowing

what's on the other side? Christ did this for us. He didn't know what was beyond the cross as He experienced total separation from the Father. After eight to twelve days, a miracle begins within the chrysalis. After resting in its tomb, a *new* creation comes forth that is entirely dependent on the Creator's transformational power that takes place by fully resting in Him. This miracle gives us good reason to shout praises to the only One who can create and REcreate! Sure, we might be able to make minor changes to be a little kinder, more generous, or more patient, but transformation of the heart and mind from the inside out can only occur with the power of the Holy Spirit and our Creator. We are totally dependent upon God to rescue us and recreate us. In Mark 10:27, Jesus assures us, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."

Similar to Christ's resurrection from the tomb, the butterfly emerges from its capsule and expands its wings as a complex flying machine totally free from its former glutenous self. It now



Jenny Miner

Monarch butterflies (above) emerge victorious from their green tomb (below).

has 12,000 compound eyes, a million scales on its wings, and long, lanky legs. Nothing is left that resembles the caterpillar. This is like transforming a car into a jumbo jet liner in six days. It is beyond change—*metamorpho*. Furthermore, monarch butterflies (just like the salmon we studied on Creation day five) have that innate desire to migrate home 3,000 miles and navigate exactly to where their parents laid their eggs.

Ultimately, when Christ returns, He will be a *monarch* as the King of kings and Lord of lords. But as His subjects, we will not be subservient or oppressed but rather a part of the royal family of God devoid of self and esteeming others and our Lord higher than ourselves to live eternally in Him. But for now He invites us, "Do not be conformed to this world, but

be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:2). But how can this happen?

Carefully embrace this key passage in Galatians 2:20 for the answer. "I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." If we are crucified with Christ and enter into that tomb, the past is gone yet we cannot see the future. By faith in the Son of God, we proceed into a transformed life with Christ living in us by dying to self daily as Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:31. Paul is very clear that the gospel is about *transformation* to be a *new* creation in Christ Jesus.

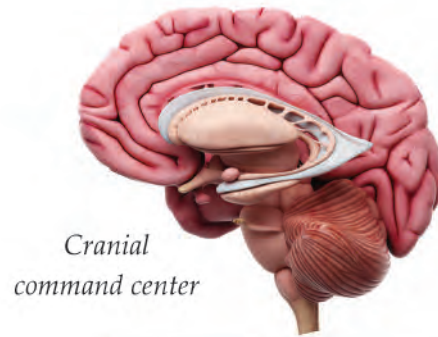
The Creation of Humans

I want to tell you about an invention that happened during the last part of Creation day six. Paramount to this invention was a very sophisticated data-processing center serving as a *command center* consisting of millions of elaborate switches, delicate sensors, and miles of wiring. A broadcasting station that could sound off a wide range of pitches at various volumes aided the invention in communicating along with dual audio receivers that also housed small balancing mechanisms so the invention wouldn't topple over.

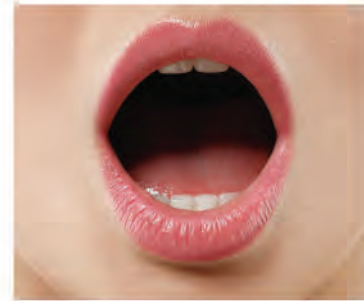
It included a video recording center with two fully synchronized color cameras the size of ping-pong balls with built-in automatic macro and telephoto zoom lenses complete with their own washing system and protective curtains when the cameras were not in use. These audio-visual components were linked to the command center memory bank with its 30 billion microscopic components that fit nicely under a hat.

All of this was on top of a mobile unit with an elaborate central heating and air conditioning and filtration system that functions system-wide. The conduits in this system were as big around as your thumb, or tinier than a strand of hair that was filled with life-giving fluid flowing through a constantly running pump the size of your fist. The fluid filling this circulation system transported chemicals, nutrients, water, oxygen, and a military defense team to keep the invention safe. A network of plumbing served as part of a waste treatment plant with numerous pipes and valves connected to a water-purification system and waste-disposal portals strategically located near the base of the invention.

A microscopic maintenance crew works to repair, replace, or maintain each type of uniquely functioning tiny building blocks in various locations in this elegant machine. It's a big job because this invention contains 60 trillion of these tiny building blocks that are protected by a defense force that is capable of zapping or engulfing foreign intruders that might harm the invention.



*Cranial
command center*



*Broadcasting
station*



*Dual audio
receivers*



*Synchronized
video cameras*



*Air
filtration
system*



*Waste
treatment
plant*

Waterproof covering and support structure



600 flexible bands

Replication department



A totally unique replica

A breathing soul



This complex, multisystem unit is snugly wrapped in a flexible, waterproof covering that replaces its outer layer every 27 days. A mere square centimeter of this covering an eighth of an inch thick has a hundred sweat glands, twelve feet of nerves, a hundred nerve endings, ten hair follicles, and three feet of blood vessels. The whole extremely mobile invention is also supported by an internal rigid framework with 206 moving parts that work in harmony with the aid of more than six hundred flexible bands of fibrous tissue. If these were to form a single strand, they would have enough contraction power to lift 25 tons.

One of the most fascinating components of this invention includes a replication department containing a blueprint with every detail of its host fitting within a microscopic dot. Amazingly, this whole invention can be replicated in nine months when combined with an even tinier cell containing the other half of the blueprint from its counterpart. The developing replica combines random features from its two progenitors yet is entirely unique. There is not another one exactly like it in the entire universe.

This miraculous invention needs no additional assembly and instantly functions with every single part simultaneously performing its duty. The first prototype was originally activated when the Inventor bent down and breathed into the nostrils of His invention with the express purpose of making a living being in His image in the very image of God according to His likeness. (See Genesis 1:27.) Every single rendition of the invention comes with an eternal guarantee if operated, maintained, and fully surrendered to the will of the original Manufacturer.

Genesis 1:26–28 tells of this astounding invention in part of the Creation day six story. “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.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living

thing that moves on the earth.” This last sentence contains an admonition to perform a high privilege of perpetuating the production of God’s crowning act of Creation where the male and female versions are considered equally important and equally blessed by Him.

Not only do the eleven distinct systems of this invention have an almost incomprehensible complexity, but to be made in the very image of God is even more incomprehensible! The phrase *image of God* in Hebrew is *tzelem elohim*. The root word for *tzelem* means “shadow” or “resemblance” or “representative.” So, this invention is designed to be representing God to the world wherever it goes. What a privilege and high calling! 📌

Tom Ish writes from Spokane, Washington, where he and his wife Jennifer count it a huge blessing to work with Melissa, their own uniquely wonderful replication of God’s crowning act of Creation.



Made in the image of God

Day 7



When God created humans on day six as His crowning act of Creation, each unique individual brings talents, gifts, and strengths to the family of God. Just as each part of the human body performs a specialized function simultaneously and in harmony with all of the other parts for the good of the whole, each member of the family of God plays a vital role in promoting harmonious interactions for all members of the body of believers. In addition to the mental, physical, and spiritual health of each individual, the mental, physical, and spiritual health of the collective body is equally important to God.



PHYSICAL,
MENTAL,
AND SPIRITUAL REST

A vital aspect of this complete health is *rest*—mental, physical, and spiritual rest. In fact, it is so important that for His *crowning act of the Creation week*, God sanctified a whole day of rest and worship as told in Genesis 2:1–3. “Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.” As we explore these three kinds of rest, we will discover *two words* that can change our lives forever—from now throughout eternity.



Sleep deprivation is related to multiple accidents and health issues.

Physical Rest

We all know the importance of physical rest because we partake of it every night when we go to bed and sleep. Without it we can become sick or even cause harm to others. Trying to drive while sleep-deprived for nineteen hours has a worse effect than being drunk with a blood alcohol level of 0.05 percent, which can be attributed to many major accidents. In fact, the tragic disaster at The Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant was caused due to somebody who was sleep deprived. Lack of physical rest affects memory, judgment, healing, growing, as well as an increased risk of heart disease, diabetes, depression, and weight gain.

Scripture warns against burning the midnight oil in Psalm 127:2. “It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows; for so He gives His beloved sleep.” He wants us to surrender our worries and be at peace at the end of each day. “I will both lie down in peace, and sleep; for You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety” (Psalm 4:8). Just watch how a baby contentedly sleeps for ten to twelve hours. So, we can trust God and feel safe as we lie down and sleep and have a peaceful night’s rest for roughly eight hours. Researchers call this pattern of activity and rest a circadian rhythm that follow a 24-hour cycle in response to light and dark. Plants, creatures, and even microbes operate on this Creation-based cycle.

We also discover that God’s design for a day of rest was no accident. This seven-day pattern called the circaseptan (or circular seven) cycle is unique since it does not relate to the metric system (based on multiples of ten) or the imperial system (a collection of ancient systems with some based on multiples of three). Various cultures and societies have attempted to alter God’s seven-day cycle without success. For example, the French tried to operate on a ten-day cycle; however, farm animals suffered and people couldn’t work that many days without a break. So, the seven-day cycle that God created from the very first week of Creation impacts our physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. One anecdotal example involved a woman who



Sweet sleep involves feeling secure.



Spending time outdoors in God's creation is vital for mental rest and health.

lived alone out in the wilderness like a hermit where she got very close to nature. She wasn't a Christian at the time, but she discovered as she watched the birds and animals that they were less active and seemed to rest on the seventh day.

Physical rest can come in various other forms besides sleep. Restful reprieves can invigorate us and be as simple as going for a walk, reading a book, picking flowers in a garden, playing with a dog, or taking children to a park. These breaks can arguably have an impact on our mental and spiritual health, as well. Other forms can include getting away from life's demands. Even the disciples needed rest to be able to do God's work as revealed in Mark 6:31, 32. "And He said to them, 'Come aside by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.' For there were many coming and going, and they did not even have time to eat. So they departed to a deserted place in the boat by themselves." But sometimes anxiety, pressures, and uncertainty make us particularly restless mentally.

Mental Rest

In Matthew 11:28–30 Jesus offers one of the greatest invitations to rest, "'Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.'" We all have worrisome burdens, but Jesus says He will help us through them by sharing the same yoke and by learning His ways. So, rest is not just about lying down, closing our eyes, and falling asleep. Resting our minds and thoughts leads to that peace promised in Philippians 4:6, 7. "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

That's right. Prayer offers perhaps the greatest form of mental rest that not only shares our heartfelt burdens with God, but it helps keep the enemy from tormenting our hearts and



Appealing to God in prayer develops mental and spiritual peace.



Stopping everything with no

minds. David pleaded with God in Psalm 55:3–6, “Because of the voice of the enemy, . . . my heart is severely pained within me, . . . Fearfulness and trembling have come upon me, . . . and I said, ‘Oh, that I had wings like a dove! . . . I would fly away and be at rest.’” Christ invites us to a faith-based rest, “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me” (John 14:1). He promises to give us the peace that passes all understanding if we accept His love and guidance to calm our minds. As promised in Isaiah 26:3, “You will keep him in perfect peace, whose *mind* is stayed on You, because he trusts in You.” If our minds focus on Him, we can find rest from mental torment, discouragement, anxiety, and depression because all other thoughts won’t be allowed to rob our commitment to Christ and Christ alone. Even Jesus would sometimes pray through the night to commune with His Father to help lift the burden and anguish He was carrying.

An example of Christ’s commanding power to bestow peace came during the storm when waves lashed at the boat carrying the disciples. “He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Peace, be still!’” (Mark 4:39). Psalm 46:10 invites us to “Be still, and know that I am God.” He is in control. We don’t have to worry or fret, and people will recognize this peace and ask us why we are not worried in this troubled world. We can then tell them the peace of God that passes all understanding is a free gift that can be accessed through prayer. But, of course, prayer crosses over into spiritual rest, as well.

Spiritual Rest

We’ve explored physical rest and mental rest, but how does spiritual rest differ? Hebrews 4:9–11 reminds us, “There remains therefore a rest for the people of God. For he who has entered His rest has himself also ceased from his works as God did from His. Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest.” This is the rest instituted on Creation day seven that God intended for spending time with His people who are the *crowning act of Creation*. Such



distractions builds close relationships.



Studying God's word provides spiritual rest.

instruction in Hebrews clearly echoes God's *climactic act of the Creation week* as chronicled in Genesis 2:1–3. "Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made."

We, too, are commanded to labor for six days and rest on the seventh day just as God did at the end of the Creation week. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work" (Exodus 20:8–10). God is telling us, if we don't rest we're being disobedient. That's how important it is to Him.

But spiritual rest is not just different from physical and mental rest because God commanded us to do it. Spiritual rest brings us into fellowship with our Creator in a way that inspires worship and awe of His eternal love, sacrifice, and desire to spend eternity with us. To fully embrace this concept, I mentioned that I would share *two words* that will change your life forever—from now throughout eternity!

Are you ready? The two words are *Thank You*. But wait; we've known those words since childhood as simple, courteous manners. As we will discover, these two words are at the very heart of worship and spiritual rest. Psalm 100:2–4 bids us, "Come before His presence with singing. . . . Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, and bless His name." This admonition calls upon worshipers to be full of gratitude, praise, and singing when entering the sanctuary to worship God.

But sometimes we don't feel like being joyful. Sometimes we're too exhausted or discouraged or unwell. Yet, we are told in 1 Thesalonians 5:18, "In *everything* give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." Really, Lord? You want us to be thankful for the



Giving thanks supports physical, mental, and spiritual restoration.



Breaking bread remains a symbol of

pain of disease, the heartache of losing a loved-one, the agony of abuse or persecution, or the stress of financial difficulties? No. This is a different kind of *Thank You*.

To illustrate this, I'm going to tell you a story about a physician who had a thriving medical practice and a wonderful family with a caring husband and two bright and cheery children. Then she had a third child that was born with cerebral palsy. At first she was sad and depressed, which turned to anger and frustration as she tried to push the suffering away. As a doctor she wanted to fix it, but there was no cure. Finally she stopped fighting and resisting the situation and said those two words—*thank you*. This changed everything. Now she was able to lie down next to her child and hold her, love her, and cope with her life-long trial.

By saying *thank you*, was she somehow *glad* that her child and her family faced a future of unimaginable challenges? Of course not! Rather, she *stopped resisting* and embraced the strength, grace, and mercy available to all from the hand of God who promises that “Love suffers long . . . bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (1 Corinthians 13:4–7). This is a very important concept at the core of worshipful heart, mind, and body—to be thankful for God’s provision in all things.

We all have the opportunity to stop resisting God’s love. Pray and embrace the power to love your enemies who have mistreated you, to sacrifice for those who are less fortunate, to have hope in the face of sorrow, and to “count it all joy when you fall into various trials” (James 1:2).

Christ is our example, and in the upper room, Jesus gave thanks for the bread that was the symbol of His broken body. The Greek word for *thanks* is *Eucharisto*, which relates to the Eucharist in communion services. Breaking the word down further, *eu* means “good” and *charis* means “grace.” The word *communion* used in many churches means “with union” or “uniting with the sacrifice of Christ” as Paul espoused, “I have been crucified with Christ” (Galatians 2:20). So, when Scripture admonishes us, “In everything give thanks,” it can be surmised to bid



Christ's sacrifice for which He gave thanks.




In everything be in union with Christ's sacrifice.

us, "In everything *be in union*" with Christ's sacrifice. This is the will of God for all of us.

Jesus' thanks was not based on His circumstances. He was about to endure the worst possible horror the universe has ever known; yet, He gave thanks to be in *union* with His Father's grace and glory that was set before Him. He was thanking God for His plan for eternal glory and the power to endure the suffering of the cross. That's where God's wants our eyes, minds, and hearts to be focused—on the future joy no matter what our circumstances may be. It is not possible to be angry, depressed, or selfish while giving praise and thanks to God.

Unfortunately, we live in an instant world where we want to have everything at the click of a button. But God asks us to choose by faith *deferred gratification* as we wait for that priceless gift to be with Him for eternity. Revelation 5:13 tells us how we will then worship. "And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: 'Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!' Then the four living creatures said, 'Amen!' And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever."

Since we will be thanking and praising and worshiping God and the Lamb forever and ever, we need to start now by surrendering and in *everything be in union* with Christ. On the seventh day of the Creation week, God ordained His whole Creation to be in union with Him in a perfect world while giving thanks forever, which is true worship and divine rest. If we only stop resisting and embrace this original design, the physical, mental, and spiritual *rest* He intended can be ours today and throughout eternity by accepting Christ's sacrifice and power to recreate us. Amen. 

Tom Ish writes from a position of feeling inadequate to fully express his gratitude to God for the forgiveness and transformation He continues to graciously bestow.

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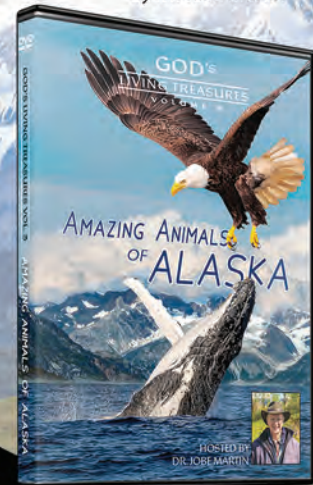
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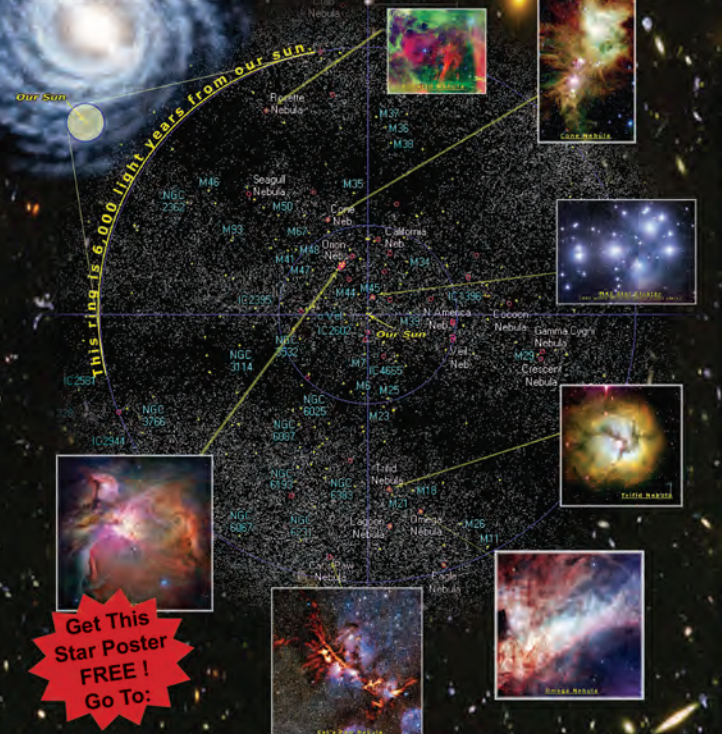


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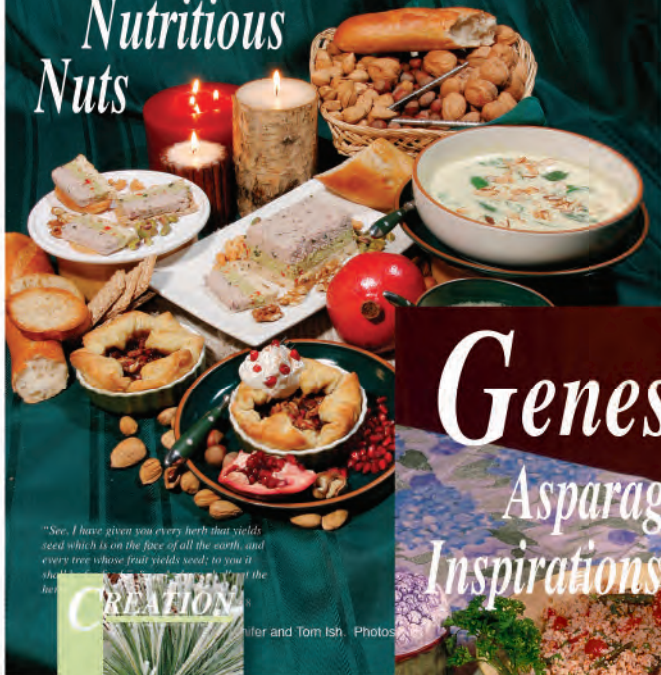
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Winter
2008

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In each edition of Creation Illustrated we encourage creativity in the kitchen by sharing unique recipes based on the original diet given in Genesis 1:29. We hope you enjoy these favorites (one from each decade of our 30-year history) and further explore the roughly 400 Genesis Cuisine recipes published through the years. Simply search our Back Issues at: CreationIllustrated.com.

Genesis Cuisine

Asparagus Inspirations



Spring
2003

Genesis Cuisine

Appetizing Apples



"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



Winter
2020

"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



Asparagus-Potato & Tomato-Pepper Bisque

Asparagus-Potato Bisque

- 2 C. asparagus, chopped
- 1/4 onion, chopped
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 med. potato, cubed
- 1/4 C. Italian parsley, chopped
- 1/8 tsp. white pepper
- 1/2 C. nondairy milk
- 14-oz. can vegetable broth

Tomato-Pepper Bisque

- 1 1/2 C. Roma tomatoes, chopped
- 1/2 red bell pepper, roasted
- 1/4 C. fresh basil, chopped
- 1 med. potato, cubed
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1/4 onion, chopped
- 14-oz. can vegetable broth
- 1/2 C. nondairy milk

Prepare the above vegetables and place in two separate sauce pans with other ingredients. Bring to a boil; then simmer until vegetables are tender. Blend bisques separately in a food processor, and ladle each into a bowl simultaneously to keep bisques separate. Garnish with toasted baguette topped with pesto, a drizzle of nondairy sour cream, and asparagus spears.



Creamy Almond-Spinach Bisque

- 2 quarts water
- 1 1/2 C. blanched almonds
- 1 stalk celery
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1/2 onion
- 2 Tbsp. chicken-style seasoning

- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. cayenne
- 1/2 tsp. dried basil flakes
- 2 C. fresh baby spinach leaves
- 1/4 C. sliced, toasted almonds

Blend all ingredients (except basil, spinach, and sliced almonds) until very smooth and creamy. Pour into large pan, add basil, and heat until almost a boil, stirring regularly. Just before serving, stir in spinach leaves, and allow to heat another minute or two. Garnish individual servings by sprinkling a few toasted almonds on top.



Apple-Carrot Star Anise Soup

- 3 golden delicious, chopped
- 1 1/2 lb. carrots, chopped
- 2 parsnips, chopped
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 4 C. vegetable stock

- 3 Tbsp. vegan margarine
- 1 inch grated ginger root
- 4 whole star anise pods
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 can coconut milk
- salt and cayenne pepper to taste

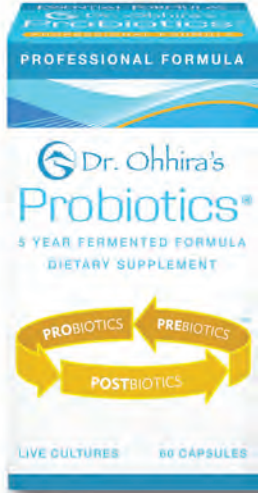
In a large pot melt margarine on medium heat. Add onions, garlic, star anise, and ginger while stirring for 3 minutes until onions are translucent. Add vegetable stock, bay leaf, chopped apples, carrots, and parsnips. Cook for about 30 minutes until carrots are tender. Remove bay leaf and star anise. Blend into a smooth puree. Stir in coconut milk and season to taste. Garnish with star anise pod, fresh tarragon, fresh thinly-sliced apples, and flavored oil such as pumpkin seed oil.

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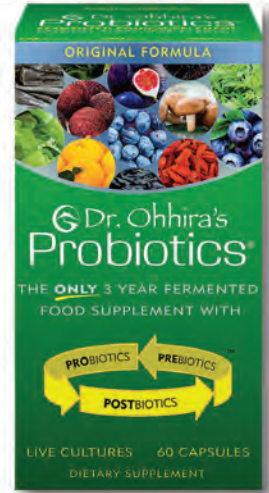
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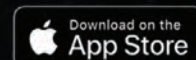
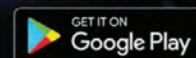
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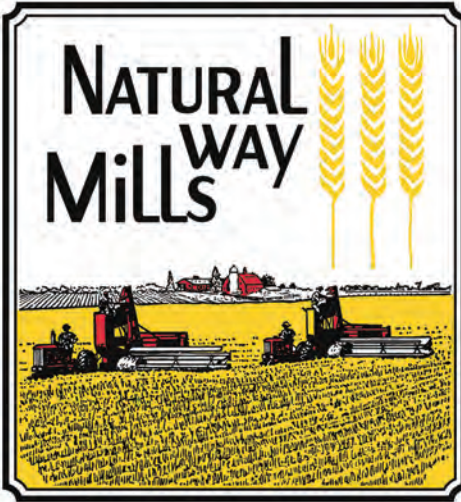
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Atmosphere



The atmosphere around a tree is invisible—yet very real! We become aware of its presence, as we feel the coolness in a tree’s shade. This coolness is produced by its water atmosphere. Fact: An apple tree can evaporate four gallons of water, per hour, into its atmosphere. This atmosphere also contains oxygen made by leaves. When we breathe in deeply, we become aware of its refreshing, vitalizing oxygen. While oxygen cannot be seen, when you breathe in deeply in the out-of-doors you may become aware of a faint fragrance. This is especially true of a conifer. This fragrance has a healing quality about it which is especially true of the eucalyptus tree. It opens up the air passages enabling us to breathe more freely.

In a similar way there is an atmosphere around your personal tree of life. While it cannot be seen, it is very real. Someone might say, I don't like your attitude. I don't like your spirit. I don't like being around them. Why? There is an atmosphere around every individual just as real as the air you breathe. We do not come into it's presence for very long be-

fore we can tell whether they are connected to Jesus or not. In I Corinthians 10:31 it says, “Whatsoever you eat, drink or do, do all to the glory of God.”

Your life may seem very small and insignificant. But if your life is rooted in God's word, and you breathe out an atmosphere of His grace, your life will then fulfill the purpose of its Creator.

Or we may choose to root our lives in ourselves and become selfish. Then we create a negative vacuum around us that is very real.

I have noticed there is a compatibility of rebellion in some youth. You can travel hundreds of miles by bus with students to a new campus. In a few minutes of conversing, the rebellious students will join others that think the same. Conversely, the loyal, obedient students will gather together. They will be automatically attracted to that which attracts them. The old adage is, “Birds of a feather, flock together.” Let us make our personal lives a tree of life, creating an atmosphere around us that will protect us from wrong friends and attract us to right friends.



PRACTICAL PROJECT:

Check out the atmosphere of a tree in hot sunshine. What do you feel in its shade? As your family visits other families, sense the invisible atmosphere around their homes. Then check out your own home. What is the atmosphere of your home? Loving, peaceful, and courteous, or is it chilly with the gloom of grumbling, agitation, and selfish clamoring? The people in the family determine the atmosphere of their little forest home.



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.

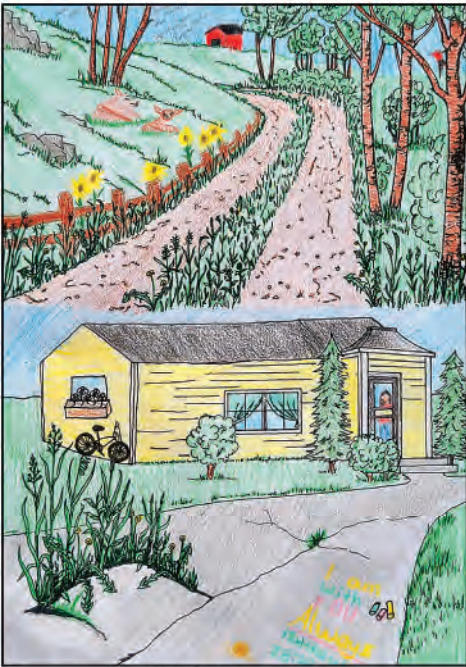




Fall 2023 Coloring Contest First Name: _____ Last Initial: _____ Age: _____
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Creation Illustrated Coloring Contest

Winners From the Summer 2023 Edition Character-Building Lesson



First Place, ages 6–11

*Ava H., age 11
of Niles, Michigan*



First Place, ages 12–18

*Benjamin S., age 12
of Litchfield, Ohio*



First Place, ages 19+

*Marcia C., age 80
of Saint Helens, Oregon*

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 2023 entries is November 15, 2023.** 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 until 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 2023 Submissions



First Place, ages 6–11 (left)

Abigal C., age 11, of Coeburn, Virginia, quoted Psalm 36:6, “Your righteousness is like the mountains of God; your judgments are like the great deep; man and beast you save, O Lord” (ESV).

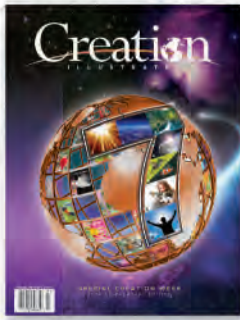
First Place, ages 12–18 (right)
Alison S., age 16, of Litchfield, Ohio.



First Place, ages 19+ (left)

Curriss S., age 47, of Litchfield, Ohio, wrote, “The grass withers the flower fades; but the Word of our God stands forever” (Isaiah 40:8). As gorgeous as this flower is, it will fade. But the Word of the Lord stands forever, and we can depend on it to guide our path!

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 2023 entries is November 15, 2023**. 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 until 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 2023 Edition, Vol. 30, 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. Creation Day 1 Story—Light, pages 6–13

1. What is the meaning of the Hebrew word haw-yaw or *let*? p. 7
2. List the spiritual meaning of the different colors found in visible light. pp. 8, 9
3. How do radio waves help us understand Psalm 139:7, 8, and how do gamma rays help us understand Luke 12:2 and Hebrews 4:12? p. 10
4. What is the Higgs Boson, and what was the term given to the particle? What does Psalm 33:6 say about how this particle came to be? pp. 11, 12

II. Creation Day 2 Story—The Firmament, pages 14–21

1. List the four heavens and their Scripture references. pp. 16, 17
2. Explain the alternative atmosphere the Creator provided after the global Flood. What Scripture tells us the original firmament will be restored? pp. 17, 18
3. What lessons can we learn from the early and later rains and the rains observed in Botswana? pp. 18, 19
4. Explain how snow can teach us about our own personal atmosphere. pp. 19–21

III. Creation Day 3 Story—Dry Land and Vegetation, pages 22–27

1. How much water is exchanged through transpiration in one acre of grass? How many species of grass are there? p. 24
2. What can trigger the stomata on plants to open to receive nutrients and have good growth? p. 25
3. List three benefits of the spiral pattern found in plants. What is this mathematical design called, and who discovered it? pp. 25, 26
4. List your favorite trees, and tell how they blessed your life.

IV. Creation Day 4 Story—The Sun, Moon, and Stars, pages 28–35

1. How many earths could fit inside our Sun? p. 30
2. How does understanding the number of grains of sand on our planet help us visualize how many stars are in the galaxies? p. 32
3. How does Psalm 19:1–4 help reveal the importance of the stars and constellations? p. 33
4. In reflecting on all you read about Creation day four, answer the question, "How big is your God?"

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V. Creation Day 5 Story—Sea Creatures and Birds, pages 36–45

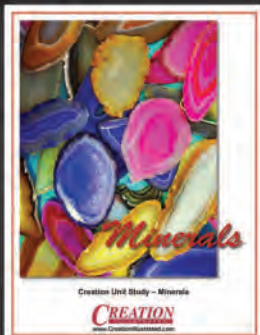
1. How many species of birds do researchers estimate exist today? p. 38
2. List some of the amazing structural features the Creator gave to birds that inspire today's inventors. p. 38
3. List the spiritual lessons we can learn from the eagle and the spawning salmon. pp. 38–44
4. List ten loving directions God provides to guide us on our path home. p. 44

VI. Creation Day 6 Story—Animals, Creeping Things, and Humans, pages 46–55

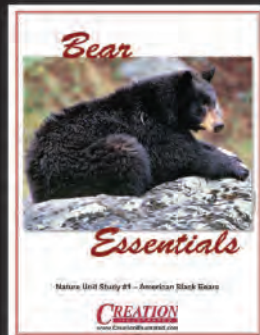
1. Explain the difference between the biblical “kinds” and how contemporary science categorizes the various “species” of creatures. p. 47
2. List the many examples of how goats were used to illustrate important lessons in Scripture. p. 50
3. What creature illustrates how to avoid temptations? What does metamorphosis mean? pp. 51, 52
4. What is the eternal guarantee each human is given? What does the phrase “image of God” mean in Hebrew? pp. 54, 55

VII. Creation Day 7 Story—Rest and Worship, pages 56–63

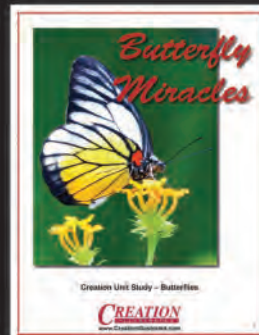
1. What is the pattern of a seven-day cycle called? How is it unique? p. 58
2. What is perhaps the greatest form of mental rest? p. 59
3. What two words are at the heart of worship and spiritual rest? p. 61
4. Explain the concept of not resisting that is at the core of a worshipful heart, mind, and body? pp. 62, 63



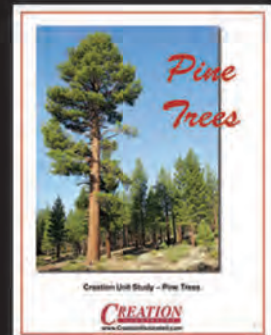
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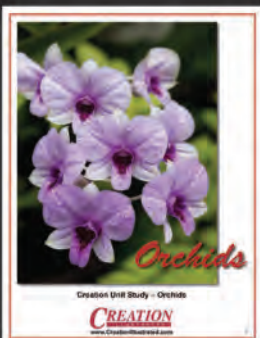
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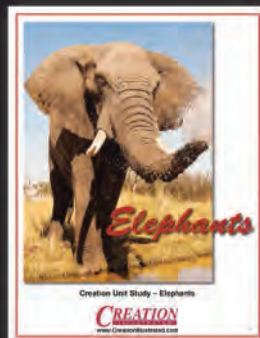
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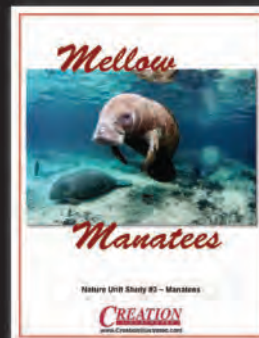
Pine Trees



Orchids



Elephants



Manatees



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

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Fall Tree Seasons & The Gospel found a Snowflakes; Glacier National Park - Natural Cathedrals; Power & Grace of Horses; Home Creativity: A New England home; Holiday Recipes; Gardens: A Joyful Harvest; Creative Artist: Thomas Morphis - art instructor; Creation Day 1; nature activities and puzzle, Poetry: Winter Light



Spring/Summer 1994, Vol. 1, No. 2 - \$14.99 (5 left)
Consider the Lilies - Wildflowers; Lessons of the passion flower; The Grand Canyon; Maternal Instincts - birds with young; Home Creativity: A Michigan home; Bountiful Brunch Recipes; Gardens: How to Grow Rose Blossoms; Creative Artist: Randy Evans - pottery art; Creation Day 2; nature activities and puzzles; Poetry: God Said It with Color



Fall 1994, Vol. 1, No. 3 - sold out
The Mighty Oak; Llamas; Exploring Yosemite National Park; Home Creativity: A Montana home; Soothing Soup Recipes; Creative Artist: Rosanne Baldwin - dried flower artist; Creation Day 3; nature activities; Poetry: Autumn, Harvest Crimson Gold, Mountains in the Autumn, Bounties, Fear Forever Gone Away



Winter 1995, Vol. 1, No. 4 - sold out
The King of the Ice - Polar bears; Drops of Life - Water; Yellowstone National Park; Italian Delights Recipes; Creative Artist: Dawna Beausoleil; Gardens: Herbs; Creation Day 3; nature activities and puzzle; Poetry: Peak Experiences and God Cares for His Own, God of the Alps



Spring 1995, Vol. 2, No. 1 - sold out
Lure of the Smokies - Smoky Mountains; Lilies of Love; Animal Motherhood; Gardens: Cherry Farm; Home Creativity: Hospitality in Sierra Nevada Foothills; Overtures to Asia Recipes; Creation Day 4; nature activities and puzzle, Poetry: Longed-for Fruit, At Home in the Heart



Summer 1995, Vol. 2, No. 2 - sold out
Intense Silence - Riding Mountain; Seashells; Butterflies; Gardens: Butterfly Conservatories & Societies; Bountiful Barbecues Recipes; Creative Artist: Myrtle Findley - flower arranging; Creation Day 5 Part 1 Fish; nature activities and puzzle, Poetry: A Summer Morn, Transformation, Unexpected Dinner Guests



Fall 1995, Vol. 2, No. 3 - sold out
Gracious Grasslands; All We Like Sheep; Guadalupe Mountains National Park; Creative Artist: James McClelland - Wildlife watercolor artist; Wholesome Holiday Accents Recipes; Home Creativity: a Michigan home; Creation Day 5 Part 2 - birds; nature activities and puzzle; Poetry: Reflections and Peaceful Wisdom



Winter 1996, Vol. 2, No. 4 - sold out
On the Wings of an Bald Eagle; Crystal Clear Wisdom; Rainbows of Rock at Arches NP; Delightful Desserts Recipes; Home Creativity: Wilderness Life in Montana; Creative Artist: Virginia Everett Davidson - stained glass; Creation Day 6 Part 1 Wild Animals; nature activities and puzzle; Poetry: Diamonds in the Outfield, Sleigh Ride



Spring 1996, Vol. 3, No. 1 - sold out
Olympic National Park; Fascinating Ferns; Canine Companions; Filipino Recipes; Home Creativity: A Log Home; Creative Artist: Voni Crom - wildlife art; Creation Day 6 Part 2 - domestic animals and beasts; nature activities and puzzle, Poetry: Field of Dreams and Newborn



Summer 1996, Vol. 3, No. 2 - sold out
Confessions of a Snorkeler - Tropical fish; Puerto Rico Reprieve; Sand Shifting; Creative Artist: Severt Andrewson - painter; Mexican Memories Recipes; Home Creativity: Hawaii home; Creation Day 6 Part 3 - insects and creeping things; nature activities and puzzle, Poetry: Diamonds and Lace and Loon Call by Elma Helgason



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Grand Tetons National Park; Pine Cone Providence; Feline Friends; Creative Artist: Bev Condy - Wool Spinning art; Simple Holiday Accents Recipes; Home Creativity: A Haven of Restoration, Loomis, CA; Creation Day 6 Part 4 - Humans; The Awe-Inspiring Eye; nature activities and puzzle; Poetry: Life Cycles and Flight



Winter 1997, Vol. 3, No. 4 - sold out
Blessings on the Wind - Clouds; Hopping with Abundance - Rabbits; Antarctica; Creative Artist: Ding Teuling - Chalk artist and preacher; Flavors of Nepal Recipes; Home Creativity: A Wilderness Dream home in Montana; Creation Day 7 - Rest; nature activities and puzzle; Poetry: Dripping Ice and Trust



Spring 1997, Vol. 4, No. 1 - sold out
Birdwatching Getaways; Sweeter Than Honey and the Honeycomb; The Diary of the Morning Doves; Creative Artist: Harry Anderson - Religious artist's last interview; Great Greek Recipes; Home Creativity: North Carolina; Creation Day 1 - Light; nature activities and puzzle; Poetry: Daisy Delights and Flower Beds



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Like As A Father - lessons from Quail fathers, Montana Horse Packing Trip; Springs of Life - fresh water springs; Creative Artist: Dale Huett - rock cutter art; Summer Salad Sensations Recipes; Home Creativity: An Alaska Dream Home; Creation Day 2 - Firmament; nature activities and puzzle; Poetry: Songbird Symphony, Buckets of Fun



Fall 1997, Vol. 4, No. 3 - sold out
Watchers in the Night - owls; Mushrooms - Jewels of the Forest; Pedaling along the Oregon Coast; Creative Artist: Nancy Kochenower - watercolor portrait art; Harvest Party Buffet Recipes; Gardens: vegetable gardening; Creation Day 3; Children Story: How Much are You Worth?; nature activities and puzzle, Poetry: Glory Aglow, Headed Home



Winter 1998, Vol. 4, No. 4 - sold out
Lethargy - Hibernating Animals; Elusive Frost; Gulf Island National Seashore, Florida; Home Creativity: a Florida home; Creative Artist: Spencer Williams - wildlife art; Plentiful Pies Recipes; Creation Day 4; Children's Story; photo contest, nature activities, and puzzle; Poetry: A Taste of Heaven

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Be Ye Transformed - Monarch Butterfly; In His Time - how a flower opens; California's Cape Mendocino; Creative Artist: Barry Stebbing - art teacher; Help for the Hurried Recipes; Home Creativity: an old Arkansas home restored; Day 5 Part 1 - Fish; Children's Story; photo contest, nature activities, and puzzle; Poetry: Pause and Reflect, Rhythmic Runoff, and Springtime Joys



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I Held a Hummingbird in My Hand; Everglades National Park; Planters of Trees - Arboretum; Creation Day 5 Part 2 - Birds; Creative Artist: Nathan Green - biblical art; Summer Veggie Sensations Recipes; Children's story; photo contest nature activities, and puzzle; Poetry: Rose of Sharon, and No Fear



Fall 1998, Vol. 5, No. 3 - \$9.99 (8 left)

Secrets of the Fox; Ascending Borneo's Mt. Kinabalu; Sowing for the Harvest - wheat farming; Creation Day 6 Part 1 - Wild Animals; Creative Artist: Burney Tompkins - woodcarving art; Muffins and More Recipes; Children's story: What Do You See in an Acorn?; photo contest, nature activities, and puzzle; Poetry: Loving the Unlovely, and Laughing Children



Winter 1999, Vol. 5, No. 4 - sold out

Bison on the Brink; Canoeing the Orange River, South Africa; Cranberry Farming; Creation Day 6 Part 2 - Cattle; Creative Artist: Mike and Pam Rozell - pottery art and vocals; Cranberry Creations Recipes; Children's Story: A Modern Day Shepherd; photo contest, nature activities; Poetry: Flakes of Grace



Spring 1999, Vol. 6, No. 1 - sold out

A Passion to Play - River Otters; Canoeing in Algonquin National Park; What's the Point? - Cacti; Creation Day 6 Part 3 - Insects; Creative Artist: Vernon Nye - Watercolor and illustrator; Twisted Vines - Bound, Twisted Together, and Held Fast; Peppy Pepper Brunch Recipes; Children's story: Mother and Father Robin; photo contest, nature activities, and puzzle; Poetry



Summer 1999, Vol. 6, No. 2 - sold out

Messengers from the Deep - Dolphins; Hiking Mount Rainier National Park; Africa's Amazing Oat Grass; Creation Day 6 Part 4 - Human Bones; Home Creativity: From City to Country Living; Gardens: Color in the Shadows; Fourth of July Treats Recipes; Children's story: God's Mighty Earthworm; photo contest, nature activities, and puzzle; Poetry



Fall 1999, Vol. 6, No. 3 - sold out

Redwoods - Sentinels to Time; Crab Spiders; Pawnee Buttes National Grasslands; Creation Day 7 - Rest; Creative Artist: Juan Pena - watercolors; Luscious Legumes Recipes; Gardens: Weed Trials; Children's Story: Give them a Mountain; photo contest, nature activities, and puzzle; Poetry: Through the Eyes of a Child, Autumn People, A Taste of Heaven, and Neighbors



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Dragons of Paradise - Dragonflies; Wondrous Wood - the wood of Noah's Ark; Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge; Creation Day 2 - Firmament; Life's Simple Streams; Gardens: Wisely Garden in Surrey, England; Wraps Around the World Recipes; Children's Story: Lost Hikers in the Great Smoky Mountains; photo contest nature activities, and puzzle; Poetry: Rock of Ages



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Fear No Evil - Grizzly Bears; Sonic Bloom - sound and plants; Denali and Wrangell-St. Elias National Parks; Creation Day 3 - Land and Plants; Gardens: Gardening is for the Birds; Raw Summertime Snacks Recipes; Children's Story: Hooked on Cockleburs - Nature and Velcro; photo contest, nature activities, and puzzle; Poetry: Psalm 23, Noah's Dove, and Morning Hour



Fall 2000, Vol. 7, No. 3 - sold out

A Myriad of Minerals - rocks and minerals; Snorkeling at Virgin Islands National Park; The Lowly Ant; Creation Day 4 - Sun, Moon, & Stars; My Walk with God: Mountain and Urban Mornings; Grapes Galore Recipes; Children's Story: Clark's Nutcracker and the Pine; photo contest, nature activities, and puzzle; Poetry: Mineral Meditation, Life's Trials, and Thanksgiving Glow



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A Humble Servant -The Donkey; A Bermuda Collage; Winter Sweetness - Maple Syrup; Creation Day 6 Part 4 - Creation of Humans by Jasmine Jacob; Gardens: Creation's Symphony - music and nature; Steaming Stews Recipes; Wounded Angel - a frozen likeness; Children's Story: Snowflake Bentley; photo contest, nature activities, puzzle, and study guide; Poetry: The Climb, Scarlet Snow, and Camouflage

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We Can't Rest in the Nest - Bald Eagles; Wilderness Way Adventures for Youth; Pearls of Wisdom; Creation Day 7 - Rest by Floyd Saylor; Creative Artist: Tom Coleman - sand sculptor; A Beach Prayer; Tropical Treats Recipes; Children's Story: A Time to Fly - Butterflies; photo contest, nature activities, puzzle, and study guide; Poetry: Heavenly Rest

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Saving the Santa Rosa; Consider the Birds; The Doctor's Prescription - healing in nature; Creation Day 1 - Light by Floyd Saylor; Relish & Spreads Recipes; Gardens: Biblical Gardens; Children's Story: God's Grace on feeding birds; photo contest, nature activities, puzzle, and study guide; Poetry: Harvest Time, Fear Not

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Songsters of the Deep - Humpback Whales; Olive Tree Splendor; Creation Day 4 - Sun, Moon, and Stars by Floyd Saylor; Gardens: Life from Decay; Oceans Reveal His Power and Glory; Summer Salsa Recipes; Children's story: Fill up Flicker Learns to Obey; photo contest, nature activities, puzzle, and study guide; Poetry: The Garden of Life

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Bounty of the Barren Lands, Nunavut Territory; Przewalski Horse Providence; A Creation Day 6 Part 3 - humans, larynx, tongue, and the deaf by J. Poirier, E. Helgason, E. Doss; The First Snowfall; Sweet Treats Recipes, Children's Story: Orphaned Baby Raccoons Rescued; photo contest, nature activities, puzzle, and study guide; Poetry: Trapped

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Go to Africa - Adventure in Tanzania; Storms of Life; Creation Day 6 Part 1 - Animals on Tarsiers, Monkeys, Primates by David Ekkens, PhD; The Hem of His Garment; Chili Cookoff Recipes; Children's Story: Moonbeams; photo contest, nature activities, puzzle, and study guide; Poetry: Band of Angels and Snowflakes

**Spring 2009, Vol. 16, No. 1 - \$4.99**

Frozen Frogs? by Tom Hennigan; Creation Down Under - Exploring Australia; A Creation Day 6 Part 2 - Creeping Things by Rowena Rick; The Power of Pasque Flowers - the passion of Christ; Spring Roll Recipes; Children Story: Walk Together; photo contest, nature activities, puzzle, and study guide; Poetry: Like a Jewel

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Glimpses of Light - reflects, refracts, transmits; The Great One - flying over Denali; Creation Day 6 part 3 - Humans by Richard Spillman; Gardens: Consider the Daylilies; Plentiful Peach Recipes; Children Story: The Whole Armor of God - turtles; photo contest, nature activities, puzzle, and study guide; Poetry: Summer Delight and Summer Memories

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Creation Day 4: The Heavens Declare His Glory by James Burr
Creation Day 5 Part 1: Let The Waters Abound by Larry Javorsky
Creation Day 5 Part 2: No Rest in the Nest by Lonnie Melashenko
Creation Day 6: Animals, Creeping Things, and Humans by Terry McComb
Creation Day 7: A Memorial to Creation and The Rat Race vs. True Rest by Floyd Saylor
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The Red River Gorge - Kentucky's Natural Bridge State Park; Bear Essential - black bears; Creation Day 1 - Light by Sharon Van Biljon with Jennifer Ish; Gardens: The Sanctified Seasons; Coconut Creation Recipes; Children Story: Finding the Creator Who Can't Be Seen; photo contest, nature activities, puzzle, and study guide; Poetry: Wildflowers

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To The Top - Climbing Mt. Whitney; The Perfect Mix - stagnant vs. fresh bodies of water; Creation Day 2 - Firmament by Edmond W. Holroyd, III, PhD; Ovenbird Theology - teacher, teacher, teacher; Gardens: Feeding Your Garden - soil nutrients; Memorable Melons Recipes; Children Story: God's Night Light - Fireflies; photo contest, nature activities, puzzle, and study guide; Poetry: God's Enchanting Garden

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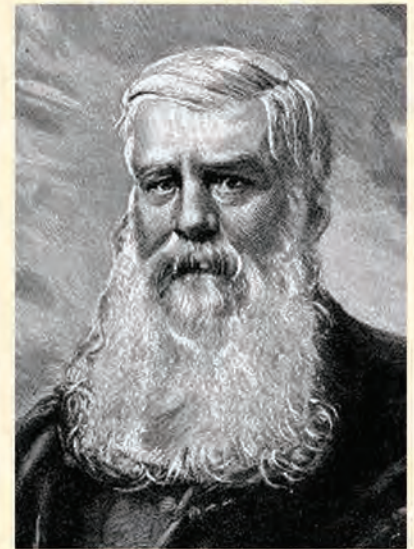
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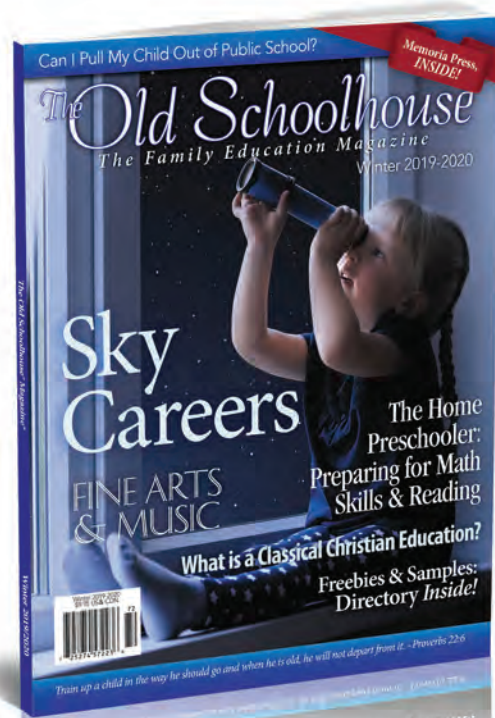
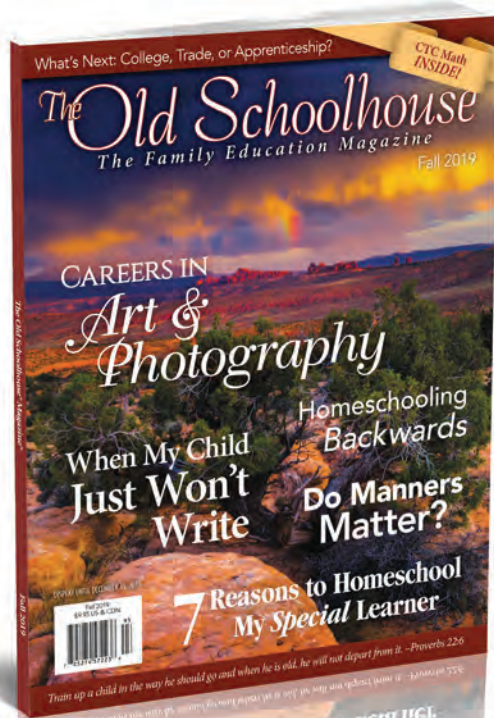
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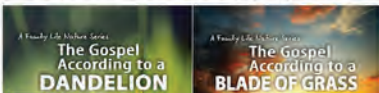
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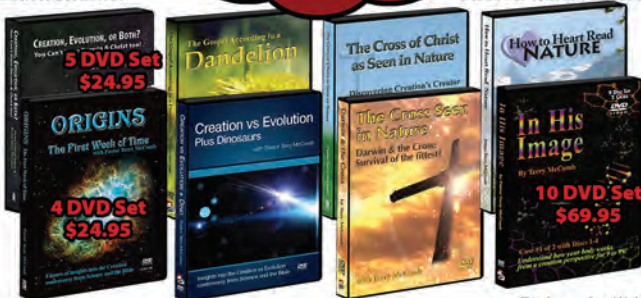


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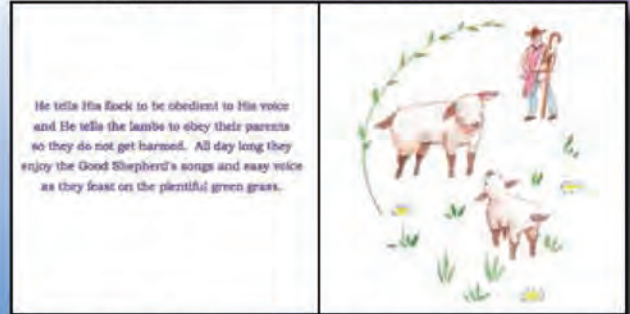
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A scenic landscape featuring a mountain range in the background under a blue sky with wispy clouds. The middle ground is dominated by a dense forest of trees with vibrant autumn foliage in shades of red, orange, and yellow. In the foreground, a field of tall, golden-brown grass is populated by a flock of sheep, some white and some black, grazing peacefully.

Our God, our Creator, Provider, and Friend,
Your blessings are countless, Your love, knows no end.
The earth yields its bounties, the great oceans teem,
And mountains and valleys in majesty gleam.

With love You created each bright living thing:
The deer in the thicket, the bird on the wing.
The lamb and the lion and fox and the hare
Attest to Your infinite wisdom and care.

The planets in orbit, the star-spangled skies,
The seasons, with balance and harmony, rise.
A joyful oblation and heavens record:
Almighty, eternal, omnipotent Lord!

O gentle Creator, Sustainer, and Friend,
In grateful devotion our praises ascend.
Your lovely Creation we'll cherish anew,
And by it be drawn ever closer to You.

— Barbara Adam
(reprinted from Fall 2009)



Bianna Barrett

***“He has made
everything beautiful
in its time.
He has also set
eternity in the
human heart; yet no
one can fathom what
God has done from
beginning to end.”***

– Ecclesiastes 3:11

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