

AMAZED BY GOD'S CREATION

(Genesis 1:1-2)

I. Creation of the heavens.

- a. The first thing mentioned in the prayer attributed to the creation of God is heaven.
 - i. This is not a reference to the dwelling place of God.
 - ii. It is a reference to the area we call space, the universe.
- b. Robert Jastrow, former head of NASA's Institute of Space Studies, wrote, "...the design of the universe is the most powerful evidence for the existence of God to ever come out of science".
- c. Fred Hoyle, an astronomer of some fame, wrote "A commonsense interpretation of the facts suggests that a super intellect has monkeyed with physics, as well as chemistry and biology, and that there are no blind forces worth speaking about in nature. The numbers one calculates from the facts seem to me so overwhelming as to put this conclusion almost beyond question".
- d. Lee Strobel is a former atheist who became a believer in God due to his investigation into scientific facts.
 - i. He has done a lot of research and conducted many interviews with those in the scientific worlds.
 - ii. One doctor of philosophy stated to Mr. Strobel, "Over the past thirty years or so, scientists have discovered that **just about everything about the basic structure of the universe is balanced on a razor's edge for life to exist**. The coincidences are far too fantastic to attribute this to mere chance or to claim that it needs no explanation." The most logical conclusion is that "[s]ome intelligent being had intentionally and carefully prepared it to support living creatures.
- e. What Dr. Collins is saying is that there are numerous things in our universe that are just right for life to exist on earth, and if they were degrees one way or the other, life would end.
- f. In an article I read it was stated that scientists have found 500 just right features for even simple, briefly existing bacteria to live.
 - i. It then stated that the statistical probability of just 200 of those just right features coming together by chance is 10 to the 215th power, or 10 with 215 zeroes behind it.
 - ii. That type of number boggles the mind.
- g. For instance, the force of gravity must be just right in order for life to exist.
 - i. We think of gravity as what keeps us upright on earth and not floating off or being pressured to death.
 - ii. However, gravity extends beyond that.

- iii. Gravity causes the moon to orbit the earth, the planets to orbit the sun, the sun to orbit in the middle of the Milky Way galaxy, and the Milky Way to orbit the other galaxies that have been found.
 - iv. If the force of gravity was any stronger, star, such as the sun, would burn up too quickly and not support life.
 - h. Also, think of earth's relationship to the moon.
 - i. If the moon did not have its just right mass or was not the just right distance from the earth, we would be in trouble.
 - ii. We would not have stable seasons, there would constantly be deadly hurricane-like weather, and extreme temperature changes.
 - i. I didn't realize it until studying for this sermon, but Jupiter is vital to our continued existence, because of her size.
 - i. She is in the exact right position at the exact size needed to block many comets and asteroids from ever hitting earth.
 - ii. Scientists have estimated that without Jupiter being that size, which is large enough to hold 100 earths, those asteroids and comets would strike the earth a 1,000 times more than they do.
 - iii. However, if Jupiter was any larger at all, it would pull the earth out of its constant orbit that would be deadly to all life on earth.
 - j. We have all heard that if the earth were any closer to the sun, it would burn up and any further, and it would freeze.
 - k. There is simply no way at all, ever, that all of this could happen by chance.
 - i. Job understood this long ago (Job 9:4-9).
 - ii. Sadly, many today fail to recognize it or refuse to attribute it to God.
 - l. The creation of what we call space by God should deeply amaze us.
- II. The creation of the earth.**
 - a. The second thing mentioned in the prayer attributed to the creation of God is the earth.
 - b. We've talked about some aspects of the earth's creation that should amaze us in conjunction with earth's place in the universe.
 - c. The last thing attributed to God's creative powers in the prayer is the phrase, "all that in them is".
 - d. In this point I want to point out some things that are in or on the earth that should cause us to be amazed at God's creative power.
 - e. I read an article about different species of pine trees, of which there are 120 species and subspecies.
 - i. One such pine is the Ponderosa Pine, which is the most numerous of the pines in the US, covering 27 million acres.
 - ii. What is amazing about this tree is its bark.
 - 1. The bark of this tree grows like plates of armor and appears to be placed on the trunk of the tree like a jigsaw puzzle.

2. There is a purpose in this design, in that, if there is a forest fire, the plates pop off as the bark burns.
 3. The tree sheds the burning bark, which allows this particular pine tree to be very resistant to low intensity fires.
- iii. Another type of pine is the Lodgepole Pine, the ones American Indians used to make the poles for their teepees, or lodges.
1. The cones grown on this type pine are about the size of golf balls.
 2. These cones will not open up until a forest fire causes them to do so.
 3. After the fire comes, the cones open and reseed the area in which the trees grow.
 4. Though the fire kills the trees, the trees regenerate themselves in this manner.
 5. Listen to this statement from that article: “Neither a pine tree nor a pinecone are sentient. They have no thinking capacity or consciousness. They possess no personhood, soul, or spirit. Pine trees did not get together and discuss the threat of forest fires to their future survival, and then decide to produce pinecones that would remain closed during a fire only to open afterwards”.
- f. Have you ever given much thought to your skin?
- i. I mean other than how it is now possibly sagging or stretched?
 - ii. In one square inch of your skin, there are 19 million cells, 625 sweat glands, 90 oil glands, 65 hairs, 19 feet of blood vessels, and 19,000 sensory cells.
 - iii. If our skin didn’t do what it was designed to do, we would all burn up from fever.
 1. Our body temperature averages 98.6 degrees.
 2. The body is able to maintain that through removing the heat stored in our body through perspiration.
 3. The skin absorbs the rays of the sun that are used in the conversion of chemicals to the Vitamin D that is vital for the absorption of calcium for our bones.
 4. One writer described our skin this way: It waterproofs the body, blocks out and destroys harmful bacteria, regulates temperature, and continuously communicates with the brain.
- g. These are just two of the millions of things that could be shown to possess attributes of design, and where design is, there must be a designer.

III. The creation of the seas.

- a. The third thing mentioned in the prayer attributed to the creation of God is the sea.
- b. This is a reference to the vast expanse of water that covers a great percentage of the earth.

- c. As we discuss this aspect of God's creative power, I want to give you two examples of what is in the seas, just like we just did with the earth.
- d. When was the last time you looked at, or thought about, a seahorse?
 - i. More than likely, it's been awhile.
 - ii. Several of you spend time fishing and realize that most fish swim in a horizontal position by moving their bodies back and forth, side to side.
 - iii. Seahorses swim vertically and move up and down, like a submarine.
 - iv. They are able to do this because they have a swim bladder that holds gas.
 - 1. The seahorse uses more or less gas to move up and down.
 - 2. This is like a submarine that uses air to down or up.
 - 3. This bladder has to work perfectly in order for a seahorse to survive.
 - v. Not only that, seahorses are the only known animals in which the males become pregnant, carry young, and give birth.
 - vi. At just the right time, the female deposits hundreds of eggs into a pouch the male has near its stomach.
 - vii. He fertilizes the eggs and then, for a few weeks, carries the unborn seahorses until it is time to squeeze the fully formed baby seahorses out of the pouch.
- e. We often hear the term fiber optics when it comes to lines of communication.
 - i. Fiber optic cables are used for cable and internet services.
 - ii. From what I've read, fiber optic cables have a center made of very thin glass that allows light to travel through it that relays signals for the very fast sending of sound and other information.
 - iii. The problems with that are glass is brittle and it takes a lot of heat to make it, which costs money.
 - iv. The reason for this quick little fiber optic lesson is that there is a sponge deep in the ocean known as the Venus Flower Basket.
 - v. This sponge produces several fiber optic cables that grow out of its base.
 - vi. Each one is several inches long and is as wide as a human hair.
 - vii. It is produced in cool temperatures and cannot break, even if tied in a knot.
 - viii. This has caused scientists to study it, in order to, one day, produce similar cables because they would be cheaper to make.
 - ix. This type science is called biomimicry, which is the science of copying nature.
 - x. Listen to this statement made by one of the scientists who is an evolutionist: Nature often provides us with a better way of doing things.
 - xi. How could this be without design, and design demands a designer.
- f. Job, again, knew this years ago (Job 12:7-10).

