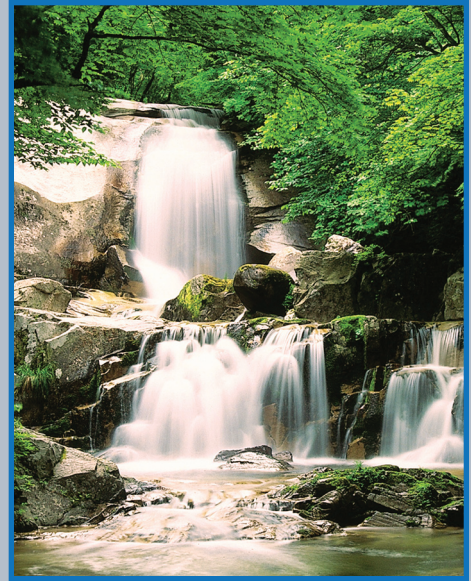


THE GOD OF CREATION

If you walk outdoors and look around, you'll likely see trees, hills, flowers, streams or lakes, maybe even some animals. And if you look up you'll see the sun, the sky, or clouds. And on a clear night, you'll see thousands of stars and perhaps the moon as well. Where did everything we see around us come from? How did it all get there? For that matter, how did we get here? Who made us?

Some people say that nobody made our world – no one created the plants and animals and people that live here. They teach that our whole universe just somehow came into being all by itself – and that life somehow just happened into existence by chance by some unexplained accident. They say that life began with just simple cells – probably in the sea – and that those cells grew into tiny living things made of many cells. Then those little living things changed over millions of years into more complex creatures that moved from the sea to dry land where they grew legs. As the theory goes, some of these creatures developed even more and later walked on four legs. They finally learned to stand up, became monkey-like, then apes, and finally they became human beings. The Bible has a completely different answer to these questions of origin. The Bible says that we are created by a loving Creator God.

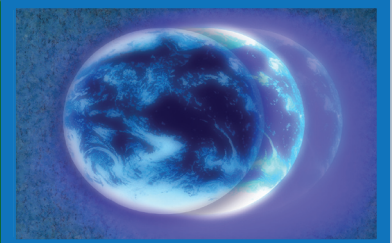
If you see a house, do you ever assume that somehow the house just made itself? Of course not! You realize that someone designed and built it. If you see a road, do you ever think that the road just made itself or that someone made it? Obviously someone made it, right? And roads and houses are far more simple than worlds or people! And when you look at people, animals, and stars, doesn't it just make sense to conclude that someone made them all? That someone designed and created them? So, as we begin to learn about the God who claims to be the Designer and Creator of everything, let's start with what the Bible says about His work in creating this earth and our universe in just one literal week.



The fingerprints of a Creator God are all around us.

The Creation Week

- Day One: "God created the heavens and the earth.... Then 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.... So the evening and the morning were the first day." (Genesis 1:1-5) So we see that on the first day of the week God created this earth, He created light, and He began the cycle of days and nights.



- Day Two: "God said, 'Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.... and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.'" (Genesis 1:6-8) On day two, God made the sky above us and separated the water on the earth from the water in the clouds and sky.



- Day Three: “God said, ‘Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear’; and it was so....Then God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind,...So the evening and the morning were the third day.’ (Genesis 1:9-13) The third day, then, God made the dry land to appear, created the seas, and covered the earth with plant life.



- Day Four: “Then God said, ‘Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth’; and it was so....And God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.” (Genesis 1:14-19) On day four, God caused the sun, moon, and stars to appear in the sky.



- Day Five: “Then God said, ‘Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens’....So the evening and morning were the fifth day.” (Genesis 1:20-23)



- Day Six: “God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth the living creatures according to its kind: cattle and creeping things and beast of the earth, each according to its kind’...Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image... So God created man in His own image; in the image of God he created him; male and female He created them....Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.” (Gen. 1:24-31)



- Day Seven: On the seventh day, God’s work of creation was done, so He rested. And He set aside the seventh day as a Sabbath of rest. The wonders of creation, the complexity of every member of this vast universe all point to a designer God. Take for example the human eye. It could not have evolved over long periods of time because it is absolutely useless unless it is a complete system. That is why David writes: “I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works.” (Psalm 139:14)



TAKE-HOME MESSAGE

The fingerprints of a Creator God are all around us. “But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; and the birds of the air, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; and the fish of the sea will explain to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?” (Job 12:7-9) Yes, God did it all. This helps us see that it is our duty and privilege to worship God based on the fact that He is our Creator. “Know that the Lord is God. It is He who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of His pasture.” (Psalm 100:3)

BETWEEN YOU AND GOD

Does it surprise you that the mighty God who created and sustains such a colossal universe could be concerned about you? But love is something we can understand and the Bible tells us there is nothing in the world that can separate us from God’s love! Listen: “I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, not things present nor things to come nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:38) God created you, that is why He loves you and desires to have an everlasting friendship with you. Won’t you make Him your Savior and Friend today?