

## 4 – By Chance or Design?

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1

Discover the Mysteries of Life

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2

Let's suppose that you live along the beach. One morning you get up early and decide to walk along the sandy shore. It is a magnificent scene. The rising sun's rays dance off the water. Waves crash on the shore.

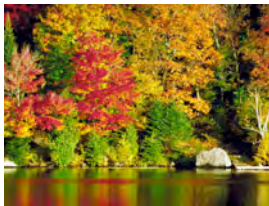
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3

As you walk down the beach in quietness, you notice a set of footprints in the sand in front of you. Then you notice a second and a third set of footprints. You look as far as you can down the beach but you don't see anyone. What do all these footprints tell you? They say simply this: Although you can't see anyone, someone was there; someone walked down the beach before you. Let me ask you another question.

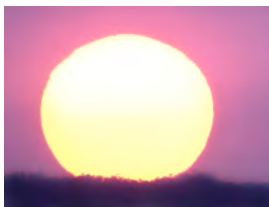
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4

If you stand outdoors and look around, what do you see? Grass, trees, hills or mountains, flowers, streams or lakes of water, maybe animals.

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5

In the daytime, you might see the sun, the sky, or clouds.

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6

At night, you might see thousands upon thousands of stars— or perhaps the moon.

And this entire vast universe, including Earth with its delicate ecosystems, is extraordinarily complex.

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## 4 – By Chance or Design?

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7

If you see a house, do you ever assume that somehow the house just made itself?

No. You realize that someone made that house. It obviously had to have been designed and carefully constructed.

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8

If you see a road, do you think the road just made itself – or that someone made it? Even though roads and houses are far simpler than worlds and human life, we know they're too complex to have simply originated by accident.

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9

So just how did this complex world get here?  
How did YOU get here?  
Who made you?

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10

Today we're going to look at what the Bible says about the intentional way life began here on this earth.

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11

We will begin to learn about the God who claims to be the Designer and Creator of everything.  
The God who claims to be the eyewitness of how this world came into existence. The Bible begins by saying very simply:

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12

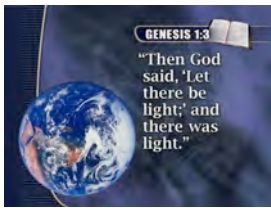
(Text: Genesis 1:1) Day One

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”

Genesis 1:1

On the first day of creation week God created light and began the cycle of days and nights:

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13

(Text: Genesis 1:3)

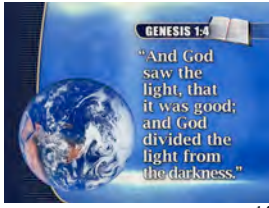
“Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light.”

Genesis 1:3

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14

(Text 2 slides: Genesis 1:4, 5)

“And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness.

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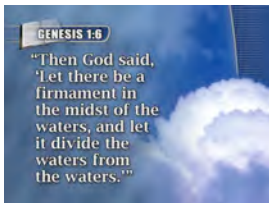
15

So the evening and the morning were the first day.”

Genesis 1:4,5

On day two, God made the sky above us, and separated the water on the earth from the water in the clouds and sky:

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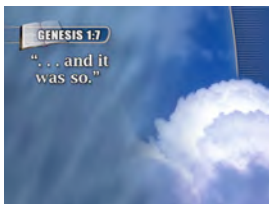
16

(Text: Genesis 1:6) Day Two

“Then God said, ‘Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.’”

Genesis 1:6

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17

(Text: Genesis 1:7)

“...and it was so.”

Genesis 1:7

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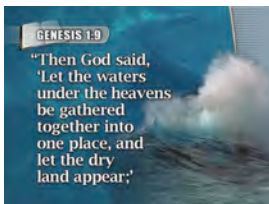
18

(Text: Genesis 1:8)

“And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.” Genesis 1:8

The third day God made the dry land to appear, created the seas, and covered the earth with plant life:

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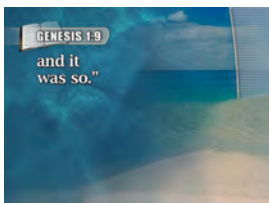


19

(Text 2 slides: Genesis 1:9) Day Three

“Then God said, ‘Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear’;

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and it was so.”

Genesis 1:9

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21

(Text 2 slides: Genesis 1:11)

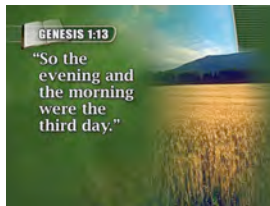
"Then God said, 'Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed,



22

and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth;’ And it was so.”

Genesis 1:11



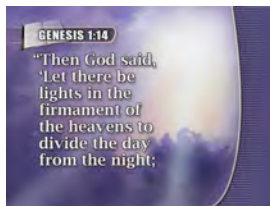
23

(Text: Genesis 1:13)

"So the evening and the morning were the third day.”

Genesis 1:13

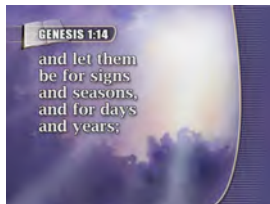
On day four God caused the sun and moon to appear in the sky. He also created the stars:



24

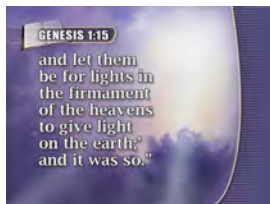
(Text 3 slides: Genesis 1:14, 15) Day Four

"Then God said, 'Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night;



25

and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years;



26

and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth;’ and it was so.”

Genesis 1:14, 15



27

(Text 2 slides: Genesis 1:18, 19)

"And God saw that it was good.”

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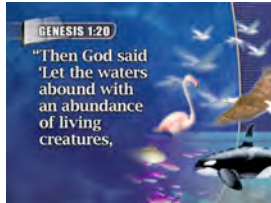


28

“So the evening and the morning were the fourth day.”  
Genesis 1:19.

On day five, the Bible says, God made birds and fish and other sea creatures:

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29

(Text 2 slides: Genesis 1:20) Day Five  
What did God create on the fifth day?

“Then God said, ‘Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures,

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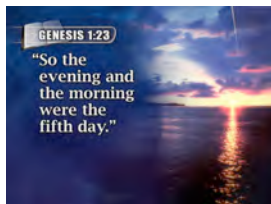


30

and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.””

Genesis 1:20

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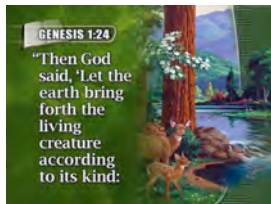
31

(Text: Genesis 1:23)

“So the evening and the morning were the fifth day.”  
Genesis 1:23.

The sixth day of creation was the most important so far:

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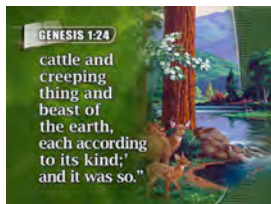


32

(Text 2 slides: Genesis 1:24) Day Six

“Then God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind:

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33

cattle and creeping thing and beast of the earth, each according to its kind’; and it was so.”

Genesis 1:24

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34

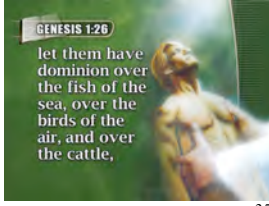
(Text 5 slides: Genesis 1:26, 27)

“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;

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35

let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle,



36

over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

Genesis 1:26



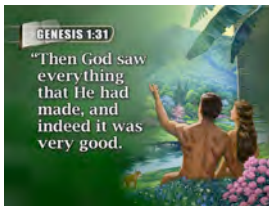
37

So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him;



38

male and female He created them.””



39

(Text 2 slides: Genesis 1:31)

“Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.



40

So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.”

Genesis 1:31

The sixth day-the day God made animals, and then His crowning creation of all – man – human beings.



41

Adam and Eve did not just evolve or just happen. The Bible says that God designed their bodies in His image.

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42

He is the Great Engineer – the great Intelligent Designer– who brought us into being!

God the Father, as the Bible calls Him, was not alone in His work of creation. It was a work of love that involved the entire Godhead.

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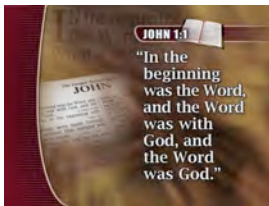
43

(Text: Genesis 1:26)

In Genesis it says “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...”

The gospel of John develops this even more:

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44

(Text 3 slides: John 1:1-3)

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God. And the Word was God.

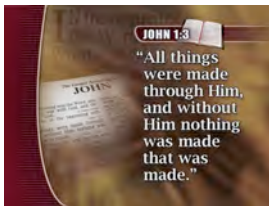
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45

He was in the beginning with God.

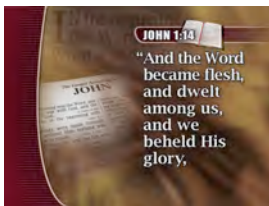
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46

All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.”

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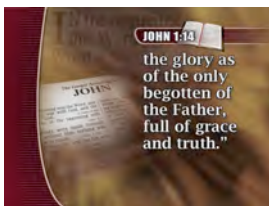


47

(Text 2 slides: John 1:14)

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory,

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48

the glory of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 1:14.

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49

The Bible speaks of what we know as the Godhead: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The Godhead consists of three persons – all alike in character, yet all distinct individuals.

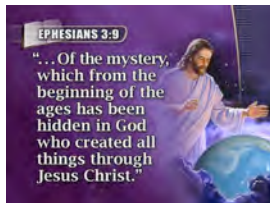
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50

Jesus cooperated with the Father as the active agent to create everything. The apostle Paul reminds us:

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51

(Text: Ephesians 3:9)  
“Of the mystery which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ.”  
God created this world in six days and has given us every good and perfect gift through Jesus.  
On the seventh day, God’s work of creation was done, so He rested. And He set aside that seventh day as a day of rest.

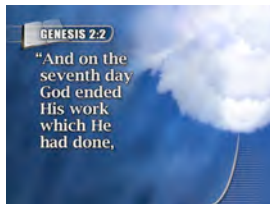
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52

(Text 3 slides: Genesis 2:1, 2) Day Seven  
“Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.”

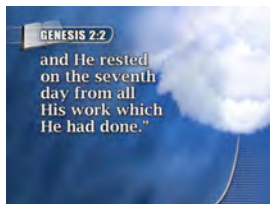
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53

And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done,

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54

and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.”  
Genesis 2:1, 2

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55

Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.”

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56

But is this brief account of origins really credible? Is there evidence today to point to an intelligent Designer behind the vast universe?

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57

The human body gives us amazing evidence of design and a Designer.

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58

Consider just one part of the human body – the eye:

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59

Scientists tell us that the delicate design of the eye’s cornea and lens make even the most advanced cameras on earth seem like a child’s toys by comparison.

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60

The eye changes light into messages the brain understands in ways even the most advanced laboratories on earth can’t reproduce. Brain cells change these messages into the miracle of sight – a design even the brightest, most intelligent scientists on earth cannot duplicate or improve upon.

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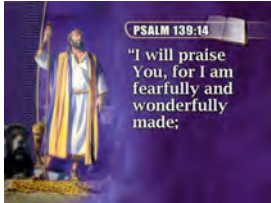
61

For the eye to have evolved, all of the complex parts and processes would have had to have developed by accident at the same time for it to have been functional and advantageous.

Far more than just utilitarian, the human eye gives evidence of a loving Creator who wants us to see the beauties that He has made in His vast creation.

No wonder the psalmist wrote:

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62

(Text: Psalm 139:14)

“I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made;

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63

Marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well.”  
Psalm 139:14.

Man’s body and mind are very complicated and could only have been designed by a very wise Designer.

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64

Just like the footprints on the sand – we knew someone had been there even if we had never seen that person.

So when we see things in the natural world that demonstrates design and intelligence and a heart that appreciates beauty, these are like footprints that tell you Someone must exist who made all these things!

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65

Think of the migration of the birds, one of the greatest puzzles of nature.

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66

How can birds weighing less than an ounce navigate thousands of miles nonstop to a destination they have never seen?

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67

How could fish find streams where their lives began, 1,200 miles across unmapped oceans?  
How did they learn to know when and where to go?

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68

Who taught the honeybee to make the honeycomb which is such an engineering marvel, and with a brain no larger than a pinhead?  
Who is the Mastermind behind it all? Job tells us:

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69

(Text 3 slides: Job 12:7-9)

“But now ask the beasts, and they will teach you; and the birds of the air, and they will tell you;

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70

or speak to the earth, and it will teach you; and the fish of the sea will explain to you.

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71

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!

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72

And it’s not just in the amazing human body or in the mysteries of life here on this planet that we can see evidence of a careful Designer – the vast universe with its solar systems and galaxies all orbiting predictably and consistently through perfectly balanced forces point to intelligence as well.

Is it any wonder that the Psalmist said,

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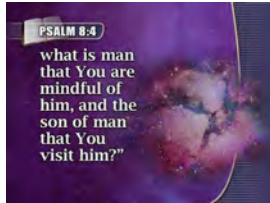
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73

(Text 2 slides: Psalm 8:3, 4)

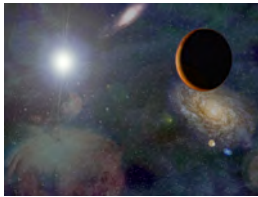
"When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained,



74

what is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?"

Psalm 8:3, 4.



It sometimes seems unbelievable that a God who rules and sustains such a vast universe would actually be concerned with us and our problems here on Earth. Yet Jesus said that not even a sparrow falls to the ground that God does not notice.



76

(Text: Matthew 10:31)

"So don't be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows."

What an amazing God!



Not only did God make man in His image and give him a beautiful universe to live in, but He also is the sustainer and provider of all of his needs:



78

(Text: Psalm 145:15, 16)

"The eyes of all look expectantly to You, and You give them their food in due season.



79

You open Your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing." Psalm 145:15, 16.

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80

Let's take a look at just a few of the ways God cares for the needs of His creatures.  
Consider the water you drink. It is older than the pyramids—as old as the hills.

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81

Water may be polluted by chemicals or wastes, but let the sun evaporate or lift it into the atmosphere,

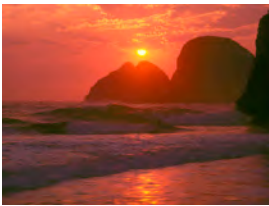
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82

and it becomes clean and usable again and again, distributed by the rain, dew, or snow.  
What a tremendous water system God designed!

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83

And there is God's great power plant in the sky – our sun! Think for a moment:

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84

If the sun were a little bigger or a little closer to Earth, our oceans would boil away.

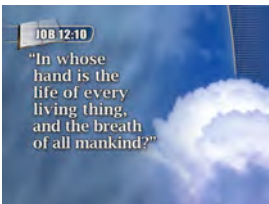
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85

If the sun were just a little smaller or a little farther away, our atmosphere would freeze. Either way, life could not exist on Earth. But God not only created all things, He sustains all things!

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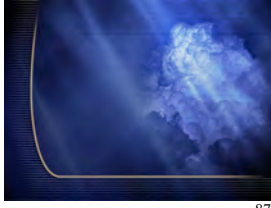
86

(Text: Job 12:10)  
“In whose hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind?”  
Job 12:10.

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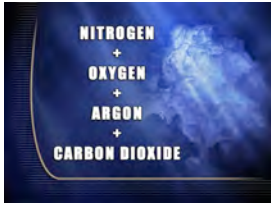
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87

God designed the universe, and He knew just the right formula for the air we breathe to sustain life and health on Earth.



88

He knew the right amount of Nitrogen, Oxygen, Argon, and Carbon Dioxide to mix into the atmosphere.

That certainly couldn't just happen! The evidence points to an intelligent, loving Creator who made us and sustains us, and the Bible tells us that He is entitled to our worship and devotion because He is the Creator.



89

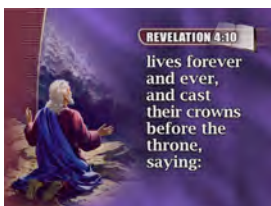
When John, one of Christ's disciples and the writer of the Bible's last book, Revelation, was in vision on the Isle of Patmos, he was shown a scene in the heavenly throne room. Notice what he saw:



90

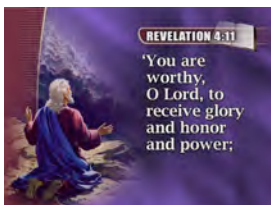
(Text 4 slides: Revelation 4:10, 11)

“The twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who



91

lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:



92

You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power;

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## 4 – By Chance or Design?

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93

for you created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.”

Revelation 4:10, 11.

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These elders before the throne of God are praising and worshipping Him because He is the Creator.

If He is the Creator, as the Bible teaches, then He does deserve our worship, don't you agree?

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What difference does it make? *It gives our lives purpose.*

Because of His love for us, He has surrounded us with evidence that our lives are not just the result of happenstance or accident, or the product of viscous cycles of death and bloodshed. If we're looking we can see clear evidence that that He is our Maker! The Bible says,

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96

(Text 2 slides: Romans 1:20)

“His eternal power and deity has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made,

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97

even His eternal power and Godhead.”

Romans 1:20

Knowing we are the creation of a loving God who has a plan for our lives gives life meaning, value, and purpose!

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What difference does it make? *We know God cares and can take care of us.*

Doesn't it give you peace of mind to know that if God can design and sustain everything in the universe He can help you with the challenges in your personal life?

No problem is too small or too big for Him to handle.

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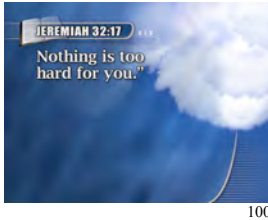
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(Text 2 slides: Jeremiah 32:17)

Jeremiah says, “Ah, Sovereign Lord, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm.

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Nothing is too hard for you.”

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What peace and confidence we can have knowing that nothing can happen to us that is too hard for God to take care of! We can trust Him completely with our lives, because we know that He loves us! The Bible says quite simply,

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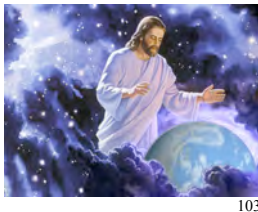


(Text: 1 John 4:8)

“God is love.”

Isn't it amazing that the mighty God who created and sustains such a colossal, complete universe could be concerned about you and me?

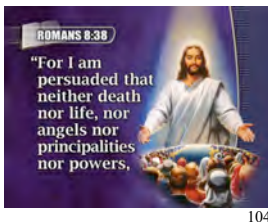
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It is staggering to contemplate God's omnipotence, His omniscience, and His omnipresence.

But love is something we can understand. And we are assured that there is nothing in all the world that can separate us from God's love!

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(Text 4 slides: Romans 8:38, 39)

“For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers,

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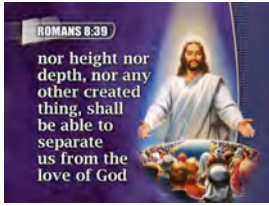
nor things present nor things to come,

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106

nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God



107

which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 8:38, 39.

He loves us whether we are rich or poor, male or female, beautiful or ugly. He loves us whether we love Him in return or not. There is nobody else like that! But most important, He loves us forever!



108

(Text: Jeremiah 31:3)

“Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love.”

And as if there still might be some doubt in our minds about His love, God explains it in such simple terms that we can easily understand:



109

(Text 3 slides: Isaiah 49:15,16)

“Can a woman forget her nursing child, and not have compassion on the son of her womb?”



110

Surely they may forget, yet I will not forget you.” Isaiah 49:15.



God tried to demonstrate His love to man, but words and messages sent by prophets and angels were not enough. We didn't get the message.



So God then sent His Son. Jesus was the perfect revelation of the personality and character of His Father.

## 4 – By Chance or Design?

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113

(Text: John 14:9)

He said, "He who has seen me has seen the Father."

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If we really want to know what God is like and how He feels about us, we need to study the life of Jesus. He took our nature, that He might reach our needs.

He preached the good news of salvation to the poor.

He healed the brokenhearted and gave sight to the blind.

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He fed the hungry and ate with the people in their homes. He forgave their sins and gave them hope for the future.

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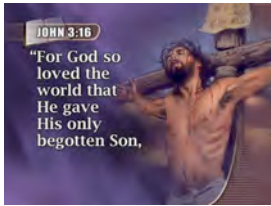


His face was the first face many saw. His voice the first many ever heard. He spread life and joy throughout the villages and towns where He walked.

His life was one of self-denial and thoughtful care for others.

Why? Because He loved us.

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117

(Text: John 3:16)

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,

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118

that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16.

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Who is this God of the Universe?

He is the powerful Creator.

He is the amazing Provider.

He is the incredible Designer.

He is the loving Redeemer.

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120

Many years ago a little boy was in a tragic accident. He was rushed to the hospital in critical condition. The boy needed an immediate blood transfusion. No donor could be found.

His father had the same blood type and agreed to donate blood. The doctor's began to do a direct blood transfusion from the father's arm to the son.

As the blood flowed directly from his arm through a plastic tube into his son's still, still, body, he looked up at the physician and with tears in his voice said,

"Doctor, if you need to, take it all. Doctor, I am willing to give all my blood for my son."



121

Our heavenly Father looked at the world He created and saw it lost in sin.

He gave all heaven could give in His son.

Jesus said, "Father, if you need to, take it all. Take every drop of my blood to save my son, my daughter, my friend."



122

How can you turn away from such love?

An all-powerful, loving God made us.

When the human race sinned, He gave His all for us.

He is worthy of our worship, wouldn't you agree?

And the greatest worship we can give is to give Him our hearts.

I want to worship Him as my Creator and loving Redeemer tonight, [*raise your hand*] what about you? I would invite you to join me as we kneel together to worship our Creator God who loves us with an amazing love.

*[Suggested Prayer]*

*"Lord, today we come to you on our knees, realizing what an amazing and powerful God you are. You have created all things, and ordered them for our blessing and benefit. You have given us life and sustain that life and provide for all of our many and varied needs. Today we want to worship You with all of our hearts. We want to give You our highest praise and our deepest gratitude. We want to give You our hearts. You've seen each hand raised, You have read each heart's desire, and just now I pray that You will accept our worship and praise, and take our hearts as we give them to You. Thank You for not only creating us but for giving us the greatest gift possible in the gift of Your Son. Because You have shown such love in giving Your life for us, we choose to give our lives to you. We love you. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen."*

## **4 – By Chance or Design?**