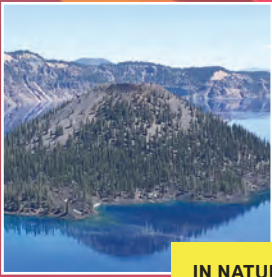


Creation

I L L U S T R A T E D

YOUR COMPANION ...



IN NATURE



IN SCRIPTURE



IN LIVING

SUMMER 2024 VOL 31 NO 2 US \$4.99





A white peacock is shown in profile on the left side of the image, with its long, delicate tail feathers fanned out across the middle and right. The feathers are a mix of white and light grey, with some showing subtle iridescence. The peacock is standing on a vibrant green lawn. In the background, there are dense green bushes and trees, some with small blue flowers. The overall scene is bright and natural.

*“Even Solomon in
all his glory was
not arrayed
like one of
these.”*

– Matthew 6:29

Our Why



We seek to spread the word about our wonderful Creator and the power of His transformational love through object lessons found in His handiwork that are backed by supporting Scripture. After all, this was Christ's method of teaching eternal truths through the things He made.

In biblical times, these lessons, as well as the amazing miracles Christ performed, were shared by word of mouth, preaching, and inspired letters. These stories, parables, and instructions to the early church have stood the test of time.

Today we are bombarded with messages that try to capture our attention through a variety of methods including direct mail, email, social media, online banner advertising, billboards, radio and TV ads, store signage, newspapers, newscasts, and, of course, magazines. We have tried to use some of these to share the Creation message with a hurting world.

But Christ's method of spreading truth via word of mouth affords a more personal and *genuine* connection in this age of *artificial* communication that some call *intelligence*. Christ commissioned His disciples to, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). He knew that personal testimony (word of mouth) would be the most effective means of sharing—not because books, ipads, and broadcasts were not available but because inspiring heartfelt conviction in others is most effective one on one. This is not to say that people cannot be reached using today's methods of communication; we use the printing press every quarter, as well as email, social media, and direct mail.

However, *genuine* word of mouth communication should not be overlooked. This is why we are launching a new **Creation Illustrated Affiliate Program** where individuals, organizations, schools, churches, youth groups, clubs, and homeschoolers can sign up to become *Creation Illustrated* Affiliates and receive a commission for every *Creation Illustrated* subscription sold to help raise money for mission trips, special projects, summer camp, school supplies, etc. We make it easy with nothing to buy, stock, or deliver; we'll do all of that for you.

You can learn more about how this exciting new program works on our Website, in the middle of this edition of *Creation Illustrated*, or by scanning the QR Code below. You will be motivated to share *Creation Illustrated* with family, friends, neighbors, and others in person *and* online, not only because of the monetary reward but because of the joy in sharing by word of mouth the life-transforming lessons found in Creation. That's why.

The Publishers

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Creation

I L L U S T R A T E D

Vol. 31, No. 2

Our Purpose . . .

is to share the wonders of God's creation. By revealing fresh insights of His infinite wisdom, gentle touch, undeniable justice, redeeming love, and flawless design, pure truth shall bring renewed peace. Each part of this publication is offered as a reprieve from the daily rigors of life so that all can look to the future with unbridled gratitude and hope.

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The cover photo of a flower with a moth was taken by Bryan Reynolds.

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Risk vs. Benefit

Many business decisions, career choices, higher education degrees, and even recreational activities typically get evaluated on a risk vs. benefit ratio. What is the cost vs. the potential gain? Such dilemmas can be found in the natural world too.

For example, most of us would not likely choose to handle bee hives because the risk of getting stung is too high. But the undeniable benefits of harvesting honey and bees wax help us appreciate those who know how to reduce the risk of working with bees. Even sweeter bee hive lessons can be found in this issue's children's story.

Furthermore, virtually all of us would be too risk averse to swim with sharks, but the author of the creatures article called "Saving Sharks" has a passion for protecting this often misunderstood part of God's creation that inspires many technological and pharmaceutical advances for our benefit.

Other health benefits have been discovered through the years by indigenous people and researchers who have delved into the realm of herbal remedies. But who was willing to take a chance at risking their lives by being the first to try out various herbal concoctions? We have all benefited from both the medicinal and culinary attributes of herbal elements as revealed in the story on Creation day three when plant life first appeared on earth.

In the late summer and early fall hordes of wild berry pickers traipse into uncultivated glades and bushes to harvest nature's bounty of tiny, juicy orbs that become pies, jams, jellies, and juices. But gathering these tasty treats is not without the risk of getting scratched up by thorny twigs, bit by bugs and ticks, or worse yet to find oneself competing for the harvest with hungry bears. Discover in the "Wild Berry Harvest" article the vast variety of healthful benefits that result from the determined berry-stained hands of risk takers.

Other outdoor risk takers venture into the wilds for the thrill of getting close to parts of nature or breathtaking views that require arduous effort. A couple in Alaska wanted to hike to a remote glacier and found that their plans did not meet the insurmountable challenge in reaching their goal. Falling short, they chose not to push themselves to take greater risks that could result in life-threatening consequences. Still, "An Uphill Climb" features unexpected benefits and life lessons worth the risk they did take.

And what about the early explorers and pioneers who took far greater risks in searching the wilderness of the new land out west in the 1800s? They scaled mountain peaks, bushwhacked through dense forests, and risked starvation, disease, and dangerous creatures to discover the natural gems that millions of city-dwelling weekend warriors benefit from today. The discovery of Crater Lake that fills a massive dormant volcano stands among the deepest and bluest lakes in the world. We can leisurely join the author who was awestruck by the wonder of Crater Lake National Park.

But the greatest of all risks was taken two millennia ago when Jesus chose to set self and His heavenly throne aside to rescue a fallen race. He risked total separation from His heavenly Father so that we could reap the benefits of eternal life. We will forever be pondering this unfathomable cost all for our benefit and eternally praise Him for taking such a selfless risk.



Tom Ish, editor/publisher



Sharing Our Mail

Our Creator . . .

The most beautiful magazine of our wonderful Creator! Thank you and blessings.

C. Dye
Wenatchee, Washington

Photo winner . . .

My daughter won a recent photo contest and was so excited to receive her \$25 check! Sadly, my wallet dropped out of my purse in the grocery store parking lot, and the check was lost. We have searched high and low and cannot find it.

I wanted to let you know in case your

organization is trying to balance your accounts and see that it is still uncashed. I am so sorry.

C. Carlson
Coeburn, Virginia
Editor's Note: No problem. The check was reissued to this talented young photographer and nature enthusiast.

Gift renewals . . .

Thank you for the precious work you are doing for our Maker, Redeemer, and soon coming King. Thank you for sewing seeds everywhere you can by sharing *Creation Illustrated*.

Please also find enclosed my subscription and gift renewals plus a donation. I pray you can send the lovely yellow chicks cover to our friends. I've enjoyed it very much with rich blessings.

May Abba in Christ by His Spirit continue to bless you richly is my prayer.

N. Santiago
White Salmon,
Washington

Shut-ins . . .

I really enjoy your magazine! You have such wonderful scriptures and beautiful

pictures in your articles. You are a blessing to so many of us. I have shared *Creation Illustrated* with family and friends.

I do especially enjoy buying your back issues and sharing them with shut-ins! A friend shared your magazine with me; so, I am happy I can share it with others, too.

Thank you so very much for your ministry. May God be with you as you serve Him.

Margie C.
Jamul, California

She wants all . . .

I am ordering *Creation Illustrated* for my 13-year-old great-granddaughter. I sent her mine that I received in April. She loved it, and she wants them all!

E. Riesch
Umpire, Arkansas

Striated cliffs . . .

In the magazine dated Winter 2024, the chaotic striated cliffs photo on page 25 amazed me as God's handiwork pointing to the Flood.

I also truly enjoyed the article on the heavens and the magnitude of stars and

how everything is in their place. I am glad for the proofs that there is a Creator God.

I truly regret that we have failed in every way possible in light of all He has done for the population since the beginning. I really enjoy the "Creation 7" edition from Fall 2023.

S. Davis
Inmate
Sheridan, Illinois

Diamonds . . .

I loved the Bitter Lakes article. The locals go there, and we watch the take-offs and landings of the many birds.

My cousin and I one day saw about five groups of snow geese take off. Up and away they went, and it looked like diamonds sparkling in the vast sky—out of this world heavenly grandeur. What a God we serve.

S. Mellgren
Roswell, New Mexico

Special edition . . .

The 30th anniversary special creation week edition is beautiful! It should never go out of print or out of stock.

W. and D. Johnson
Tillamook, Oregon

Dear Friends:

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Wild Berry

C R E A T I O N U P C L O S E ,



Bright lingonberries dot a forest floor.



A bountiful

Summertime invites us to explore the outdoors, and a hike through a forest provides us bountiful blessings. We can breathe the fresh pine-scented air, gaze up at the lofty boughs pierced by beams of sunlight, glance at the vast variety of green undergrowth, and delight in the sight of scattered brightly-adorned wildflowers. But what about finding tasty gems of juicy wild treats?

Some may be surprised at the variety of

edible wild berries growing on trees, bushes, or vines in forested areas. Although varying in color, size, shape, and taste, all wild berries contain dietary fibers, minerals, and vitamins necessary for any balanced diet. Research shows that berries provide benefits in improving brain health, reducing inflammation, and lowering blood sugar. Let's further explore the wonders of wild berries and learn how these tangy-sweet morsels are gifts from our Creator!

Cranberries (native to northeastern North

Harvesting

B Y T A T I A N A C L A U D Y



high-bush cranberry harvest Judy Anne Parker



Wild cranberry picking can be tedious.

America) grow on creeping vines reaching up to eight inches high and up to seven feet long. In the U.S. these ruby orbs are abundant in states with cooler climates—Oregon, Washington, Wisconsin, New Jersey, and Massachusetts. They flourish in forest wet places like bogs and fens (a type of peat); hence, the traditional English name for this plant is *fenberry*. Yet, Dutch and German settlers called it *crane berry* because its flowers resemble a crane's head.

The cranberries' slender, horizontal stems

with small evergreen leaves spread on the surface of the soggy ground to form a thick carpet. These plants bloom in May and June with dark-pink flowers pollinated by bees. In late September the small round red berries are ready to harvest, but this must be done before the first frost. As the Bible teaches, "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven" (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

Cranberries (high in vitamin C, potassium, and antioxidants) have become popular for making

sauces and juices. Dried cranberries are used in breakfast cereals, muffins, puddings, salads, and as healthful snacks. Interestingly, each cranberry has four air pockets that allow fresh raw berries to bounce after being dropped on a solid surface. Similarly, God promises in Proverbs 24:16 that we, too, can bounce back from our falls or misfortunes, “For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again.”

European mountain ash (or Rowan) got introduced to America in colonial times. These low-branching trees grow up to forty feet tall. In late May they bloom with little white flowers, and at the end of summer clusters of red (or orange) berry-like fruit appear on their branches. Wild animals (bears, deer, moose, and squirrels), as well as birds (jays, robins, and grouses), forage on these berries. What a wonderful provision of the Creator who “gives to the beast its food” (Psalms 147:9)!

This plant’s Latin name, *Sorbus aucuparia*, translates as “having a tendency to attract birds.” In fact, bird catchers used Rowan berries to lure and

trap winged creatures. While it is difficult for birds to escape from snares, we have a Redeemer who delivers us from all spiritual traps. “Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth” (Psalm 124:7, 8).

Rowan berries (high in iron and vitamins C and A) make tasty jams, jellies, and drinks. While the raw berries are bitter, they become sweet after a frost. This natural aspect can remind us of the great results that hardships can produce in our Christian characters. “Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been proved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him” (James 1: 12).

Aronia (native to mid-western regions of North America) is a perennial shrub reaching up to thirteen feet tall. It can survive droughts because its horizontal roots go to twenty inches deep, and its vertical roots penetrate to nearly seven feet deep. Thus, the plant absorbs the moisture from the lower



Mountain ash berry clusters grow in abundance.



Aronia or chokeberries

and the upper layers of soil. The Creator illustrates a valuable insight here for our spiritual survival; we must be deeply rooted in the Word of God. “As you have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving” (Colossians 2:6, 7).

In May, aronia blooms with little white flowers arranged in clusters. By August small round glossy berries ripen by turning black or purple. When these tart and sweet berries are eaten fresh, they produce a mouth-drying effect that explains the plant’s other name—*chokeberry*. Despite this unpleasant moniker, these berries are extremely beneficial for one’s health as a great source of vitamins C, A, K, and E, as well as minerals like iron, calcium, and potassium. Due to a very high level of antioxidants, chokeberries are called a *superfood*. Dried berries may be used as ingredients in muffins, cakes, pies, jellies, jams, juices, and teas.

Viburnum (native to North America, Asia, and the Mediterranean region) is a scrub (or small tree)

growing up to thirty feet high. Botanists distinguish about a hundred and fifty varieties of this plant. One of them, *Viburnum opulus*, in North America is known as the *European cranberrybush* due to the tart taste of its berries. *Viburnum*’s sweetly fragrant white flowers grow in clusters. In late summer, red (or orange) berries are ready to harvest. These berries contain high levels of vitamins C, A, and P, and also zinc, calcium, potassium, iron, and iodine. Fresh juice has the most useful properties, but the leaves and the bark of the viburnum plant are also used for medicinal purposes.

Interestingly (within the etymology of flower names), viburnum symbolizes *pride*. So, an important spiritual lesson from this plant points toward developing humility because, “God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6). The apostle Peter instructed, “Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time” (1 Peter 5:6). Jesus also emphasized the importance of humility by saying that “whoever



Tatiana Claudy



Tatiana Claudy

turn almost black when ripe.

Viburnum berries hide under broad foliage.



Ripe autumn olive berries don shiny scales.



Wild rosehips contain

humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 18:4).

Autumn olive (Autumn Berries) is a shrub growing up to thirty feet wide and twenty feet tall. The plant was named *autumn olive* because its foliage resembles the leaves of olive trees. Native to Korea, Japan, and China, this species was introduced in the US in the 1830s. Autumn olives are planted to fight soil erosion and to repopulate natural habitats. Its nitrogen-fixing roots allow this plant to thrive even in poor soils and produce about two hundred thousand seeds yearly. Likewise, we, too, can flourish even under unfavorable circumstances, “For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal” (2 Corinthians 4:17, 18).

However, being so prolific, autumn olive often becomes invasive. Thus, it is necessary to

control these plants to prevent them from taking over native species. We also must guard our spiritual environment and watch even for small things that can corrupt the development of “good habits” (1 Corinthians 15:33).

Autumn olives bloom early in March with small bell-shaped yellow flowers that provide hungry bees with much-needed nectar. “O Lord, You preserve man and beast” (Psalm 36:6). In September through October, autumn olives produce small round reddish berries dotted with silver scales, which explains this plant’s other name—*Japanese silverberry*. High in vitamins C and E, these berries can be used raw or made into jams and jellies.

Rosehip (or dog rose) plants are perennial shrubs native to North America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. They may reach up to ten feet high. As a wild variety of roses, this plant has stems and branches covered with sharp prickles. There are more than three hundred varieties of rosehip plants that bloom with pink, red, yellow, or white blossoms. After



Tatiana Claudy



Berries can be made into delectable treats including rosehip jelly.

valuable nutrients.

pollination, flowers produce hips—oblong berry-like red (or orange) fruits that ripen around the end of summer. These hips contain twenty times more vitamin C than oranges and are also rich in vitamins E and K, as well as calcium and magnesium. Tea made with these tangy-flavored rosehips boosts immunity, and the berries can be used to prepare syrup, juice, jelly, jam, marmalade, bread, tarts, and pies.

The best time to gather these berries is after the first frost because their taste becomes sweeter. Upon being harvested, the berries should be used fresh. If left to dry, they lose most of their Vitamin C. This feature of rose hips can serve as a reminder of wise time management. “Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil” (Ephesians 5:15, 16, NIV).

After learning about these six varieties of wild berries, our gratitude to the Creator can abound for giving us a deeper understanding of this part of His handiwork that reveals even the wild places

to provide for our well being. We could continue on with such bountiful blessings like the abundant huckleberries found throughout the mountains of the northwest or the prolific wild blackberries lining creeksides in many states. But for now, “I will exalt You, I will praise Your name, for You have done wonderful things” (Isaiah 25:1). **C**

Tatiana Claudy writes from Pleasant Lake, Indiana, where she gleans valuable spiritual lessons from the bounty of God’s creation.

In The Mo

A L E N S O N C R E A T I O N -



Bobby Harrison

Total solar eclipse with inner and outer corona

I arrived on location in Bloomington, Indiana, around ten-thirty at night, and the sky looked good



Bobby Harrison

Northern cardinal

for the big event that was to occur the next day. I had been looking forward to this event for seven years! April 8 was *E-day*—eclipse day—a day that underscores Psalm 19:1, “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork” (KJV).

This eclipse would be the second time in seven years that North America would experience one of the most incredible natural phenomenon that the human eye can witness. For those who have never witnessed such an out-of-this-world event, it is difficult to explain the excitement leading up to and during *totality*—the total eclipse of the sun. The human senses are unprepared and overwhelmed by what appears to be an unnatural sight.

By the time the moon covers 95 percent of the sun,

daylight begins to wane with an eerie yellow twilight that creeps upon the earth. Not only does this visually confusing phenomenon confuse the senses of humans, but God’s other creatures sense the sudden and untimely twilight, as well.

As the daylight dimmed, eastern towhees, cardinals, tufted titmouses, and indigo buntings that had been busily foraging in the nearby forest’s edge just minutes earlier began to sing their evening songs. A red-tailed hawk and turkey vultures that had been soaring in the sky above landed in a nearby sweetgum tree as if they were ready to roost for the night.

At the moment of totality, the moon blocked all the searing rays of the sun. The twilight that triggered many birds toward an early rest now turned to darkness. With the rays of the sun blocked, the April afternoon warmth turned chilly. With the darkness the vociferous squawks of the bluejays became murmured, and the chattering northern mockingbirds fell silent. All avian activity once so vigorously engrossed in daily life now perched silent and motionless.

The sky went from a royal azure blue to suddenly sparkle with bright stars and planets. Darkness enveloped everything, and the solar corona (the sun’s atmosphere) radiated from behind the shadow of the moon. Glowing

on's Shadow

BY BOBBY HARRISON

red solar prominences (four times the size of earth) leaped from the sun's surface. For four minutes and two seconds the blinding intensity of the sun was hidden, which revealed the radiant grandeur of the solar corona. Only during a total solar eclipse can the blinding light of the sun be hidden so the true beauty, radiance, and glorious glowing halo of our closest star can be seen. It is a rare and treasured gift that can be seen only when the earth, moon, and sun are in perfect alignment.

But for me the total eclipse was more than the alignment of the earth, moon, and sun. In all its splendor, this miraculous, heavenly display serves as a reminder of our Creator's resplendent glory and celestial design. With each eclipse I have witnessed I am reminded of Moses on Mount Sinai. It was there that Moses beseeched the Lord to reveal His glory. Moses called out to God, "And he said, 'Please, show me Your glory.' Then He said, 'I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the Lord before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.' But He said, 'You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live.' And the Lord said, 'Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock. So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the



Bobby Harrison

Tufted titmouse

cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by'" (Exodus 33:18–22).

Moses could not look upon the face of God and live. Thus, God hid Moses in the cleft of the rock and *eclipsed* him so he would not see God's face but observe only His glory—the *corona* of His being. As I look upon the radiance of the solar corona dancing around the eclipsed sun, I think of Psalm 8:1, "O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth, You who set Your glory above the heavens!"

What a remarkable parallel the Lord has shown us in this celestial phenomenon. What an incredible opportunity to witness in the heavens that declare the glory of God! **C**

Bobby Harrison writes from

Huntsville, Alabama, and Oakwood University as a retired associate professor of photography. See his work at: www.bobbyharrison.blogspot.com



Bobby Harrison

Bluejay

RE-CREATION OUTDOORS

Crater Lake National Park

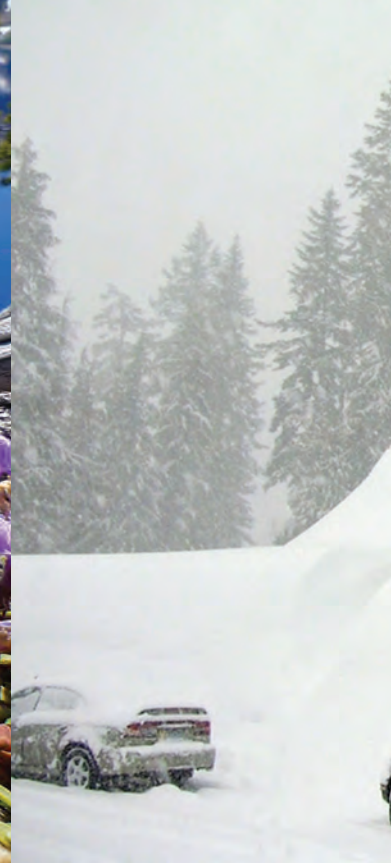
BY KARA KRULICK





Thousands of years ago, a massive volcanic eruption in the Pacific Northwest cracked open Mount Mazama, and molten red lava spilled down its sides destroying everything in its path. The strain of the explosion ripped the mountain in two, and it folded in on itself. Where there once stood a majestic peak, only a huge crater remained with a jagged rim, crumbled crags, and volcanic ash.

Violence and disparaging destruction are not the first things that come to most people's minds when they think of the stunning azure gem of Crater Lake located in the Southwest region of Oregon. I remember sitting transfixed while staring at the screen as I watched "The Crater Lake Story" in the national park's visitor center. Then I stood equally stunned gazing in awe before one of the most majestic places I have ever been in my life!



NPS and on previous pages

Vibrant spring wildflowers contrast with the mounds of deep winter snow.

TRANSFORMATIVE POWER

Could this serene scene possibly be the same place where a volcanic eruption toppled a 12,000 foot mountain? It seemed impossible that such a violent event could be replaced by such powerful peace with one of the purest and deepest lakes in the entire world. Yet, when I think about the glory of God's creation and the wonder of all He has made, it makes perfect sense. God has shown in my life, time after time, that no matter how broken I am, His never-ending forgiveness and transformative power allows me to become a *new* creation. Crater Lake reminds us that our God can make *all* things new. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17, NIV).

I stood before Crater Lake for the first time on a warm day in early June. Despite the temperature, melting snow drifts still dotted the landscape that averages 42 feet of snowfall per year. When I reached down to touch the crusty frozen remains, I felt something cold hit my neck. I turned around to find my sister grinning. I quickly scooped up an icy fistful and hurled it at her. We laughed as we scrambled across the slippery snow pile. Out of breath at the 7,000 foot elevation, I sat on a low stone wall near the Rim Village. I stared out at the startlingly blue water with some melting snow still in my hand. I remember being overwhelmed by a sense of the lake's purity. The blue water seemed untouched by worldly contamination.

I closed my eyes, and the picture of the volcanic destruction reappeared in my mind. I imagined the thick, dark smoke and white ash floating through the air making it hard to breathe. Then I imagined the transformation taking place as a smoking crater eventually filled with water that reflected the sky above. I opened my eyes and again saw the lake in all its grandeur; I was again overcome with awe.



NPS



Deep blue hues characterize the surface of Crater Lake.

Deborah Rew

“The old has gone, the new is here!”

Parts of the still snow-capped cascade mountains surround the lake, and pine tree forests stretch heavenward. As the deepest lake in the United States (1,949 feet) and the seventh deepest lake in the world, you could stack the Eiffel Tower, the Washington Monuments, and the Statue of Liberty on top of each other and still have a hundred feet of water above them to reach the surface of the lake.

Crater Lake also remains among the top ten purest lakes in the entire world due to rain and snow runoff flowing over the volcanic rock that doesn't produce much silt or nutrients to feed algae or cloud the water. With no sediments, algae, pesticides, or pollution, the untainted water absorbs all the colors of the visible light spectrum except the blues, which is why it appears as such a rich and inviting royal, azure hue that some say resembles a *peacock feather* blue.

Early explorer and prospector James Hillman first discovered it on June 12, 1853 and said it was the “bluest water he had ever seen” and called it Deep Blue Lake. Wizard Island, a small inactive volcano in the middle of the lake, stands proud and tall. The crater on top of Wizard Island influenced its current name coined by explorer James Sutton in 1869. Legends of the eruption told by Klamath tribes called the lake *gii-was* meaning *sacred place*. Some natives refused to even look upon the lake because they thought the gods dwelled there.

In a way, they were not wrong. The Bible tells us that God has revealed Himself through His creation. When we see places such as Crater Lake, they strike us so strongly with their beauty that we have the innate desire to worship and praise their Creator. That inexplicable desire to worship—to be spiritually moved by the overwhelming splendor around us—is God-



Renee Janzen

Wizard Island is a volcanic cinder cone.



The Science and Learning Center is housed in the Superintendent's

SINGING WORSHIP SONGS

given. “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse” (Romans 1:20, NIV). The natural world reveals His character to us through the work of His hands, which He has done for me through the captivating spectacle of Crater Lake. Such powerful wonders draw people out of the cities and into the healing surroundings of nature including around five hundred thousand visitors to Crater Lake National Park each year.

I remember hiking to Merriam Point overlook with a panoramic view of surrounding peaks and Wizard Island. Gazing at the water and feeling my heart swell in admiration, I started singing worship songs, and the words of redemption and God’s never-ending love brought tears to my eyes. I thought about all the times I had turned away from God, and He kept loving me anyway. God has redeemed us. He no longer sees Christ’s followers as the sinful humans we are but as people washed clean by the blood of His Son. Sometimes I look at myself, and all I see are the crags and ashes brought about by my choices and the enemy’s destruction in the world, but then God reminds me that He sees me differently. He does not dwell on my ugliness and sinful nature; rather, He sees me washed white as snow—a reminder of how God values all His children.

My favorite verse in the Bible is, “And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God” (Ephesians 3:17–19, NIV). Standing in



House—a National Historic Landmark. NPS



Phantom Ship Island resembles a ghost ship.


Jason Stone

“This love that surpasses knowledge.”

front of Crater Lake and soaking in its inspiration, I had a clearer understanding of that verse. I was filled to the measure with God’s fullness and His incredible commitment to redeem what might seem to be irredeemable.

The deepest, purest lake in the United States formed from a violent volcano showed me that I was not too far gone for God to rescue me. There are no limits to God’s love, and it is my prayer that everyone would believe that truth. God’s love is deeper, higher, and wider than anything we can imagine, and places like Crater Lake further reveal that unimaginable concept.

Whether you are taking the lovely scenic drive around the lake’s 33-mile rim road with some thirty overlooks in the warmer months, hiking down Cleetwood Cove Trail to swim in the frigid water, or taking a boat ride to Wizard Island, Crater Lake offers many opportunities to explore and experience its wonders. The winter months boast activities such as snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, and sledding despite some road closures.

Be on the lookout for a variety of creatures like black bears, birds like Canada jays and bald eagles, and numerous insects including butterflies. For youngsters, the Junior Ranger program offers a superb way for them to learn much about what the national park has to offer. As someone who has visited three times, I still can’t wait to go back again for another restorative and transformational experience. While experiencing the glory of God’s creation, I am continually reminded that He is the One who brings forth purity from the ashes. 

Kara Krulick writes from Vacaville, California, where she pursues her love of nature, poetry, and stories that she hopes will impact people for the kingdom of God.

Saving

Sharks

Picture a little girl at the animal shelter picking out which puppy is going to be her new best friend. She locks eyes with *the one* and realizes she is going to care for and protect this animal for several years to come.

My story is a little different. As a sixth grader I was snorkeling near Catalina Island in Southern California. While awestruck by the dozens of colorful fish surrounding me, a sudden heart-pounding astonishment flashed before me when I saw a shark. At that moment, with my stomach full of butterflies, I realized this creature was *the one*. There was something about it that gave me a sensation of magnetic draw similar to how badly you want to pet that puppy you see while walking down the street.

By Summer Boulais





Mark Gottlieb



Renaë Smith

A young girl (above) fascinated by the sleek and graceful shark swimming in an aquarium appears to want to touch the creature that has fins yet no scales (right). Undaunted by any predators, a school of black-tip sharks (below) fearlessly lurks through open, clear waters.



Mark Gottlieb

*“So that they may rule over
the fish in the sea . . .”*

—Genesis 1:26, NIV

Sharks would become the creature I wanted to advocate for and protect for many years to come. Fast forward to my twenties; I am now pursuing my dream career path in shark conservation while earning my master’s degree in Conservation Leadership at Colorado State University. So, how did God lead me to this point?

Many people question their calling and the purpose God has planned for their lives. Growing up in Southern California, I developed a deep love and appreciation for the ocean and the outdoors. Observing footsteps in the sand reminded me of how I am to follow in Jesus’ footsteps. Hearing the force of the crashing waves reminded me of God’s power. Such experiences helped me develop a particular mindset: the ocean is of the utmost wonder and must be respected—just like God.

To this day I still feel closest to God in nature. The mysteries of the ocean fascinate me in the same way that God does—vast and breathtaking with so much that largely remains a mystery to humans. The story of Creation was pivotal in helping me find my calling and uncovering pieces of the mystery of God’s path for my life.

Being exposed to the wonders of the ocean at such a young age was a huge blessing. Growing up Christian also taught me about the wonders of our Creator and how He has assigned us to be stewards of the earth. “Then God said, ‘Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, so that they may rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground’” (Genesis 1:26, NIV). The part of this verse that has always captured

my attention is “rule over the fish in the sea.” Remembering the colorful and vastly unique fish I saw while snorkeling reminded me of the myriad details God put into nature. Such diversity also serves as a reminder of how God made every one of us amazingly unique as part of His wondrous design and wisdom.

The number of species that exist in the ocean seems virtually endless. One verse in particular helped me understand why I was so passionate about sharks: “You alone are the Lord. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you” (Nehemiah 9:6, NIV). God paid attention to every detail while creating the universe so that everything could work together in harmony. The role I have taken on as a steward of the earth is to help maintain that harmony by protecting sharks.

How does protecting sharks help maintain harmony? Research has shown that sharks are vital for maintaining a stable ecosystem—essentially a group of organisms interacting with each other in an environment. Sharks are at the top of the food chain; so, removing them has a huge domino effect that can create an imbalance.

It may come as a surprise, but sharks may also hold the key to cures for diseases like COVID or cancer. Sharks have incredibly strong immune systems that include the smallest, naturally occurring *binding domains* found in nature. These binding domains are proteins that can act like antibodies against diseases. They are called single-domain Variable New Antigen Receptors or VNARs. They

“Creatures in the seas or streams that do not have fins and scales . . .”

—Leviticus 11:10, NIV

will bind to the infectious protein that helps prevent the infection from spreading. Researching shark DNA could lead to finding the cure for cancer or preventing future outbreaks of COVID or other pandemic-promoting pathogens.

These seemingly wily sea creatures provide many benefits to both humans and underwater ecosystems. However, several shark species show up on the International Union of Conservation Red List, which classifies animals' level of endangerment. A total of 545 shark species fall under those categories with 35 being critically endangered or close to extinction. This trend deeply saddens me to see God's amazing creatures face the potential of ceasing to exist.

Several factors threaten various shark species including the way the media and movie industry have portrayed sharks through films like *Jaws* resulting in a deep misunderstanding about these creatures. Research has shown that more careful use of language to describe sharks could quell public biases formed through horror movies and newscasts. I have never perceived sharks to be the monsters seen in the media. In fact, there were only sixty-nine unprovoked shark bites reported last year worldwide, and only ten of those were fatal. To me sharks evoke a sense of awe and wonder with their superpowers of *electroreception*—the ability to sense electrical fields.

Another major threat toward these amazing creatures is the ongoing shark fin trade that continues despite strict bans aimed at preventing shark fishing. A 2021 report showed that overfishing drove more than a third of all shark and ray species toward extinction. More than two hundred countries and territories are importing and exporting shark and ray

meat for a global trade that was valued at \$2.6 billion between 2012 and 2019 with Spain being the world's top exporter. Italy is the top importer. The European Union accounts for more than 20 percent of the global shark meat trade. However, Scripture is clear that “All creatures in the seas or streams that do not have fins and scales—whether among all the swarming things or among all the other living creatures in the water—you are to regard as unclean” (Leviticus 11:10, NIV). Sharks have fins but do not have scales; therefore, God warns that they should not be consumed.

Furthermore, shark skin is used to manufacture luxury items including boots and shoes, handbags, wallets and purses, belts, watch straps, holsters, and various forms of ornamentation. But the microscopic tooth-like structure found in shark skin has also inspired technological advances toward decreasing resistance in cutting-edge swimsuits, streamlining boat hulls, and even reducing the drag on wind turbines and jet engine blades that saves on fuel making planes faster and *greener*.

Despite the downward spiral these species face, God reminds me to be faithful in my journey of trusting Him and His plan. Just this year a baby great white shark was reportedly spotted off the coast of California. A great white newborn has never been witnessed by researchers, so this discovery brings a sense of relief that an infant great white is out there despite populations currently decreasing. Having the technology to observe animals like this enhances the joy God can provide through nature.

Finding inspiration in Creation can provide a powerful catalyst for developing your faith. Communicating through science has become my



Shark meat (above), shark tooth jewelry (below), and shark skin boots, purses, and belts contribute to a multibillion dollar market. The image of fierce sharks (left) has also been exploited by the movie industry.



Mark Gottlieb



Mark Gottlieb

Swimming with sharks (above) can be an exhilarating thrill as well as drawing close to unique species like the hammerhead (below) or a school of reef sharks (right).



Mark Gottlieb




Mark Gottlieb

“Unless you change and become like little children . . .”

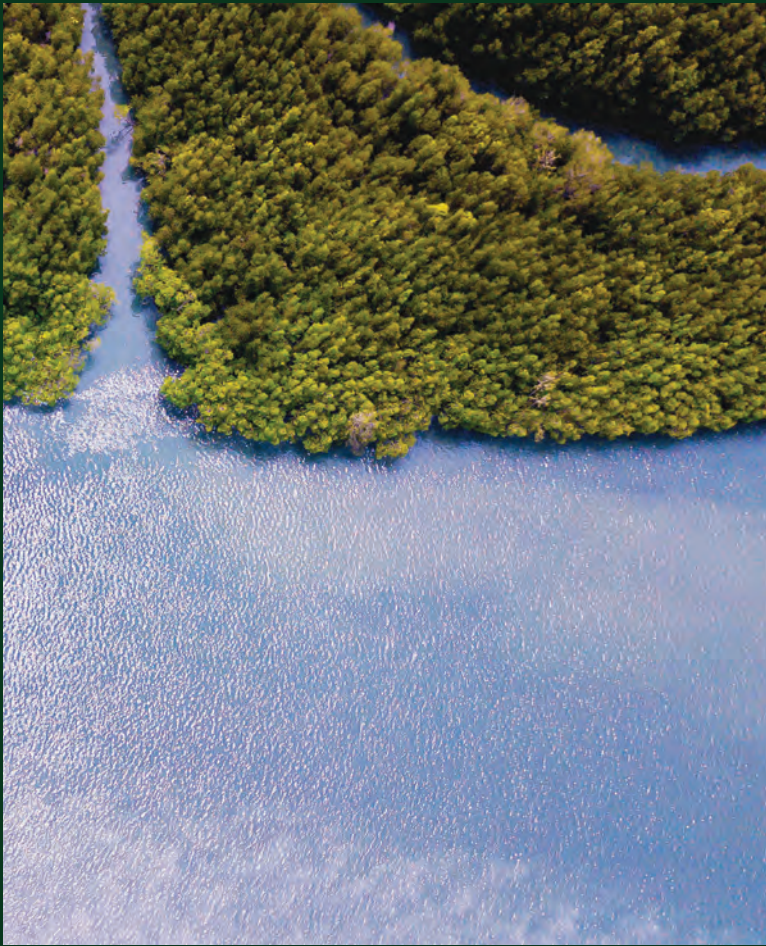
—Matthew 18:3, NIV

passion, and I am dedicated to connecting people to nature because that is how I became most connected to God. One example of inspiration for me in this field is the youth. In the book of Matthew, Jesus is talking to the disciples and responding to their questions about entering the kingdom of heaven. “And he said: ‘Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven’” (Matthew 18:3, NIV). Observing children with their openness to learn and trust those wiser than them reflects how we are to faithfully learn from our all-wise God.

Christians often discuss the topic of having a *childlike faith*, which reminds me of my days snorkeling as a youngster. My curiosity bubbled over while exploring the underwater world with pure fascination. Our curiosity toward God should overwhelm us in order to yearn to learn more about Him. Becoming enamored with all we discover and falling in love with our Creator and His creation is a transformational experience. Despite finding *the one* during my first interaction with that shark all those years ago, God will always be *the One*. Now is the time to find your calling through the Creator’s handiwork and discover what part of nature most aligns with your passion as a steward of the earth that was assigned to all of us in Genesis chapter one. 



Summer Boulais writes from Lincoln, Nebraska, after graduating with a degree in Strategic Communication and a minor in Biology. She is now pursuing a master’s degree in Conservation Leadership. Her dream job involves shark conservation, but her passion is sharing the wonders of Creation to bring people closer to God.



The dry land was separated from the water.

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

*And God called the
dry land Earth, and the
gathering together of
the waters He
called Seas. . . .*

CREATION DAY 3

■ BY DON CHRISTENSEN

The Creation of Land and Plants

Editor’s Note: This article is the third in our thirteenth series of features that focus on the Creation week. Some days are divided into segments, and next time we will explore Creation day four when God created the sun, moon, and stars. Each series of stories varies with new writers and fresh images. We hope you enjoy this closer look at God’s handiwork aimed at inspiring you to study His Word in depth.



Plants were the first form of life on earth.

On day three of the Creation week, God separated the land from the waters. “Then God said, ‘Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear’; and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good” (Genesis 1:9, 10).

Then vegetation appeared as the first forms of life on earth. “Then God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth’; and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And

God saw that it was good. So the evening and the morning were the third day” (Genesis 1:11–13).

Today 380,000 known species of plants exist including 73,300 species of trees. A majority of all plant life, some two hundred sixty thousand species, produce seeds. This vast variety of verdure ranges in size from single cells to the tallest trees. In the Creation story, herbs are mentioned more often than any other species group, which will be our focus. On Creation day six, God reveals that herbs provide nourishment. “And God said, ‘See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food’” (Genesis 1:29). Certainly the Creator in His wisdom understood the importance



The health benefits of medicinal herbs have been used for thousands of years.

that herbs would play in the future of humankind. Herbs are plants designed to serve and delight us while offering an ever-increasing understanding of Creation and the Creator.

Early plant knowledge was passed on verbally as both the body of knowledge and populations grew. It became important to accurately record the accumulated information on herbs. Many of the earliest writings mention herbs including Babylonian clay tablets from 3000 B.C. that illustrate medical treatments among various herbal uses. During the next 1,000 years, parallel cultures in China, Assyria, Egypt, and India developed a written record mainly of medicinal herbs. From ancient to modern times herbs have played an important role in all aspects of life.

Within the roughly three thousand five hundred species of herbs, various species usually fall into three categories including: (1) culinary herbs (used either as food or to enhance the flavor of foods); (2) about nine hundred species of medicinal herbs (used primarily for health improvement or some form of treatment modality); and (3) ornamental herbs (used for the sheer enjoyment of their looks, fragrance, or utilitarian value). Hence, herbs can be found almost anywhere.

One of the first cookbooks was written in the first century by the Roman epicure Apicius. The culinary concoctions used a fascinating and adventurous combination of herb flavors. For example, artichokes were cooked in a mixture of fresh fennel, coriander, mint, and rue pounded together and added to pepper,

*And God saw that it was good.
Then God said,
‘Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth’; and it was so.
And the earth . . .*



Nutritional culinary herbs delight the senses.

lovage, honey, and oil. A discourse written in 1699 described 73 salad herbs and gives the details of the part of each herb used (whether seed, flower, bud, leaf, stalk, or root) and how it was best prepared (raw, chopped, steamed, blanched, or pickled). This broad usage of various herbs continues today.

There is a growing body of evidence that a diet rich in bioactive compounds from herbs and spices has the ability to reduce the risk of chronic diseases. The consumption of herbs and spices is often overlooked in the studies on food intake. However, research of the dietary use of these herbs and bioactive compounds suggests that we should aim to eat at least 30 different plants a week. But the average American consumes only around one fresh herb a day while

relying mainly on salt to season foods instead of fresh or dried herbs. Scripture underscores the importance of healthful living in 3 John 2. “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth” (KJV).

Herbs have been described as the soul of cooking and the praise of chefs the world over. Used creatively yet judiciously, they can transform a routine meal into a gratifying experience of tangy, refreshing, and aromatic flavors with a variety of textures. For example, the aromatic leaves of rosemary and thyme found in most home kitchens delicately penetrate cooked dishes. The seeds of dill, fennel, and anise add a unique flavor to salads and vegetables while the earthy flavored leaves of bay,



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Tomatoes reign as a favorite herb.

*brought forth grass,
the herb that yields
seed according to its
kind, and the tree that
yields fruit, whose seed
is in itself according to
its kind. And God saw
that it was good.
So the evening
and the morning were
the third day.*

—Genesis 1:9–13

lovage, and smallage lend body to soups and casseroles. Other common culinary herbs include: basil, parsley, cilantro, mint, oregano, sage, chives, dill, tarragon, marjoram, lavender, lemon balm, sorrel, savory, and lemongrass.

Herbs can also make foods more palatable by easing digestion, as well as supplying extra nutrition to everyday meals. Many herbs such as parsley, watercress, and comfrey contain a small but rich balance of vitamins, minerals, and trace elements. Herbs can also be used to preserve food, as well as take the place of more harmful substances such as salt (when not used in moderation).

A favorite American herb might be the tomato. Literally hundreds of different varieties of tomatoes are available—small, large, yellow, red, brown, long, round, and

pointed. Grown almost everywhere, they are flavorful and provide rich sources of Vitamins C and A.

Since early recorded history people have turned to plants for healing. Egyptian papyri dating back to 1700 B.C. record that many common herbs such as garlic and juniper have been used medicinally for about four thousand years. In ancient Egypt hemp was used for eye problems. Poppy extracts were used to quiet crying children. Recent research has found garlic to be a potent aid in the treatment of a variety of ailments including infections and high cholesterol.

Some people have chosen to treat common ailments at home with a range of simple herbal remedies. Many have used eucalyptus leaves boiled in water



Echinacea blossoms provide preventative measures for good health.

as an inhalant when suffering from a cold. The purple cone flower of echinacea is a popular herb highly prized for its medicinal properties. Many scientific studies performed with echinacea herbs or extract reveal some antibiotic and antiviral properties of this species. Echinacea is sometimes taken as a preventative health measure while elderberry is used after you are sick. It is also high in antioxidants with antiviral properties and remains one of the most treasured herbs among herbalists. This is just a tiny sampling as entire encyclopedias have been written on hundreds of medicinal herbs.

The Bible points to some of these benefits that God intended. “Along the bank of the river, on this side and that, will grow all kinds of trees used for food; their leaves will not wither, and their fruit

will not fail. They will bear fruit every month . . . Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for medicine” (Ezekiel 47:12).

Of course, nearly everyone can appreciate the vast array of herbs used simply for sheer enjoyment. In the language of lovers, pansies are for remembrance, and what grown child can't remember those funny pansy faces in the spring? To simply stop and smell a rose is perhaps the main purpose God intended for this glorious creation.

Then there is the more multifunctional purpose of herbs including: corn grown for popcorn or for squirrels in the winter; gourds grown for outdoor birdhouses; plants grown for blooms that attract hummingbirds and butterflies; and the list goes on. Of course,



Cotton is among some of the most beneficial plants that God created.

we can't forget the most useful of God's creations on day three of the Creation week such as cotton for making clothes or trees for building homes.

The endless variety of herbal paper, herbal toys and trinkets, herbal potpourri, herbal fragrances, herbal baths, herbal beauty aids, herbal gardens, herbal topiaries, and herbal lawns are but a small token of the rich variety of uses and means of enjoyment available through herbs.

There has been counsel throughout the ages as to the uses and benefits of this wealth of life that God provided by design on day three of Creation. One such commentary dates back to the 17th century. "I would heartily advise all men of means, to be stirred up to bend their minds, and spend a little more time and travel in these delights of herbs

and flowers, than they have formerly done which are not only harmless, but pleasurable in their turn, and profitable in their use" (John Parkinson, *Theatrum Botanicum*, 1640).

To some, herbs may appear as just a weed, but to others the many herbs God created can be that special gift He provided for health benefits, culinary delights, or simple enjoyment. **C**

Don Christensen writes from Angwin, California, where his family has been involved in the natural foods and restaurant business after spending several years in the Philippines developing a strong agricultural program at a Christian college. This article was first printed in the winter 1995 edition of Creation Illustrated.



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CREATION HIGHLIGHTS

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Self-Planting Seeds

A team of scientists and engineers developed a simple device for seeds to bury themselves in soil. They were inspired by stork's bill geranium seeds with their corkscrew-shaped tail that coils and uncoils with changing moisture levels. This movement drills the seeds into the soil, and barbs on the seeds keep them in place.

The research team designed a device consisting of a corkscrew coil with three curved tails projecting out from one end made of thin strips of oak veneer with layers of cells that expand with changing moisture. The cells on the inner side expand and contract more than the outer side so the coil and curved tails open and close with rain and then dry out. When the seeds attached to this device are dropped



onto the ground, the curved tails ensure it lands with the seed pointing into the soil. The movement of the coil and tails then forces the seed into the ground.

The device enhances the efficiency of aerial seeding from a flying drone and is strong enough to hold a payload weighing 72 milligrams that can include bio-fertilizers and symbiotic fungi. Researchers hope the process can be automated to produce large numbers for land regeneration projects. *Nature News and Views* states, "The authors' ability to tailor their seed carriers for different payloads and forces is impressive and shows that wood is still a state-of-the-art material."

Here at Creation Research we are pleased to see a scientific journal describe wood as being "state of the art." This team should be congratulated for designing and making this clever and potentially useful device. However, they should be giving praise to the Creator of the stork's bill geranium seeds that inspired the design, as well as for the "state of the art" material. Romans 1:20 says we are without excuse for

not recognizing all that He made.

Condensed from *Creation Research News*, March 2023, www.creationfactfile.com

Stretching The Heavens

Isaiah 40:22 says that God "stretches out the heavens," but until the early 1900s that concept was pretty difficult to grasp. A lot changed in 1912 when astronomer Vesto Slipher, using the Lowell Observatory telescopes in Flagstaff, Arizona, was able to measure an apparent recession of spiral galaxies through Doppler shift.

Galaxies appeared to be randomly flying away from us, but that didn't seem to be the most logical explanation. Visualize galaxies resting on the fabric of space; then imagine someone standing at the corners of the fabric and pulling. As the fabric stretched, the universe (and the galaxies inside of it) would expand. Now science has shown that an expanding universe explains the observation.

So, we may be on the right track. But again, with the uniformitarian assumptions that are used in science, it's easy to extrapolate backward and try to fit the universe into a Big Bang that caused the expansion with an arbitrary date of 14 billion years ago. This is highly theoretical and troublesome with issues like the "horizon problem" causing scientists to create a rescuing device for their model. They claimed that perhaps the universe hasn't always expanded at the same rate. During the beginning of the universe, the heavens were rapidly stretched before settling down to the more linear, slow expansion that we see today.

I would agree with this, but I wouldn't agree that it spontaneously took place 14 billion years ago since a random natural event forming the universe seems unlikely. But since the Bible is the inspired word of God and is full of good science, then what if God did rapidly stretch the fabric of space in the beginning before setting it on a linear path of expansion? It seems again that the Bible knows best.

Condensed from an article "Stretching The Heavens—The Bible Knows Best" by David Rives, www.davidrivesministries.org

CREATION STEWARDSHIP

Providing helpful suggestions on how to better care for God's Creation.

Sharing Facts and Figures

What is the value of a living tree? According to the US Forest Service, a fifty year old tree contributes a lifetime of products estimating \$200,000 including: \$31,250 in oxygen, \$62,500 in air pollution control, \$21,250 in soil erosion control, \$37,500 in recycling water and controlling humidity, \$31,250 in shelter of birds and animals, and \$2,500 in protein. What would be the value of all the trees in your community?

The U.S. Department of Agriculture says the net cooling effect of a young healthy tree is equivalent to ten room-sized air conditioners operating 20 hours a day. Urban forest researchers say that if you plant a tree today on the sunny side of your home, in five years your energy bills should be three percent less; in five years the saving will be nearly twelve percent. Furthermore, landscaping with trees can increase property values as much as 20 percent. Nationally, an estimated sixty million street trees have an average value of \$525 per tree.

A state-of-the-art software program called *i-Tree* provides a platform where communities and families can see how tree selection, size, and placement in your yard or community can affect energy use, air quality, carbon dioxide, and storm water runoff. One large city that used *i-Tree* learned that every dollar they invest in planting trees generates three dollars in economic benefits! Check it out at www.i-Treetools.org

Tips for Simple Living

"He who plants a tree plants a hope," wrote poet Lucy Larcom, which inspires us to be good tree stewards. Early morning is the best time to water trees so it can soak deep into the ground. Water slowly with drip irrigation, a soaker hose, or a garden hose on a low flow at the perimeter of the branches to reach the roots rather than around the trunk.

During excessive heat, double the normal watering routine. New trees should receive fifteen gallons of water at least twice a week throughout a heat wave. Younger trees (two years or less) might

need more water. Trees planted close to roads, driveways, and sidewalks may need extra care during high heat. Use organic mulch around the tree avoiding the trunk to help regulate soil temperature and water loss.

Prune to remove dead, diseased, or hazardous branches. However, a topped tree is vulnerable to disease. Some of the best of trees to plant in yards include: red maple, yellow poplar, red and white oak, flowering dogwood, sycamore, American elm, river birch, American holly, redbud, and Colorado blue spruce.



Biblical Stewardship of Creation

Trees were created on the third day of Creation when God created dry land and vegetation. "And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil" (Genesis 2:9, KJV).

This vegetation was in its mature state to supply nutrition to the birds and creatures created on days five and six. After man was created, God gave Adam instructions to care for the garden. "And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it" (KJV). The Hebrew word for dress is *`abad* (meaning to labor, work, to serve), and the Hebrew word for to keep is *shamar* (meaning to guard, observe, give heed).

Humans have been involved in caring for the Creation since the beginning, and it is even more important today. God still needs us to serve and preserve the land and to remember these promises. "Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord. . . . He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit'" (Jeremiah 17:7, 8, ESV).



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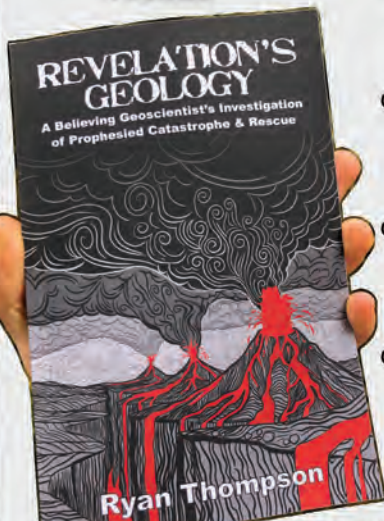
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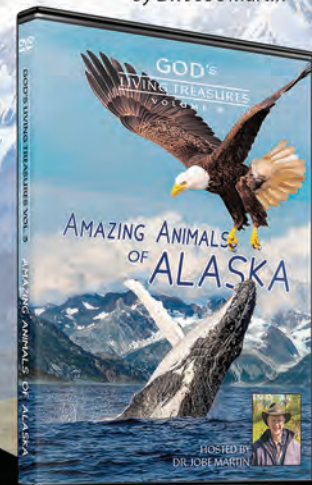
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An
Uphill
Climb



Mark Gottlieb

A puffin stretches its stubby wings.



A distant view of the Grewingk Glacier across the Kachemak Bay

The employee in the water taxi office assured us we could make it. “The hike is less than five miles, and the elevation gain is about fifteen hundred feet. You will have four hours before the water taxi picks you up,” he explained. We felt we could do this. An up-close view of Grewingk Glacier and the surrounding area of Kachemak Bay State Park, Alaska, would be well worth the effort.

My husband and I wanted to conquer this feat and have an adventure. We not only cherished God’s amazing Creation in south-central Alaska; we enjoy experiencing the stunning sights firsthand. So, we stepped out in faith trusting we could complete the hike and scheduled our adventure for the next afternoon. We needed to drive to the Homer, Alaska, harbor then take a 30-minute boat ride across the bay to the trailhead. We looked

forward to seeing the glacier up close, as well as the variety of creatures calling this amazing place home.

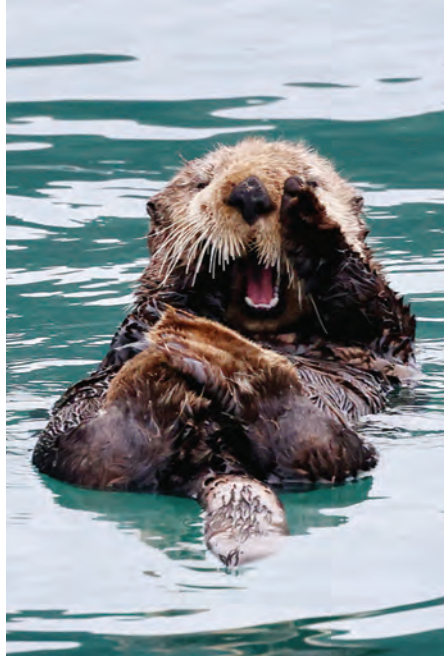
In preparing our backpacks, we didn’t need much. After all, the hike was short, and the forecast was sunny. Bug spray, water bottles, snacks, and sunscreen seemed adequate. We each had bear spray too; you never hike in Alaska in summer without it.

The next day dawned in glorious sunshine with light wind;

B Y J U D Y A N N E P A R K E R

our jackets would come in handy since riding across the bay would be chilly. We drove to the harbor and found our boat. Several sea otters greeted us near the dock as seagulls swooped and screeched at each other. A bald eagle soared overhead with its white head shining in the sunlight. I marveled at the creativity of our God who made all the creatures entertaining us. It was easy to worship Him while being surrounded by such grandeur. What a perfect day!

We boarded the water taxi and began the trek across Kachemak Bay. I could taste the salty sea air on my lips and feel the wind blowing my hair. I felt free like one of the many birds fluttering by the boat. Murres, loons, kittiwakes, and puffins all put on a show for us. I was reminded of Psalm 104:12, "The birds of the sky nest by the waters; they sing among the branches"



Steve Lackie

A sea otter cleans its face.

(NIV). Several sea otters also floated by, and sea lions sunbathed on a nearby island.

Arriving at our destination, we pulled onto the shore. No white sandy beaches exist here, just lots of rocks to navigate. The captain had reminded passengers not to be late. He would not wait for latecomers, and the next

boat would not be there until the next morning. Being late wasn't an option because we were not prepared to spend the night on the trail.

Further up the mountain we saw a wooden platform, so, we started our ascent. We scrambled and hopped from rock to rock and made it there. Signs indicated which way we needed to go toward the glacier, and the trail we planned to hike seemed to go straight up the mountainside. I looked up at the steep slope and then at my husband with wide eyes. Could we really do this? We forged ahead with our plan.

Soon we shed our jackets and smeared on sunscreen. After living in Alaska for seventeen years, we were acclimated to the cold. It was hot for this time of year. Sweat dripped off our faces and gnats flew in our eyes.

We faced other challenges,



Steve Lackie

as well. The trail was much steeper than we anticipated. Volunteers had anchored a rope on one side to assist hikers traveling up and down one particularly steep spot. Putting one foot in front of the other became increasingly difficult. We also knew we needed to stay hydrated, but our water supply started to dwindle. We thought we had brought enough, but the heat and exertion caused us to drink more than normal. We ate our snacks and took breaks. Still, the trail towered above us. We both felt very fatigued, and our muscles ached. But we wanted to accomplish our goal.

I was reminded of the apostle Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 9:24, "Run in such a way as to get the prize" (NIV). Our prize meant seeing the glacier; so, we kept going. We didn't want to give up. Jesus kept going even when things got hard as Hebrews 12:2 reminds us, "For the joy set before him he endured the cross" (NIV). Jesus could endure agony because He knew what would be accomplished when He finished the task. My husband and I also wanted to finish the task and experience the joy set before us in seeing the glacier. We kept going.

Another problem arose; we were running out of time. We knew our turnaround time to get back to the boat was quickly approaching. We felt we were close to the summit and believed if we went around just one more bend in the trail, we would see the massive icy creep of the glacier! But each curve only brought more trees, vegetation, and an uphill trail.



A rope aids hikers up steep slopes.

I began to get angry. The water taxi employee had misled us. Four hours was *not* enough time. The trail seemed much longer and steeper than what we were told. I felt deceived and exhausted. I wasn't sure I could make it back down the mountain much less continue up to see the glacier. We hiked for five minutes past our

turn-around time hoping we would be rewarded with our prize.

We didn't. We knew if we kept going, we would not make it back to the boat in time. If we had to spend the night with no food, no water, no way to make a fire, and only moose and bears for company, we would be in serious trouble. I thought of Luke 14:28

that says, “Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won’t you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it?” (NIV). We had not accurately counted the cost in time, effort, and supplies.


Even though I wanted to blame someone else, we had to take responsibility for our actions. No one forced us to go on the hike. That was our choice. We should have researched the hike ourselves instead of relying strictly on the advice of someone else. We should have been like the Berean believers in Acts. They searched the Scriptures themselves to confirm what Paul had said was true. (See Acts 17:11.) They didn’t believe it

just because someone told them.

Reluctantly, we headed down the mountain. Our legs wobbled from exhaustion, and our knees screamed their displeasure at us. We were not as young or fit as we thought. Thankfully the Lord and our bodies were gracious to us, and we returned to the boat on time.

We never did see the glacier that hid behind the mountain, but the view of the bay and surrounding area was amazing. Though we had to give up that day, we could try again and hopefully accomplish our goal in the future.

We won’t always succeed the first time we try something, but the Lord tells us to keep trying as

instructed in Galatians 6:9. “Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up” (NIV). One day we hope to reap our reward and observe the unique ancient ice flow of the Grewingk Glacier firsthand and up close. For now we can bask in the blessings and lessons the Creator continually bestows upon us while we walk with Him. 

Judy Anne Parker writes from Anchorage, Alaska, where she enjoys helping others see the works of God in nature through her devotional writing. Explore Alaska and discover insights about God on her Website: Judyanneparker.com.



Judy Anne Parker

Stunning views of Kachemak Bay offer a consolation prize for the hikers who didn't reach the glacier.



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A well manicured garden reveals design with a purpose.

gardening on

Various gardens around the world exhibit the magnificent splendor of our Creator's botanical genius. Cultivated and carefully planted by gardeners with choice flora for aesthetic, nutritional, and creative ornamental purposes, the allure of botanical art and husbandry delight and inspire admiration from the heart, mind, and body.

When you and I look at a garden and how meticulously it has been designed (whether simple or complex), the arrangement of the land, the time needed to plant, the rigorous seasonal cultivation, and the patience during the growth process reveal spiritual lessons and biblical truths that relate to the beginning of Creation. As Matthew 13:35 testifies, "I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world" (NIV).

Genesis chapter one gives a vivid account of the various sequential steps God took

g a r d e n s f r o m e d e n



An Edenic scene shows a variety of plants and trees flourishing as the Creator intended.

purpose

in forming Creation and the abundant life teeming within it including plants, creatures, and humans. Genesis chapter two not only gives us a glimpse of how God formed the Garden of Eden, it points to how He intended it was to function with the various kinds of plants—especially the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. (See Genesis 2:15–17.) The Creator had a purposeful intent focused on the eternal well-being of His children and all of Creation.

So, when thinking about creating or forming a garden, we should consider: (1) what kind of garden am I trying to create; (2) what type of gardens do well in my climate; (3) how do I design and cultivate my garden for success? Part of discerning what to plant means having some knowledge of the seeds, soil, light, water, and nutrients needed for a fruitful harvest.

b y j o r d a n z u n i g a w i t h t o m i s h



Reaping what we sow is a fundamental biblical and gardening principle.

Matthew 13:31, 32 describes faith being like a mustard seed, and although being among the smallest of all seeds, mustard plants grow profusely. So, when we plant, making the right choice of seeds, planning with proper spacing, and knowing how plants affect each other are all important factors.

An overarching truth found in the Bible is, “A man reaps what he sows” (Galatians 6:7, NIV). The law of sowing and reaping not only applies to the spiritual truth of sowing unto the flesh versus sowing unto the spirit, this spiritual concept and object lesson is rooted in the type of seeds sown in the garden and whether we are scattering them purposefully or randomly. This biblical adage also applies to other aspects of life such as carefully choosing our words and where we scatter them. Do they produce fruit, or do they propagate harmful weeds?

The process of gardening also points to the very intent of God the Father’s heart toward Creation when He blessed humankind and said in Genesis 1:28, “Be fruitful and multiply.” He wasn’t just referring to the animals and plants multiplying according to their kind. God wants us to be fruitful. The entire first part of John 15 illustrates how Jesus was declaring Himself as the vine, we as the branches, and God the Father as the Gardener. His very purpose and design for us has always been to bear much fruit, and those who do not will be cut off and thrown into the fire! The process of pruning plants also shows the spiritual reality of God trimming any excess from us so that we may be more fruitful and multiply even more effectively.

In Isaiah 28:23–29 God explains to the Israelites the perfect and sovereign wisdom in His ability to cultivate His own garden, as well as His plan to redeem us from the thorns and thistles of sin. God even explains salvation and perdition, as well as blessing and cursing, using the symbolism of different types of plants.



Being fruitful is a direct result of remaining connected to the vine.

Gardening can reveal many different spiritual realities and biblical truths that we can apply to our daily lives. There is the process of preparing the land with a strong ox for a large harvest as mentioned in Proverbs 14:4. God instructs us on the right path for having the right tools and equipment, plowing the land, scattering the seeds, cultivating the crops, and reaping the harvest.

The Lord Himself is the perfect and sovereign Gardener. He not only brings fruitfulness to a hurting world and in barren places but also cultivates the hearts of believers and unbelievers in order to plant spiritual seeds found in the message of the gospel. He can take away the thorns and thistles of sin's curse if we let Him be our Master Gardener.

Every step in the process of gardening gives us a greater insight into the application of spiritual realities and biblical truths. God's heartfelt intent for a groaning Creation that is under the curse dating back to man's fall in the Garden of Eden found in Genesis chapter three is to rescue it all for eternity. Cultivating our own gardens will enable us to assimilate the vital truths that can help draw us closer to His Edenic plan for our lives. He will guide us along the path we should go by the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit who convicts sinners to turn from thorns and thistles to everlasting life. **C**

Jordan Zuniga writes from Santee, California, where he pursues developing Christian poetry, devotionals, and creative writing for a variety of publications. Tom Ish is the editor and publisher of Creation Illustrated.

Genesis Cuisine

Taco Tuesday



“See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you it shall be for food.”
“And you shall eat the herb of the field.”

—Genesis 1:29, 3:18



“Where’s the Beef?” Tacos

- 1 C. walnuts
- 2 C. cremini mushrooms
- 2 1/2 C. cauliflower rice or diced
- 2 Tb. sun-dried tomatoes
- 1 tsp. vegetable bouillon paste
- 1 tsp. each, garlic powder, cumin, smoked paprika, dried oregano

Crunchy corn taco shells

Favorite toppings: avocado, tomato, veggie cheese, salsa etc.

Place all ingredients (except shells and toppings) into a food processor and pulse (scraping the sides as needed) until all are mixed and start to stick together while still having a granular texture. Heat in a large skillet until browned to the desired ground beef-like consistency. Place a few tablespoons of mixture into each taco shell and add your favorite toppings: avocado, tomato, veggie cheese, salsa, etc. Enjoy!



Mock Fish Tacos & Mango Corn Slaw

- 2 cans of hearts of palm, drained
- 1 Tb. kelp or Japanese seasoning
- 1 Tb. fresh lime juice
- 3 tsp. margarine, melted
- 2 tsp. chili powder
- 1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper
- salt to taste
- soft corn tortillas

- 1 C. cabbage slaw
- 3/4 C. frozen corn or cut off cob
- 3/4 C. mango, cut Julienne slices
- 1 jalapeno, minced
- 2 Tb. cilantro, chopped
- 1/4 C. red onion, chopped
- 1/4 C. red radish, chopped
- 2 Tb. lime juice

Drain and rinse hearts of palm, flatten slightly with a broad knife and carefully pull them apart into approx. half-inch chunks. Place into a bowl and add next six ingredients to marinate for 15 min. Heat oven to 400 degrees and bake mock fish on a parchment-covered baking sheet for 20 min. until lightly browned. Mix the eight mango corn slaw ingredients in a bowl. Steam corn tortillas and fill with mock fish and mango corn slaw. Top with some vegan mayo or vegan sour cream.



Fruit Compote Dessert Tacos

- 1/2 C. cherries, pitted and sliced
- 1/2 C. raspberries
- 1/2 C. blueberries
- 1/2 C. strawberries, sliced
- 1/3 C. hot pepper jelly
- 1/3 C. pecans, chopped
- 1/4 tsp. cinnamon

- Jicama wraps (if available)
- Sweet Hawaiian flour tortillas
- Coconut whipped cream
- Toasted unsweetened coconut

Prepare fruit and place it into a large bowl. If hot pepper jelly is too firm, heat for a few seconds in a microwave to soften. Fold pepper jelly, chopped pecans, and cinnamon into fruit mixture. Place flour tortillas in a taco holder and line with a Jicama wrap. Spoon the fruit compote into each taco and top with coconut whipped cream and toasted coconut.

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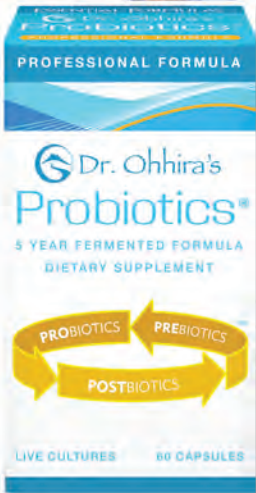
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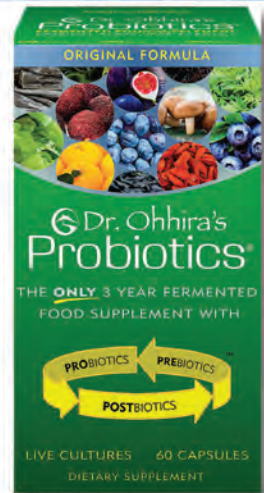
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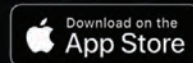
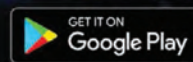
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C H I L D R E N ' S S T O R Y B

Lessons From a Beehive

Working with bees for many years, I learned about God's sense of order and perfection while watching my bees manage and protect their hives.

Nature has some spectacular spectacles like thunder and lightning, but did you know about the awesome and inspiring activities seen inside a beehive?

Every bee has a job. There is only one queen bee, and her job is to lay eggs. The other countless buzzing creatures include worker or drone bees. Drones are the male bees that mate with the queen. Some bees feed and take care of the queen while others take care of the baby bees. Certain bees keep the hive clean and orderly. Still other bees go out to fields or orchards of flowers to collect pollen, water, and nectar to make honey. A few bees guard the hive

entrance and allow only the members of the hive to enter.

Each bee is content to do its own special job. They all work together to keep the beehive safe and producing honey. In the spring and early summer,



Tatiana Claudy

Y K A T H L E E N F E S S L E R



Bryan Reynolds

about sixty thousand bees live and work together in harmony within a single bee hive! This is a good example for us Christians to work together in our home and church by helping one another while being content with our jobs just as Paul said in Philippians 4:11. “For I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances.” Just as the bees perform their activities without any strife, arguing, or jealousy, we need to be willing to cooperate with one another in a helpful, positive, and self-sacrificing way. “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do” (Ephesians 2:10, NIV).

Even the bees that keep the hive clean have an important job. If there is a little stick or leaf on the hive floor, it gets carried out by a bee. If a bee dies in the hive, another bee carries it out and deposits it in a nearby field. Cleanliness and order are important in a hive where about sixty thousand residents live in tight, carefully-designed, six-sided cells made of wax that use every inch of space very efficiently.

Bees don’t care about how the hive box looks

on the outside. They just know that things have to be clean on the inside. Do each of us take care of our homes and churches in the same way? As servants of the Lord, we not only need to keep our living areas clean; we need to keep our hearts and minds clean on the inside also. We must get rid of whatever interferes with our walk with the Lord as told in Psalm 24:4, 5. “The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol or swear by a false god. They will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from God their Savior” (NIV).

Sometimes a bee will find a field that has many flowers with abundant pollen and nectar. When the bee returns to the hive, the tiny winged creature does a little dance to show the other bees where the pollen can be found. The bee vibrates its body and walks in the shape of a figure eight. The top of the figure eight points in the direction the other bees need to fly, and the size of the figure eight shows how far away they’ll find the field of blossoms. Only our all wise God could create this pattern of important bee communication and behavior.

As servants of the Lord, we are commissioned to share the good news of Christ. Just like the bees, we can share knowledge of the gospel by pointing in the right direction to where truth can be found in the Bible that leads others to accept Jesus as their Savior. “He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation’” (Mark 16:15, NIV).

The guard bees at the hive entrance stop any intruders that try to enter including bees from another hive. They know a bee is from somewhere else because all the bees in a hive smell like their queen. If a foreign bee arrives and does not have the aroma of the local queen, the bee gets pushed away. What a great example God gives us for keeping our homes safe from outside evils. He instructs us to “Hate what is evil; cling to what is good” (Romans 12:9, ESV).

If the queen bee dies or gets too old to lay any more eggs, the worker bees can create a new queen by

feeding one of the baby bees a mixture of pollen and honey called *royal jelly*. With this kind of diet, the baby bee grows into a queen. She is bigger than a worker bee and doesn’t have stripes on her back. The worker bees continually care for her just as our Lord, guardian angels, and parents continually care for us.

With all of these wonderful examples of helpful activity for the good of the thousands of bees that live very close to each other, we can follow their example, do a good job, and work hard for the benefit of others. The Word of God is the Christian’s guide for what He wants us to do and to enjoy it. “How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!” (Psalm 119:103, NIV). **C**

Kathleen Fessler writes from Fountain Hills, Arizona, where she gleans lessons from the Creator’s design in order to share important truths.



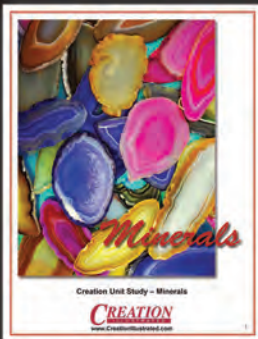
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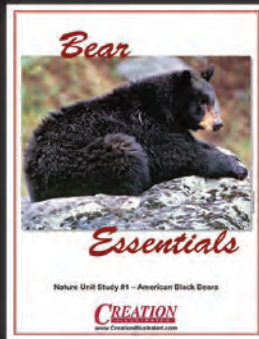


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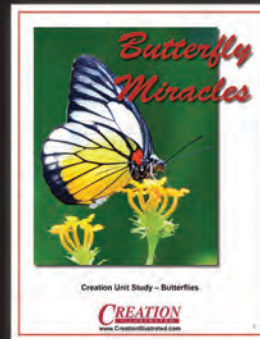
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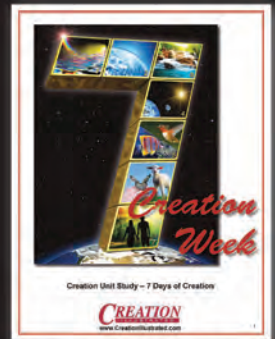
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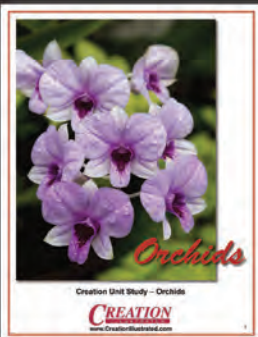
Bears



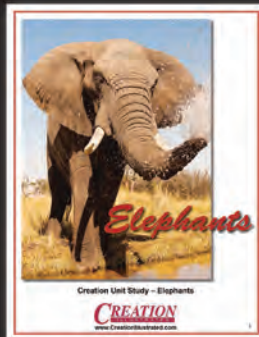
Butterflies



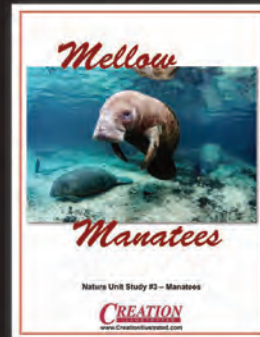
Creation Week



Orchids



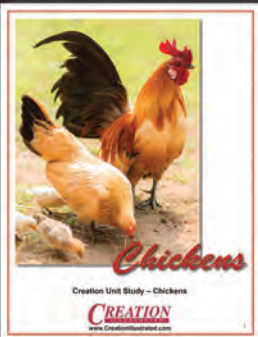
Elephants



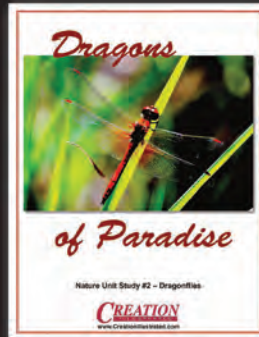
Manatees



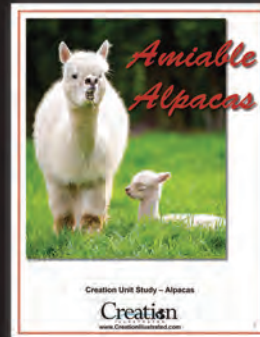
Horses



Chickens



Dragonflies



Alpacas



Sloths

with Cellphone Addiction!

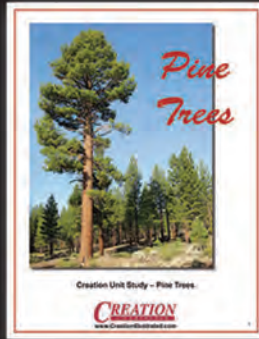
R This



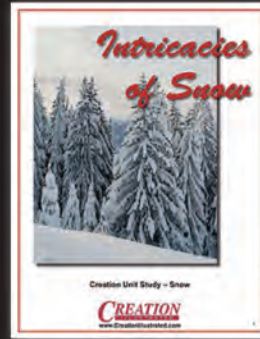
Inspire Youth to Explore Nature !



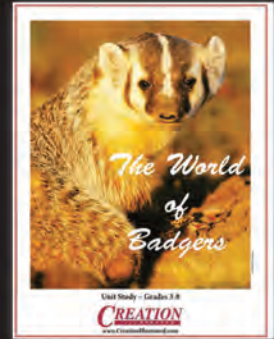
Fragrance



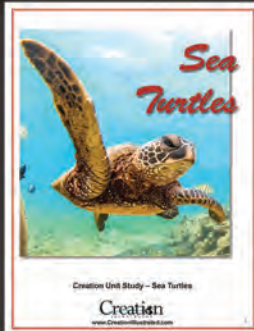
Pine Trees



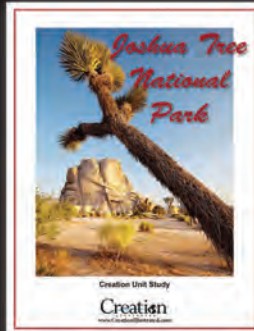
Snow



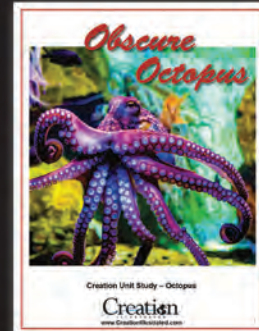
Badgers



Sea Turtles



Joshua Tree National Park



Octopus

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Cultivation

Luther Burbank brought the Wachusett Thornless Blackberry from the eastern part of the United States. It was not truly thornless, but it had less thorns than other blackberries. On his farm he planted 1500 of these seedlings.

As these seedlings grew up, he looked them over carefully. Around the plants with less thorns he would tie a little white piece of cloth. Then he destroyed all the rest, keeping only those that had less thorns. Burbank's program for dealing with the thorns in blackberries was simple. *He cultivated the best and destroyed the rest.*

Here is a very important principle of Christian growth. He did not just cultivate the best, he *destroyed* the rest. That's what the word cultivation means: selectively letting one thing live, and letting

everything else around it die. This is the principle that the Apostle Paul was trying to get across:

That you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.
(Ephesians 4:22–24)

If you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.
(Romans 8:13)

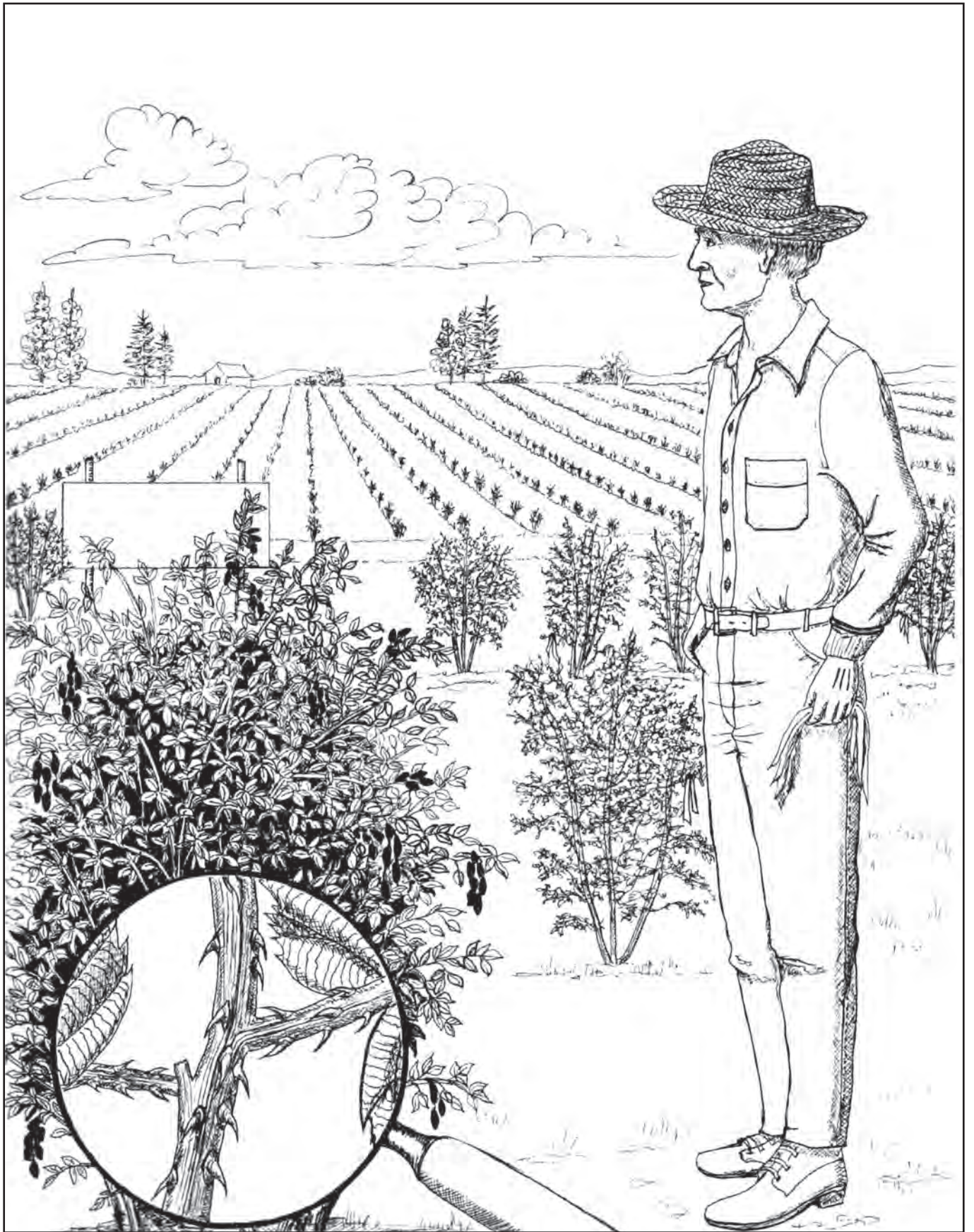
PRACTICAL PROJECT

In a garden, plant two short rows of radishes. In one row let the weeds grow with the radishes. In the next row let only the radishes grow, weeding it carefully. Note the differences. What difference would cultivation make in your spiritual life?



This character-building lesson was excerpted from *The Gospel According to a Thornless Blackberry* book by Terry and Jean McComb. To order the complete book and others in their series, go to: www.CreationIllustrated.com.





Summer 2024 Coloring Contest First Name: _____ Last Initial: _____ Age: _____
(deadline & details on page 60) City: _____ State/Prov. _____

Creation Illustrated Coloring Contest

Winners From the Spring 2024 Edition Character-Building Lesson



First Place, ages 6–11
Francesca G., age 7
Topeka, Kansas



First Place, ages 12–18
Patience N., age 14
Smithville, Oklahoma



First Place, ages 19+
Abbie B., age 33
Sagle, Idaho

Here's how to enter the **Creation Illustrated Coloring Contest for ALL Ages!** Color in the picture on the previous page from the Character-Building Lesson. You can even add other creatures, clouds, sky, etc. Then scan or photograph your work (maximum one per quarter) and email an attached jpeg to: coloring@creationillustrated.com, Subject Line: Coloring Contest. Each entry **MUST** include your name, age, mailing address, phone number, and email address. The **DEADLINE for summer 2024 entries is August 15, 2024**. Your work will be uploaded to our Web site where you and others can vote for any favorites. (No last names or contact information will be included in any postings.) Winners in age groups 6–11, 12–18, 19 and older will be chosen the first week of September from summer-edition pictures, the first week of December from fall-edition pictures, the first week of March from winter-edition pictures, and the first week of June from spring-edition pictures. First-place winners will receive \$25, have their entry posted on our Web site until the next edition is printed, and *may* be published in *Creation Illustrated* as space allows. For more details go to: www.CreationIllustrated.com

Creation Illustrated Photo Contest

Winners From Spring 2024 Submissions



First Place, ages 6–11 (left)

Tanner H., age 9, of Bloomingburg, New York, wrote, “God created all creatures great and small.”



First Place, ages 12–18 (right)

Priya B., age 15, of San Jose, California, wrote, “This majestic Roosevelt elk photo was taken in the Redwoods National Park, California.”



First Place, ages 19+ (left)

Lawrence B., age 66, of Corner Brook, Newfoundland, Canada, wrote, “The total solar eclipse put on quite a show. The skies were clear in the Newfoundland interior, but as the eclipse approached totality, clouds moved in and threatened to block our view. However, the dramatic clouds seemed to enhance the awe-inspiring experience.”

Here’s how to enter the **Creation Illustrated Photo Contest for ALL Ages!** Get creative with your camera in nature and email an attached jpeg (maximum one per quarter) to: photos@creationillustrated.com, Subject Line: Photo Contest. Each entry **MUST** include your name, age, mailing address, phone number, and email address and one or two sentences on what your photo says about our Creator. The **DEADLINE for summer 2024 entries is August 15, 2024**. Your work will be uploaded to our Web site where you and others can vote for any favorites. (No last names or contact information will be included in any postings.) Winners in age groups 6–11, 12–18, 19 and older will be chosen the first week of September from summer submissions, the first week of December from fall submissions, the first week of March from winter submissions, and the first week of June from spring submissions. First-place winners will receive \$25, have their entry posted on our Web site until the next edition is printed, and *may* be published in *Creation Illustrated* as space allows. For more details go to: www.CreationIllustrated.com



STUDY GUIDE

for *Creation Illustrated*, Summer 2024 Edition, Vol. 31, No. 2

This instructional guide is designed to help readers of all ages integrate practical spiritual lessons available through the study of God’s handiwork. Studying nature will help lead individuals to a personal, awe-inspiring relationship with Jesus Christ, the Author of Creation.

I. Creation Up Close—“Wild Berry Harvesting” story, pages 6–11

1. What nutrients do all wild berries contain? p. 6
2. What benefits has research shown berries provide humans? p. 6
3. What berries are best picked before the first frost, and which ones are best after the first frost? pp. 7–11
4. How does aronia survive droughts? What spiritual lesson is illustrated by this? pp. 8, 9
5. What berry is referred to as a superfood? Why is it so special? p. 9
6. How much vitamin C do rosehips contain? Is it best to use these berries fresh or dried? p. 11

II. Re-Creation Outdoors—“Crater Lake National Park” story, pages 14–19

1. What was the name of the mountain and its elevation before the volcanic eruption that led to the formation of Crater Lake? pp. 15, 16
2. How many feet of snow does Crater Lake receive each year? p. 16
3. What is the depth of the lake? p. 17
4. What helps give the lake its rich azure hue and purity? p. 17
5. Who was the early explorer that discovered Crater Lake? What did he call it? p. 17
6. What did the Native Americans think of Crater Lake? p. 17

III. Creatures Near and Dear to Us—“Saving Sharks” story, pages 20–27

1. Describe how the mysteries of the ocean fascinate the author in the same way that God does. p. 23
2. Scientific research shows that sharks are vital for what purpose in a balanced ecosystem? p. 23
3. What would happen if there were no sharks left? p. 23
4. What do sharks possess that help researchers to treat cancer and the COVID virus? Define what binding domains and VNARs are. pp. 23, 24
5. How many unprovoked shark attacks happened last year? How many of those were fatal? p. 24
6. List some of the many factors that are threatening shark species. p. 24
7. What is the shark’s *superpower*? p. 24

IV. The Creation Week—“Creation Day 3—The Creation of Land and Plants” story, pages 28–37

1. How many known species of plants exist? How many are tree species? p. 29
2. How many species of herbs are there? List the three categories they include. p. 30
3. When was one of the first cookbooks written? Describe a recipe. pp. 30, 31
4. What is the average number of fresh herbs consumed by Americans?
5. How many herbs should we try to eat each week? p. 31
6. List some of your favorite culinary herbs. p. 34
7. What are some of the most useful plants that God created on day three? p. 36

Summertime Family Fun Activities

Summer is a great time to be out in nature as much as possible even around your home. Finding time to do yard and garden work as a family can be combined with learning more about the names and nutrients of the plants you are growing. Try creating a nature journal with clippings, leaves, drawings, as well as the scientific and common names of your plants, flowers, trees, and garden produce. Have fun counting and even weighing how many tomatoes you harvest. Have each family member *adopt* a plant and see who harvests the most produce.

Consider incorporating the outdoors into your daily routines such as simply eating outside as often as possible including breakfast on a sunny morning that can reward you with many healthful blessings. Cooking some of your food outside somehow seems to make a common meal taste better.

If you have a nice safe yard, some in the family might enjoy sleeping outside too. Before air conditioning, many homes had screened-in sleeping porches. Watching fireflies and shooting stars, as well as listening to the crickets and owls sing you to sleep is a wonderful treat. If bugs are an issue, you might like to have a tent or mosquito net. Don't forget to play some games, tell stories, or read a few pages in a book or the Bible before bedding down for the night.

Summer star gazing is another fun family outdoor activity. Start a family astronomy journal noting the constellations, planets, and number of shooting stars you see. If you don't have access to a telescope, a good pair of binoculars can enhance your heavenly observations.

Of course camping trips, hikes, and bike rides add good exercise to the mix. All of these outdoor activities can help give your family a break from the artificial digital world of cell phones and social media by creating genuine, lasting memories and meaningful relationships.



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S	Z	E	V	I	H	E	E	B	T	P	V

WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

The puzzle at the left contains words that are associated with this edition of *Creation Illustrated*. Simply find the words listed below and circle them. They can be spelled backward, forward, up, down, or diagonally. When you are finished, try to find the story or other part of the magazine from which each word came.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| 1. ANTIGEN | 11. FLAVOR |
| 2. BEEHIVE | 12. HERB |
| 3. BERRY | 13. MEDICINAL |
| 4. BOTANICAL | 14. RIM |
| 5. CLIMBS | 15. SHARKS |
| 6. CRATER | 16. SPICE |
| 7. CULINARY | 17. TACO |
| 8. DOMAIN | 18. TART |
| 9. ECLIPSE | 19. VARIETY |
| 10. ECOSYSTEM | 20. WILD |



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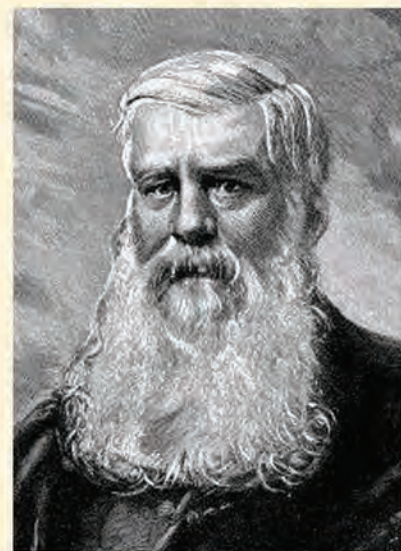
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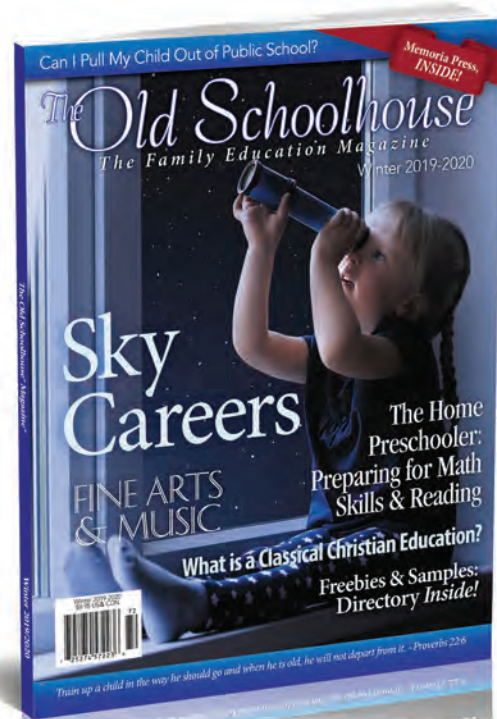
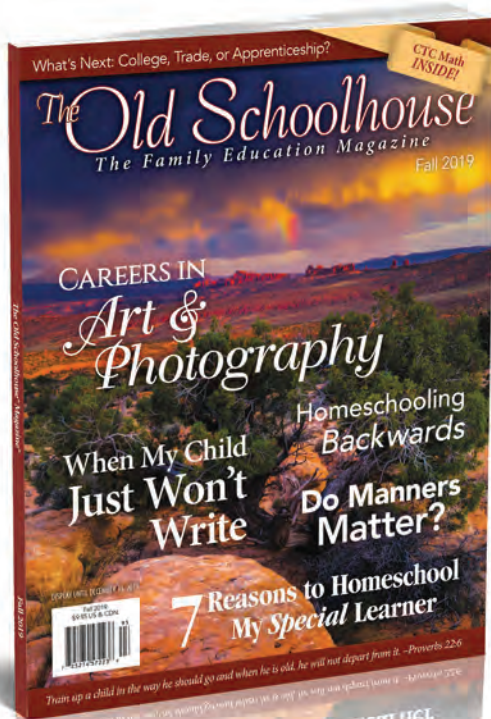
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"A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher."

Luke 6:40

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The Old Schoolhouse
The Family Education Magazine

A scenic view of a waterfall with a rainbow in the mist. The waterfall is the central focus, cascading over dark, rocky ledges. The water is a vibrant blue-green, and the mist at the base is thick and white. A bright rainbow is visible in the mist, arching across the scene. The background shows a wide, flat landscape with green grass and brown earth, under a blue sky with light clouds. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.

Rainbow Maker



**Please provide the living water,
That You promised long ago.
Make my fountain overflowing;
Quench my parched and thirsty soul!**

**Then, if You would be so gracious,
Cause Your light to shine through me.
Me the prism, You the sunshine—
Rainbow-painted artistry!**

– Gloria Wilde



*“In His hand are the deep
places of the earth
The sea is His, for He made it.”*

– Psalm 95: 4, 5

Mark Gattlieb

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