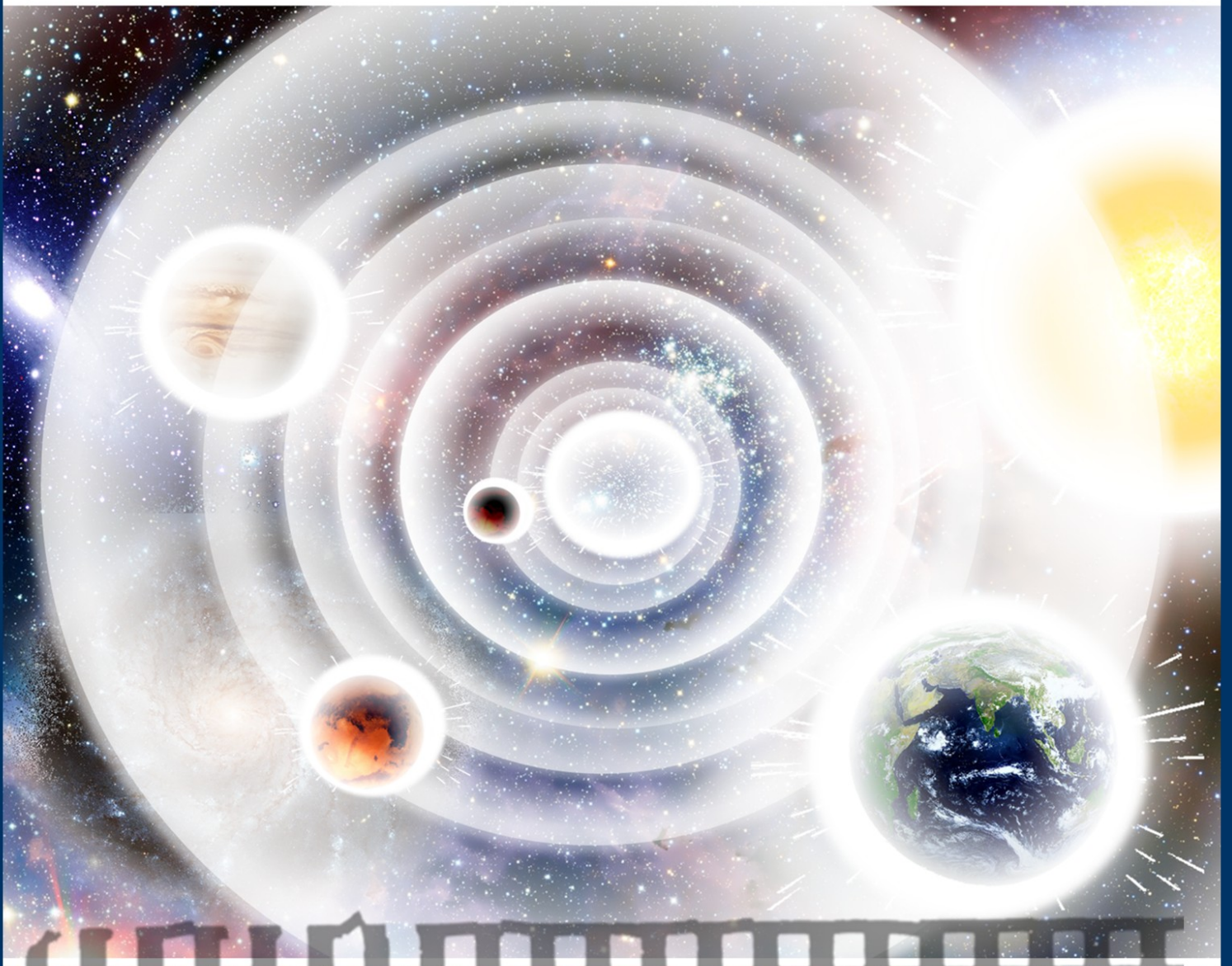


- CREATION -

"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse."

(Romans 1:20)



Berean Lamp Ministries
For the Body of Christ

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The Seven Churches (Revelation 2-3)

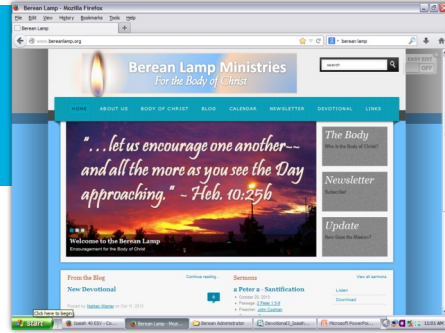


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The Berean Lamp Ministry seeks to:

1. Encourage and strengthen the Body of Christ by providing the means for each of its members to share their spiritual gifts with one another, rooted in the Word of God, thereby growing into deeper union with one another and with Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12-31).
2. Minister to non-believers; be a witness for Christ and a testimony to His Body in the world.

We would appreciate your help in contributing to the content and in spreading the work of this ministry. Thank you, and God bless.

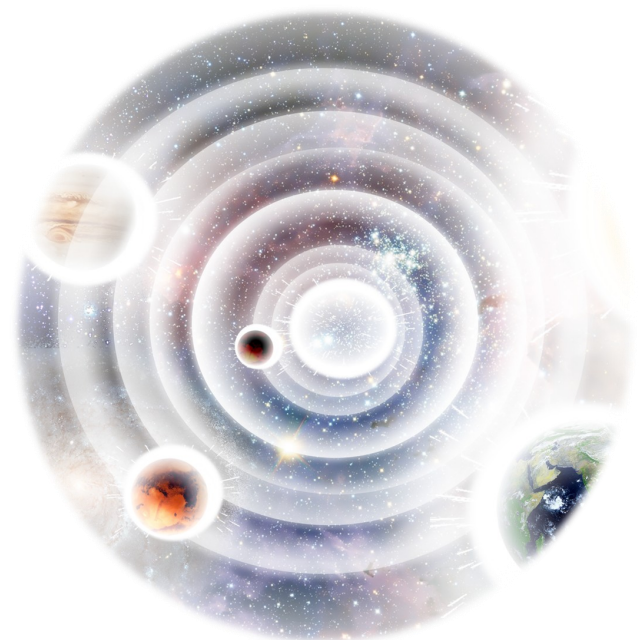
- Pastor Scott Moller

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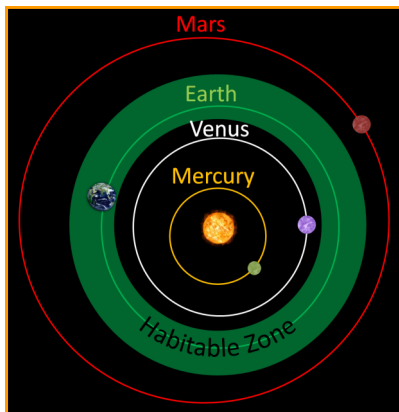


Excerpts in God's Creation: OUR SOLAR SYSTEM

By Nathan Warner

*"In the beginning, God created the Heavens
and the earth." (Genesis 1:1 NASB)*

The Earth is the only planet orbiting the Sun in what Scientists call the "habitable zone" - a

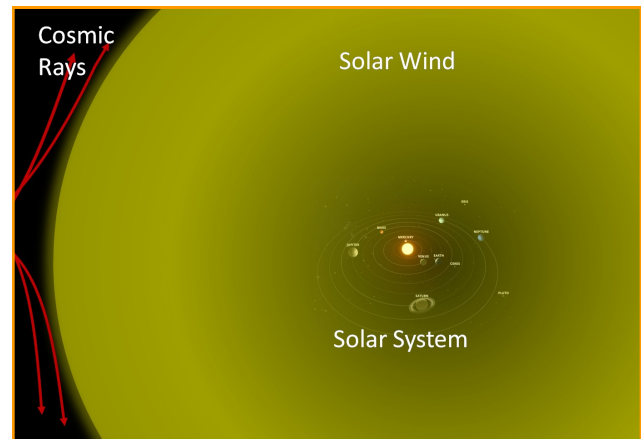


narrow band in our solar system that is the perfect distance from the Sun to receive just the right amount of heat from the Sun for liquid water to form and sustain life. Venus and Mercury are too close to the Sun and too hot to support life, while

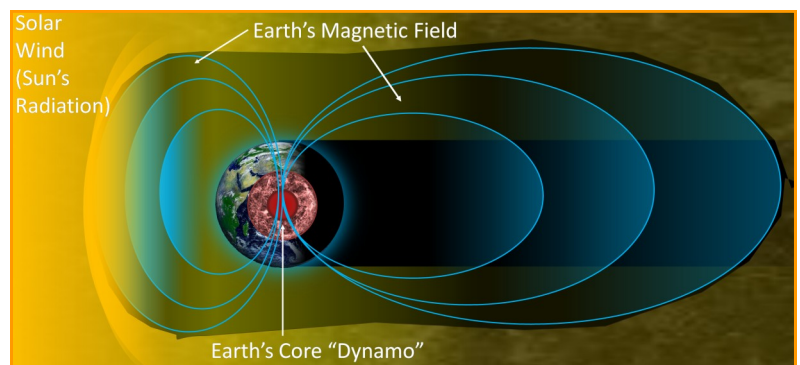
Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune, and Uranus (and Pluto) are too far away and too cold.

All stars, including our Sun, are thought to be nuclear fusion engines, designed to produce large amounts of radiation (visible and invisible light), providing warmth and illumination in the Universe. Our Sun produces radiation that Earth's atmosphere and magnetic field are designed to safely filter, so that only good heat and light can reach the surface of the earth.

While the Sun's radiation can be dangerous, it also serves as vital protection to Earth. The plasma flowing from the sun blows through our solar system like a "wind" (scientists call it the "solar wind"). This wind blows 90% of our Galaxy's dust and super dangerous radiation (cosmic rays) away from Earth and the other planets. This cosmic radiation is much more dangerous to Earth than the Sun's radiation. In this way, the Sun "shepherds" its planets from many dangers in the Universe.



Scientists have found evidence that the center of the earth (the core) acts like an electric dynamo. They believe the inner core is solid iron, surrounded by an outer core of liquid iron. The hot liquid iron "boils" in convection patterns around the solid core. Coupled with electrical currents, this produces a magnetic field around the earth that extends out into space (what a magnetic compass senses). This magnetic field is a vital shield, redirecting dangerous, charged radiation from the Sun and the universe around and away from the Earth. So, the perfectly designed dynamo inside the center of the Earth produces a "deflector" shield for the planet, which allows life to exist on the surface of Earth. Scientists believe the lifeless, irradiated surface of Mars came about because its inner dynamo "seized up" and the planet's magnetic field collapsed, allowing dangerous radiation to strip the viable atmosphere away. In Earth's case, everything is working just as it should. We truly live on an amazingly designed "Spaceship Earth."



Man Lives by Faith

By Nathan Warner

"It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man"
(Psalm 118:8 NKJV).

When it comes to creation, there are two main views. First, there are a growing number of people who maintain that there is no God; therefore, what we see in the natural world cannot be a "creation" but merely a chance product of natural processes. Secondly, there are those who maintain that there is a God and what we see around us is clearly His creation of a complex order maintained by natural laws.

Unfortunately, while those who maintain there is a God understand that their position requires faith, those who claim there is no God maintain that their position requires no faith but rests solely on facts.

Anyone who claims to live their lives without faith clearly has not thought their position through. Almost every aspect of our lives in-

trinsically rests on trust in someone or something.

NO MAN LIVES WITHOUT FAITH

Trust defines life on Earth. To trust means you put faith in something that cannot be proven. Probably more than any other time in human history, the modern man claims to live his life without faith. These same people say they trust only what they can know, claiming to live their lives by facts and certainties; but in actuality, their entire lives are built on faith—faith in things other than God.

Mankind cannot live without faith. For example, if you see, hear, or read something, you either BELIEVE it is true or not. Even if you check with an "expert" or society's consensus, you are taking their word on faith, because you do not know if they made a mistake, are telling you the truth, or even know the answer. Mistakes, frauds, criminals, and conspiracies wreak havoc of "certainty." Sin forces us to trust in things, because if the world wasn't a dangerous place, we wouldn't need faith. But



By Nathan Warner

since there are rockslides, tsunamis, blizzards, rattlesnakes, bears, viruses, car accidents, airplane crashes, and the like, we step out into life each day taking our lives in our hands. Similarly, if people's natures weren't sinful, there would never be any danger in our interaction with them. But because our natures are sinful, we must employ some measure of trust with every person we meet.

Furthermore, when we were children, we had to completely trust our parents because we had no experience. We didn't know a grapefruit from a hand-grenade. As adults, we trust what we trust through repeatability, society's assurance, and ignorance. We trust a car mechanic's work, our pilot's education, that the cook at a restaurant washed his hands, and that our babysitter is mentally stable. Even a burglar breaks into a house in faith that he has chosen his time well and will not be met by an angry homeowner with a shotgun. Everyone has some measure of faith in their health, abilities, and strengths for success, and yet these things can fail us at any moment as they do in old age. If we're really honest with ourselves, we know we take everything around us on FAITH.

Everyday, people put their lives in the hands of others, and everyday, people die because the things they put their faith in fail them. Why? *"Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind And makes flesh his strength, And whose heart turns away from the Lord"* (Jeremiah 17:5), for *"the fear of man brings a snare"* (Proverbs 29:25a). God is saying people who trust in the flesh are already doomed because the flesh and all it does is doomed by sin. Mankind and mankind's solutions are flawed through the effects of sin, so trusting in man always snares people because the things mankind puts his faith in will collapse suddenly in an instant (Isaiah 30:12b-13)—a reliable car becomes a death trap, a pilot makes a terrible mistake, a child dies in someone's care. Only at these moments do people realize their trust was unwarranted, but it is often too late. Ignorance is bliss until calamity strikes.

THE SCIENTIFIC FAITH

Atheists and evolutionists regularly declare they do not require faith to explain the origin and nature of the universe. Yet they inherently do. The Scientific community puts immense faith in the Scientific Method, and yet they put even more faith in ideas that fail this very method.

The Scientific Method is the backbone, or cornerstone, of what makes "science" Science. It begins when a scientist makes direct Observations which can be observed again – not a one-time thing because he has to come up with a Hypothesis to explain his Observation, and then he needs to test that Hypothesis to see if it can account for the Observation he saw to begin with. Often, our Hypotheses don't produce the same Observation that we saw, so we need to form a new Hypothesis to test and see if it can explain the Observation. This goes on and on, until one of our Hypotheses repeatedly delivers the same Observation to the point that it becomes a Theory to explain the Observation.

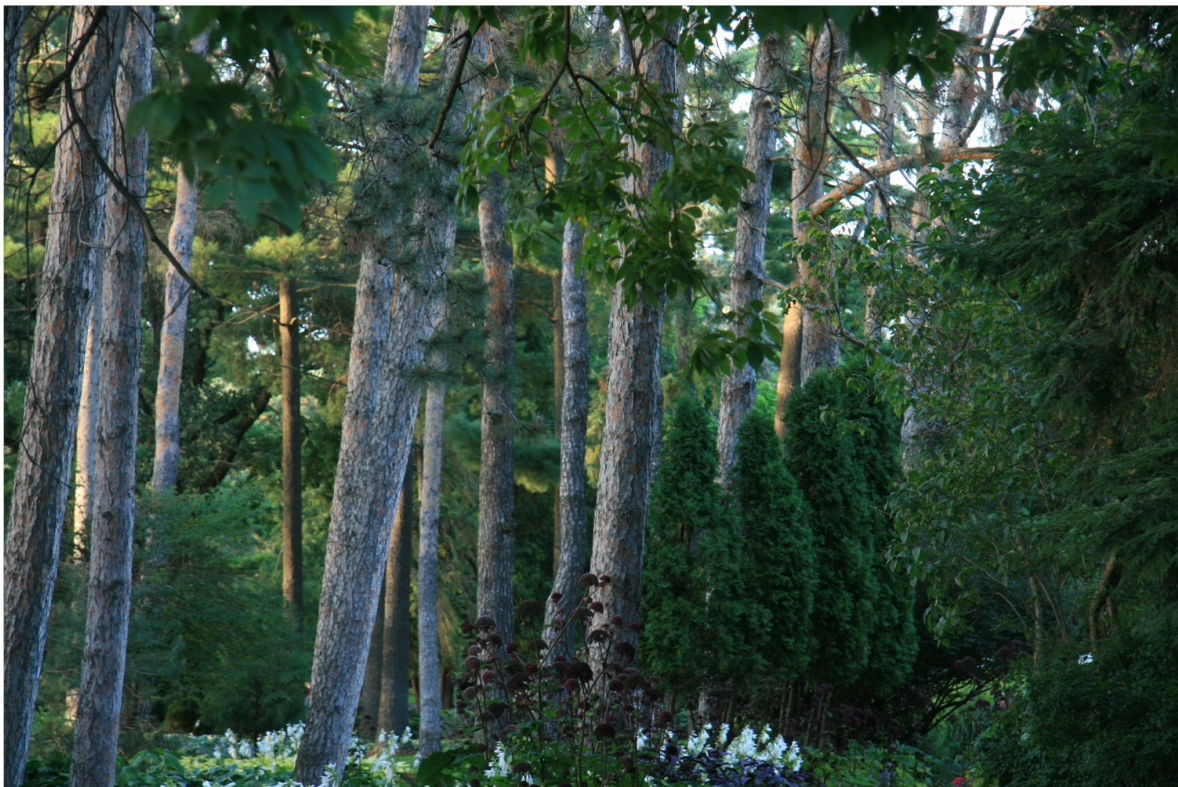
For example, a man walking outside his home makes the Observation that a light turns on and then turns off inside the house. He doesn't know which light it is, but he wants to know, so he forms a Hypothesis. "It must be the kitchen light!" he declares. In order to test his Hypothesis, he goes inside and turns on the kitchen light and returns back outside. But he doesn't Observe the same light coming from the house, so his Hypothesis is wrong. He forms a new Hypothesis: "Maybe it is the living room light!" So he tests that by going inside and flipping the living room switch on before returning outside. But he doesn't Observe the same light. So he forms another Hypothesis: "I bet I know! It is the bedroom light!" So he does the same for the bedroom light switch, and sure enough, when he returns outside he Observes the same light that he first saw. Now, he repeats going inside and flipping the bedroom light switch on and off until he is absolutely convinced his Hypothesis explains the Observation that he saw. "It had to be the bedroom light switch that caused the

light I saw” he declares. Now he has a Theory about what caused his Observation, after testing his Hypothesis repeatedly to produce the same Observation. It is not a fact, but a Theory, because there is still the chance that some other event as yet un-hypothesized actually caused the light he saw. Through this whole process, the man puts faith in his assumptions that brought him to the Theory that he puts his trust in.

Every Theory is open to challenge because applying the Scientific Method requires us to make assumptions, and as flawed humans, we oftentimes bring our presumptions and bias into our work. Apart from this, we also are vulnerable to making errors. So, theories are always open to new interpretation – and given enough time we see established Theories amended, changed, and replaced by new ones – this fact should caution Scientists from claiming they “know” things or to talk in terms of “facts” because their own profession regularly does away with old “facts” and what they used to “know” was “true.” So, even in applying the Scientific Method correctly, there are

assumptions being employed and faith is placed in those assumptions, which often prove to be incorrect.

Let’s take a moment to look at the faith we need to trust radiometric dating methods, which scientists claim as irrevocable proof that the Bible is wrong but which don’t even meet the requirements of the Scientific Method. Scientists have observed in the last 150 years that a radioactive isotope shoots out a high energy photon (radiation) repeatedly at the same time interval (just like the seconds-hand of a clock “ticks” the time away at the same regular interval). Over those 150 years, we have not observed much variation in the “ticking” of the isotope. So, Scientists agree to assume that it has always been constant and never changes, because they can’t think of anything that would change it. They use these radiometric clocks to “date” rocks back to 4.5 billion years by “winding back the clock,” so to speak. But they are assuming the clock didn’t run out of batteries, have a short, speed up, or slow down. They assume it hasn’t varied or changed at all in billions and billions of years. But how can



By Nathan Warner

they test that hypothesis? They can't! You would need a time-machine to travel back to the date the "clock" gave you for when the rock was formed and see if the rock actually forms at that date. This is the only way that we can test the hypothesis that radiometric dating actually works past the 150 years we've been observing its time-keeping. But no one has built a time machine, so we can't test the method or calibrate it.

Using our example of the man and the light switch, how would the man come to a Theory to explain which light switch turned on the light in his house, if he had to stay outside? He couldn't! Any ideas he would come up with to explain the light he saw would be just that – ideas, because they are not testable Hypotheses.

I once asked one of my Geology professors, "But isn't all this based on fallible assumptions?" concerning his claim that the radiometric "clocks" work exactly as we observe today past our ability to test them in the "billions" of years they claim have transpired. My professor nodded and said in his Swiss accent, "Yes, they are assumptions, and they may not even be good assumptions, but Science has to start with assumptions, and so we start with the best assumptions we can think of, but that doesn't mean they are correct." This is a wise warning for anyone trusting in science for the Truth. However, in this case, it isn't even Science because it doesn't meet the requirements of the Scientific Method. They are ideas – maybe good ideas, but just ideas.

THE FAITH OF ASTRONOMERS, GEOLOGISTS, AND BIOLOGISTS

There are at least three main fields of scientific study that regularly claim to have Theories about the natural universe, which cannot be theories because they could not have directly tested their Hypotheses, which supposedly led to the Theories. The three Science fields that regularly fail the Scientific Method are Astronomy, Evolutionary Biology, and Geology. Scientists in these fields regularly claim to "know" things about the natural uni-

verse, which they cannot truly know, because they cannot directly employ the Scientific Method. Why? Because man is limited in space/time. What does that mean? Well, regarding space, the things we want to test are too far away or impossible to reach currently, so we cannot directly observe or test them (i.e. the center of the earth, far away stars, etc). In the case of time, the events happened so long ago that there is no way for us to directly observe/test them without a time-machine, or the ideas we come up with to explain something would require so much time to work that we cannot live long enough to observe and test whether or not it is true (i.e. radiometric dating, Pangaea, Darwinian Evolution, etc).

It is interesting to note that these three fields (Astronomy, Biology, and Geology) are the primary ones used to provide "evidence" against the existence of God and, in particular, the God of the Bible. Yet, these fields are flawed because, for Geology and Evolutionary Biology, the timescales are far too long for us to directly observe what supposedly happened. The Geologist cannot observe the events he claims happened billions of years ago. And his "evidence" of fossil records or rock formations is not direct observations of phenomena that can be tested. For example, if the geologist says that various layers of sediment represent millions or even billions of years, how do we test this? We can't, because, if as they claim, each layer took thousands of years to produce, we can't observe it happening because our lifetimes are too short. Yet, all the Geologists agree that it is a good idea and that their assumptions are good assumptions. This is fine, so long as it isn't done under the blessing of the Scientific Method, because it isn't strict Science because it cannot be directly observed as it is happening. It is undermined by interpretation, assumptions, presuppositions, etc.

In the same way, Biologists admit that the biological idea that they claim evolves kinds into different kinds (i.e. dinosaurs into chickens) takes far too long for us to be able to directly observe it in process, so we cannot test the idea of Darwinian Evolution. In the case of Astronomy, the distances are often too great

for us to be able to accurately measure and observe the phenomena in a way that would satisfy the Scientific Method for our claims that we know anything about the Universe – to claim we know what the Universe is doing (or has done) is completely untenable speculation – maybe good ideas, but not theories or facts.

Scientists need to be honest with themselves and others. They need to admit that they really don't know nearly as much as they claim they do. If Scientists want to say, "We really don't know SCIENTIFICALLY, but here is our best guess based on our remote sensing techniques or assumptions" that is all good and fine – just don't call it Science, because the Scientific Method cannot directly apply. Unfortunately, the scientific community regularly misleads the public by claiming to have theories and facts and laws about which, we actually cannot observe or test. They inherently place FAITH in this un-testable guesswork. And they in turn are also hostile towards people of faith.

WHO SHOULD WE PUT OUR FAITH IN?

Now, that we've established that the atheist and the Believer both live by faith, the question is, "What do you want to put your faith in?" Do we place faith in fallible mankind and his beliefs that are always changing decade after decade? Or do we place faith in the Holy testimony of an infallible God, Who does not change with time? The question is a serious one as we are all on a journey towards death, when the truth will be plain.

Every day, people trust in others and in things to keep them from death. They listen to warnings and trust experts on safety, yet they do not trust the Words of God about the deadly peril of sin and the eternal cost in hell if they do not repent. They do not trust God's own Son, Who is the only expert on sin, death, and life, having taken all sin upon Himself, having died, and having risen again. *"Without faith [in God] it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him"* (Hebrews 11:6), yet people would rather believe man and entrust their lives to strangers.

We will always be disappointed in man, for his flaws will fail us, but as for Jesus, *"the Scripture says, 'Whoever believes in Him will not be disappointed'"* (Romans 10:11), for Jesus is *"without sin"* (Hebrews 4:15); thus, *"he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted"* (Proverbs 29:25b) *"in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began"* (Titus 2:1). While people trust their lives to men and man's keys to problems, let's trust our lives to Jesus, Who actually has the keys of hell and death (Revelation 1:18). Amen.

Excerpts in God's Creation: VOICE OF THE HEAVENS

By Nathan Warner

"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims His handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. Their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world" (Psalm 19:1-4a ESV).

The universe's "silent speech" was not heard by mankind until the 20th century when we developed ways to "listen" to energy waves by converting them to sound (just like your radio picks up radio waves in the air and converts them to sound with speakers). When Scientists turned their antennas to the Heavens, they discovered a very noisy and musical universe—from the rapid "drum" beat of pulsar stars to the "underwater" sounds of our galaxy. When we launched the space probe Voyager 1 in 1977, we listened closely to the planets of our solar system as the probe flew by. We "heard" for the first time the majestic brass tones of Jupiter, the foreboding "music" of Saturn, and the beautiful choral tones of Earth sending out a symphony of life into space. To listen for yourself, do a search online for "Voyager Planet Sounds."

A New Creation

By Ginny Larsen

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

(2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV)

"For neither circumcision counts for anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation."

(Galatians 6:15)

"For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10)

"And to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." (Ephesians 4:24)

"For by Him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through Him and for Him." (Colossians 1:16)

By Him – that is, Jesus Christ – all things were created – those things that are evident to our eyes, that we can see, that we can touch, that we can understand. The invisible things also, the spiritual things, the things we cannot see, or understand, or touch – those things He also created. Mankind, the most miraculous creation of all, has a very hard time believing or grasping spiritual things, because they are unseen, yet the evidence is there (John 3:5-8). It is such a mystery that it is very often totally missed or misunderstood, even by those who are God's children. This is the miracle of the new creation that He creates within every man or woman who comes to Him in faith, when they are convicted of sin and their need for a



Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
2 Cor. 5:17

By Ginny Larsen

Savior. He makes an entirely new creation in them. It is not seen. It is many times not even felt. But the results of this new creation are just as real and valid as those things He created that we see clearly with our eyes. It is not a mental condition, or an emotional condition, or some philosophy one has adopted. It is not of our own works. No human can create it (John 1:12-13). It is not a religion or a new way of thinking, though it certainly does change our old way of thinking. This new life in us is an entire new creation that comes completely from outside of us.

Many think to be a Christian means you join a church and do good works, live the best you can toward your fellow man, and give to the church or the needy – or to partake of certain rituals. Some think to just say a prayer to receive Jesus means they are “in” and are assured of eternal life, as though there were some magic in that prayer that the very words spoken somehow obligates God to accept. None of these things can produce the very real thing that God alone can do in a person’s heart, which makes them His child. Only He can create new life. Only He is the creator. The new birth is His creation, and the life that is created is His life, not anything of ourselves. Just as these bodies of ours are very tangible and cannot cease to exist once born, the new life that is created inside of the child of God cannot cease to exist once created. It is a very real creation. It has substance. It is “incorruptible,” since you have been born again, *“not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God”* (1 Peter 1:23).

What does this new creation bring? How do we know we have had that happen? As Colossians 1:16 says, it is created by Him and for Him. It is His life in us which will produce a new heart, a new will, a new desire toward the things that please God (Ezekiel 36:26; Jeremiah 32:39). He does not take away our will but regenerates or creates it anew, as we have died with Him to ourselves, and have been resurrected with Him to *“newness of life”* (Romans 6:7-11). It will produce a knowledge of the sin that displeases Him and a

desire to please Him. Without that, if left in our flesh, we could never please God nor even desire to do so (Romans 8:6-9). It will produce fruit – the fruit of the Spirit that lives in us, which only comes from the Spirit and not from the sinful, selfish nature of man (Galatians 5:18-24). This new creation comes about in us as we respond to the Spirit’s conviction (convincing) of the sin that we are guilty of, the penalty of that sin, and the condition it leaves us in – of being totally lost for eternity and separated from God. We respond to that conviction by putting our faith in Who Jesus is – God the Son – Who came as man to take on our sin and pay the penalty, and we trust in Him to forgive us, justify us from our sin, and put His Spirit within us to make us His own child. We are then born again. A new creation has been made – something that did not exist before. It was not our own doing. We are now created “in Christ Jesus.” It is such a marvelous thing that we cannot grasp or comprehend it. We are now seen “in Christ” and He in us. Christ in us is our hope of glory, not our works (Colossians 1:27).

Though we have this wonderful new nature (the very nature of Christ living in us) it is living within weak flesh as a great treasure (2 Corinthians 4:7) that has not been yet redeemed; therefore, the struggle is very strong. This in itself is one of the sure signs of the presence of that new nature in us. There is no struggle between flesh and Spirit unless the Spirit is there striving in you against the flesh. *“But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do”* (Galatians 5:16-17). *“If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit”* (Galatians 5:25).

We still have a responsibility to walk in step with the Spirit, to yield ourselves to His working in us, and to trust in Him. As we grow in our walk, we should become more and more sensitive to His moving in us and working in our hearts to lead us. He is our counselor, teacher, and keeper. We no longer belong to

ourselves, and He is jealous for us. If we grieve Him, He lets us know, and He chastises us. If we take a wrong path, He says to us, "No, this is the way, walk here." He promises never to leave us or forsake us but that He will be in us forever – *"And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, to be with you forever"* (John 14:16), *"for He has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you'"* (Hebrews 13:5b).

When we have confidence in this new creation, this new life within us – having been a creation of God, which is by His power and authority – we have the faith we need to rely on that very life and power in our hearts to be there to enable us to live as He would have us to, rather than seeing our walk as striving in our own power to live up to His law. It instills in us a love that grows more and more and causes our hearts to want to please Him more than ever. There have been times in my Christian walk when suddenly I'll be aware of an attitude in myself that is a complete change from where I once was, and it happened so subtly in me that I am amazed and I am aware that it did not come from me, or was not of my doing but that God formed that in me as I simply took in His Word day by day and looked to Him. It was of His new creation. I find myself rejoicing in what He did in my heart. When it is of His creation, you cannot boast, but you can rejoice in Him and His work. You know that it came from Him, not your willpower or striving to change. Sanctification is of Him, just as the new birth was of Him. It is that new creation in you, growing in you, and being formed in you as you learn to walk according to it, nothing less. Christ is being formed in all of those who He called and made new.

"For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified. What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:29-31)

What can we say then? Thank You, Jesus

for the unspeakable grace that makes me a new creation! With thanksgiving I bow to You in worship and adoration! What was birthed in me by faith is now also being formed in me by faith until that day when I will see Him face to face and be like Him, for I will see Him as He is! *"See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know Him. Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who thus hopes in Him purifies himself as He is pure"* (1 John 3:1-3).

Ultimately, one day we will be free of these bodies of death and that new creation will be clearly seen and enjoyed in His presence for all eternity!

"Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: 'Death is swallowed up in victory.' 'O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?' The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

(1 Corinthians 15:49-57)

A Scriptural Primer: CREATION

Both the Old Testament and the New Testament (Gospel of John) begin by establishing God as the creator of everything in existence. This is very important, because if God had not created the universe, the worlds, or man, then what authority does He rightly have over it all? What right does God have to decree righteousness and judgment if He has no authority over us from the beginning? His demands on man would be the demands of a conqueror, not a creator. This is why Scripture stresses again and again that God created all things, that we might understand His ownership of everything, our position under His authority from the beginning, and His authority over all created things.

GOD'S PERFECT CREATION

"In the beginning God created the heavens

and the earth. 2 The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters. 3 Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. 4 God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light day, and the darkness He called night. And there was evening and there was morning, one day.

"Then God said, 'Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.' 7 God made the expanse, and separated the waters which were below the expanse from the waters which were above the expanse; and it was so. 8 God called the expanse heaven. And there was evening and there was morning, a second day.

"Then God said, 'Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear'; and it was so. 10 God called the dry land earth, and the gathering of the waters He called seas; and God saw that it was good. 11 Then God said, 'Let the earth sprout vegetation, plants yielding seed, and fruit trees

"For behold, I CREATE new heavens and a NEW earth; And the former THINGS will not be remembered or COME to mind."

(Isaiah 65:17)



on the earth bearing fruit after their kind with seed in them'; and it was so. 12 The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, after their kind; and God saw that it was good. 13 There was evening and there was morning, a third day.

"Then God said, 'Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years; 15 and let them be for lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth'; and it was so. 16 God made the two great lights, the greater light to govern the day, and the lesser light to govern the night; He made the stars also. 17 God placed them in the expanse of the heavens to give light on the earth, 18 and to govern the day and the night, and to separate the light from the darkness; and God saw that it was good. 19 There was evening and there was morning, a fourth day.

"Then God said, 'Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth in the open expanse of the heavens.' 21 God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, with which the waters swarmed after their kind, and every winged bird after its kind; and God saw that it was good. 22 God blessed them, saying, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.' 23 There was evening and there was morning, a fifth day.

"Then God said, 'Let the earth bring forth living creatures after their kind: cattle and creeping things and beasts of the earth after their kind'; and it was so. 25 God made the beasts of the earth after their kind, and the cattle after their kind, and everything that creeps on the ground after its kind; and God saw that it was good.

"Then God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' 27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He cre-

ated him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.' 29 Then God said, 'Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you; 30 and to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that moves on the earth which has life, I have given every green plant for food'; and it was so. 31 God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day" (**Genesis 1**).

"Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts. 2 By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.

"This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made earth and heaven. 5 Now no shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the Lord God had not sent rain upon the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground. 6 But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground. 7 Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being. 8 The Lord God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed. 9 Out of the ground the Lord God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

"Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers. 11 The name of the first is Pishon; it flows around the whole land of

Havilah, where there is gold. 12 The gold of that land is good; the bdellium and the onyx stone are there. 13 The name of the second river is Gihon; it flows around the whole land of Cush. 14 The name of the third river is Tigris; it flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

“Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it. 16 The Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die.’

“Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.’ 19 Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name. 20 The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not

found a helper suitable for him. 21 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place. 22 The Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man. 23 The man said,

‘This is now bone of my bones,
And flesh of my flesh;
She shall be called Woman,
Because she was taken out of Man.’

“For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh. 25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed” **(Genesis 2).**

“This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day when God created man, He made him in the likeness of God. He created them male and female, and He blessed them and named them Man in the day when they were created” **(Genesis 5:1-2).**

*“Therefore if ANYONE is in Christ, he is a new CREATURE; the old things PASSED away; behold, new THINGS have come.”
(2 Corinthians 5:17)*



THE FALL OF CREATION

Believers praise God for His creation and marvel at the wonderful works of His hands, but they should also testify plainly that it is “ruined by the fall.” Many people don’t understand that while God created all things, the present state of creation is not as He designed – it is fallen into the futility of pain, difficulty, and death through the rebellion of mankind against God. It is a common argument of atheists against the existence of a good God that He could not have created the world where such pain and suffering exists (if He was good). They are right in as far as they understand that it would be against God’s nature to have created such a “messed up” place. However, they are wrong in ignoring the responsibility of the human race for the state of things and their personal responsibility for perpetuating it through their sinful natures. We cannot blame God for the state in which we find our world and ourselves. Let’s look at the Fall of God’s created order into the futility of sin to understand the present nature of the creation.

“Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, ‘Indeed, has God said, “You shall not eat from any tree of the garden”?’” 2 The woman said to the serpent, ‘From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; 3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, “You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.”’” 4 The serpent said to the woman, ‘You surely will not die! 5 For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ 6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

“They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ 10 He said, ‘I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.’ 11 And He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?’ 12 The man said, ‘The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.’ 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, ‘What is this you have done?’ And the woman said, ‘The serpent deceived me, and I ate.’ 14 The Lord God said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life; 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.’ 16 To the woman He said, ‘I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you.’

“Then to Adam He said, ‘Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, “You shall not eat from it”; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life. 18 Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field; 19 By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.’ 20 Now the man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all the living. 21 The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

“Then the Lord God said, ‘Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and

live forever’— 23 therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken. 24 So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life” (**Genesis 3**).

In his letter to the Romans, Paul explained the path sin leads mankind down—how man’s sin results in wrath.

“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. 21 For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

“Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, so that their bodies would be dishonored among them. 25 For they exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

“For this reason God gave them over to degrading passions; for their women exchanged the natural function for that which is unnatural, 27 and in the same way also the men abandoned the natural function of the woman and burned in their desire toward one another, men with men committing indecent acts and receiving in their own persons the due penalty of their error.

“And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are

not proper, 29 being filled with all unrighteousness, wickedness, greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 without understanding, untrustworthy, unloving, unmerciful; 32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them” (**Romans 1:18-32**).

THE FALLEN CREATION “RESET”

The sinful depravity of mankind became so terrible on the earth in such a short time that for the sake of mankind, God “reset” the world through the flood, saving Noah and his family to “start fresh.” However, this did nothing to change man’s sin nature or the effects of the fallen creation on man.

“Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. 6 The Lord was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. 7 The Lord said, ‘I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, from man to animals to creeping things and to birds of the sky; for I am sorry that I have made them.’ 8 But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord” (**Genesis 6:5-8**).

And God said, “Behold, I, even I am bringing the flood of water upon the earth, to destroy all flesh in which is the breath of life, from under heaven; everything that is on the earth shall perish. 18 But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife, and your sons’ wives with you. 19 And of every living thing of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. 20 Of the birds after their kind, and of the animals after their kind, of every creeping thing of the ground after its kind, two of every kind will

come to you to keep them alive” (**Genesis 6:17-20**).

LET ALL THE EARTH ACKNOWLEDGE
THEIR GOD AND CREATOR

“Man goes forth to his work And to his labor until evening. 24 O Lord, how many are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all; The earth is full of Your possessions. 25 There is the sea, great and broad, In which are swarms without number, Animals both small and great. 26 There the ships move along, And Leviathan, which You have formed to sport in it. They all wait for You To give them their food in due season. 28 You give to them, they gather it up; You open Your hand, they are satisfied with good. 29 You hide Your face, they are dismayed; You take away their spirit, they expire And return to their dust. 30 You send forth Your Spirit, they are created; And You renew the face of the ground. Let the glory of the Lord endure forever; Let the Lord be glad in His works” (**Psalms 104:23-31**).

“For the word of the Lord is upright, And all His work is done in faithfulness. 5 He loves righteousness and justice; The earth is full of the lovingkindness of the Lord. By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, And by the breath of His mouth all their host. 7 He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap; He lays up the deeps in storehouses. 8 Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. 9 For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast. 10 The Lord nullifies the counsel of the nations; He frustrates the plans of the peoples. 11 The counsel of the Lord stands forever, The plans of His heart from generation to generation. 12 Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, The people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance. The Lord looks from heaven; He sees all the sons of men; 14 From His dwelling place He looks out On all the inhabitants of the earth, 15 He who fashions the hearts of them all, He who understands all their works. 16 The king is not saved

by a mighty army; A warrior is not delivered by great strength. 17 A horse is a false hope for victory; Nor does it deliver anyone by its great strength. Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, On those who hope for His lovingkindness, 19 To deliver their soul from death And to keep them alive in famine. 20 Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and our shield. 21 For our heart rejoices in Him, Because we trust in His holy name. 22 Let Your lovingkindness, O Lord, be upon us, According as we have hoped in You” (**Psalms 33:4-22**).

“The heavens are Yours, the earth also is Yours; The world and all it contains, You have founded them. 12 The north and the south, You have created them; Tabor and Hermon shout for joy at Your name. 13 You have a strong arm; Your hand is mighty, Your right hand is exalted” (**Psalms 89:11-13**).

“‘To whom then will you liken Me That I would be his equal?’ says the Holy One. 26 Lift up your eyes on high And see who has created these stars, The One who leads forth their host by number, He calls them all by name; Because of the greatness of His might and the strength of His power, Not one of them is missing. Why do you say, O Jacob, and assert, O Israel, ‘My way is hidden from the Lord, And the justice due me escapes the notice of my God’? Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth Does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. 29 He gives strength to the weary, And to him who lacks might He increases power. 30 Though youths grow weary and tired, And vigorous young men stumble badly, 31 Yet those who wait for the Lord Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary” (**Isaiah 40:25-27**).

“Thus says God the Lord, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives

breath to the people on it And spirit to those who walk in it, 6 'I am the Lord, I have called You in righteousness, I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You, And I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations, 7 To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the dungeon And those who dwell in darkness from the prison. 8 I am the Lord, that is My name; I will not give My glory to another, Nor My praise to graven images'" (Isaiah 42:5-8).

GOD DECLARED THAT HE WOULD MAKE A NEW CREATION

"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; And the former things will not be remembered or come to mind" (Isaiah 65:17).

JESUS IS GOD AND CREATOR AS WELL AS BEING THE "FIRSTBORN" OF THE NEW CREATION

The Apostle John introduces us to Jesus as God and Creator to establish His authority in

the matters of earth and of man. If Jesus was not the Creator, He would not be God, and what authority then would He have over mankind? Jesus is fully God and fully man. Through His human body's resurrection and glorification, He is the "firstborn" of God's new creation. Believers are being changed by the Holy Spirit to conform to His human body's new nature.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. 5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

"There came a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light.

"There was the true Light which, coming



Islands in the Philippines

By Kelly Madsen

into the world, enlightens every man. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 John testified about Him and cried out, saying, ‘This was He of whom I said, “He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.”’ 16 For of His fullness we have all received, and grace upon grace. 17 For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him” (John 1:1-18).

“For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together” (Colossians 1:13-17).

Believers in Jesus have been reborn to be spiritually part of God’s new creation. While we are spiritually a new creature, we still are tied to this flesh of the old creation during this life, which remains fallen until the Resurrection/Rapture will change our old flesh to conform to our spiritual natures, which are being made into the image of Christ.

“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; be-

hold, new things have come” (2 Corinthians 5:17).

“If indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus, 22 that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, 23 and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth” (Ephesians 4:21-24).

“For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them” (Ephesians 2:10).

“Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, 10 and have put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him— 11 a renewal in which there is no distinction between Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and freeman, but Christ is all, and in all” (Colossians 3:9-11).

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now. 23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body” (Romans 8:18-23).

RESURRECTION AND MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST

The Resurrection is the physical realization of God's new creation for Believers that has happened in us through Christ's saving work – we are the "first fruits" of God's new creation. The rest of creation must wait for its physical change until after the Millennial reign of Christ is complete.

"But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. 21 For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, 24 then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death" **(1 Corinthians 15:20-26)**. *Regarding the resurrection, our fleshly body* "is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 So also it is written, 'The first man, Adam, became a living soul.' The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. 47 The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. 48 As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly" **(1 Corinthians 15:42-49)**.

After Believers have been resurrected (or changed in the rapture), they will reign in glorified bodies with Christ on this fallen earth for a thousand years – reigning over the survi-

vors of the Tribulation, and Jesus will restore all things to an Eden-like state (Isaiah 11:1-10). After the thousand years are complete, satan will be loosed and will lead mankind in a second rebellion against God (Revelation 20:7-15). At this point, God will end the old creation completely, destroying it by fire:

"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up. 11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat!" **(2 Peter 3:10-12)**.

THE NEW CREATION FULLY REALIZED

John was give a vision of the New Creation: "Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. 2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, 'Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, 4 and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.'

"5 And He who sits on the throne said, 'Behold, I am making all things new.' And He said, 'Write, for these words are faithful and true.' 6 Then He said to me, 'It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost. 7 He who overcomes will inherit these things, and I will be his God and he will be My son'" **(Revelation 21:1-7)**.

Even so, Amen.

The Truth of Creation

By Jane Titrud

There is a reason why the Bible begins with the stories of creation and the fall. They are both foundational to understanding God's plan of salvation, which is revealed in the rest of the Scriptures. If there were no creation, for instance, mankind would not be answerable to the Creator. Similarly, if there were no first man and no original sin resulting in death for all mankind (Rom. 5:12), there would be no need for the Son of God to come in the flesh as the second Adam (1 Cor. 15:45, 47) to die for all (2 Cor. 5:14, Heb. 10:12) in order to reconcile the world to God (2 Cor. 5:18, 19) and thereby bring about the hope of eternal life (1 Cor. 15:21, 22, 26).

The opening chapters of Genesis are that important, hence the need to defend them from attack. Evolution is such an attack. Many have become convinced through the teachings of evolution that evolution is a fact, that science is the measure of truth, and that evolution disproves the biblical account of creation.

Such ideas pose a very real threat to the gospel so they need to be addressed. The only question is how to best go about doing so.

It would seem helpful to first understand the nature of the problem. One of the reasons evolution has gained such prominence in today's world is that modern science has largely come to be defined in terms of *naturalism*. This is the notion that science must be explained in *natural* terms without any reference to the *supernatural* (i.e., God) or else it is not true science. Since creation requires a *supernatural* Creator, creation science is oftentimes rejected by the world as invalid. Creationists, on the other hand, argue that creation science is not only *real* science but *better* science because evolution is built upon faulty assumptions associated with naturalism. Yet, the scientific method, which involves testable hypotheses, is not well suited to the matter of origins in either case.

When scientists study the here and now, they are primarily concerned with discovering the natural processes involved in how things work today. In order to apply the scientific method successfully in these situations, how-



ever, all known variables must be controlled. Outside factors cannot be allowed to influence the outcome of an experiment if it is to be valid. This means that scientists must also assume that not even God will be manipulating the results. Those who believe in creation must make this assumption the same as evolutionists. But, this generally causes no conflict with biblical truth, for even though miracles can happen in everyday situations, they are rare.

Trying to study and explain the origin of all things, however, involves an entirely different set of circumstances. The focus now is no longer on the present but on the past. Also, rather than merely being concerned with *natural* processes, the question now concerns how the universe came to be. Did it come about *naturally* or through a *supernatural* act of special creation? This changes things. Now one *cannot* rule God out of the picture without introducing bias, for an act of creation would require a Creator. At the same time, one cannot conduct direct scientific experiments in the matter because one cannot go back to the beginning. Scientists also have no ability to reproduce the supernatural workings of God, nor are they able to make observations over the long periods of time supposedly involved in evolution. The familiar scientific method used by scientists in the present, consequently, does *not* directly apply to the matter of origins. Instead, the role of science in this realm is limited at best.

Researchers can still conduct experiments and gather data from the world around them to see whether the results *best* fit a scenario consistent with special creation or rather with evolution. It is just that this data must be interpreted. Nature does not directly speak to anyone. When creationists and evolutionists observe and interpret the same data, however, their conclusions differ. This is partly because creationists and evolutionists *begin* with different underlying assumptions. But it is also because they are not even asking the same questions. Creationists believe the Word of God and are, therefore, interested in confirming the original action of God. Evolutionists who are

guided by naturalistic assumptions, on the other hand, are not interested in questions about any possible action of God because most do not believe in God. They are rather interested in trying to explain how the universe came into existence *naturally*. Many Christians have thus come to think of evolution as either a “false science” or “*merely a theory*.” But, there is more to it than that.

People today have lost sight of the fact that science is an extension of philosophy. It begins with assumptions and involves logic just like other forms of reason. Only in the case of origins, the philosophical aspect of science is magnified more than usual because of experimental limitations.

Rather than being a *scientific* “theory,” therefore, evolution is better described in terms of being a *philosophical* “ordering principle”—a “framework” if you will—capable of interpreting and organizing data according to prior beliefs. Ordering principles pertain to the way the mind makes sense out of the information it takes in from the world around us.

Indeed, both creation and evolution are major ordering principles capable of assembling information and ideas into complete world views, and each requires faith. From the standpoint of the beginning, moreover, they basically represent the only two possibilities available with respect to the origin of the universe. That is, either the universe and everything we observe in it is the result of a *supernatural* act of special creation out of nothing, or else the universe came into being as the result of a *natural* event called “The Big Bang,” and natural processes supposedly took over from there.

From “The Big Bang” on, the ability of evolution to organize data around the central theme of naturalism without reference to the Bible is what has given people the impression that it is true. To many, the Bible represents religion—not science. Hence, the more evolution seems to explain, the harder it is to refute. And, many modern scientists make a career out of trying to explain everything in terms of evolutionary philosophy. This even goes beyond the biological and physical sciences to

include psychology and various social sciences. Consequently, evolution not only affects one's view of science, but it also affects lives—which no doubt has been satan's plan all along.

Human reason also figures into the picture by means of a principle known as "Occam's Razor." This principle basically says that one should not multiply explanations for any given phenomenon without warrant—all things being equal, the simplest answer tends to be the right one. Under ordinary circumstances, moreover, this generally represents sound reasoning. If a traffic light fails to work, for instance, it is better to assume that an electrical or computer problem is the culprit rather than postulating that God struck it. Applying this principle to the subject of origins, however, tends to block creationist thinking. That is because naturalistic evolutionists think in terms of *natural* explanations *always* being the *simpler* ones—indeed, they are the *better* ones.

To illustrate how Occam's Razor can be used against creationist arguments, let us consider two well-known laws of nature called "The First and Second Laws of Thermodynamics." Creationists have been citing these two laws for decades, saying that they "disprove" evolution but to no avail.

The First Law basically says that matter can neither be created or destroyed. Creationists argue that this law *requires* the action of a Creator to explain the existence of the universe we live in. Otherwise, matter would have had to naturally arise out of nothing, which this law forbids. The Second Law, in turn, says that everything tends to move from a state of order to disorder. That is, living things grow old, machines wear out, our homes get messy, etc. Once again, creationists argue that this law "disproves" the notion that "The Big Bang" could be the source of all things. "The Big Bang" was supposedly a gigantic explosion, and explosions generally result in chaos. Chaos, moreover, does not generally lead to increasing order over time. So, how is it that evolutionary scientists seem content to ignore such well-established laws of science?

Atheistic physicist Dr. Steven Hawking es-

entially explains the First Law away by appealing to "quantum mechanics," which is physics on the level of subatomic particles. On this level, extremely small particles seem to pop in and out of existence, so Dr. Hawking uses this strange phenomenon to explain the evolutionary theory of "The Big Bang." He says that "The Big Bang" began with a "quantum fluctuation" in the existence of a very small point known as a "singularity," which contained everything in the universe only extremely concentrated in one tiny spot. In other words, quantum mechanics supposedly supplies a *natural* explanation as to how something as massive as the entire universe could indeed have originally popped out of nothing. This, in turn, allows him to further forgo the need to acknowledge the existence of the Creator even though he cannot prove this theory.

If this seems too technical to understand, remember—all I am basically trying to show is how Occam's Razor is used to block creationist arguments. Not only do naturalistic evolutionists think in terms of *natural* explanations being the *simpler* ones, but they apparently modify Occam's Razor even further to imply that *natural* explanations tend to be the *better* ones. This allows them to either ignore or explain away any *supernatural* requirements—even known laws of science—and simply wait for something *better* to come along. This, in turn, lets them continue their costly research into the matter of origins. Such explanations do not even have to be verifiable. They must merely be naturalistic.

Notice also how atheistic thinking requires *naturalism*. If atheistic scientists failed to maintain this underlying philosophy of evolution, it would mean giving up an entire way of thinking. In this mindset, therefore, *naturalistic evolution is a law of science*. It is *not* just a theory. *Evolution is a fact* because the only other alternative is supernatural creation. Moreover, *natural science is the measure of truth* because the Bible speaks of God and creation. Thus, we have a case of an ordering principle taking on a life of its own. This may even explain how modern science came to be

defined in terms of naturalism in the first place. This powerful delusion is not fueled by scientific proof, but by an underlying bias against God and a manipulation of Occam's Razor to suit the purposes of naturalism.

Such a situation requires an even more powerful solution, which the gospel alone can supply. The gospel is not science. Yet, the underlying problem here is not science either. It is unbelief, which is something the gospel is designed to address. Moreover, in convicting people of their sins, the Holy Spirit bears witness to the fallen condition of mankind in general, which, in turn, goes back to the Genesis account of creation and the fall. The New Testament also teaches that Christ is both God and Creator (John 1:1–3; Col. 1:15–17). Hence, the gospel verifies the truth of creation. One merely needs to decide what to believe. Either Christ is who the Bible says He is—i.e., the Creator—or He is not. It is as simple as that. And for Believers, *CREATION IS AS TRUE AS THE CREATOR*.

Creationists, however, typically take a different approach. Their writings make mention of the fact that neither creation nor evolution can be proven or disproven directly. Yet, in their zeal to defend creation, they seem to forget this fact. Sometimes it is because new research has come up that is very hard to ignore. It seems to make evolution look impossible and that “true science” can disprove evolution after all. Thus, they use creation science to try and defend the truth of creation. However, as just stated, most evolutionists are not interested in scientific questions about God. They *cannot* and *will not* even accept the best evidence in favor of *supernatural* creation. Such would require a crisis of faith, and the power to change hearts and minds is just not present in science the way it is in the gospel.

All I am saying is that we should not short-change the effectiveness of the gospel in this case. The scientific aspect of creationism is still valid in that it bears witness to the fact that biblical creation is neither unscientific nor does science require a foundation of naturalistic assumptions. Indeed, creation scientists have been able to show that creation and the

biblical flood explain the raw data found in nature much better than evolution. From the standpoint of confirming God's Word, this kind of information can be quite edifying. Creation science can also help people who once believed in evolution to reprogram their minds following conversion to the gospel. It is just that science can never replace the need for faith. For, “*by faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible*” (Heb. 11:3 NASB).

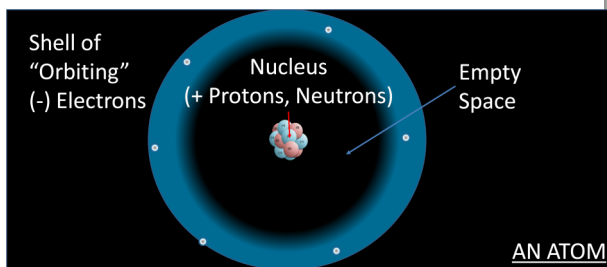
Besides, the Bible provides no solid basis for the notion that mere science can be used to *prove* the existence of God. There are even negative consequences associated with trying to do so. For one thing, it can lead to confusion. Approaching the creation vs. evolution argument by means of science without addressing the underlying philosophical issues merely pits the “science” of one viewpoint against the “science” of another. The “facts” of science are often in flux anyway, but putting them in the context of two rival sciences opens them up to reinterpretation and can, thus, lead to shaken faith.

Romans 1:18–23 is often cited to justify the notion that “true science” should be able to *prove* God. It just *seems* obvious: “*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so they are without excuse*” (vv. 18–20). Yet, this is not talking about scientific *proof* but rather about the creation providing *ample grounds for faith* in the eternal power and divine nature of God. It is just that men suppress this truth in unrighteousness, as they would rather have the final say. Unbelievers, thus, become entangled in futile speculations until their foolish hearts are darkened (vv. 21–23). This has surely happened in the case of evolution. Indeed, it is surprising how many evolutionists seem to

openly tolerate pagan religions while resisting the God of the Bible. But, since any study of origins requires assumptions, even creation science cannot be the measure of truth. One must, therefore, be careful of taking pride in human wisdom in this case as well.

Even Psalms 14:1–3, where it says: *“The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God,’”* and Psalms 10: 4, 11 are not referring to a scientific ability to *prove* God and creation but rather to the heart of the wicked—people who refuse to acknowledge God in the process of going about their sin. They are being foolish because they will answer to Him some day whether they want to or not.

Making evolution and its followers look foolish by elevating creation science can even be counterproductive by giving people a false sense of security with respect to their beliefs. Our young people are especially vulnerable here. It is surprising just how quickly an evolutionary professor on his own turf can explain away the so-called “evidence” of creation. Someone who does not realize that evolution is an effective ordering principle may not even know what hit him. I know because this happened to me. Over forty years ago, I was led into evolution under such circumstances, and I became so steeped in it that I became an atheist. At that point, there was nothing about creation that could prove the existence of God to me. Science seemed to say otherwise. It was faith in Jesus Christ that eventually led me to accept the truth about creation. And, my salvation came about through the faithful witness of one who did not even know how to answer my questions about evolution. This, in turn, goes right along with Proverbs 9:10, which says, *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding”* Amen.



Excerpts in God's Creation: THE FABRIC OF MATTER

By Nathan Warner

Have you taken the time to admire all the unique characteristics of matter that we see around us? As you probably know, all matter is composed of small units called atoms, which “bond” together to form larger structures called molecules, which combine to form cells, crystals, liquids—until as larger structures, matter becomes visible to our eyes with color as light interacts with atoms’ electron shells. Atoms are almost entirely empty space, like scaffolding or the frame of a house—like the Earth and the moon, most of what lies between the nucleus and its electrons is empty space.

The unique properties of steel, skin, grass, hair, wood, and rock all are due to the unique properties of each atom’s nucleus and electron cloud surrounding it.

But the nucleus of all atoms should not exist. It is composed of positively charged “protons” and non-charged particles called “neutrons.” These protons do not want to sit together—they want to be as far away from one another as possible. But a mysterious force keeps all the protons tightly bound together in the nucleus. Have you ever tried to force two magnets together that didn’t want to touch? This is similar to what is happening in the nucleus of all atoms, yet this mysterious “Strong Force” *forces* the protons to huddle together.

If the strong force weakened, the protons would fly from each other with incredible force and the nucleus would “blow apart.” If this were to happen, then all the distinctiveness of the matter in the universe would cease to exist—it would become an invisible “soup” of subatomic particles with no color or texture, and it would collapse to occupy 99.99% less space than it occupied before. That means your body would explode, implode, and “vanish,” occupying less than 0.01% of your present volume.

Truly, we take our existence for granted!

In the Beginning God Created...

By Lynn Warner

The very first words of the Bible are: *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness"* (Gen. 1:1-4 KJV). The first words of the Gospel of John both parallel and expand on Genesis: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not"* (John 1:1-5).

God created, or brought forth, the creation. He is the Author: One who brings or causes to come forth. As the Author, God has authority over His creation: the legal power to rule. He testifies and bears witness of His creative power and has even put this witness in man. In Romans 1:18-20, we read that *"the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse."*

We human beings are creatures, created by God. Creatures are designed by God for purposes. In Romans, we see that God's wrath is revealed against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who hold the truth in unrighteousness. Continuing in Romans 1:21, we read, *"That, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but*

became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened." So the wrath of God is revealed because men are ungodly, unrighteous, hold the truth in unrighteousness, know God but don't glorify Him as God, and are unthankful. Note that they hold the truth but in a habitual course of wickedness depart from the truth. We are designed to be godly, to be righteous, and to hold the truth in righteousness. We are to be like God in character and in obedience to His right ways; we are to believe God – what He says about Himself, about man, and about His creation – and we are to act in accordance with that knowledge.

If we don't believe the truth of God, His authorship, and His authority over the creation, we are then living in unrighteousness and are ungodly sinners. Like Eve, we may be deceived by believing insinuating lies, or like Adam, we may willfully rebel against God's authority. As we read in Romans 1:21, God's wrath was revealed by His action of causing their foolish hearts to be darkened, and they became vain in their imaginations. Let's see what follows by reading Romans 1:23-25, 26a, and 28-29a – men *"changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections... And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness."*

We understand by this passage that God shows His wrath by letting men have their own way – God reduces or removes His constraints and lets man exercise his self-will to act like a "free agent" in creation. But we need God's constraints, which assist in keeping us from harm and bring us to salvation in Jesus Christ.

The New Testament testifies that Jesus is God, and we are to believe His claims and tes-

timony concerning Himself. As shown in the beginning of this article, Genesis 1:1-6 and John 1:1-5 are accounts of creation, *"in the beginning."* After the Fall, God showed man his need for a Savior and that a Savior would come to redeem mankind. Jesus testified that He Himself is God and our Savior. In John 3:36, He discloses that, *"he that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him"* (John 3:36).

In Revelation 4:11, we read of the 24 Elders worshipping God, saying, *"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created."*

In chapter 5, following the Heavenly worship scene, the Lamb is given the book with the 7 seals of God's judgments. A new Heavenly Song was sung: *"Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for Thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by Thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation"* (Rev. 5:9b).

God created the world and has the legal right, power, and authority to judge, rule, and reign over His creation.

The enemy attacks the foundational truth that God created the world, thus denying God's authority over His creation. In my life-

time, the philosophy of Evolution was the tool used to deny, discredit, minimize, and attack God – His authorship and rule. Now, we are even hearing that "aliens" created the world and human beings. We see the wrath of God revealed against these types of philosophies – darkened, depraved minds with vain imaginations, people filled with all unrighteousness, and given over to their sin. Yet, He saves all to whom He reveals Himself!

The foundational truth of God's creation of the world and His authority and power has been openly and heavily attacked in our lifetimes. And yet, it remains true that *"in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth."* All of His creation has purpose and function. We have the witness of God's eternal power and Godhead within us and are without excuse. We are to believe God – He is the Truth, the Life, and the true Light. We are to be godly, righteous, and to hold the truth in righteousness. All who don't believe are under God's wrath, have departed from the truth, and are in darkness. Romans 1 gives the consequences of God giving men up to their sin.

Only Jesus can save us from our sin and the wrath of God. Only God has the authority, power, and legal right as the Author, to rule and reign over His creation. The seals of judgment will be opened by the only One who has

the authority to open them! When He does, we who belong to Him will join in the Heavenly songs of praise and worship for our Creator and Redeemer! Amen!



"God CALLED the dry land EARTH." (Genesis 1:10a)



By Kelly Madsen

March/April Newsletter Theme— THE NARROW WAY

Submission Deadline: March 26

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The Narrow Way...

- What is the Narrow Way?
- What did Jesus mean by saying this?
- What might be the “ditches” on either side?
- How do we stay in the Narrow Way?

Verses on THE NARROW WAY

Matthew 7:13-14 (NASB) — *“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.”*

Matthew 15:14 (KJV) — *“Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.”*

Micah 3:9 (NASB) — *“Now hear this, heads of the house of Jacob And rulers of the house of Israel, Who abhor justice And twist everything that is straight.”*

Proverbs 15:21 (NASB) — *“Folly is joy to him who lacks sense, But a man of understanding walks straight.”*

Proverbs 3:6 (NASB) — *“In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.”*

Acts 13:9-10 (NASB) — *“But Saul, who was also known as Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, fixed his gaze on him, and said, ‘You who are full of all deceit and fraud, you son of the devil, you enemy of all righteousness, will you not cease to make crooked the straight ways of the Lord?’”*

Hebrews 12:12-14 (NASB) — *“Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, and make straight paths for your feet, so that the limb which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed. Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.”*

Further Out—May/June 2017: THE FAMILY