Start Here—6/18/14 **Genesis 1**

Genesis 1:20-23 (NKJV)
20 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." 21 So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good. 22 And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth." 23 So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

Last week we talked briefly about the creative genius of God in the way He designed the different birds and sea creatures He made.

We talked about the wonders of the Golden Plover and how it migrates a distance of 2500 miles. (Explain)

Another incredible bird that God created is the woodpecker.

The red–cockaded woodpecker has four strong toes that enable it to cling firmly to the sides of trees. It uses its long, sharp beak to chisel holes in long–leaf pine trees and builds its nests in holes it has chiseled out of living trees. A single bird might spend three years excavating a home. The woodpecker's primary predator is the rat snake. Rat snakes can climb trees, so as a protective measure, the woodpecker drills small holes above and below its nest–hole. Resin seeps from the small holes and oozes down the side of the tree. When the rat snake comes in contact with the resin, its scales get gummy and the snake is unable to climb the tree. In order to keep the sap flowing, the woodpecker must maintain the resin holes on a daily basis. The bird's presence is helpful, not hurtful, to the tree, because it feeds on insects and carpenter ants, which destroy trees.

A woodpecker can peck up to five hundred times per minute, striking the wood with a tremendous force at a rate of eight times per second. The bird's beak hits the wood at a speed of about thirteen miles per hour, which means the head impacts the tree with more force than you would feel if you ran headlong into a tree while running as fast as you could.

Imagine doing that five hundred times in a minute! But the woodpecker's head is constructed with a built–in shock–absorbing system that cushions the brain. Such a wonderful creature could only be the product of intelligent design.

Consider the variety of wonders in the creation of sea life.

Take the archerfish, for example. Archerfish live in fresh water and ocean estuaries, mostly in Southeast Asia. They have the unique ability to spit jets of water at insects resting on leaves and branches that overhang the water. Their upper palate is grooved, so that when the tongue is pressed against the roof of the mouth, it forms a tube. By forcing their gills shut, they can shoot a powerful jet of water with pinpoint accuracy. By doing this, they knock insects to the surface of the water, where they are easy prey for the archerfish. Their aim is accurate up to five feet, and they have a very keen binocular vision that enables them to judge distances with uncanny precision.

Then there are hermit crabs. Unlike other crabs, hermit crabs have no outer shell of their own. Their abdomen is soft, and they would be easy prey for predators if they did not have a means of protection. So they borrow used shells from various gastropods. They always use empty shells, never killing live occupants. And they will migrate from shell to shell as they outgrow their homes. The crab's body is naturally twisted to fit perfectly into the host shell. The crab's legs are perfectly designed for its habitat. It uses only the two legs immediately behind its claws for walking. The other legs grip the borrowed shell. The crab's enlarged right claw serves as a door to cover the shell's opening when the crab retreats inside. These crabs have a symbiotic relationship with sea anemones. Sea anemones have stinging cells that repel most other creatures, but hermit crabs often form partnerships with the anemones and carry them around on their shells, with the same anemone making the switch to a new host shell when the crab migrates. The anemone feeds off the leftovers from the crab's meals, and the crab is protected from predators by the anemone.

Sea cucumbers are another amazing species. These are spineless, sluglike sea creatures with five rows of tube feet that run lengthwise, like the seams of a football. They have a mouth at one end that is surrounded by tentacles. The sea cucumber feeds by stationing itself where an ocean current brings it a steady supply of plankton, tiny shrimp, and other organic particles. It spreads the tentacles to collect the food and then sticks the tentacles in its mouth, one at a time, sucking the food off.

A peculiar variety of fish known as the pearlfish takes shelter during the day inside the sea cucumber, where it feeds on the internal organs of the sea cucumber. The sea cucumber is not harmed by this, because it can regenerate its own organs. At night, the pearlfish travels through the sea cucumber's alimentary canal and emerges to supplement its diet with small crustaceans.

The sea cucumber has an amazing defense mechanism. When attacked, it will expel its own internal organs. The predator is usually satisfied with this feast, and the sea cucumber simply regenerates a new set of organs.

All of the birds and sea creatures were created by God on the fifth day of creation.

Genesis 1:24-25 (NKJV)
24 Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind: cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, *each* according to its kind"; and it was so. 25 And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good.

And once again, the biblical record makes it unmistakably clear that these creatures did not evolve from lower life–forms, sea life, or birds.

All of them were created instantaneously—and to underscore this, Scripture names three categories that God created: **"cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth."**

All were created simultaneously; one did not evolve from the other.

The Hebrew word translated **"cattle"** is a word that speaks of livestock and animals that are capable of being domesticated—this would include sheep, goats, oxen as well as cattle.

"Creeping thing[s]" includes reptiles, insects, and perhaps even small mammals like squirrels and other rodents.

And **“beast[s] of the earth”** would include large mammals such as lions, bears, elephants, and probably dinosaurs.

In verse 24, when God says, **“Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind”.**

He isn’t saying that the earth will bring forth life in the sense that it will generate life from dirt.

I believe that when God said this He was alluding to the fact that the creatures He made are composed of the very same elements as the earth.

This is affirmed in chapter 2 verse 19—

Genesis 2:19 (NKJV)
[19] Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought *them* to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that *was* its name.

In Genesis 2:7 it says that God made Adam out of the dust of the ground.

One author says,
“What are the scientific proof that man’s body came from the dust of the ground, as the Bible says? The human body is made up of materials and minerals found on the surface of the ground, and not from the core of the earth. Oxygen, being the most abundant element on the earth’s crust or on the ground, makes up 65 percent of the human body, and carbon, also abundant on the top soil of the ground, is 18 percent, and hydrogen is 10 percent. The 59 elements found in the human body are all found on the earth’s crust. This is amazing because what the Bible says perfectly match the scientific composition of a human body.”

And so out of the dust of the earth God made man and the other animals He created—and when we and they die our bodies decompose and go back to the dust of the earth.

Genesis 3:19 (NKJV)
[19] In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread Till you return to the ground, For out of it you were taken; For dust you *are,* And to dust you shall return."

As far as some of the creeping things the Lord has made…

Consider the **bombardier beetle**, for example. This remarkable insect is found mainly in the deserts of New Mexico. It was created with a unique defense mechanism that is impossible to explain by the evolutionary theory. The beetle produces two chemicals in separate reservoirs in its abdomen. The two chemicals, hydraquinone and hydrogen peroxide, are harmless by themselves but potentially explosive when combined. When attacked, the beetle releases the chemicals through a movable jet at the rear tip of its abdomen. Catalytic enzymes in a tiny reaction chamber just inside the expulsion valve set the chemical reaction in motion, and at precisely the right moment, the beetle aims his abdominal turret and releases the explosive mixture in the face of his predator. The combined chemicals instantly reach the temperature of boiling water, creating a surprise and a deterrent that is powerful enough to discourage most predators. The beetle can fire up to five shots in rapid succession, and he instinctively knows how to time the explosion so that it occurs a moment after the chemicals are expelled, never in the reaction chamber where it would destroy the beetle. How does the beetle know how to do this? Could such a complex system possibly have developed through some natural evolutionary process? Consider what all the bombardier beetle's defense system entails: The beetle must be able to produce just the right chemicals, keep them in separate reservoirs, and bring them together at the right time with the necessary catalytic enzymes. He must also possess all the equipment and ability necessary to combine the explosives, aim the mixture accurately, and fire precisely before the moment of explosion. Is it reasonable to think an evolving creature could develop such a system, with so many interdependent parts, through a process of individual, random genetic changes? The answer is clear: The bombardier beetle is the product of intelligent design.

The final category named in Genesis 1:24–25 embraces all other land creatures: **“the beast[s] of the earth.”**

This no doubt would include elephants, lions, tigers, giraffes, bears, wolves, coyotes, and other large and long–legged animals that would not fit the categories of **“cattle”** or **“creeping things.”**

“The beast of the earth” would also probably include many now–extinct species of dinosaurs.

Many believe that dinosaurs may have perished during and after the Flood.

After the Flood the climate of earth changed dramatically causing the death of many species of animals as well as dramatically reducing the life span of humans.

Now even though we see the incredible design and abilities that God built into each of these creatures—nothing He created so far comes close to the crowning work of His creation which took place next.

Genesis 1:26-28 (NKJV)
26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness [same thing in the Hebrew]**; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." 27 So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."**

Now as remarkable as the different species of birds, sea creatures, animals and insects are none of them compares to man who alone was made **“in the image of God”.**

When God said, **"Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness"—**what exactly does that mean?

Well first of all it's tied to the plurality of God**—"Let <u>Us</u> make…"**

This is a clear reference to the Tri-unity of God—that He is a Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Spirit that together make up One God.

There are those like the Jehovah's Witnesses who deny the Trinity and try to claim that God was simply talking to the angels when He said **"Let Us make man…"**—but nowhere in Scripture are angels ever said to create.

Of course this takes us back to the very first verse in Genesis where it says **"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth".** (Explain)

In verse 26: **Then God** [Elohim, plural] **said** [singular verb in Hebrew], **"Let Us** [plural] **make man in Our <u>image</u>…"**

There are some who interpret this to mean that God made man to *look like Himself* but that's nonsense since God is Spirit and has no physical form.

What is being said here is that just as God is a Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit), so He made man a tripartite being (spirit, soul, and body).

But also like God man has been given the ability to think and communicate in abstract concepts.

Man has been created with the laws of God written in his heart—in other words he is a <u>moral being</u>—animals don't have that capacity.

One author put it this way—

"Before the image of God in man was marred by sin, Adam shared in a pure and undefiled way all the communicable attributes of God. These would include holiness, wisdom, goodness, truth, love, grace, mercy, longsuffering, and righteousness."

Another attribute that God created man with is that, like his Creator, he has been given the ability to be creative—to imagine, invent and make things that go beyond anything lower forms of life can do. (Comment)

But most of all, unlike other creatures, man has been given to ability by God to *"worship Him and enjoy Him forever".*

Only man can worship and that more than anything else separates him from the animal kingdom.

When God said **"Let Us make man like us"** He was speaking primarily as a being capable of having fellowship with others the way God is in fellowship with Himself.

In fact God made man for this very purpose to have fellowship with Him—which was interrupted by man's sin, restored by Jesus Christ and entered into for eternity by faith.

And yes <u>only man was created for eternity</u>—all other creatures that God has made were only created for time—when they die they cease to exist.

Only man will go on living forever in one of two places—either heaven or hell.

Matthew 25:46 (NKJV)
46 And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

In fact the Scriptures say that someday the entire physical universe, which initially was created good by God but has since been corrupted by man's sin—

Someday the entire physical, fallen universe will be destroyed and replaced with a new heavens and earth—a perfect environment where redeemed people will live forever—

2 Peter 3:10, 13 (NKJV)
[10] …the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up…[13] Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

All of creation is moving toward one ultimate, immutable climax—a community of redeemed people from every nation, tribe, people and language who will worship God and enjoy Him forever.

This is the theme of the rest of the Bible—the redemption of man which was necessary to make him/her true worshippers. (Explain)

Because of this it is not only proper to say that man was the crowning work of God's creation—<u>the whole creation up until this point was made for man</u>.

MacArthur—
"The creation of the human race was the central object of God's creative purpose from the beginning. In an important sense, everything else was created for humanity, and every step of creation up to this point had one main purpose: to prepare a perfect environment for Adam… In other words, the unfolding of creation establishes a theater in which the great redemptive saga can be played out. Man is the main character. God's own Son even becomes a man at the climax of redemption's drama. This is the purpose for which the entire universe was created: so that God's grace, mercy, and compassion could be lavished on this creature whom God had created in His own image. In the end, the theater is destroyed. It is a profound and humbling thought."

All of this was made possible because man was created by God on purpose for a purpose.

It's absolutely absurd to think something as complex and intricate as the human body could be the result of billions of accidents and mutations in the genetic process.

In fact scientists have never observed mutations in cells making the cell better—just the opposite is true.

Things are not evolving from simple to complex—they are devolving.

This is because of a basic, fundamental law which Einstein said he was sure would never be disproved—the second law of thermodynamics, the law of entropy.

This is a law which says that everything is moving from order to disorder—things are wearing out, rusting, and decaying. Our bodies are growing older and wearing out and will eventually die and decay.

This is a basic law of our fallen universe and it stands in direct opposition to the theory of evolution.

Scientists used to teach that we evolved from the "simple cell".

Darwin believed that a cell was no more complex than a ping-pong ball—and so did most scientists back then.

That is until the electron microscope was invented and D.N.A. was discovered.

D.N.A. is the basic building block of life found in each of our cells.

Each D.N.A. molecule is so complex that it carries all the information needed to completely clone you—including your height, skin color, hair color, eye color, the length of each of your fingers, facial features—everything about you!

There is enough genetic information stored in each D.N.A. molecule to make an exact copy of you in every detail.

D.N.A. is so complex that scientists have estimated that because of its complexity the chance of a D.N.A. molecule forming by accident, which is what evolutionists believe, is 1 in 10 to the 130th power.

That number is so big that the chance that D.N.A. and therefore life itself was the result of random chance and accidental mutations is mathematically impossible.

But let's, for a moment, investigate the possibility of it occurring by chance and let's assume there was one chance of this happening every second since science says the universe began—six billion years ago.

There are only 10 to the 17th power seconds in six billion years.

Let's take that second and divide it by 1000 and then divide one one-thousandth of a second by 1000 again and you get a microsecond (a millionth of a second).

And then let's take a microsecond and divide it by 1000 and you get a nanosecond (a billionth of the second)—there are still only 10 to the 26th power nanoseconds in six billion years.

Yet that doesn't even come close to the one in 10 to the 130th power chance factor you'd need for even the chance of one D.N.A. molecule to have happened by accident.

This proves the statistical absurdity of the theory of evolution.

John MacArthur in his book *"The Battle for the Beginning"* says with regard to this—

"The DNA code is analogous to a computer's program. DNA contains the information that enables the organism to reproduce, preserve, and repair itself. The genetic structure of every living organism limits that organism to what it is—no more, and no less. There is no genetic information that can enable an organism to transform itself into something it is not.

The more science discovers about genetics, the more of a problem it poses for the doctrine of evolution. Consider some of the facts of genetics.

Where did this genetic information come from? It certainly didn't come out of nowhere. It should be obvious to all that it didn't just fall into place by accident or by random chance.

What about mutations? We know that genes sometimes mutate. Changes occur in the DNA structure that cause changes in the appearance of creatures. Could a series of random mutations explain how one species evolves into another? Certainly not. Mutations can alter or destroy existing information in an organism's genetic code, but they cannot add new information. Mutations are genetic mistakes. They can cause a form of evolution, known as micro–evolution, where the characteristics of a species are slightly altered. Different breeds of dogs and different families of horses are products of microevolution. But genetic mistakes cannot explain macroevolution, the theoretical process by which a whole new species is formed. While it is easy to understand how a species of insect might through genetic mutations lose its wings and its ability to fly, there is no known genetic process that might explain how any species of nonflying creatures could develop anything as complex as wings and aerodynamic capabilities".

Professor Richard Goldschmidt, a geneticist at the University of California at Berkley,

"To suppose that such a random event [genetic mutations] *could reconstruct even a single complex organ like a liver or kidney is about as reasonable as to suppose that an improved watch can be designed by throwing an old one against the wall."*

Psalm 100:3 (NKJV)

3 Know that the LORD, He *is* God; *It is* He *who* has made us, and not we ourselves; *We are* His people and the sheep of His pasture.

Psalm 139:13-14 (NKJV)
[13] For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb. [14] I will praise You, for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And *that* my soul knows very well.

Genesis 1:26-27 (NKJV)
[26] Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." [27] So God created man in His *own* image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

In the Hebrew text of Genesis 1:27, both *male* and *female* are in the emphatic position, giving the sense of **"the one male and the one female."**

In other words, God did not create a group of males and females who could pick and choose mates as it suited them.

There were no spares or options—there was no provision or even the possibility for multiple or alternate spouses.

There was only one man and one woman in the beginning and for that very reason, first and foremost—divorce and remarriage was not an option (and neither was homosexuality).

We see one of the saddest signs of the breakdown and depravity of our culture is gender confusion and the rise of homosexuality.

The fall and rebellion of man against all that God has ordained in the area of sexuality and the roles of men and women in society has led to the battle of the sexes, role reversals, men acting like women and women acting like men—in short our culture is a mess!

As one author put it—

"In our day, many say there is no real difference between men and women. This makes sense if we are the result of mindless evolution, but not if man was created by God. Since He created them male and female, the differences are good and meaningful. Men are not women, and women are not men…It is vain to wonder if men or women are superior to the other. A man is absolutely superior at being a man. A woman is absolutely superior at being a woman. But when a man tries to be a woman or a woman tries to be a man, you have something inferior."

We will continue next week.