

I. The Act of Creation

- A. Scripture attributes the majesty of creation solely to the hand of the one true, Living God. He acted alone and created all things seen and unseen, prior to creation nothing existed except for God Himself. The vast galaxies of empty space were not yet formed, nor a single angel. (Gen 1-2, Is. 44:24, 45:12, Jer. 10:16, Heb. 11:3, Rev. 4:11)
1. As clearly as the bible presents God as the exclusive source of all things, it proclaims that creation was accomplished by and through Jesus the Christ. There may not be a higher statement to the full Deity of Jesus than His participation in creation. He is the Master Craftsman.
 2. The first two chapter of the book of Genesis offers the greatest amount and most details about how God created the universe. The predominate position in currently and in church history is that God by His word, created all things, including man and woman, in six literal days and on the seventh day He rested.
- B. For thousands of year's mankind had looked at the created world around them and responded in worship to God. A unique but devastating fact about the 19th century is that for the first time in the history of mankind a great and horrible widespread lie began to circulate. "There is no God"
- C. The idea that all of the creation just simply happened out of nothing takes far more faith to believe than any of the world's religions. In our times the religion of Atheism is growing and becoming common. Today evolutionary biology is taught in high school and college textbooks as facts, and there is an entire generation being raised that cultivates unbelief and lawlessness in its educational structures.

II. The Master Craftsmen

- A. As clearly as the Bible presents God as the exclusive source of all things, so too it proclaims that creation was accomplished by and through Jesus. This is a clear statement of the full deity of our Lord and Savior. Though it is common to wonder at the power of God in creation, I want us to look deeper than that. Let's ask the question, why? (Jhn 1:1-4, Eph. 3:9, Col. 1:16-17, Heb. 1:2,10)

"Then I was beside Him as master craftsmen; And I was daily His delight Rejoicing always before Him, Rejoicing in His inhabited world, and my delight was with the sons of men." (Pro. 3:30-31)

1. The word “rejoicing” literally speaks of whirling and dancing. It is the same term used in David when he was bringing the ark into Jerusalem (II Samuel 6:14). The universe is replete with so much unnecessary beauty, and it was fashioned out of the overflow of joy. Motivating all the intricacies of the human experience is a joyful, dancing King, who was filled with delight for the sons of men from everlasting.
2. Every Artist has an audience. In the case of creation, humanity alone has been given the ability to behold its beauty. The vastness of creation exists to express the nature of God in order that we would be overwhelmed and respond in affectionate worship. Remembering that our current experience is cursed through sin, creation was designed to be a fascinating and grand palace for the Bride of Christ. (Gen. 2:8, Job 7:17, Ps. 8:3-4, Rev. 21:9-22:5)

Because our living intellects are rooted on our bodily/spiritual beings, we are attuned to the universe and can appreciate it as no mere animal can. Just as man alone can utter propositional speech, appreciate humor, erect statues to honor a hero, write books, and establish libraries, so also only man can appreciate the beautiful. Darwin himself noted that no mere animal admire the night sky, a splendid rural scene, or elegant music. Only an intellect rooted in spirit can perceive and be thrilled by astronomy, microbiology, and mathematics. Which, of course...conversely indicates that only intellectual design and purpose can make the beautiful. Art demands an artist. - Tomas Dubay

The sun is roughly 93 million miles away. Though its light reaches us in approximately eight minutes, it would take a plane eighteen years of constant flying to make the journey. Roughly one million earths could fit into the sun, and this vast inferno is producing the energy equivalent to a hundred billion hydrogen bombs going off every second. We only receive the tiniest fraction of its energy, but it is the perfect amount, it would seem. If the earth were any closer to the sun it would burn up, yet if it were farther away it would freeze solid.

“Our earth’s atmosphere has been called a miracle. One of its traits is the composition of the air we breathe. If its makeup included 17 percent oxygen, we could not breathe at all; if it were 25 percent, we would burn up. It actually is 21 percent, exactly what we need. If the mass of our largest planet, Jupiter, were 1 percent greater or less than it actually is, our solar system would be destabilized, and again we could not exist. To give us our four seasons and a humanly ideal temperature range, our earth is titled at precisely the correct 23.5 degrees.”

- B. Theologians and Scientists alike, recognize that the universe around us possesses a very calculated specificity to allow for the sustaining and flourishing of human life. This is referred to as the anthropic principle.

III. The Crowning Jewel of Creation

A. Fashioned in the image of God, man is the pinnacle of God's creative work. Truly we are a wonder: our body, our mind, our creative abilities, our capacity for deep emotions, and yearning for pleasure. (Gen. 1:26-27, Ex. 4:11, Job 10:8-9,12, 31:15, Ps. 94:9, Pro. 22:2, Is. 42:5, Zec. 12:1)

B. We are truly a marvel in creation

"It is commonplace in science today to stat that the human brain is the greatest of all realities in our visible universe. During a domestic air flight, I read this in two vivid sentences. 'The brain weighs less than three pounds, yet a computer capable of handling a single brain's output would cover the entire earth. The brain sorts one hundred million bit of data from the eyes, nose and other sensory outposts each second, yet uses far less electricity than an average light bulb.'" This is breathtaking."

"Our natural balance, coordination, grace, and fluidity of movement are the result of 600 muscles working together in awesome adaptability and unity...if all of our 600 muscles were to pull together in one direction we could lift 25 tons."

...in our fingertips we have 1,300 nerve endings, and yet our lips, tongues, and the tip of our nose are still more sensitive to touch...When we touch something, the resulting impulse speeds along our nerve network to the brains at 350 feet per second."

"Our ears can discriminate among more than 300,000 different tones, while our eyes can distinguish about 8 million color differences...Our human eyes are so rapid fire in their responses to photons, tiny particles of electromagnetic energy, that there are no technical instruments capable of measuring their speed, nor does anyone understand how the phenomenon happens....Our ears are so delicately constructed that they can pick up not only the roar of a jet engine but also the sound of our breathing, which is 10 billion times lower in volume or intensity."

*"By our immaterial intellects we alone are innovative. Marvelous as mere animals are, they cannot create anything new. Always the bird's nest of one species is built on the same pattern. Always beavers construct their dwellings and their dams in the same fashion. Always the animal's call or son is the same...We alone innovate without end: composers and their masterpieces; ballet and ice dancers and their variations in choreography; novelists and their tales; chess masters and their strategies; accomplished cooks in their kitchens; architects and their plans. All these changes occur not only from one culture to another but also from one decade to another and in the very same person. We alone create newspapers and libraries and textbooks in physics, philosophy, political theory, and dozens of other disciplines. We alone vastly differ from all else in irreducible manners. – Tomas Dubay –
"The Evidential Power of Beauty"*

Emotions, deep and powerful emotions, are one of the hallmarks of the human story. Though each one of us experiences them and expresses them differently, we are all without exception a torrent of feeling on the inside. A donkey knows nothing of weeping in grief or dancing with joy. Whether it is agony or elation, the movements of the human soul are unmatched in all of creation. – Stephen Venable

IV. Fashioned by Him and for Him

- A. The fact that we have been created in the image of God means that humanity is like God in certain ways and represents God. We should never conclude that God is like man, rather man is like God and our physical and emotional qualities mirror a reality in God. Man is made in the image of God we should not isolate one characteristic over another when looking at these realities.
1. Moral – We have a conscience of right and wrong and are held morally accountable before God for our actions and thoughts. This includes our free will. Man is exhorted by God to make right decisions and is held accountable for them.
 2. Spiritual – We are spiritual beings and we will exist eternally. God is Spirit and we have the capacity to know and interact with Him, unlike the animal kingdom. We have been fashioned to be in communion with Him.
 3. Mental – From the beginning, we were created highly intelligent and have complex language and communication skills. We can reason and think logically and are awakened to fascination, appreciation, and beauty.
 4. Emotional – The scriptures reveal a God who is intensely emotional (not in the unpredictable sense) and accordingly man possesses powerful feelings. The greatest of these is the capacity for voluntary love, which is critical to understand all redemptive history.
 5. Relational – Family relationship, marriage, and lifetime friendships all fundamentally distinguish us from the animals and angels. We express this desire for relationship throughout our lives as we seek, enjoy, and maintain relationships.

V. Understanding our Purpose and Place

- A. There are several components we must be aware of when we consider the act of our creation. These truths should cause us to be filled with love for Him and purpose.

1. Voluntary Act – We were created out of His divine will and desire not out of necessity. He was not obligated, but pleased, to form man. Your life finds its substance in the delight and desire of your creator. (Gen. 2:7, Ps. 115:3, Is. 40:13-14)
2. Intentional Relationship – Not only would it have been entirely just and right if God had chosen not to create us, but there is no necessity for Him to have any dealings with creation after He finished His work. God is active and involved in the affairs of Men. (Gen. 3:8, Ps 139:1-6, Is. 42:16, Jer. 31:8)
3. The Preeminence of our Life – The Westminster confession states that the chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever. The bible presents a God-centered vision of reality. This is the origin and end goal of all existence and stands as the reference point by which we the entire universe should be evaluated. (Is. 43:7, 1 Cor. 10:31, Phil. 1:19-21)
4. Worship and Exaltation – Scriptures have much to say about focusing our attention and strength to the purpose of magnifying the Lord in all things that we do. We exist for Him and our interaction with Him should result with humanity placing a greater worth and majesty upon Him. (Is. 43:21, Jhn 4:23-24, 1 Pet. 2:9)
5. Destiny of the Bride – As we study this epic and very real drama of redemptive history we find that all things are moving toward a grand wedding with a reality beyond our imaginations. We are destined to an eternity of everlasting love and joy, not eternal servitude. (Ps. 45:10-11, 27:8, 63:3, Matt. 22:2)
6. Dwelling in Communion – There is a longing in the heart of God to dwell with His people. He is seeking a resting place on the earth and though this reality is partly fulfilled now through the indwelling Holy Spirit and fully fulfilled in the age to come. His intent in creating man in His image was for communion. (1 King 8:27, Ps. 132:13-14, Is. 66:1-2, Rev. 21:2-3)
7. Ruling with Him – Through worship and intimacy, God has ordained man to act in partnership with Him in ruling and reigning over all of creation. This reality was forfeited in the garden through sin but is restored partially now through Christ and fully in the age to come. (Gen. 1:28, 1 Cor. 6:1-3, 2 Tim. 2:12, Rev. 20:6)

B. Unspeakable nobility is bestowed upon our lives simply by the fact that God has beckoned into such a multifaceted destiny. Humanity will never be satisfied outside of this purpose.