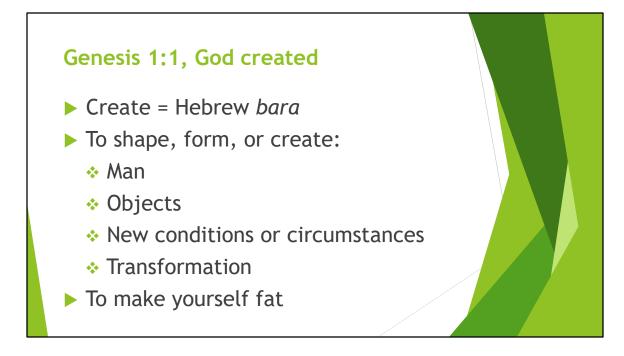


This is the beginning of a series about getting to know God as He has revealed Himself to us in Scripture, as well as addressing some errors taught about Him. There are four key characteristics God reveals about Himself in the first three chapters of the Bible. This lesson looks at God as He revealed Himself to be Creator.

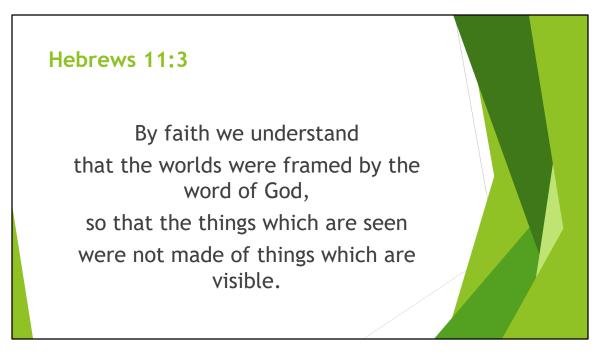


In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1

This is the very first revelation God makes about Himself in the Bible. From this verse we know that He is the Creator and that He existed before the heavens and earth were made.

The Hebrew word translated "create" is *bara*. It means to shapte, form or create. *Bara* (or forms of it) is used about 50 times in the Old Testament. Of those, about 6 times it refers to an action man does, such as Joshua 17:15, 18 which is talking about clearing land by cutting down trees, i.e. "creating" open space in which to live/farm or 1 Samuel 2:29 when the priest Eli's wicked sons are not performing sacrifices as they should and are keeping the best portions for themselves and "making themselves fat" – creating or causing fatness in themselves. None of these 6 times does it refer to the kind of creating that God does.

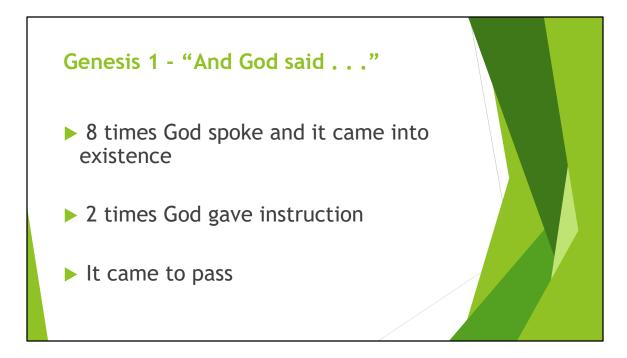
https://biblehub.com/hebrew/1254.htm



God's creative ability is to create things that are seen, touched, smelled, and have physicality which are NOT from what is already visible in the physical realm.

Everything that man so-called "creates" or makes is simply manipulation of something that already exists physically. A sculptor must begin with marble or clay, for example. Or man uses other materials the already exist for his so-called creations.

But God can make physical things (whether we see them or not) – man, plants, earth/soil, sun/stars/heavenly objects, animals, air, atoms – simply by His word!



Eight times God spoke and something was created in Genesis 1 alone. Two other times in chapter 1 God used His words to bless his creation (birds, sea creatures, man) and gave the instruction to be fruitful and multiply. Whether He was speaking creatively or instructionally/giving a command, it is accomplished.

Isaiah 55:10, 11

"For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven And do not return there, But water the earth, And make it bring forth and bud, That it may give seed to the sower And bread to the eater,

So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

The word of God always accomplishes the purpose of God.

Psalm 33:6-9

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, And all the host of them by the breath of His mouth. He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap: He lays up the deep in storehouses.

Let all the earth fear the LORD; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.

With God, what He says, *is*. There is no question whether it will be accomplished.

Isaiah 45:18

For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it to be inhabited: "I am the LORD, and *there is no other.*"

Several facts are brought out in this verse:

- The one who created and formed the heavens and the earth is God
- God did not create in vain; there is purpose behind His creation
- · He formed the earth for habitation. It is not meant to be empty
- God wants it known that He is the only LORD (Yahweh). And the only LORD (Yahweh) is the same God who created the heavens and earth.

Jeremiah 10:10-13

But the LORD is the *true God*; He is the *living God* and the *everlasting King* At His wrath the earth will tremble, And the nations will not be able to endure His indignation.

Thus you shall say to them: "The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth shall perish from the earth and from under these heavens."

There is only one supreme God who has all power. Any other god will perish or be destroyed.

Jeremiah 10:10-13

He has made the earth by His power, He has established the world by His wisdom, And has stretched out the heavens at His discretion

When He utters His voice, There is a multitude of waters in the heavens: And He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth. He makes lightning for the rain, He brings the wind out of His treasuries.

Acts 17:24, Apostle Paul

God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.

The gods that Jeremiah says will perish at God's wrath are the same gods that the people of Athens worshiped when Paul visited there. Paul found they had an altar to "an unknown God." Paul used the existence of that altar as an opportunity to instruct the people about the God they did not know. The other gods they "knew" were ones for which they had built statues and idols and temples. The God they did not know was the true Almighty Creator God, the only living God with power and a plan for mankind.

Acts 17:24, Apostle Paul

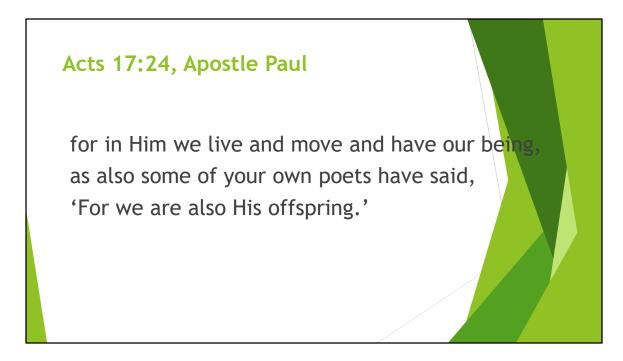
And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth,

and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,

so that they should seek the Lord,

in the hope *that they might grope for Him and find Him,* though He is not far from each one of us;

Paul goes on to describe God's plan for mankind, that its ultimate purpose is that man seek the Creator God to have relationship with Him!



God desires this relationship with mankind, His creation, because man exists because of and is sustained by God.

John 1:1-3, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

There are some who teach that Jesus was the creator or present at creation through verses such as these:

John 1:1-3, 14, NKJV

John 1:1-3, 14

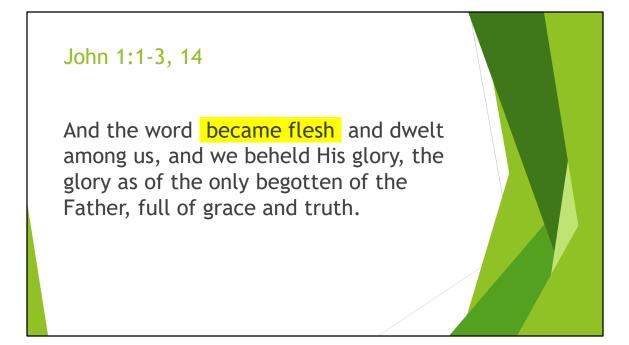
In the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God. [This] was in the beginning with God. All things were made through [this], and without [this] nothing was made that was made.

Let's look at this verse without trinitarian bias: "word" is no longer capitalized. And the pronoun referring to "word" assumes "word" is a thing, not a person . . . "him" is replaced with "this."

The Greek word translated "him" in verses 2 and 3 is *autos* which although a masculine pronoun has the meaning of "**this**, this person or **thing**" (https://www.billmounce.com/greek-dictionary/houtos).

Since "word" is from the Greek *logos* which means "word, spoken or written, often with a focus on the content of a communication, matter, thing" (https://www.billmounce.com/greek-dictionary/logos) or "word," "reason," or "plan" (https://www.britannica.com/topic/logos),

and no other definition is given for this word, there is no reason to assume "word" is anything other than the communication of God. And when John began his verse with "In the beginning" we immediately remember Genesis 1 where "in the beginning" God created by what he *said*, what He *said* (words)!



In verse 14 we are told that God's spoken word (*logos*) became flesh. The word "became" indicates that sometime before this, the word (*logos*) was not flesh, so then we return to the original meaning of the Greek word *logos* to understand what was with God at creation – a word, a reason, or a plan.

We know God's word became flesh since it is described by Luke:

Luke 1:30-31, 34-35

³⁰ Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. . . . ³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?"

³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that holy one who is to be born will be called the Son of God.

God's Spirit came upon Mary for her to conceive. "Spirit" is from the Greek *pneuma* which is breath, which is expelled when we speak. From John 1:14 and Luke 1:35 we see a relationship between God speaking, which blows out breath or spirit. In Mary's

case, the power of God's spirit (breath) made her pregnant. And from the other verses we read, we have been assured that what God speaks will come to pass. There is power in His speech, his breathing out.

When we eliminate trinitarian bias, therefore, the power that resides in God's word was with God at creation – it is not referring to Jesus present at creation. Jesus came into existence at his conception by God's spirit as announced by Gabriel to Mary.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

These verses are also written with a trinitarian bias. Notice, first of all, all pronouns are capitalized which makes it difficult to distinguish between those that refer to God and those referring to Jesus.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

For by him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through him and for him.

This is the verses with capitalization removed.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through him and for him.

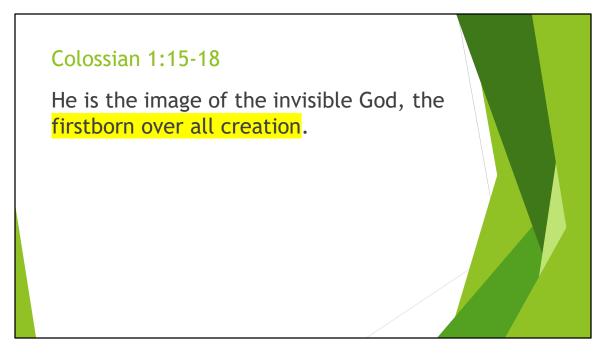
Notice, first, Jesus is the *image* of God. This would have been a perfect place for Paul to have taught that Jesus *is* God, *if* that were true. Instead, Paul is teaching that Jesus is the *image* of God who is invisible to us (from the Greek *eikon* meaning image, likeness, portrait, a material image, effigy, a representation, exact image, resemblance) (https://www.billmounce.com/greek-dictionary/eikon).

The Greek word for image can mean anything from an exact image to a resemblance. But an image is **not** the original! In Genesis, we learn that man is made in God's image (resemblance). Jesus told us when we see him, we see God because he (Jesus) is like God, presumably in some fashion that is different than the resemblance of man to God resultant from being created in the image of God – referring to character and morality.

John 14: ⁷"If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."

⁸ Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."
⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The

words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. ¹¹ Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves." (NASB, capitalization of pronouns referring to Jesus is trinitarian bias)



Now we look at the phrase "firstborn over all creation." Some teach that this means Jesus was the first thing God created before the heavens and the earth. If that were true, by logic it indicates Jesus is NOT part of a trinitarian God since the trinitarian teaching is that the son is coequal and coeternal in all ways with the other members of the trinity. A coeternal part of a trinitarian God, by definition, could not be created.

¹⁵He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation....

¹⁷And he is before all things, and in him all things consist. ¹⁸And he is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he may have the preeminence.

[Verses 17-18 have capitalization of "he" and "him," pronouns referring to Jesus, removed]

Firstborn is from the Greek *prototokos* which can mean such as the first child born to a family, or chief or head. ("Colossians 1:15-20 — Preexistence or Preeminence?" by William M. Wachtel, http://focusonthekingdom.org/articles_/colossians.htm).

We see here that the supremacy of Jesus is being described.

When we consider verse 15 along with verses 17 and 18, "firstborn" is defined for us by Paul as meaning the firstborn from the dead of all creation. This is referring to Jesus' resurrection, as 1 Corinthians 15:20 states – "But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."

And because of this, Jesus has preeminence (or first place) and is **over** all creation; he is "before all things" in the sense of supremacy.

1 Peter 1:21b-22 "through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers having

been made subject to him."

Matthew 28: 18 "¹⁸ And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, 'All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.'"

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

For by him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through him and for him.

The phrase "by him all things were created" seems to indicate Jesus was a creator. Of course, the Old Testament already told us that is not the case, but trinitarians will use these verses to support their ideas.

The word translated "by" is the Greek *en* which means in, inside, at, among, with; logically: by means of, with, because of; of time: during, while (https://www.billmounce.com/greek-dictionary/en).

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

For in him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through him and for him.

If we replace the preposition, it now reads "in Jesus all things were created" or "because of Jesus all things were created." "The passive 'were created' indicates . . . the activity of God the Father, working *in* the Son." (Buzzard, *The One God* New Testament, 498, fn11).



He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

For in him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through him and for him.

Paul defines the creation to which he is referring in that sentence by listing "thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers" – it is the creation of the new Kingdom order (*Who is Jesus*? by Anthony Buzzard; "Colossians 1:15-20 — Preexistence or Preeminence?" by William M. Wachtel, http://focusonthekingdom.org/articles_/colossians.htm).

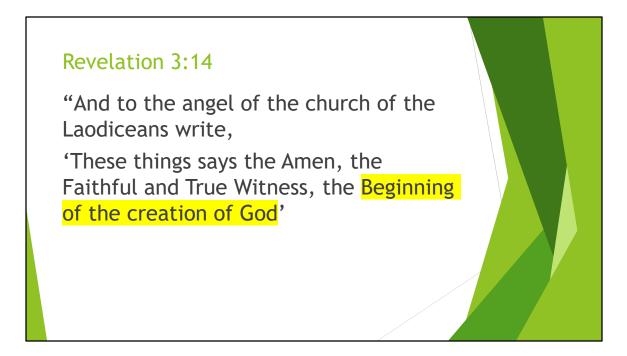
In Colossians 2:10, Paul also states that Christ "is the head over every power and authority."

This explains also the phrase "created through him and for him." These powers and authorities were created or shaped through, as a result of, and for the resurrected Anointed One, Jesus. With Jesus' resurrection, there is a reorganization of the powers and authorities since Jesus now takes a supreme position.

Ephesians 1:20-23 "[God] raised [Jesus] from the dead and seated him at His right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come. ²² And [God] put all things under [Jesus] feet, and gave [Jesus] to be head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in

all."

[Here "through" is the Greek *dia* meaning "(gen.) through, by means of" (https://www.billmounce.com/greek-dictionary/dia)]

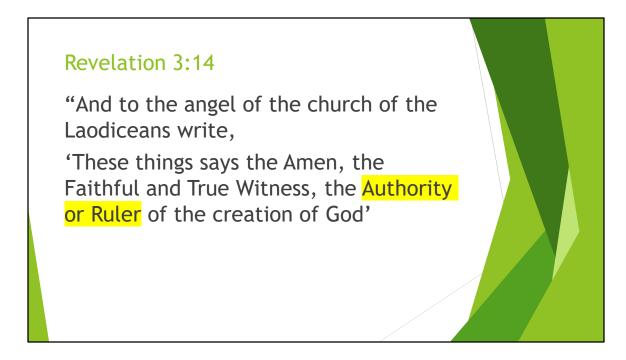


One final verse we will consider is Revelation 3:14.

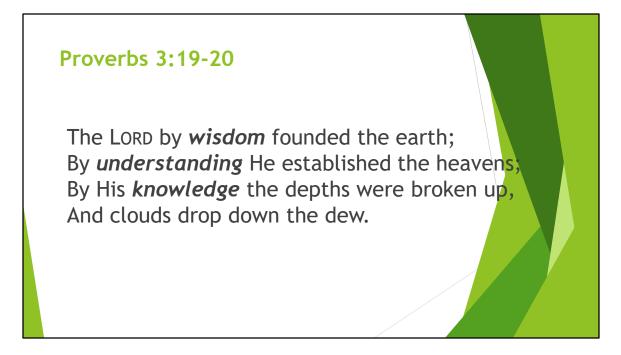
Read this way it indicates Jesus is part of the creation, again not an eternally coexistent part of God.

"Beginning" is the Greek word *arche* which means "beginning, origin, first; ruler, power, authority; position of authority, domain" (https://www.billmounce.com/greek-dictionary/arche)

This can also be read: (see next slide)



"Authority or Ruler of the creation of God." Colossians 1:15-18 just told us that this is true of Messiah Jesus *because he was the firstborn from the dead*, not the first to be created or the creator himself.

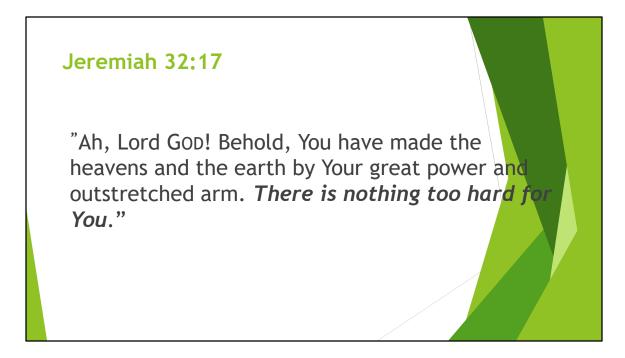


Knowing that God is the Creator and able to bring something into existence with His word is not simply an intellectual exercise. We learn much more about God from creation than only He's the Creator.

This verse tells us we know of God's wisdom, His understanding, and His knowledge from what He has made.

Jeremiah 10:10-13

He has made the earth by His *power*, He has established the world by His *wisdom*, And has stretched out the heavens at His *discretion*. When He utters His voice, There is a multitude of waters in the heavens: And He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth. He makes lightning for the rain, He brings the wind out of His treasuries.



Jeremiah knew that if God could make the heavens and the earth, then there can be nothing that is too hard for Him to do. What could be harder than to create all that exists out of what was invisible?

Amen!

Romans 1:19-20

What may be known of God is evident among them, for God has shown it to them.
For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and divine nature, so that they are without excuse . . .

The attributes we've seen in these verses - wisdom, understanding, knowledge, power, discretion, nothing is too hard for God – these are all known by the things God has made. Every human being can see and experience the creation and thus know the Creator. There is no excuse for not acknowledging the Creator God and Who He truly is. Yet we find many, even including those who call themselves "Christian," who deny the creation as the Bible describes.

Romans 1:21-23

Although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.

Some Christians want to put evolution into the Genesis creation account, or they say that the creation account is poetry, not an historical account of how creation happened.

To say that evolution happened along the way in Genesis 1 is to negate the most important teaching on which the plan of God rests:

Romans 5:12, 14a, 15b, 17a

Therefore,

just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin,

and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned

- . . . Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses
- . . . by the one man's offense many died

. . . by the one man's offense death reigned through the one

Death reigned from Adam to Moses to today, over all those who do not identify with Jesus' death...

Evolution is based on the concept that, beginning with a single living organism, as creatures lived and died, they changed and grew physical, bodily structures different than earlier generations. This process continued until evolution resulted in the creatures living today as well as mankind. Evolution is based on death. God's word tells us that death did not enter the world until AFTER man sinned. Animals and man did not die before man sinned. Thus, evolution cannot have resulted in mankind through the death process as is taught because **it was man who allowed death into the world.** Man, and animals in their diversity, lived **before** death came into the world.

(Which means that God created dinosaurs on the 6th day along with all the other animals and man and dinosaurs lived together on earth)

It is this concept of the origin of sin and death in the world that makes a Savior/Messiah necessary to restore man and creation to a paradise-like condition. Adam's sin set in motion all the rest of mankind's history and future as God determined to bring Jesus to save us from the effect of sin – death – and to bring us into eternal fellowship with God. Those who say evolution occurred before Adam lived must necessarily be denying the truth of Scripture (such as these verses from Romans) as well as the entire plan of God for Jesus as the sacrifice for sin.



To appreciate our great God, let's take a few minutes to consider some brief facts science has determined about creation:

The feathers of the wings of flying birds are made up of a main shaft, barbs and barbules. The barbules at the end edges connect with each other with hook-like structures known as barbicels. This makes the bird's wings powerful, flexible and water proof and demonstrates that they could not be developed through chance evolution.

See https://answersingenesis.org/birds/the-evolution-of-feathers-a-major-problem-for-darwinism/



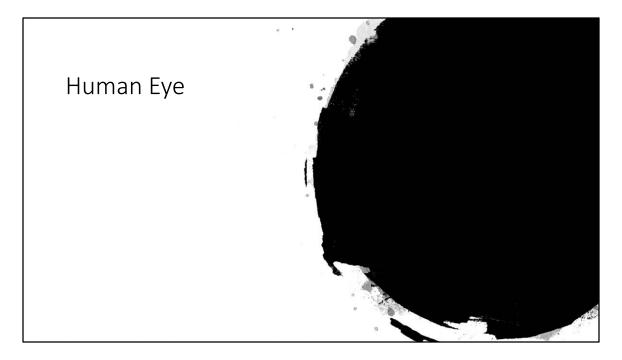
The sun is over 100 times the diameter of the earth. If it were hollow, it could hold over 1 million earths.

The sun is 93 million miles (150 million km) away from earth. If we were to drive 65 miles per hour (105 km/hr), it would take 163 years to drive this distance.

The sun is only an average sized star. For example, the star Antares is almost 430 times <u>larger</u> than our sun. Betelgeuse is about 700 times larger than the sun!

Jeremiah 32:17 - 'Ah Lord GOD! Behold, You have made the heavens and the earth by Your great power and by Your outstretched arm! Nothing is too difficult for You.' (NASB)

https://owlcation.com/stem/The-Size-of-the-Sun-As-Compare-to-the-Other-Stars https://www.space.com/17001-how-big-is-the-sun-size-of-the-sun.html



The retina is made up of about 12 billion cells.

The optic nerve that communicates from the eye to the brain is made up of over 1 million nerve cells.

The eye is the fastest reacting muscle in the body; the pupil contracts in less than $1/100^{\text{th}}$ of a second.

The eye has 7 million cones (for seeing color) and 100 million rods (a type of cell) for perceiving shape.

The eye sees only 3 colors (blue, red, green).

The eye can receive input, transmit it to the brain, which then communicates with the body at such speeds that we can reach for something accurately, read, on average, 200-300 words per minute, accurately throw a ball, see three-dimensional images, and so much more!

https://answersingenesis.org/human-body/eyes/can-evolution-produce-an-eye-nota-chance/ https://www.lenstore.co.uk/eyecare/51-human-eye-facts



Dr. Martin in "Incredible Creatures that Defy Evolution" "explains that no creature ever discovered has a partial lung, or a partial brain. If the entire system, such as a circulatory system or a nervous system, isn't there, the creature would not survive. It has to be there all at once or the creature would be dead."

Bombardier Beetle: "has a defense mechanism that manufactures a catalyst that starts an explosion to scare predators. It has twin tail tubes that it can aim in any direction. The explosion happens in thousands of little pops so rapidly that it sounds like one pop. The many explosions make it so that his legs can hold onto the ground and it doesn't blow him away."

<u>Giraffe:</u> 18 feet tall. To get blood to his head, he has to have a 2 ½ foot long heart. This is a powerful pump. When he bends to get a drink, valves in his neck close, and the last pump in his neck goes into a sponge-like material that can expand, so it doesn't over pump blood to his brain. When he comes back up, the valves in his neck open, and the oxygen in the sponge-like material goes to his brain, so he doesn't pass out, while waiting for more blood to pump to his head. https://www.chess.com/blog/Evenstaroflight/incredible-creatures-that-defyevolution https://pixabay.com/en/giraffe-water-tree-sunset-thirst-895882/



Woodpecker: The beak is stronger than the materials of other birds' beaks. Its feet are different. Most birds have three claws in the front and one in back. The woodpecker has two claws out the front and two out the back, so he can climb all around the bark of trees. Its tail feathers are also different. They are more resilient. They are strong and spongy, so it can use the tail feathers for balance when it pecks on a tree. It has cartilage between his beak and skull to hold its brain still as it pecks. Its skull is the thickest bone per body weight of any creature. Its tongue will go as much as 10 inches out of the beak. The tongue has little barbs on the end of it. He has a glue factory in the end of his tongue that will stick to the bug, but not to his beak. When the bug is pulled into its mouth, another factory makes a solvent to dissolve the glue. These birds open their eyes between each peck. It has been discovered that the force of the impact would cause its eyes to fall out if they weren't closed.

https://www.chess.com/blog/Evenstaroflight/incredible-creatures-that-defyevolution https://pixabay.com/en/woodpecker-great-spotted-woodpecker-2424431/



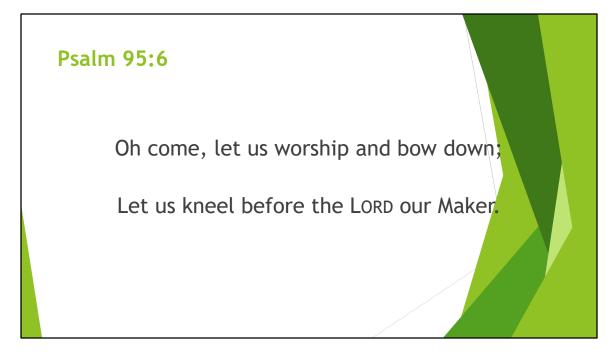
<u>Chicken Egg:</u> Eggs have pores through the egg shell that allow the chick to breath and excrete waste from the shell. The timing for a chick has to be exact. On the flat end of the egg, there is an air sack. On the 19th day, the chick can't get enough air. It pokes a hole with an egg tooth that grows on the end of its beak. When the air sack is pecked into, he has six hours to peck a hole through the shell. On the 21st day, it breaks out of the shell. If this is done in any other order or on any other day, the chick dies.

https://www.chess.com/blog/Evenstaroflight/incredible-creatures-that-defyevolution https://pixabay.com/en/hatching-chicks-egg-shell-break-bill-2448541/



Beaver: is an engineer. They build their homes with two or more underwater entrances. The home is dry and is built in such a way that bad gasses escape. Beavers have eyelids that are see-through. It also has nose and ear flaps that close and furlined flaps inside its mouth to cover its throat and its molars, to protect them from cold-water. Its front teeth keep growing, so they don't wear down. A beaver can swim a current, dragging a branch, and mathematically compensate so it can swim straight across the stream.

https://www.chess.com/blog/Evenstaroflight/incredible-creatures-that-defyevolution https://pixabay.com/en/beaver-rodent-animal-wildlife-3709599/



These are only a handful of examples of the wonder of God's creative ability and beauty. Each plant, animal, planet, star, each person is a marvel of its own.

And as we experience and meditate on the wonders of the creation, it should turn our thoughts and hearts to the Creator, the One who made all this beauty and wonder for our delight and to provide for our needs. But above all so that we will worship Him in awe at His power and glory and wisdom!