

# Creation

I L L U S T R A T E D

YOUR COMPANION . . .



IN NATURE



IN SCRIPTURE



IN LIVING

WINTER 2025 VOL 31 NO 4 US \$4.99











*“Look up, and  
lift up your heads;  
for your redemption  
draweth nigh.”*

– Luke 21:28, KJV



# Our Why



The Creation Illustrated Ministries purpose statement on the facing page talks about our Creator's *gentle touch* and *renewed peace*. These two elements come together masterfully in the characteristics of the six-sided snowflake.

These crystalline gems of winter descending softly from the heavens remind us of God's gentle touch in caring for all His children. Each flake, uniquely and delicately designed, reveals the detail with which He attends to every individual life.

Just as snowflakes cover the earth in a blanket of white that provides a sense of calm and purity, God's care envelops us with peace and compassion. His touch is gentle yet powerful in shaping our lives with love and precision. Our Creator bids us, "'Come now, and let us reason together,' says the Lord, 'Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool'" (Isaiah 1:18).

As we watch the snowflakes fall, we can reflect on how God continually sustains and refreshes us in the quiet moments. Have you ever heard how quietly snow falls? He reminds us to "Be still, and know that I am God..." (Psalm 46:10). In the stillness we can sense His presence more keenly. "His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness" (Lamentations 3:22, 23).

The spring runoff from the snow nourishes the earth and prepares it for new growth. Similarly, God's care and provision sustain and nourish us to grow in faith and flourish in His love. "He gives snow like wool; He scatters the frost like ashes; He casts out His hail like morsels; who can stand before His cold?" (Psalm 147:16, 17). But "'Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?'" (Matthew 6:23).

The purity of fresh snow reminds us of the purity and peace that God offers through His presence in our lives. His assurance settles our hearts in the midst of this troubled world! "'Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid'" (John 14:27).

*Creation Illustrated* is published to help share these and other powerful examples, parables, and object lessons provided by our Creator's gentle touch that gives us renewed peace. That's why.

## The Publishers



### Let Us Help With Your Budget for the New Year

Individuals, schools, churches, youth groups, and families typically set goals for the New Year, and financial needs are often at the top of the list. We can help alleviate some of your concerns about money by providing an opportunity to earn extra funds on your own time without having to buy, stock, or deliver anything. Become a *Creation Illustrated* Affiliate and earn 20–30 percent of every *Creation Illustrated* subscription sold! Plus get 10–20 percent on subscription renewals. Recruit other affiliates and earn an additional 5–10 percent on everything they sell. Why wait?

**It's FREE to sign up at [CreationIllustrated.com](http://CreationIllustrated.com), or with this QR Code >>>**





# Creation

I L L U S T R A T E D

Vol. 31, No. 4

## 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.*

**Editor/Publisher:** Tom Ish

**Associate Editor:** Jennifer Ish

**Assoc. Art Director:** Melissa Ish

**Copy Editors:** Marilyn Morgan and Ed E. Quiring, PhD

**Contributing Writers:**

Dawn Caldwell De Wulf, Juliet Chamberlain, Tatiana Claudy, Steve Day, Jeanne Eproson, Christine Graef, Bobby Harrison, Jennifer Ish, Tom Ish, Terry and Jean McComb, and Nancy Schafner.

**Contributing Photographers:**

Ruthann Bauman, Anton Belovodchenko, Karen Bulbuk, Tatiana Claudy, William Goodwin, Mark Gottlieb, Andrey Gudkov, Bobby Harrison, Melissa Ish, Hannah Jones, Tom & Pat Leeson, Jenny Miner, George Phile, Deborah Rew, Stephen Rew, Bryan Reynolds, Nancy Schafner, Jason Stone, Scott Swanson, and Jennifer Waters.

Like us:



The cover photo of a polar bear cub with its mama was taken by Anton Belovodchenko of Russia.

## . . . IN NATURE

Our Why	2
Giving Thanks	4
Sharing Our Mail	5
Coy Coyotes	6 ▶
Re-Creation Outdoors	14
Lens on Creation	20
Creation Up Close	22



## . . . IN SCRIPTURE



◀ 28	Creation Day 5, Part 1 The Creation of the Sea Creatures
38	Creation Highlights
39	Creation Stewardship

## . . . IN LIVING

My Walk With God	40
Gardens From Eden	44
Genesis Cuisine	50 ▶
Children's Story	52
Character Lesson	58
Contests	60
Study Guide	62



Creation Illustrated (ISSN 1086-1645) (USPS 013-553) Vol. 31, No. 4, Winter 2025 Copyright © Creation Illustrated Ministries 2025; all rights reserved. Creation Illustrated is published quarterly by a nonprofit, nondenominational-owned ministry dedicated to the eternal impact of sharing biblical truth through the wonder of God's creation. The brief Bible texts in this publication are from the King James Version and a few other versions including the New King James Version. Copyright © 1979, 1980, 1982, Thomas Nelson, Inc. Editorial offices: Creation Illustrated Ministries, 813 S. Wilbur Rd., Spokane Valley, WA 99206 (mailing address: P.O. Box 141103, Spokane Valley, WA 99214-1103), 1(800) 360-2732. Email: ci@CreationIllustrated.com. Internet: www.creationillustrated.com. Periodicals Postage Paid at Spokane, WA, and additional mailing offices. Advertising: Creation Illustrated, P.O. Box 141103, Spokane Valley, WA 99214-1103, Phone (530) 269-1424. Writers and Photographers: We welcome unsolicited manuscripts, poetry, and color High Resolution digital images with identification of subject, location, and photographer. We cannot be responsible for or return materials that are not accompanied by a self-addressed stamped return envelope. Subscription prices: in U.S. \$19.95 for 1 yr.; \$36.95 for 2 yrs. For Canada add \$10 U.S. per year for additional postage; subscriptions outside North America add \$20 U.S. per year additional postage. To place your order, send all new subscriptions, questions, and address changes to Creation Illustrated, P.O. Box 141103, Spokane Valley, WA 99214-1103. Allow 4-6 weeks for new subscriptions or changes. The Postal Service will not forward your magazine unless you guarantee forwarding postage with your local post office. We cannot replace magazines for those who do not give sufficient notice or guarantee forwarding. Postmaster: Send address changes to Creation Illustrated, P.O. Box 141103, Spokane Valley, WA 99214-1103.



## Unseen Diversity

Winter's chilly days and nights often force man and beast to retreat to warmer, safer surroundings. We curl up by the fire while God's creatures curl up in their burrows and dens. Hence, the countryside and country clubs appear abandoned. But the vast array of creatures with their character traits and vital functions continue to contribute to the hidden balance of life under the guidance of the Creator.

For example, wily, wondering coyotes weave their way through forests, farmlands, and settlements often undetected to eke out an existence by craftily catching their prey even in the deep snow and returning to their den to share their bounty. This dichotomy of skilled-slayer versus family-provider reveals their diverse function in the wild as told in this issue's creature article.

Within the plant kingdom, plowed-under gardens and farms covered with snow depend on the unseen and diverse myriad of microbes multiplying under the earth's surface while horticultural enthusiasts huddle in their home mapping garden plots and selecting seeds to get ready for the soon coming spring planting season. Learn more on how to be prepared through the "Gardens From Eden" story that will inspire you to create your own unique mix of diverse veggies to grow.



But not everyone finds home as the best escape from winter woes. Join the couple who fled to Kauai to hike the risky Kahili Ridge trail. Amid the vast and diverse verdure of the garden island, the duo found the dense ferns to be an unanticipated hurdle in reaching the summit of Mount Kahili. The heart-touching hidden lesson will help heal any wounds from the prickly, rigid fronds.

A less harsh plant species that dots forests, tundra, and rocky outcroppings reveals its hidden value to wild animals in the "Creation Up Close" article that focuses on the countless diverse species of ferns, mosses, and lichens. Their humble and often obscure presence serves as vital sustenance to creatures that need nutrition during the sparse winter months.

But perhaps the most diverse, unseen segment of God's creative handiwork lies within the earth's waterways. More than two million species of marine creatures in seven different categories fill the water that dominates 70 percent of the earth's surface! To realize that the Creator knows the names of every living thing and designed their symbiotic relationships inspire awe in even the passive onlooker with nominal interest in such miraculous manifestations of His power and care.

Perhaps the only things that surpass such immeasurable hidden diversity are our own human uniquenesses and mental capacities. As growing divisions in society reveal, such limitless ideations carry a hidden risk of being misguided into eternal perdition. Our unfettered thoughts influenced by our backgrounds, beliefs, and boundless information point to an infinite realm of diverse notions that even AI cannot surpass.

Even so, such unfathomable perceptions, presumptions, prejudices, and promises cannot begin to comprehend the unseen and diverse blessings that God wants to bestow upon each of us! Scripture pledges in 1 Corinthians 2:9, "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him." Joshua 24:15 admonishes us to focus our allegiance and to "choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve" because "faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).



Tom Ish, editor/publisher



# Sharing Our Mail

## His hand . . .

I'm sitting by the hearth during the early morning hours and perusing your excellent magazine. God certainly has His hand upon it, and we admire your concerted efforts to keep it going throughout all these years. With high regard in Christ.

B. Stebbing  
McFarlan  
North Carolina

## Old copy . . .

You have a great way to show the love of Him who is known by many names. The great wonders He has done

for His creation shows the great love of our Father of all.

I love the pictures. I have had a copy of *Creation Illustrated* magazine for five years and don't even remember how I got it. I am an inmate from Indiana, and I would love to receive more magazines as I share and talk with others. I am into homestead things so the plants and nature stories are helpful.

I can never get enough. I always want more, and that means a lot coming from a place where hope and love are not found. So, your magazine helps bring that very thing that is not common on our grounds, and it reminds me and others that God is still near in our hearts.

J. Slack, Jr.  
Bunker Hill, Indiana

## Needs a frame . . .

It did my heart good to see the two-page spread inside the front cover of the Fall 2024 edition. First, the Bible verse is fresh and comes to life. Second, the porcupine in fall leaves photo is wonderful and quite beautiful. And finally, the two together

make quite a *point*.

I feel like it needs to be framed and hung where I can often see it. It's amazing to learn such a memorable lesson about gratitude from this combination of the book of Scripture and the book of nature—even before I get to page two!

L. Burns  
Corner Brook,  
Newfoundland

## Taken away . . .

I have just read one of your magazines, and I have to say I was taken away by it. I love reading about all of God's beautiful creativeness that He has done on this earth. I love how there is all this information, and the pictures are amazing.

I would like to start receiving them if there is a way I could get back issues. Anything you can send to me would be a blessing. I would also like to say *thank you* for providing stuff like this to us. It is always nice to learn about God and His works. You can send anything to me here at the Trousdale Turner Correctional Center.

R.C.  
Hartsville, Tennessee

## Took to school . . .

One of the little girls I am giving a gift subscription to recently shared that she is enjoying taking her magazine to school and reading the articles to her friends, and they, too, are enjoying it!

A. Hansen  
Olds, Alberta

## Drawn to Bible . . .

I am writing to you from Putnamville Correctional Facility in Indiana. I received the Winter 2022 magazine in my Christmas Behind Bars gift bag.

What a true blessing it was. As an outdoor enthusiast, I automatically loved the pictures as well as topics of the articles in the magazine I received.

Unfortunately, being in here I have no means to pay for it but would like to receive any back dated ones you could send to me to read. Please consider me for a subscription.

Through the words of the articles I have been drawn more to reading my Bible from this one free magazine; so, I also wish to thank you!

D. P.  
Greencastle, Indiana

### Dear Friends:

*We appreciate hearing from our readers. Please let us know how you are using Creation Illustrated.*

### How to contact us:

#### **By Mail:**

Creation Illustrated  
PO Box 141103  
Spokane Valley, WA 99214

#### **By E-Mail:**

ci@creationillustrated.com

#### **By the Internet:**

www.creationillustrated.com

#### **By Phone:**

1(800) 360-2732

#### **Visit our Website**

HERE >>>  
using a Smart  
Phone camera





# Coy Coyotes

**V**arious sounds of nature echo throughout the seasons. Spring and summer awaken the senses with birds singing, crickets chirping, frogs croaking, owls hooting, and squirrels chattering. In fall Creation's symphony fades, and as winter chills the air, a hush comes over the land.

But one distinct call pierces the silence with a shiver deeper than the first frost as a chorus of coyotes break the silent darkness. They throw their heads back, lift their snouts, and howl, yip, woof, growl, bark, and chat with each other. We can't help but wonder what these most vocal wild mammals in North America are saying.

**By Christine Graef  
with Tom Ish**







Stephen Rew





The familiar howl of the coyote (left) helps with communication among the other creatures in the region. A coy opportunist (above) has to weigh the risks of pursuing its prey, but the bison has the advantage in protecting its young. Always on the prowl, coyotes keenly lurk amid protective surrounding (below).





“You should keep them from the evil one.”

—John 17:15

Researchers have identified about a dozen vocalizations among coyote conversations, and according to one wildlife specialist, there are three general categories: (1) Low *wow-oo-wow*ing sounds, alone or as a group, are a greeting song when reuniting. (2) Woofing, growling, and huffing while arching their back and lowering their tail are aggressive warnings while high notes of whining are more submissive. (3) The commonly heard howl alone or in a group is a signal to claim a territory, call a mate, or to stay in touch with pups too young to wander with their parents.

Ever since these animals were drawn on cave walls or rocky petroglyphs, a variety of tales and lore have haunted cultures with superstitions about coyotes. Imaginations point to them holding secrets, making mischief, and conjuring magic or fantasy. Some cultures conversely view these wily creatures as bearers of knowledge.

In Navajo mythology, coyotes are heroes representing both humans and animals; they can be unpredictable and ambivalent and yet loyal to family and friends. They say coyotes have a knowledge above other creations. When there is uncertainty over a decision, for example, the myth states, “No one knew what to do, so they asked coyote.” Additional native lore depicts the coyote sitting near a door so he can ally himself with which ever side suits his whim. Much of the world is regarded as facing the same choices—family, care, and friendships, versus solitude, greed, and shrewdness. We, too, can easily slip into the coyote’s contradictory characteristics as we face the controversy between good and evil in the world. Jesus prayed to the Father to guide us in our current

state, “I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world” (John 17:15, 16).

Navajo stories and object lessons relate to a wide range of events and emotions that span hunting, death, transformation, and healing. “The purpose of the stories is to convey both a moral message in an entertaining (and therefore memorable) way, particularly to children, and also, as far as adults are concerned, to demonstrate possibilities and limitations in the world,” wrote Guy J. Cooper in his thesis *Coyote in Navajo Religion and Cosmology*. Of course, the stories are not taken literally but instead serve as a method of introducing serious topics that need to be considered. For example, there is a tale of a coyote losing his eyes in a gambling game, which introduces the risk of experiencing injury or disease when taking chances.

The use of object lessons, parables, and testimonies throughout Scripture has also proved effective as Jesus’ primary method in relating principles, character guidance, and eternal truths that could be easily used to share the gospel throughout the world. “In fact, in his public ministry he never taught without using parables; but afterward, when he was alone with his disciples, he explained everything to them” (Mark 4:34, NLT).

Some object lessons also present warnings. As a rude, clever, and astute trickster snooping into everyone’s business, coyotes can trot off to be foolish and mischievous while encountering other animals to try to trick them or appear like them, which inevitably ends in disaster. In His sermon on the mount Jesus warns, “Beware of false prophets, who come to you



# “How pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”

—Psalm 133:1

in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves” (Matthew 7:15). While this biblical reference points to religious teachers, the warning can also be used to describe anyone who disguises his or her true nature. In modern times zoologists have also used the idiom to describe predators that use aggressive mimicry to disguise themselves as prey or another harmless species to lure victims to their demise.

Despite all of the elusive and devious characteristics associated with this creature, the coyote plays an important role in the process of a well ordered Creation. They often test boundaries and face consequences that reveals the need for divine order. During the past few decades, coyotes (*Canis latrans*, which means *barking dog*) have moved north into taiga forests, east into deciduous forests, west into coastal rain forests, and south into tropical rainforests. Nineteen subspecies of coyotes roam everywhere from California to Newfoundland and Alaska to Panama. They are highly adaptable and can live in a variety of habitats including urban and suburban areas, which can present risks to both creatures and humans.

With their characteristic long bushy black-tipped tail and pointed ears, coyotes most often appear grayish tan with reddish tinges behind the ears and around the face. Some species’ coats vary from silver to tan, black, or brown. Western coyotes are around twenty-five pounds or the size of a small shepherd or collie-type dog. Swift and agile, coyotes can jump six feet high and run at speeds of over forty miles per hour when pursuing prey or fleeing danger.

In the east the native people say the coyote keeps the spirit of the wolf alive by interbreeding with them when wolves faced extinction. The eastern

coyote (often called a *coy-wolf*) weighs 35 to 55 pounds and looks more like a wolf. DNA analysis revealed that these coyotes interbred with eastern wolves as coyote populations spread eastward.

Coyotes often travel alone, but they are also very social and maintain connections through their singing while wandering a vast territory that may range from two to thirty square miles. Psalm 133:1 underscores the importance of community. “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!” Their gathering as a family is not only for companionship but allows for sharing resources, dangers, and places of safety. Because they are members of one body, coyotes gain the intelligence of the pack much quicker than learning on their own how to react in a variety of situations in an often hostile world.

Researchers at the University of Colorado found, “One interesting and useful discovery is that humans aren’t very good at estimating how many coyotes are around by listening to their howls. Indeed, they usually overestimate the number of individuals actually present. So the melodious cacophony and symphony of sounds shouldn’t be used to claim that numerous coyotes are all over the place.”

Key to their adaptability lies in knowing good hiding places amid forests, parks, shrubbery, and even golf courses. Mostly active at sunset and in the early morning, they can also hunt during the day in remote areas, but in urban surroundings coyotes remain nocturnal. It is their very adaptability that teaches us about our own capacity to face change and how to replace fear with faith and transformation according to God’s will.





Mark Gottlieb

Strength and agility (above) start developing at an early age as pups learn to move quickly (below). Sharp vision and hearing aid the creatures in the wild (right).



© Tom & Pat Leeson



© Tom & Pat Leeson





© Tom & Pat Leeson

With many hungry mouths to feed (above), coyotes must seize sizable prey (below). Keeping their young in line is not easy (right).



© Tom & Pat Leeson



© Tom & Pat Leeson



# *“And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind.”*

—Genesis 1:25

Adjusting to changing environments, coyotes become opportunistic scavengers and accept whatever God has provided for food. A best estimate reports more than one million coyotes at work maintaining ecosystems and species diversity. An expert hunter of rodents and rabbits, coyotes keep these populations balanced. They may be disreputable among ranchers, but they keep vole, groundhog, prairie dog, and gopher populations under control. Even in urban environments, they keep rodents at bay, which helps control diseases from spreading. If they can't find small creatures or even insects to eat, they amble around and rummage in garbage to find sustenance.

Guy Cooper concludes his thesis saying, “It may be noted that if the animal coyote is the model, then the Navajo have, in some ways, chosen wisely, since no other animal displays quite the same adaptability and capacity for survival in the face of great odds.”

As devoted parents, coyotes tend to mate for life. Breeding between January and March results in a litter of pups being born between mid-March and mid-May. Litters can range from one to as many as nineteen pups, but mortality is high, with only half the pups surviving past their first year. God orchestrates a balance in the natural world; so, the number depends on the amount of food and resources available and the size of the existing coyote population.

After being weaned, pups are fed regurgitated food by both parents hunting day and night to keep their offspring growing strong. The pups stay with parents for their first six to nine months before adventuring out to seek new territory. During this important initial period, the young learn to speak

the language of their family—to respond with the appropriate pitch of howls and yips that tell them they are never alone in this world. They play together, spin, and pounce as they develop skills. Some pups remain with their family group for life.

Amid all of the aspects of coyote characteristics, they teach us that the Creator has a purpose for each of the creatures He created on day six of the Creation week. “And God made the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that it was good” (Genesis 1:25). Job underscores, “Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this, in whose hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind?” (Job 12:9, 10). With such assurance, we can respond to the psalmist's invitation regarding the order and design in God's handiwork. “Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it. Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice” (Psalm 96:12). **C**

---

*Christine Graef writes from Ellsworth, Maine, where she explores the wonders of the natural world in order to share the lessons God provides for all of us. Tom Ish is the editor and publisher of Creation Illustrated.*



# Hiking Kahili Ridge


BY NANCY SCHAFNER

**M**y husband and I have hiked many miles together that has brought us closer to our Creator. As we hike, the cares of the world fade and fall like the leaves of autumn. Each passing footstep brings drops of peace until they form a river flowing within our countenance. Each moment in nature is restorative.

Being alone with God amid His wondrous works brings a feeling of personally connecting with Him. Clean mountain air fills our brains with oxygen, and our perspective changes as if we are breathing the very atmosphere of heaven. What was so worrisome now seems trivial. The really important things in life come clearly into focus.

For my husband, Carl, hiking is a necessity. He works long hours as an electrical





engineer and says, "All I do all day long is stare at a screen." Yet, I know a great deal of thought, training, and prayer are involved in his work. Daily claiming the promise, "If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all" (James 1:5, NIV). Carl insists each day is a miracle. He designs Field Programmable Gate Arrays (integrated computer chip circuits capable of processing data much faster than traditional processors) that are highly complex and excruciatingly detailed.

Sometimes they end up with flaws—*bugs*. So, in addition to staring at a screen, sometimes he gets to kill bugs at work! But neither screen staring or bug killing involve any type of physical exercise. Encouraged to keep a balanced spiritual, mental, and physical life,





Nancy Schafner

*Cabins at Kahili Mountain Park (above) are about thirty-five miles southeast of the Kalalau Valley (previous pages).*

## L I F E   A L T E R I N G

---

Carl finds hiking is not optional, especially in the context of Mark 12:30. “And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.”

I gained a life-altering experience and touching insight on a particularly memorable trek with Carl for our twenty-fifth anniversary. Juxtaposed against the bitter chill of winter months, we were drawn to an exotic hiking destination on Kauai, the *garden isle*. With all the lush vegetation, one could easily think a generous portion of the Garden of Eden was left right there.

We stayed at Kahili Mountain Park located two miles down a dirt road flanked on both sides by vast fields of sugar cane. Transitioning from the fields to the park refreshed like drinking a cool glass of water on a hot day. Entering the front gate triggered our imagination of having just passed through the pearly gates of Zion. Beyond the gate stands a body of water that reminded us of the crystal sea before the throne of God. Welcoming shade trees soothingly greet everyone in this place of captivating beauty and peace.

After registering for our cabin, we followed a faint track in the neatly mowed grass leading to our private sanctuary for the next week. We felt we had found a treasure tucked away in an idyllic piece of paradise. On the porch we could hear the ripple of a breeze flowing through the lush tropical forest surrounding our abode. The scent of plumeria lingered in the air. Inside we found wide-eyed geckos scampering up the walls and across the ceiling. We also enjoyed the unique experience of using our outdoor shower. How right it felt to be gazing up at the stars and to be bathed in moonlight while getting physically, mentally, and spiritually clean. Later we were lulled to sleep by the music of raindrops dancing on the tin roof. All of our senses





*Mount Waialeale (above) is among the wettest places on earth, and muddy hiking is common all over the island of Kauai.*

*“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God.”*

overflowed with blissful delight. It felt like home even though we had never been there before.

Looming tall behind the park grounds stands Mount Kahili. The best news of all was that we could access the Kahili Ridge Trail mere steps away from our cabin. This challenging, steep 2.75-mile climb up 1,700 feet in elevation includes sections of breathtaking razorback ridge hiking. On the shoulder of Mount Kahili, about halfway to the summit, is a radio tower—the destination for most hikers because the trail ends there.

The day we hiked, spectacular views toward the coast contrasted the not so clear visibility looking inland. In the distance, through the moisture laden air, we could see what we thought was Mount Waialeale. Rain clouds and mist crowned the top of the mountain. Mount Waialeale receives approximately four hundred sixty inches of rain each year, making it one of the wettest places on earth. We knew it would only be a matter of time before the tropical precipitation caught up with us. Tempted to turn around, we pushed on toward our goal to reach the summit.

We forged ahead finding intermittent portions of narrow animal paths. Most of the way required trudging through the dense vegetation and slipping in the slimy mud. We tried to make good time in order to stay ahead of the rain, but the dense ferns slowed us down the most. I know this sounds odd because ferns are normally soft, lacy, and feathery. But the tough, fibrous, and leathery sword ferns on Mount Kahili grow so aggressively they form a network of thick, tangled mats up to forty inches deep. Their nasty, sharp, barbs felt like hiking through heavy thickets of wild roses. We needed protection for our legs, but, of course, both of us were wearing shorts. After all, we were in Kauai!





Nancy Schafner

Carl, hiking along the razorback ridge (left), soon met the relentless sharp barbs of thick ferns (above).

## BE PREPARED

---

Carl is an Eagle Scout, and he upholds the *Be Prepared* motto. I wasn't. So, Carl gave me the windbreaker in his day-pack. I turned it upside down and put my legs in the sleeves of the windbreaker and tucked the bottom of the windbreaker in around my waist. My ankles were where my wrists normally should have been, and I'm sure I looked quite comical in my makeshift *pants*. But what a blessing to keep my legs from being ripped to shreds. We made it to the summit and experienced a ragged feeling of success as it started drizzling. Carl's legs were bloody, muddy, and torn by the time we got down the mountain.

While hiking I kept thinking, *what great love*. Every time I saw Carl's legs being scraped and cut, I knew those lashes should be mine. He could have told me to go on to the summit by myself, but he didn't. He stayed with me. He sacrificed his windbreaker for me. He could have protected himself, but he didn't. He protected me instead. What a great demonstration of love and compassion!

As we all know, the lashes Jesus received should have been ours, but "By His scourging we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5, NASB). Jesus could have told us to get out of our sin problem by ourselves, but he didn't. He promised, "I will never leave you or forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). Akin to Carl staying with me to reach the summit, Jesus wants to stay with us and guide us to the summit of heaven. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (John 14:6).

He sacrificed everything to give us His robe (windbreaker) of righteousness. "I delight greatly in the Lord; my soul rejoices in my God. For He has clothed me with garments of salvation and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness" (Isaiah 61:10, NIV). Jesus could have protected himself, but He didn't. He protected us instead. "Greater love has no one than this,





*Reaching the summit of Mount Kahili (above) was rewarded with spectacular surrounding views.*

Nancy Schafner

*“Greater love has no one than this.”*

that one lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13, NASB). What great love!

Since this moving experience, we learned the Mount Kahili hike is now closed and should not be attempted. The park land was previously owned by a Christian school, and hikers used to be welcomed and were requested to sign in at the office next to the parking lot. Unfortunately, the new owners have closed the park, and hiking is no longer allowed due to liability concerns.

Yes, I have mixed emotions. First, I thought, *how sad*. No one is allowed to embark on an experience that they would never forget. Carl and I would also not be able to go back and recreate our adventure again. Then I thought about how blessed we were to have had the opportunity of doing the hike in the first place. Plus, staying at the park was a rejuvenating and rewarding privilege.

We can all look forward, however, to eternal life with Jesus in Eden restored (and perhaps Kauai’s Mount Kahili too). And there, all the trails will always be open and maintained under the management of the true Owner of everything He created! **C**

---

*Nancy Schafner writes from Salt Lake City, Utah, where she and her husband continue to seek reprieves from the daily rigors of life by pursuing the wonders of God’s creation.*



# Palo Duro

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



Bobby Harrison

*Palo Duro Canyon, Texas*

“**F**or the Lord shall comfort Zion: he will comfort all her waste places; and he will make her wilderness like Eden, and her desert like the garden of

the Lord; joy and gladness shall be found therein, thanksgiving, and the voice of melody” (Isaiah 51:3, KJV).

For those of us who love the wilderness, we find great peace

and joy there—a place where God can cultivate our desire for His presence. Solitude amid God’s creation provides a great gift where the spirit can be renewed and our soul strengthened.

Palo Duro Canyon, carved into the barren caprock escarpment of the Texas panhandle, stands as an exquisite jewel of the southern Great Plains as the second largest canyon in the United States and dubbed “The Grand Canyon of Texas.”

A majestic place to immerse oneself in the wilderness experience, the canyon stretches some hundred and twenty miles in length, twenty miles wide, and almost eight hundred feet deep—the ideal home to myriad species of wildlife.

In 1934 Palo Duro Canyon State Park was established on the canyon’s northern end to preserve more than twenty-nine thousand acres of the unique landscape, flora, and fauna. A 10-mile auto route along with 36 miles of hiking and biking trails descend from the canyon’s rim through diverse habitats of juniper and mesquite trees, grassy prairies, and finally the riparian vegetation at the canyon’s floor. This diversity of habitats supports a wide range of wild creatures such as the Texas horned lizard, Palo Duro mouse mule deer, coyotes, bobcats, barbary sheep, and more than two hundred and forty species of birds!



Bobby Harrison

*Lark sparrow*



# Canyon

BY BOBBY HARRISON

As with most birding locations, spring and fall are the best time to visit Palo Duro. However, avian species such as the greater roadrunner, black-crested titmouse, golden-fronted woodpecker, lark sparrow, mountain bluebird, and pine siskin can be seen most anytime throughout the year. Seasonal birding attractions include black-headed grosbeak, painted bunting, scissor-tailed flycatcher, blue-grey gnatcatcher, warbling vireo, and Townsend's solitaire.

For both the naturalist and nature photographers, a viewing blind (which is wheelchair accessible) can be found behind the park's trading post. The blind with accompanying bird feeders and a water feature provides an unparalleled opportunity to see many of the park's bird and wildlife species up close in a single location.

Visiting Palo Duro Canyon in the spring offers a truly transforming experience. With the prairie atop the escarpment bursting with colorful wildflowers and the canyon echoing with the melodious tunes of migrating birds, I cannot help but think of the words of Isaiah. "The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given



Bobby Harrison

*Greater roadrunner*

unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God" (Isaiah 35:1, 2, KJV). **C**

*Bobby Harrison writes from*

*Huntsville, Alabama, and Oakwood University as a retired associate professor of photography. Explore more of his amazing photography and birding adventures at: [www.bobbyharrison.blogspot.com](http://www.bobbyharrison.blogspot.com)*



Bobby Harrison

*Black-crested titmouse*



# Humble

C R E A T I O N   U P   C L O S E ,



*Cascading fronds of a Boston fern*

Talliana Claudy



*Moss clings to forest*

**A**s I walked through the woods of Koyonsaari Island on the western edge of Russia near Finland, I admired gorgeous bushy ferns, soft velvety mosses, and silvery-green lichens that reminded me of apostle Paul's words. "Those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary" (1 Corinthians 12:22). Humble, unpretentious, and frequently overlooked, this modest

part of Creation's verdure remains indispensable for a balanced forest ecology.

Ferns remove heavy metals from the soil and air; mosses prevent erosion and absorb water; and lichens improve air quality by absorbing pollutants. Although not mentioned in the Bible, these plants reveal the fabulous handiwork and wisdom of the Creator, which deserves our attention.

Did you know that ferns, mosses, and lichens



# Servants

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



branches. Mark Gottlieb



*Although highly acidic, British soldier lichen is edible.*

Karen Bulbuk

have distinctive features that set them apart from other plants? All three of these unique botanical wonders propagate with spores because they do not produce flowers or seeds. Mosses also develop rhizoids—root-like growths that attach to the surface of rocks, trees, and soil. And lichens (a symbiosis between algae and fungi) can also propagate vegetatively (through broken off pieces that become new plants).

Although appearing simple, unassuming,

somewhat similar, these plants exhibit great diversity. Botanists have identified about twelve thousand species of ferns, twelve thousand species of mosses, and twenty thousand species of lichens. Let's look closer at some of the most fascinating examples.

Tasmanian tree ferns (native to Tasmania and southeast Australia) thrive in a humid and cool environment where this species can grow up to thirty feet high and twelve to twenty-eight inches wide



at the base. Its glossy dark green fronds resemble feathers that can reach up to ten feet in length. They develop from gradually unfolding *fiddleheads*. While these green spirals add uniqueness and beauty to the plant, they actually protect the *meristem*—a special tissue necessary for the plant’s growth. Such a benevolent design inspires praise found in Romans 11:33. “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!”

Regardless of its slow growth, just one frond of a mature Tasmanian tree fern releases into the air up to seven hundred fifty million spores that can be carried away by the wind for several hundred miles. No wonder these plants, though magnificent and pleasant to behold, are considered by some to be *weeds* due to their invasiveness. However, I believe that this prolific fern presents a couple of spiritual insights.

Firstly, no challenge is too insignificant to be ignored. The Bible teaches, “Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards” (Song of Songs 2:15, NIV). We, too, should resolve difficult

issues before they turn into insurmountable obstacles. Secondly, we need to watch and not be misled by strange doctrines. As the apostle John admonished, “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1). We must habitually analyze the onslaught of this information age and reject everything that contradicts the Bible. Such was the practice of the Berean Jews who “received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11).

The Hart’s tongue fern (the only species with long and slender undivided fronds) grows in damp shady spots of woodlands and moist rock formations in the Eastern United States and Europe. It develops large bright-green fronds up to twenty-four inches long. While most ferns dry up in winter, Hart’s tongue ferns remain evergreen and survive even snowy weather. God’s children should also persevere through their trials as encouraged by the apostle



*A sword fern fiddlehead*



*Rocks dotted with lichen form an interesting pattern.*



James. “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing” (James 1:2–4).

Fiddlehead ferns or ostrich ferns (native to the Northwest and Midwest regions of the United States) display a large graceful plant that is famous for its edible *fiddleheads* harvested in spring. When cooked they taste similar to green beans or asparagus and can be pickled or dried. They provide a good source of vitamins A and C, iron, and potassium. Many native tribes of the United States and Canada traditionally harvested ferns and remind us of God’s providence. “O Lord, You preserve man and beast” (Psalm 36:6).

Dragon’s gold moss (native to North America, Europe, Russia, China, and Japan) is a soft greenish plant growing in clumps with shoots reaching a mere .6 inches. Unlike other mosses abundant in open areas of forests or wetlands, this one occupies dark caves, crevices of rocks, and animal boroughs. Its

lens-like cells absorb any available light, even when very dim, thus enabling the moss to photosynthesize, which is necessary for any plant’s survival. Likewise, Christians should appreciate any available light from God and be grateful in humble circumstances because “godliness with contentment is great gain” (1 Timothy 6:6). When some of the light is reflected, the moss becomes luminous with a golden-greenish glow. And since other plants do not survive in dark caves, dragon’s gold moss flourishes there and forms large *colonies*. We can learn from this humble and often hidden verdure to trust God who can use any situation to bless us. “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God” (Romans 8:28).

True Iceland lichen (native to alpine and Arctic regions) can also be found abundantly growing in New England, the Great Lakes states, Colorado, and Alaska. Its bushy leaf-like erect branches vary in color from grayish-white to pale chestnut to dark brown. Due to its likeness to moss, the plant is also called



Bryan Reynolds



Tatiana Claudy

*Moss often collects on aged oak-tree branches.*





*Trumpet cup lichen is common in the Pacific Northwest.*

Karen Bulbuk

Iceland moss. Although true Iceland lichen can reach a modest height of three inches, it grows extremely slow—about two-tenths of an inch per year—which provides a precious lesson for Christians. Wait patiently for the Lord’s answer to prayers. “Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay” (Habakkuk 2:3, NIV) for “God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name” (Hebrews 6:10).

Being extraordinarily resilient, lichens survive in hot or cold environments and thrive on impoverished soils. We, too, can thrive and rejoice in the Lord despite challenging and less than optimal situations that the apostle Paul knew all too well. He encouraged, “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer” (Romans 12:12, NIV).

True Iceland lichen not only survives harsh conditions, it benevolently provides food for reindeer, especially during times of sparse winter feed. These animals can recognize edible patches of lichen from a distance by being able to see ultraviolet light, which

allows them to perceive clusters of lichens as dark spots. Even when the plant is snow-covered, our gracious Creator gave reindeer the ability to smell it and use their antlers and hooves to dig it up. “O Lord, how manifold are Your works! In wisdom You have made them all” (Psalm 104:24).

Certain ferns, mosses, and lichens grow on the tree trunks and branches. These *epiphytes* (from the Greek *epi* meaning upon and *phyton* meaning plant) are also referred to as *air plants* because they have visible aerial roots that are not fixed in soil. Thus, epiphytes receive their nutrients and moisture from misty air, fog, and dew. Fortunately they do not harm the host plant like some parasitic vegetation. On the contrary, these symbiotic flora create a cooler environment in the host plant’s canopy by rapidly absorbing water. They also provide habitats for animals such as bromeliad tree frogs. The coexistence of epiphytes and host plants reminds Christians to be merciful and patient with those around us. “We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak





*A healthy silver lady fern with three fiddleheads*

Tatiana Claudy



*Shield lichen can be found globally.*

Karen Bulbuk

and not to please ourselves” (Romans 15:1, NIV). Our heavenly Father had created epiphytes and their air roots with such omniscient wisdom that no wonder Job acknowledged, “He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed” (Job 9:10, NIV).

Nevertheless, Christians must also develop spiritual roots that are firmly grounded in the Scriptures. After we repent from our sins and surrender to Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we must abide in His Word and obey His commands. Paul instructed, “As you therefore have 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).

When we become children of God and “put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness” (Ephesians 4:24), our lives change dramatically. From then on we are “the salt of the earth” and “the light of the world” (Matthew 5:13, 14). We serve God “in the name of the

Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him” (Colossians 3:17) just as the benevolent ferns, moss, and lichen teach us.

As I continued walking in the woods, I gave thanks to the Creator for the obscure yet wonderful verdure and the character-building object lessons they share. Paul wrote, “Those members of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor” (1 Corinthians 12:23). I believe this admonition applies to the forest’s humble servants—ferns, mosses, and lichens—for their invaluable contribution to Creation and its interdependent environmental health. They deserve our recognition and gratitude. **C**

---

*Tatiana Claudy writes from Pleasant Lake, Indiana, where she gleans valuable spiritual lessons from her experiences while exploring and studying God’s creation.*





William Goodwin

Two diminutive peppermint shrimp inside a tube sponge

*“Then God said,  
‘Let the waters  
abound with an  
abundance of living  
creatures. . . .’  
So God created great  
sea creatures and  
every living thing . . .*

# CREATION DAY 5 PART ONE

■ BY JENNIFER ISH

---

## The Creation of Sea Creatures

Editor’s Note: This article is the fifth 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 five part two when God created the birds. 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.





Ruthann Bauman

*Stunningly diverse tropical fish hover over their coral environment.*

**O**ur Creator lays out for us the foundational story of the Creation week by systematically building on each day to bring us to this exciting time when He first created creatures—conscious, breathing life forms. He knew what living creatures needed to thrive and multiply; so, He provided all the vital elements on days one through four. These included light, atmosphere, seas and land containing plants for food, and the sun, moon, and stars that would impact tides, navigation, and migration.

“Then God said, ‘Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures. . . .’ So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind. . . . And God saw

that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas. . . .’ So the evening and the morning were the fifth day” (Genesis 1:20–23).

The Hebrew word for *abound* or *abundance* is *shârats*, which relates to other good English words to describe the numbers of sea creatures such as *swarm* and *teem*. The primitive root of the Hebrew word is *to wiggle*, which works well with describing fish. From huge sea creatures to the microscopic plankton, all “abounded, according to their kind.” Wouldn’t it be wonderful to have a record of those original sea creatures? Unfortunately the earth’s surface and the surviving species drastically changed during and after the world-wide Flood that formed new and larger bodies of





Deborah Frew

*Sea otters appear comfortable bobbing on the surface of the sea.*

water, seas, lakes, and rivers.

Once “all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened” (Genesis 7:11), sea life had to adapt to the enormous amount of stress that was placed on the earth and seas. Nevertheless, the sea life did what the Creator instructed in Genesis 1:22, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas.” Sea creatures continue to follow this command to fill the largest ecosystem on the planet that covers approximately seventy-one percent of its surface. Shockingly, more than eighty percent of the oceans are still unexplored and unmapped.

We seek to learn more about this remarkable and largely hidden realm of God’s creation. In addition to the vast oceans and seas, unique sub-ecosystems

include lakes, rivers, streams, estuaries, wetlands, and springs. The waters on earth abound with countless creatures (in the trillions) with an estimated two million species. Reviewing the major categories of diverse species helps us better understand what is living in this *unseen* realm.

Marine mammals form the first category of approximately a hundred thirty species that form four subgroups—(1) cetacean: whales, dolphins, and porpoises; (2) pinnipeds: walruses, seals, and sea lions; (3) sirenians: manatees and dugongs; and (4) fissipeds: polar bears and sea otters. The blue whale is the largest animal on the planet while others in this category have demonstrated high degrees of intelligence such as the bottlenose dolphin.

The second category includes



*that moves,  
with which the  
waters abounded,  
according to their  
kind. . . . And God  
saw that it was good.  
And God blessed  
them, saying, . . .*



© Stone Nature Photography

*The purple sea star can help indicate the health of a tidal zone.*

the fish with approximately thirty-five thousand different species divided into three subgroups—(1) jawless fish such as the slime eel, (2) cartilaginous fish such as sharks and rays, and (3) bony fish such as cod, trout, and sea horses. Surprisingly, more fish species exist in freshwater ecosystems than in the ocean. Salmon are among the most fascinating fish species that live both in salt and fresh water and can travel hundreds of miles in their life span from high mountain streams to oceans and back again to spawn.

Crustaceans form the third category characterized as invertebrate creatures with hard exoskeletons or shells, antennae, two eyes on stalks, and mandibles for eating. About forty-five thousand different crustacean species live in the sea including crabs, krill, lobsters,

and shrimp that provide a vital food source for many other marine animals.

The fourth category comprises of soft-bodied mollusks with about a hundred thousand species divided into three different groups—(1) the largest group of gastropods like snails and slugs, (2) cephalopods such as squid and octopuses, and (3) the bivalves that consist of clams, oysters, and mussels. Recent research on octopuses has revealed their amazing intelligence, crafty sleuthing, and the ability to solve puzzles, use tools, and retain memory.

More than nine thousand cnidaria species form the fifth category that includes coral, sea anemones, and jellyfish. Many people do not realize that corals are animals because they have a fixed position on the ocean floor; yet, they are made up





## Share Quarterly Getaways Anytime!

It's never too late to share peace and hope through *Creation Illustrated*!



### She Gives 17 Gift Subscriptions to Relatives and Friends:

*"I first saw Creation Illustrated in a dental office years ago and immediately subscribed. Now I send it to 17 of my close relatives and friends, and I receive wonderful thanks. Everyone loves Creation Illustrated and the biblical references in the articles."*

— Rowena R., Breezewood, Pennsylvania



Get Subscriptions  
HERE using your  
Smart Phone.

Simply fill out the attached **Subscription Form** and mail it in the envelope provided  
OR Mail to: PO Box 141103, Spokane Valley, WA 99214 OR call (800) 360-2732.

# Start the New Year by Helping Touch Lives!



### Help Comfort Patients

*"I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health."* —3 John 1:2

We send hundreds of copies to hospital chaplains.



### Help Build Character in Students

*"Without a parable He did not speak to them."* —Mark 4:34

We send 12,000 copies to teachers and students.



### Help Rescue Prisoners

*"I was in prison and you visited me."* —Matt. 25:36

We send 8,000 copies to prisoners & chaplains.



We are ready to ship thousands of soul-winning copies.  
With your help, more souls can become a **NEW Creation in Christ Jesus.**

Donate  
HERE >>>  
using your  
Smart Phone!



Please partner with us!

Tax-deductible contributions from caring people like YOU will help get it done!

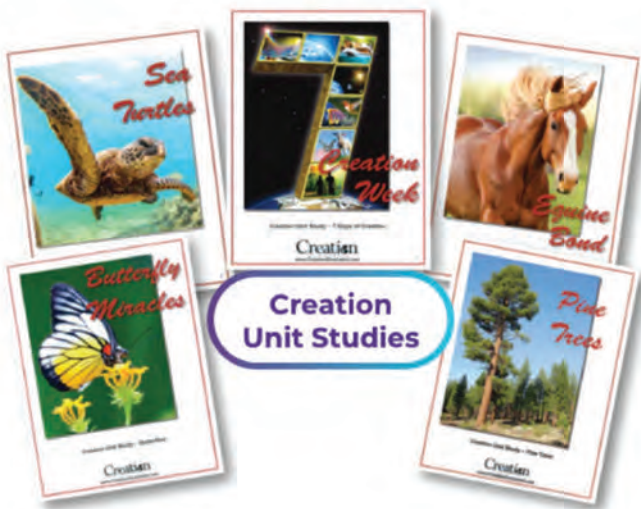
- Please send any assistance in the envelope provided
- OR mail your gift to: PO Box 141103, Spokane Valley, WA 99214
- OR give on our secure site at: [www.creationillustrated.com](http://www.creationillustrated.com)

**YOUR GENEROSITY will help reach souls with an ETERNAL impact!**  
**THANK YOU!**





# Get Uplifting Products For The Whole Family!



Shop at [CreationIllustrated.com](http://CreationIllustrated.com) OR Scan Here >>>







*Coral are living organisms.*

*'Be fruitful  
and multiply,  
and fill the waters  
in the seas. . . .'  
So the evening  
and the morning  
were the fifth day.'*

*– Genesis 1:20–23*

of tiny animal polyps that capture food from the water using tentacles.

The sixth category of echinoderms is made up of about seven thousand six hundred species and an estimated thirteen thousand extinct species. These invertebrates with spiny skin and radial symmetry live on the ocean floor and include starfish, brittle stars, sand dollars, sea urchins, and sea cucumbers.

The seventh and largest major category encompasses 100,000 species of the plankton. The Greek word means *wanderer* or *drifter* and refers to the countless tiny living organisms that float and drift in the waters. Plankton are divided into two groups—(1) zooplankton, which are animals, and (2) phytoplankton, which are plants. Both remain crucial in maintaining the marine food chain as they

are eaten by a wide range of sea creatures.

A very important action was bestowed on this myriad of newly created sea creatures—the Creator *blessed* them! He instructed them in Genesis 1:22 to, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas.” As they fulfilled this blessing and command, they proliferated their species with their specific DNA coding to only reproduce after their own kind.

No evolutionary processes exist where one species becomes another species. When the Creator spoke the sea creatures into existence, they were created fully mature with unique genetic coding and instincts ready to follow the Creator’s guidance.

The abundance of sea creatures reflect God’s love for diversity and detail. Each aspect of these creatures’ design—





Mark Gottlieb

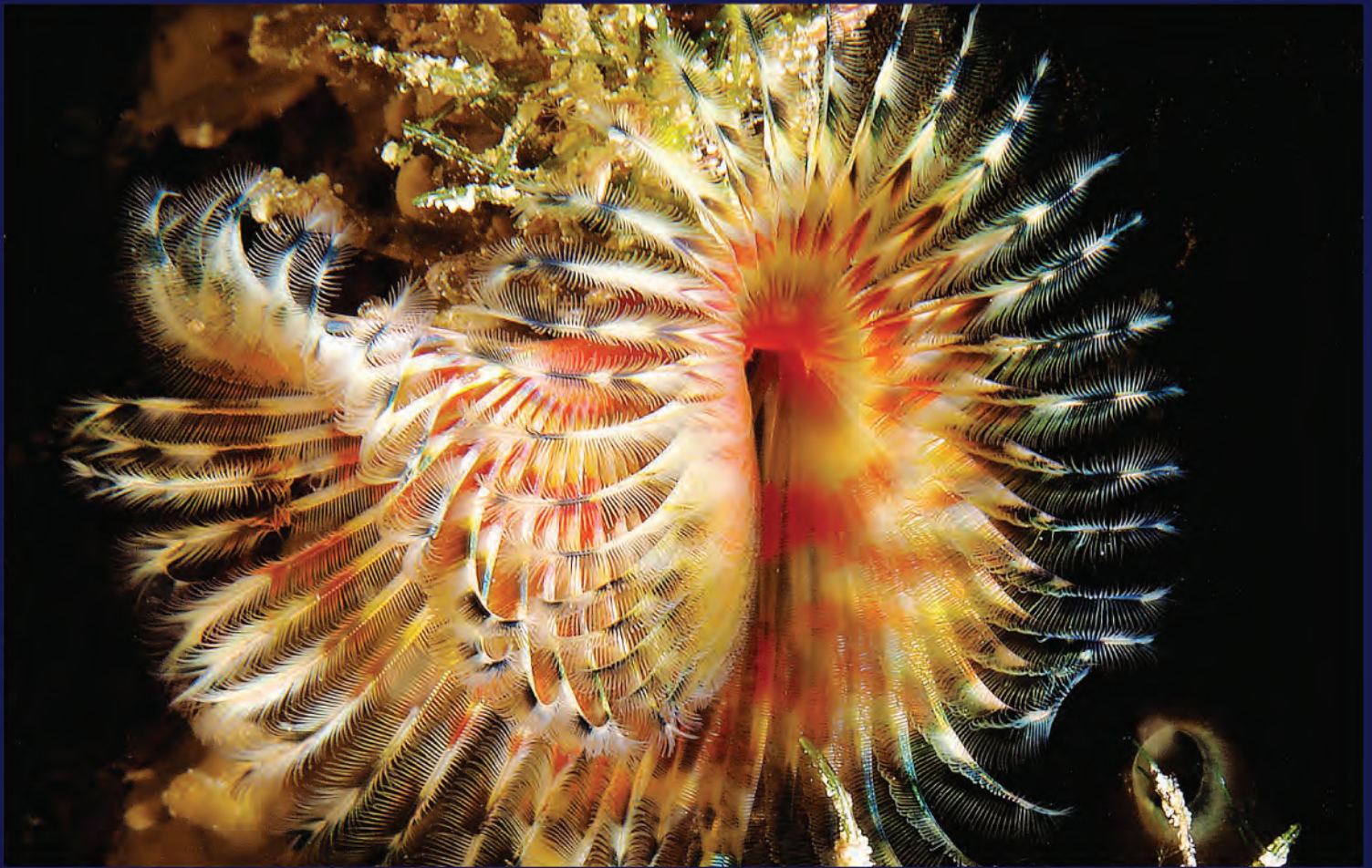
*A manta ray appears to fly through the water.*

from their feeding mechanisms to their reproduction processes—was created with care. This attention to detail reveals a Creator who delights in His creation and who takes joy in filling the world with life. The Bible tells us that God knows every creature. “For every beast of the forest is Mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the mountains, and the wild beasts of the field are Mine” (Psalm 50:10, 11). If we were to rewrite this text with a sea-creature theme, it might read: “For every sea creature of the ocean is Mine, and the fish in a thousand lakes. I know all the creatures of the waters; from the largest whale to the smallest plankton are Mine.” This intimate knowledge of His handiwork speaks to His love, not only for the creatures but for us, as well.

When we look at the vast variety of sea creatures that abound in the waters throughout the earth, we see that they defy human imagination, which reminds us of the limitless nature of God. “For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him” (Colossians 1:16). The word *all* is key because we do not want to limit God or place His creative power within a finite box of human understanding.

In Romans 1:20 Paul writes that God’s invisible qualities—His eternal power and divine nature—are clearly seen in what He has made. But realizing more than one million species of creatures exist within the global waters that we *cannot*





*The feathery, sensitive radioles of a tube worm appear elegantly symmetrical and help guide food particles to its mouth.*

see illustrates a vital lesson found in Hebrews 11:1. “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” So, Creation day five helps build our faith in a God who has countless blessings in store for us that we have not seen and inspires us to praise “Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us” (Ephesians 3:20).

The sea creatures He created help us gain a fuller understanding of who God is. Their unique existence calls us to worship a Creator who is infinitely wise, compassionate, and powerful. Let us imagine someday in the new earth that we will be able to learn more about this profoundly unique portion of the Creation week. It will be a glorious time to “worship Him who made heaven and

earth, the sea and springs of water” (Revelation 14:7). **C**

---

*Jennifer Ish writes from her home town of Spokane Valley, Washington, where she serves as associate editor and chief researcher, as well as circulation, donor relations, and customer service manager for Creation Illustrated.*





For your youth group . . .



For your school or church . . .



For your homeschooling . . .



For your mission trips or community service . . .

# Earn Extra Funds as a *Creation Illustrated* **Affiliate!**

- Share *Creation Illustrated* with family, friends, and neighbors.
- Post your Affiliate Link on Social Media and Emails.
- Earn 20% of each *Creation Illustrated* subscription sold!
- PLUS earn an ongoing 5% on subscription renewals.
- Then boost your earnings to 30% per subscription and 10% on renewals by becoming a Gold Star Affiliate!
- Recruit other Affiliates and earn an additional 5% to 10% on everything they sell.
- Nothing for you to buy, stock, or deliver. We do all of that for you!

**Why wait?  
Sign up for Free today!**

Go to:  
[www.CreationIllustrated.com](http://www.CreationIllustrated.com)

for details

OR

Scan this QR Code >>>





# CREATION HIGHLIGHTS

Providing capsules of research on Creation to encourage the pursuit of Bible-based convictions.

## Octopus Intelligence

The octopus was designed by the Creator with amazing abilities of perception, understanding, and reasoning. Some octopuses (mollusks) actually work together with different species such as fish to hunt. In captivity, octopuses become stealthy night raiders leaving their tank and attacking neighboring tanks containing clams and shrimp. By morning, only empty shells remain, and the guilty octopus has retreated back to its original tank.

A group of zoologists at Phys.org commented on the octopus/fish cooperation saying, "This cross-species relationship is more complex than anyone expected."

Unfortunately, the zoologists assume this is simply the result of over a half-billion years of evolution. Did the social and collective behavior between octopus and fish evolve? Researchers stated, "Accompanying fish species possess different predation strategies that evolved according to their specific ecological niches, including active bottom-churning feeding."

But to just say the strategies evolved in ecological niches is not an explanation. Creationists would say that such predation strategies of the fish are part of their ability to continuously track their environment as they move in and fill specific ecological niches. Convergent evolution doesn't come close to explaining the origin of the complex brain of the octopus or its cognition.

Stephen Meyer said in his book, *Darwin's Doubt*, that invoking convergent evolution negates the very logic of the argument from homology, which affirms that similarity implies common ancestry. Except we now learn in many cases when it does not.

An invertebrate manifesting reasoning, perception, and social skills is nothing short of incredible. Researchers went on to say of the enigmatic octopus, "This seemingly non-social invertebrate flexibly adapts to heterospecific actions, showing hallmarks of social competence and cognition."

This flexible adaptation to cognition and social

skills is what we attribute not to chance and millions of years but to plan and purpose by Christ, the Master Designer.

**Condensed from an Institute for Creation Research article by Frank Sherwin, D.Sc., November 11, 2024, [icr.org](http://icr.org)**

## Seahorse Fathers Give Birth

Seahorses and pipefish have an unusual method of assisting with reproduction. Males carry developing babies in a brood pouch and give birth to live young.

Scientists at Sydney University have studied the process of how males gave birth. The researchers originally thought it would be like the female birth process in other vertebrates. However, the research team found the seahorse birth process was not similar. They found that the male seahorses give birth by contracting their robust skeletal muscles and bending their bodies. This combination of movements opens the brood pouch and expels the baby seahorses which allows the seahorse fathers to control the expulsion of their young at the end of the gestation period.



Here at Creation Research we believe these findings confirm the fact that seahorses are a unique creature with their own distinctive well-designed structure and function. As such, they challenge the belief that they evolved from a general fish ancestor. But Genesis tells us that living creatures were created as fully functional separate *kinds*. All the evidence we have of studying living and fossilized seahorses confirms that they only reproduce after their kind, in their own distinctive way.

The seahorses studied in this research came from Seahorse, Australia, where a seahorse breeding facility is near our Tasmanian Creation Museum where fossilized seahorses are on display.

**Condensed from an article published by [Creationresearch.net](http://Creationresearch.net) and [creationfactfile.com](http://creationfactfile.com)**



# CREATION STEWARDSHIP

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

## Conservation Facts and Figures

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, China is now the world's largest energy consumer using approximately 8,392 terawatt-hours in 2023. The U.S. ranked second in total energy consumption using about 4,065 terawatt-hours and ranked tenth in energy consumption per-capita. Most of this energy is still derived from fossil fuels. In 2023, an estimated 38 percent of the nation's energy came from petroleum, thirty-six percent from natural gas, and nine percent from coal. Renewable energy sources supplied nine percent, nuclear electric power nine percent, and other sources.

Electric vehicles are becoming increasingly popular, but the cost of producing electricity needs to be weighed against fossil-fuel production costs and the pollution created by each.

Global energy consumption has significant regional variations due to differences in industrialization levels and climates. Today Qatar and Iceland rank as the highest per capita energy consumption countries worldwide. Qatar has rich natural gas reserves and Iceland has abundant geothermal energy resources.

## Tips for Simple Living

Many families seek to lower their heating bills each winter. One significant blessing God has provided to help us do this is free passive solar heat.

The ancient Greeks and Romans incorporated passive solar into their cities and homes. The streets ran east-west and north-south so every home faced south allowing the benefits of winter sun throughout the day. Archaeological evidence shows maximum use of the sun's rays. The playwright, Aeschylus, stated that only primitives and barbarians "lacked knowledge of houses turned to face the winter sun."

Our windows, walls, and floors can collect, store, and distribute solar energy every day. Professionals can help find the best way to utilize the sun's free energy. Here are a few tips to consider:

- Design homes with large south-facing windows that have good solar-heat gain.

- Choose window coverings that allow heat in during the winter and block the sun in the summer.
- Use heat absorbing materials near south-facing windows including brick, tile, rocks, and concrete.
- Dark-colored walls or floors also help transfer heat.
- Sun rooms that collect and redistribute solar energy.

Passive solar designs need to be adapted to the local climate. In the lower 49 United States, most areas have enough sunlight to fulfill at least half of a household's annual heat demand.



*Controlling sunlight in a home*

Another important energy saving tool is to choose the right type of landscaping, trees, shrubs, vines, and ground cover to help your home be cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. Deciduous trees with high crowns should be planted on the northwest to southwest and northeast to southeast sides of a house to provide shade on roofs, walls, and windows during the summer. With their leaf loss these trees will allow more sun to reach a home in the winter.

## Biblical Stewardship of Creation

We are grateful that God entrusted us to be good stewards of His creation. Scripture encourages us to be careful and guard our resources. "Precious treasure and oil are in a wise man's dwelling, but a foolish man devours it" (Proverbs 21:20, ESV). Properly preparing and storing resources is good stewardship. Those who were foolish would consume everything they had without thinking of the future.

The importance of this lesson for us today is to learn to be thoughtful, disciplined, and conserve not just the tangible resources but also our time, talents, and spiritual gifts. Asking God to help us daily make good choices that will bring Him honor builds our relationship with Him and serves as a witness to others.



# PROPHECY ODYSSEY

FULL SERIES NOW AVAILABLE!

**AMAZING FACTS**  
INTERNATIONAL

## PROPHECY ODYSSEY: YOU CAN KNOW THE FUTURE!

In a world on the brink of eternity, the need to study Bible prophecy has never been more urgent! Now you can get clear, logical, accurate answers about the future with this life-transforming series presented by Doug Batchelor, president of Amazing Facts International. During *Prophecy Odyssey*, you'll delve into the cryptic prophecies of Revelation to learn what God's Word really says about the last days and much more—preparing you to stand strong in these perilous times!

Recorded live from the Manhattan Center in New York City, this uncut version features uplifting music and Bible Q&A sessions along with the main presentations so that you can enjoy—and share—the full experience of this empowering, 15-part series. A bonus session features Pastor Doug's inspiring personal testimony, "The Richest Caveman."

## Presentations

- |                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Signs of Christ's Return       | 9. The Spirits of Armageddon   |
| 2. The Prophecy of History        | 10. The Great Judgment Day     |
| 3. The Arch-Villain of Prophecy   | 11. The Antichrist Beast       |
| 4. The Law and the Lamb           | 12. The Holy of Holies         |
| 5. The Fate of the Lost           | 13. The Longest Time Prophecy  |
| 6. The Spirit and Power of Elijah | 14. Babylon and the USA        |
| 7. The Mystery of the Last Day    | 15. Satan's Mark or God's Seal |
| 8. A Woman, a Child, and a Dragon | 16. Bonus: The Richest Caveman |

Comes in a set of 8 DVDs. Also available on USB.

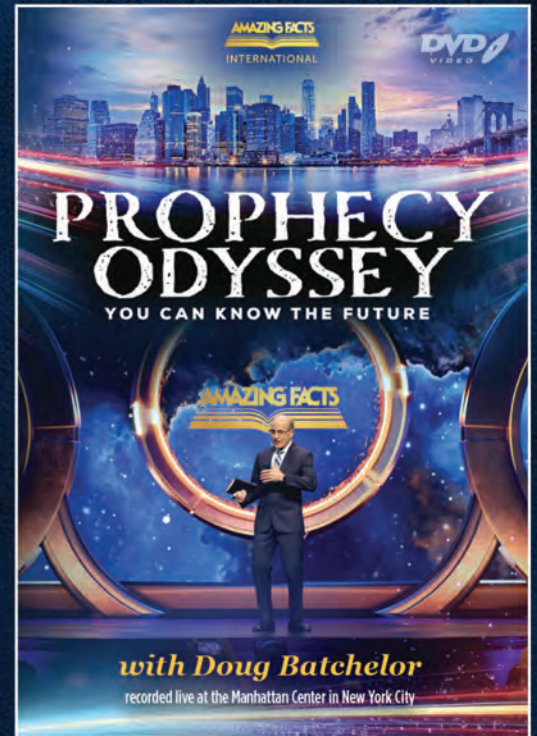
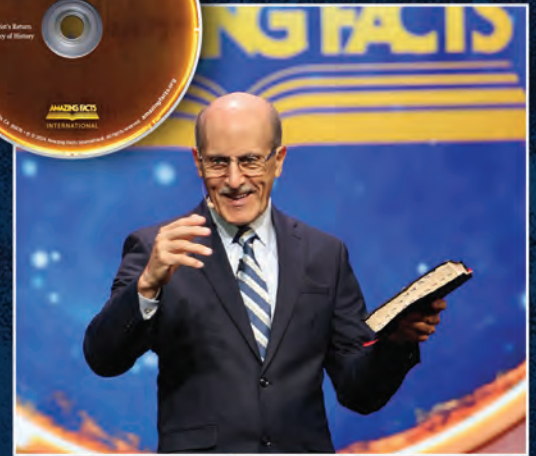
8-DVD Set | DV-POD ... \$49.95

Card USB | MS-PODUSB ... \$49.95

Order now at [afbookstore.com](http://afbookstore.com).

Or call 800-538-7275, Mon–Thu, 8:30 AM–6:00 PM PT.

Choose  
DVD Set or  
Card USB!



8-DVD Set



Card USB





# Discover Creation!

with  
Alpha Omega  
Institute



From the mountains to the tropics, enjoy life-changing **camps** and **tours** that will demonstrate the fallacies of evolution and help you trust God's word beginning in Genesis.

AOI **seminars** are fun, affordable, and engaging! To schedule a seminar in your area, call **800-377-1923**. Visit **DiscoverCreation.org** for more info on camps, seminars, training, and curricula.



**AOI**

**ALPHA OMEGA INSTITUTE**

## Creation Resource Guide

**CLICK ADS to ORDER**

WWW.BIBLICALLDISCIPLESHIP.ORG

Announcing  
**Volume 3**  
OF GOD'S LIVING TREASURES!  
by Dr. Jobe Martin

**AMAZING ANIMALS OF ALASKA**

HOSTED BY DR. JOBE MARTIN

God's Living Treasures:  
Amazing Animals of Alaska  
Volumes 1-3

### Terry McComb's Resources - Books & DVDs

To order visit us online: [GospelCreation.com](http://GospelCreation.com)  
instant video rentals and book downloads - online only,  
Prices in CND funds, shipping extra.

Books: \$16.95 ea  
or all 4 for \$69  
plus FREE DVD!

The Gospel According to a  
**DANDELION**

The Gospel According to a  
**BLADE OF GRASS**

Single DVD's:  
\$12.95 ea

The Gospel According to a  
**TREE**

The Gospel According to a  
**SNOWFLAKE**

**Powerful Bible-based character lessons for the WHOLE family.**

Creation Evidence

Discover Nature's Lessons



Walk Through Creation

Biology for Kids!

**www.GospelCreation.com**  
To book a nature seminar call toll free 1-866-847-6696





Mark Gottlieb

scanned the bay from the minute our boat left the marina in La Cruz de Huanacastle on the west coast of Mexico. Humpback whale calving season in the Bay of Banderas near Puerto Vallarta promises one of nature's greatest spectacles as these mighty mammals seek their winter refuge.

A mere four weeks after moving to our new home in

Bucerias, Mexico, my family booked a whale watching tour. Like many days here, we welcomed the sunshine, mild temperatures, and calm seas. I find that I miss the cold winters back in our home state of Colorado less and less. On our whale watching day, the high was 10 degrees Fahrenheit in Colorado with a *feels like* temperature of zero!

Our twenty-eight-foot tour

boat had only five other people aboard; so, we had lots of room to move around for better vantage points. Eager to have the best possible line of sight, I moved to the tip of the bow with my feet hanging over the front of the boat. I consider boating on the ocean a gift in itself, but we were about to be rewarded with a large dose of Creation's wonder. Right away

B Y J U L I E T C H A M B E R L A I N





# Leap for Joy

we spotted abundant jellyfish and even flying rays.

Then suddenly I shouted, "There! Look!" I was the lucky one to first spot a couple of sprays from the blowholes of a distant pod of whales. The rounding of their backs as each creature broke the surface followed by the unmistakable shape of its tail in the air gave us a glimpse of these massive creatures. Again and again we saw the spouts shoot up



Jenny Miner



from their blowholes, the graceful movement of their bodies, and then the rhythmic flip of their tails.

The best was yet to come as we got closer to witness an astounding display of power as these mammals repeatedly propelled themselves fully out of the water. What a thrilling spectacle! To truly fathom the force of this feat, imagine a sixty-foot-long semitruck and trailer being sent twenty feet skyward! The awe-inspiring sight of these whale breaches were accompanied by an equally immense *smack* of their massive bodies hitting the surface and causing tons of water to splash in all directions.

The most active whale also turned over on her side with one outstretched flipper as though to wave to us. Then she would turn

on her back to exuberantly flap both flippers. My thoughts turned to Psalm 96:11, "Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea roar, and all its fullness." This exhibition struck me as an expression of pure joy and a sense of complete gladness.

Genesis describes the whales and myriads of other sea creatures that as *good*—the grandest stamp of approval from the Creator of the universe. "So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind. . . . And God saw that it was good" (Genesis 1:21).

Creation's complexity and order with God's immeasurable intelligence is worthy of praise, but the behavior of these creatures reflects God's love even more. The

underlying lesson reveals that God's love extends to the small and the great things among us. As Jesus' simple yet comforting words assure us, "'Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will. . . . Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows'" (Matthew 10:29, 31). In humility we can live each day secure in the Father's awareness of our trials and joys while knowing that He values us personally.

Observing the whales' antics help remind me of our own opportunities for humor and joy. Even amid tragedy, loss, sickness, and financial hardship we must hold onto the joy that stems from true faith and hope. Of course, keeping a smile on our faces may







© Stone Nature Photography

*The massive flippers (left) and the distinctive arch of the whale's back (above) reveals how massive these creatures are.*

not be possible during the darkest times, but we can remind ourselves that He understands and wants us to share His compassion. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God" (2 Corinthians 1:3, 4).

Our homes should be havens of Christ-like behavior where forgiveness, empathy, listening, and prayer help us feel safe and respected, which keeps our joy and hope intact. Remember that our words and actions can either hurt or bring healing and encouragement. James warned, "Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so" (James 3:10). "Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one" (Colossians 4:6).

We may not be able to launch ourselves twenty feet into the air or roll on our back to flap our fins like the massive whales, but we can practice sharing joy in our special way in how we speak, care, and share the Source of joy with others. Then we shall honor our wise and powerful Creator by seeking opportunities to exemplify the joyful spectacles He provides in nature. So, remember the forty-ton breaching humpback whale, and

always have a reason to be full of joy for a hope-filled eternity with Jesus. As Luke reminds those who are persecuted, "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven" (Luke 6:23). **C**

---

*Juliet Chamberlain is now located in Surprise, Arizona, where she shares personal insights on spiritual growth found in Creation as an avid hiker, runner, and solo backpacker.*



Mark Gottlieb

*Only a few fortunate ones experience such a close whale encounter.*





*Turning compost into the soil is important for microbe development.*

# *garden prepa*

**A**s the mornings grew colder during autumn, I looked at my languishing garden, and I became eager for the warmth of the spring and summer sun to return. The homegrown fresh fruits and veggies that decorated my plate and tantalized my taste buds all summer are in short supply during the winter months, but now is the time to prepare for the next season of harvest that inspires hope for the future.

Soil amendments such as minerals, compost, or manure provide greater benefits when applied in the fall, which allows time for the microbes to break down the substances throughout the winter. If soil enhancements get applied in the spring, there is a risk that many of the nutrients won't be available for the upcoming growing season. Planting a cover crop to protect

*gardens from eden*





Hannah Jones

*Planning and buying seeds early help beat the springtime rush.*

# ration

precious topsoil can also provide much needed nitrogen, as well as generate some organic matter for the next season. As Ecclesiastes 3:1 assures us, "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens" (NIV).

Winter is also the time to take inventory of seed reserves and to look through your favorite seed catalogs for ideas on special varieties or heirloom produce to try. I have learned that winter is also the best time to order seeds because when gardeners wait until springtime, the much-desired seeds may have sold out.

The seeds that we purchase for next year contain many valuable lessons for us. I enjoy using heirloom seeds and find solace in their reliability since they have been used for many past

*by steve day*





*Drying your own seeds saves money.*

generations. When I pause to consider that farmers planted the same species of seed on their farms in France or Italy hundreds of years ago, I'm in awe of their efforts to refine and preserve seeds for the best crops. They toiled and persisted in keeping the seeds properly preserved and available for future generations, which is a wonderful gift. No matter the cost, they made sure the precious seeds were carefully stored, precisely sown, steadily nurtured, properly cultivated, joyously harvested, and generously shared in an act of selfless benevolence.

Like Joseph did in Egypt when he saved grain during times of plenty and then shared it during times of famine as told in Genesis 41–47, we, too, can save our seeds and share them with friends who are in need when times get tough and they are unable to buy food or seed for themselves.

Year after year you can take the seeds from the new crop, dry them, save them, and trust in God's design that the tiny morsels contain all that is needed to produce a bountiful crop the following year. Such precious seeds are an investment rather than an expense. Once initially purchased, they multiply each year and are free for many growing seasons to come. Such a system of benevolence and multiplication is not unlike Christ's purchase of our salvation on the cross; it continues to be free forever unless we throw it away or our hearts turn stony as explained in the parable of the sower in Matthew 13. The seed of the Word of God will multiply as we share it from the well prepared and cultivated soil of the heart that genuinely hears and understands Scripture.

You can even pass your favorite seeds down to your children, and they can pass them to their children, which is how we should pass along the character of Christ. People will





*Protecting the soil from the harsh winter weather can provide a head start in the spring.*

essentially be able to plant the same species of seed that were used decades prior. Likewise when the Word of God is planted in our hearts and preserved in its purity, we will pass it on for many generations. Exodus 34:7 talks about iniquity being passed on to the third and fourth generation, but it stands to reason that righteousness and truth can also be passed along through proper character development in our offspring.

Once your soil and seeds are in order, research the best time to start seedlings for spring planting in your climate. As you watch the seeds sprout, an invigorating newness of life will brighten your winter days with the hope that spring is coming soon.

While you wait here are some additional thoughts to reflect on during the long, cold winter nights. We know that this world is growing darker and darker as we enter further into the winter of this earth's history as told in Isaiah 60:2. "The darkness shall cover the earth, and deep darkness the people; but the Lord will arise over you, and His glory will be seen upon you" presents great hope and assurance that despite the darkness in the world, there is joy for believers because the Son of Righteousness shines in our hearts and warms our souls. We are to be lights in this dark world bringing the joy of salvation as we reflect the righteousness of our Creator to the precious, frigid souls still in darkness.

The preparation of the soil and seeds during the winter months should also remind us that we need to prepare the soil of the mission field within our reach where we can spread spiritual seeds during family gatherings and holidays—a time when hearts may be open and receptive to spiritual things. If we will be workers in the Lord's vineyard now to prepare the soil and to be ready to nurture the seeds that have been planted, Scripture assures us that we will





Hannah Jones

*Seedlings started indoors can lead to a bountiful harvest.*

find a bountiful harvest waiting for the Master Gardener at His coming.

Will you prepare your heart so that it can be broken and contrite enough to let the seed of His Word germinate and produce the fruit of the Spirit that will nourish others? “The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few” (Matthew 9:37). Now, even in winter, is the time to prepare a way for the Lord of the harvest. **C**

---

*Steve Day writes from Stanton, Kentucky, where he had directed a Home for Health Lifestyle Center, a sacrificial ministry dedicated to helping restore people spiritually and physically. This story first appeared in the Winter 2011 edition of Creation Illustrated.*





"I was so pleased to get a complete 30-year set! My 14-year-old granddaughter still wants her own copy of *Creation Illustrated* mailed to her, and my 2 1/2-year-old granddaughter is taking an interest in the pictures. What an opportunity to share God with any age! Bless your ministry."

— Linda H., BC, Canada

## Get ALL 30 Years of *Creation Illustrated*!

THAT'S RIGHT! You can own ALL 120 editions of *Creation Illustrated*—even the issues that are sold out!

**Only \$2,000 per KEEPSAKE Set!** Plus tax & shipping

Each order will receive a complete set of ALL 30 years of *Creation Illustrated* back issues in 15 handy, protective binders. Currently only 13 sets left, so HURRY!

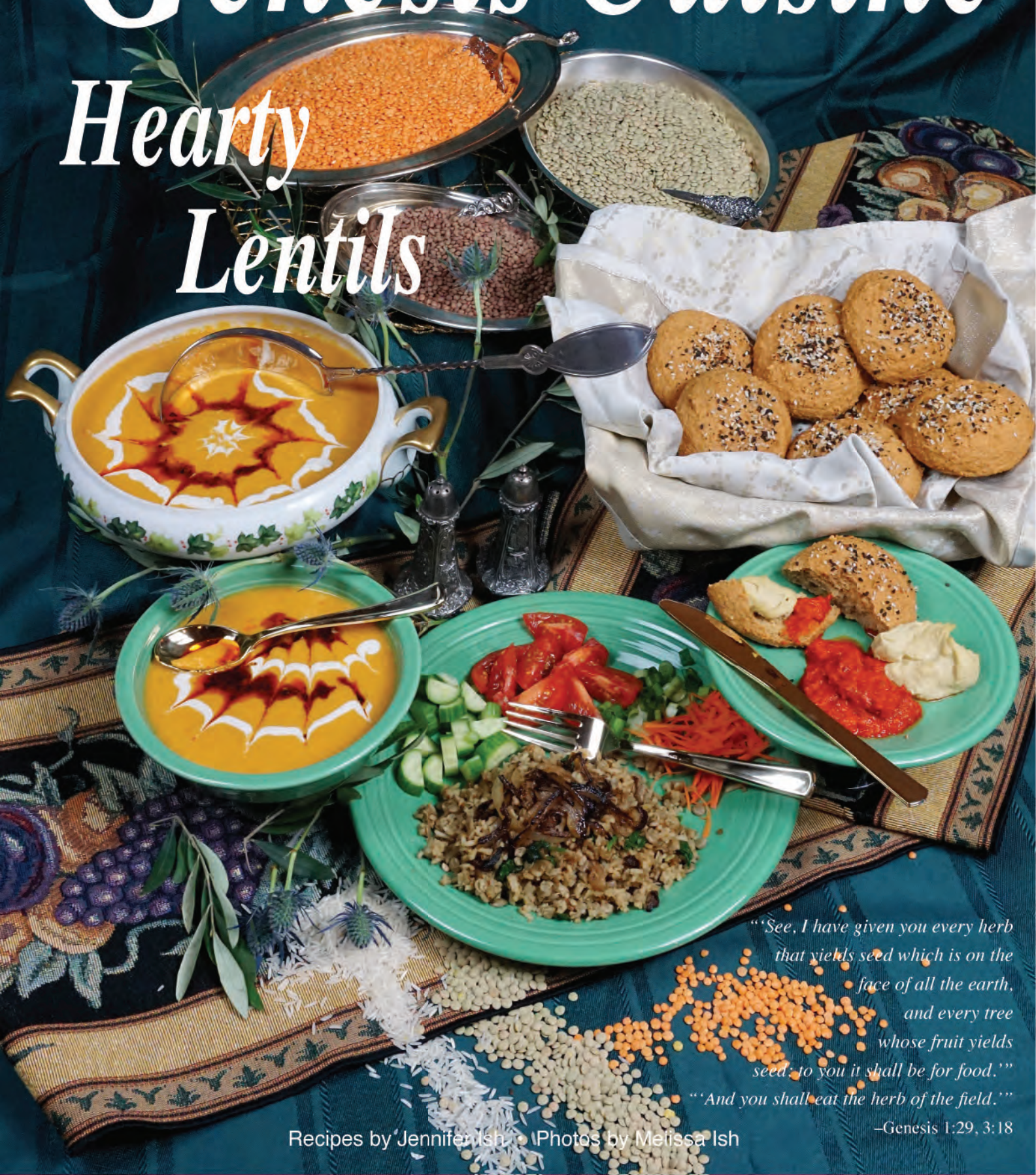
Visit [CreationIllustrated.com](http://CreationIllustrated.com) OR Call 1(800) 360-2732 to Order

YOU will be among the few who own a COMPLETE KEEPSAKE SET of *Creation Illustrated*. Readers call it "The Christian answer to *National Geographic*!"



# Genesis Cuisine

## Hearty Lentils



“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





## Red Lentil Dinner Rolls

- 1 C. dried red lentils
- 1/4 C. water
- 1 1/2 Tb. avocado oil
- 1/4 C. psyllium husks
- 1/2 tsp. dried thyme
- 1/2 tsp. onion powder or flakes
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda

1/2 Tb. lemon juice

### Toppings:

2 tsp. everything bagel seasoning or Za'atar (ground sesame seeds, dried thyme, marjoram or oregano, sumac, and salt) or dried onion flakes or pumpkin seeds.

Place lentils in a bowl, wash in cool water, drain, and add fresh water to cover 2 inches. Soak for 4 hours. Drain and add to blender with 1/4 C. water. Blend until smooth. Pour into bowl and add oil, psyllium, thyme, onion powder/flakes, salt, baking soda, and lemon juice. Mix well until it forms a smooth dough. Place on a mat and divide into 6 to 8 rolls; oil on hands helps with sticky dough. Sprinkle with toppings. Bake at 360 degrees for 20 min. Cool for 10 min. Serve with humus or other spreads.



## Turkish Red Lentil Corbasi

- 1 C. red lentils
- 4 Tb. extra virgin olive oil
- 1 med. onion, chopped
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 carrots, chopped
- 1 potato, diced

- 1/2 tsp. sea salt or to taste
- 3 Tb. tomato paste
- 6 C. vegetable broth or water
- 1 tsp. Aleppo pepper, chopped
- 1 tsp. each cumin, coriander, turmeric, sumac, and paprika

Add 2 Tb. of olive oil to a large soup pot on medium high. Add onion, garlic, potato, carrots, and salt. Cook and stir until all the vegetables become soft (6 min). Add tomato paste, stir to coat. Add the seasonings and stir. Add broth or water and red lentils and stir. Let soup come to a strong boil for 5 min. Lower heat, cover with lid, and simmer for 20 min. stirring occasionally. Blend with immersion blender until creamy. Combine 2 Tb. olive oil and 1 Tb. Aleppo pepper or paprika to make a red oil to drizzle with cashew yogurt on each serving.



## Middle Eastern Mujadara

- 1 C. brown lentils
- 1 C. Basmati rice
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 tsp. each cumin, paprika, coriander
- 1/2 tsp. each sumac, thyme
- 1 Tb. olive oil
- 3 C. water

- 4 large onions, halved and sliced
- 1 C. fresh spinach leaves
- 2 Tb. extra virgin olive oil
- 1 tsp. sea salt

### Sides or toppings:

Chopped Persian cucumbers, tomatoes, carrots, and parsley  
Cashew yogurt optional

Sort and wash lentils. Wash rice and let soak in fresh water. Add lentils to a pot and cover with 3 C. water. Add seasonings, bring to a boil, cover and simmer for 10 to 15 min. until lentils still firm. Drain rice and add to lentils. Continue to cook for 10 to 12 min. Check to see if water is absorbed. Add more water if rice is not fully cooked. In a pan, caramelize the onions. Stir in half the onions and spinach into the lentils and rice. Place on platter and top with remaining caramelized onions.





Bryan Reynolds

*Some creatures are so camouflaged they can hide in plain sight.*

# Animal

**G**od wants us to be safe, and He wants His creatures to be safe too. After sin entered the world, our loving Creator provided ways for His creatures to defend themselves or to escape their enemies. Many wonders in nature show the ability of wild animals to avoid predators (the

enemy), and God teaches us how to be protected too.

The most common defense creatures use is camouflage, protective coloring, or patterns in their coverings that blend in with their surroundings so well that it is very hard to see them. For example, some animals and insects can look like leaves or appear almost the same as the rocks, trees, or leaves

B Y D A W N C A L D  
W I T H T



# Sprouting With Steve

*"You Can Do It!!!"*

Learn how through his all-in-one Sprouting Course!

[CLICK HERE](#)  
for more info.



*Enjoy healthful benefits for the whole family!*

Clover  
Broccoli  
Mung Bean  
Alfalfa  
Garbanzo  
Lentils  
Purple Barley

Adzuki  
Peas  
Winter Rye  
Buckwheat Groats  
Sunflower  
Chia  
Red Amaranth

**CLICK ADS to ORDER**

**10% OFF any order of 2 or more boxes with Coupon Code: CREATION10**

## Dr. Ohhira's Probiotics.com

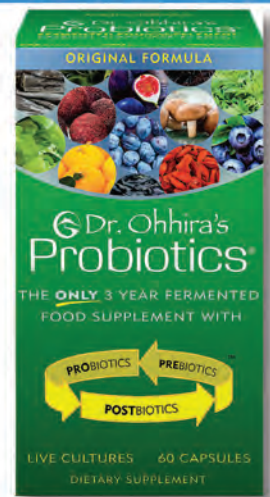
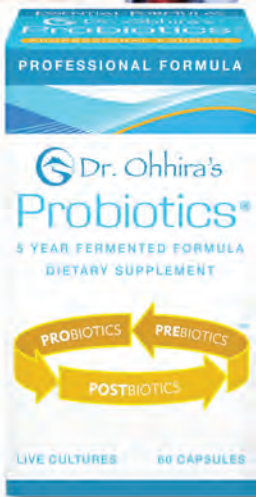


*Formulated by Award-Winning Microbiologist, Dr. Ichiroh Ohhira, Ph.D*

- **PREbiotics** - fermented vegetables and mushrooms that nourish the probiotics\*
- **PRObiotics** - friendly bacteria that help you digest food and support immune system response\*
- **POSTbiotics** - support digestive function and whole health\*

**Call (800) 605-5032**

**10% OFF any order of 2 or more boxes with Coupon Code: CREATION10**







**Help  
Students  
Unplug &  
Embrace  
Nature  
with**



**\$15 Worth of FREEbies**



Get your FREEbies  
HERE using the camera  
on your Smart Phone!

**INCLUDES:**

- A FREE CREATION ILLUSTRATED DIGITAL BACK ISSUE (\$2.99 value)
- A FREE NATURE UNIT STUDY (\$9.95 value)
- A FREE CREATION CHARACTER-BUILDING LESSON (\$1.99 value)
- A FREE DIGITAL NEWSLETTER WITH UPLIFTING DEVOTIONALS, NATURE ACTIVITIES, WHOLESOME RECIPES, AND SPECIAL OFFERS!

Simply LOGON To:  
[www.CreationIllustrated.com](http://www.CreationIllustrated.com)  
and Click on FREEbies





George Philie

*Others can even change colors depending on their surroundings.*

# Defenses

they live among. The Bible also warns us against impostors or something that appears real on the outside but are actually fake and could harm us with things that aren't true. "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves" (Matthew 7:15).

Other animals use warning calls to sound an

alarm when danger is approaching. African elephants make a rumbling alert when they hear the sound of African bees. Some creatures even make different sounds to identify what kind of threat exists. For example, monkeys sound one type of alarm for eagles and another for leopards.

Certain animals have protective shields that

W E L L D E W U L F  
O M I S H





Bryan Reynolds

The hard shell of a tortuouse (above) provides a safe refuge. And a flying fish (below) can avoid predators by escaping their watery environment where dangers lurk.

make it difficult for a predator to attack such as the hard shell that covers turtles. Likewise, porcupines and hedgehogs would be difficult to eat because of their sharp quills. We are told in the Bible to also wear protective coverings. “Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground . . . with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of

righteousness in place” (Ephesians 6:13, 14, NIV).

Another defense is to simply escape like the amazing flying fish that can swim up to 37 miles per hour and then launch themselves out of the water. Once in the air they can reach heights of four feet and glide up to 655 feet. This unique sea creature can then skim along the water’s surface by flapping its fins and tail rapidly to travel out of the water about one thousand three hundred feet or about four football fields! When they are not in the water, other sea creatures cannot hunt and attack them.

Dynastor butterflies are native to Trinidad and might have the most dramatic way to mimic or copy something for protection. After hatching from a tiny egg, the worm-like pupae flips its body upside down, puffs its head out, and uses its brown-colored belly to trick predators into believing it is a snake. It does this for thirteen days after shedding its skin. During this phase of its growth, the pupae cannot move, and its snake-like disguise is its only defense.

Boxer crabs, also called *cheerleaders* or *pompom crabs*, have a unique defense system using small, prickly sea anemones as their weapons. These



Mark Gottlieb



crabs can carry an anemone in each claw and then wave them to frighten predators away. If a predator decides to attack anyway, the sea anemones give off a powerful sting.

Animals must also be constantly on the lookout paying careful attention and listening for threats in order to stay alive and healthy. We must also use our eyes and ears to watch and listen to God's commands and the guidance of the Holy Spirit so we can remain protected by His care. Proverbs 2:2 says to always be "making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding" (ESV).

Jesus also used parables (illustrations and stories) to teach His disciples and us to pay close attention. He told them, "Pay attention to what you hear: with the measure you use, it will be measured to you, and still more will be added to you. For to the one who has, more will be given, and from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away" (Mark 4:24, 25, ESV). So, the more attentive and careful you are and the closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given to do the right thing to remain safe in the arms of Jesus. Sometimes we can be in a hurry with school, sports, and church, or get distracted with electronic gadgets and miss what the Lord is saying.



Bryan Reynolds

*The armadillo's scaly armor (above) shields it from attackers. And predators know to stay away from the porcupine's quills (left).*



© Stone Nature Photography

Spend time with God; listen to His Word; think about what He's saying; be attentive to the Holy Spirit; then apply the lessons to your own life. God also uses other people and different situations to teach and inspire us to do the right things, but it isn't just our teachers, parents, or pastors who are trying to guide us along a safe path. God is speaking directly to each of us, and we can speak to Him and listen through a tool more powerful than any cell phone or computer. Prayer connects us with our strongest defense—Jesus our Creator! So, pray: "Dear Father, help me pay attention today to Your Word and what You want me to learn to remain safe in your watchcare. Amen." **C**

---

*Dawn Caldwell De Wulf writes from McMinnville, Oregon, and is fascinated by the unique traits God has given His creatures. As a former teacher and children's book author, she is passionate about seeing youth learn about faith through nature. Tom Ish is the editor of Creation Illustrated.*



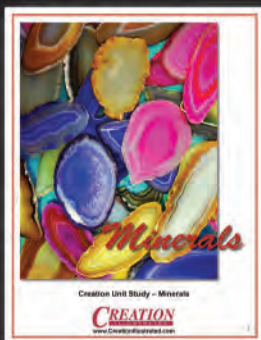
# Let Us Help You Deal

Choose This

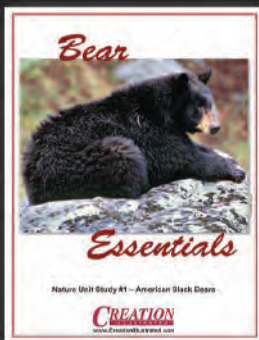


O

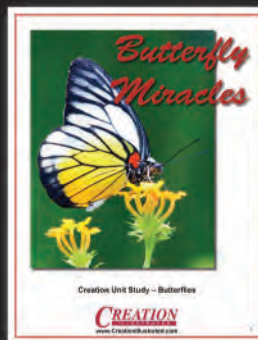
## Bible-based Unit Studies



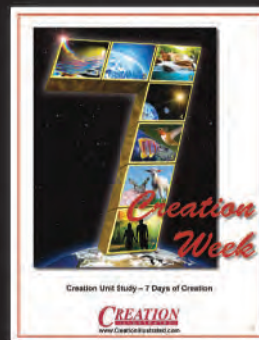
Minerals



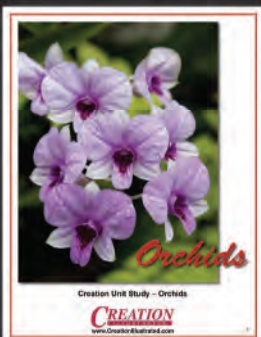
Bears



Butterflies



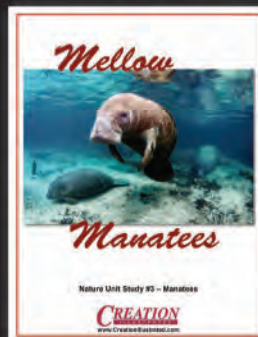
Creation Week



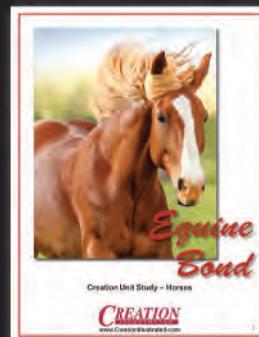
Orchids



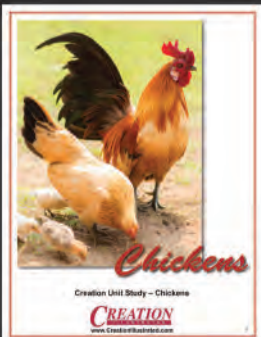
Elephants



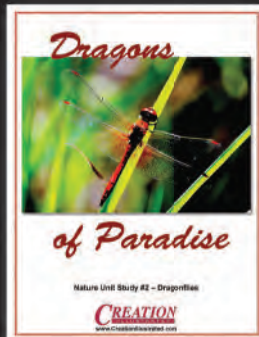
Manatees



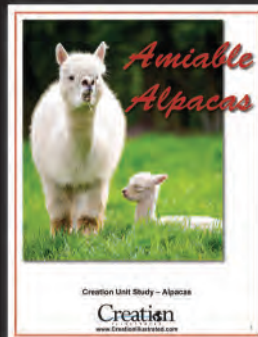
Horses



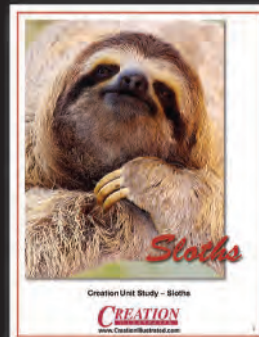
Chickens



Dragonflies



Alpacas



Sloths



# with Cellphone Addiction!

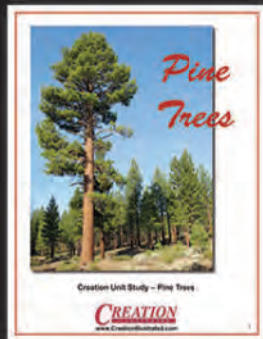
R This



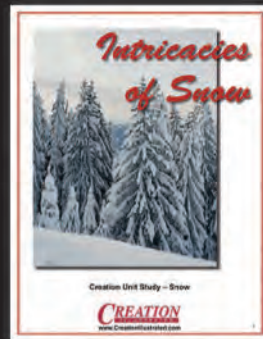
## Inspire Youth to Explore Nature !



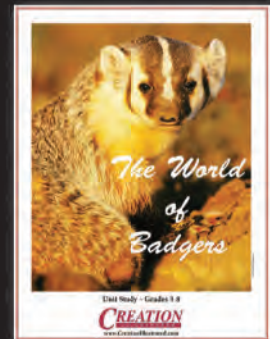
Fragrance



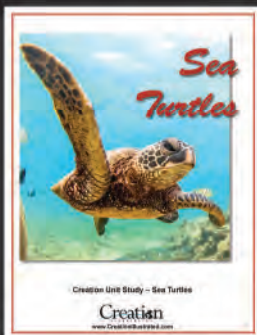
Pine Trees



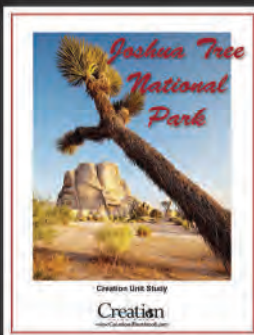
Snow



Badgers



Sea Turtles



Joshua Tree National Park



Octopus

EACH Unit Study Includes: Science, History, Math, Bible Study, Geography, Vocabulary, Art, Puzzles, Activities & Character-building Lessons! (plus homeschool/teacher answer key)



Order Downloadable Digital PDFs  
(Reg. ~~\$9.95~~) NOW just **\$7.95**, SAVE 20%  
Go to: [www.CreationIllustrated.com](http://www.CreationIllustrated.com)  
**Choose from 19 Unit Studies!**



SEE them HERE with your cell phone camera!

from the publishers of *Creation Illustrated* magazine





## Water Cycle

Where did our spinning little crystalline saucer come from as it twirled lazily out of the gray sky? Where did it begin its journey and why? God's word gives us this simple answer: "He gives snow like wool; He scatters the frost like ashes; he casts out His hail like morsels;" Psalm 147:16, 17.

Our frosty flying saucer did not begin its journey as a crystal, but rather as mist rising out of the ocean. This vapor is absorbed into warm air above dancing waves through a process called evaporation. Wind blows this moisture-laden air over land. Rising air cools, and as it cools, the vapor condenses into clouds.

Clouds pass over mountain ranges. Nature uses a cold hand to squeeze this cloudy sponge, when she dumps this moisture in the form of sleet, hail, rain or snow.

Our atmosphere normally holds about ten-days' supply of fresh water suspended in air. If the clouds are high enough, the snow will

compact into glaciers sleeping upon frozen peaks.

Glaciers, like giant ice cubes, slowly melt and become little rills which merge together creating streams. Streams merge together to become rivers. Rivers channel melted snow-water back to the salty sea. Thus, this bit of moisture will have made one giant round trip ending up back home again.

Solomon knew this. "All rivers run into the sea, yet the sea is not full; to the place from which the rivers come, there they return again" Ecclesiastes 1:7. Snow is a frosty link in the great cycle of water. Its mission was created by God. Like water, we are each part of life's great cycle of love. God gives His pure love through Jesus. We share Jesus' gift of love with our parched neighbors. They in turn give thanks back to God and praise Him for His goodness. The love cycle is then complete.



### PRACTICAL PROJECT:

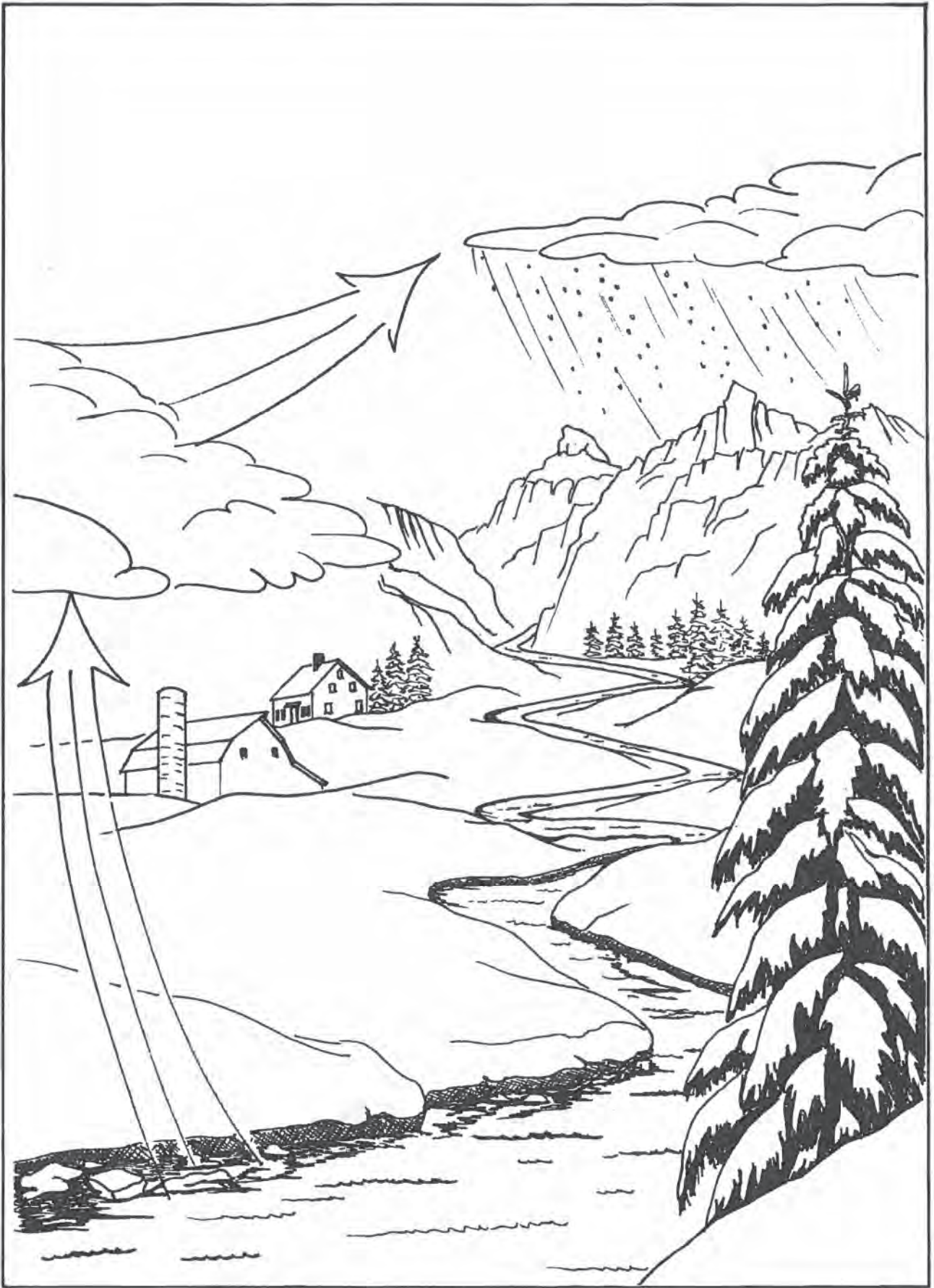
Set up a rain gauge. (You can buy one from a hardware store). As a family, record how much rain falls during each storm. Ask: did this water come from the Pacific ocean or Atlantic ocean? The North pole or South pole? On the internet, get a satellite picture of the weather. From which direction are the clouds coming? This will help you follow the rain's journey before it fell where you live.



This character-building lesson was excerpted from *The Gospel According to a Snowflake* book by Terry and Jean McComb as part of their series of *Gospel According to . . .* books. Get your copy at: [CreationIllustrated.com](http://CreationIllustrated.com)







**Winter 2025 Coloring Contest** First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Initial: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
(deadline & details on page 60) City: \_\_\_\_\_ State/Prov. \_\_\_\_\_



## Creation Illustrated Coloring Contest

### Winners From the Fall 2024 Edition Character-Building Lesson



*First Place, ages 6–11*  
Mann G., age 10  
Indianapolis, Indiana



*First Place, ages 12–18*  
Declan P., age 12  
Colchester, Connecticut



*First Place, ages 19+*  
Leah K., age 19  
Millet, Alberta

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](mailto:coloring@creationillustrated.com), Subject Line: Coloring Contest. Each entry **MUST** include your name, age, mailing address, phone number, and email address. The **DEADLINE for winter 2025 entries is February 15, 2025**. 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 March from winter-edition pictures, the first week of June from spring-edition pictures, the first week of September from summer-edition pictures, and the first week of December from fall-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](http://www.CreationIllustrated.com)



# Creation Illustrated Photo Contest

## Winners From Fall 2024 Submissions



### *First Place, ages 6–11 (left)*

*Ian J., age 8, of Leavenworth, Indiana, wrote "I took this picture on an autumn morning with the fog rolling in over the Blue River in Indiana. Psalm 113:3 says, 'From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised!'"*

*First Place, ages 12–18 (right)*  
*Ruthann B., age 16, of St. Jacobs, Ontario, took this photo of a loon on a glassy lake.*



### *First Place, ages 19+ (left)*

*Mickey W., age 69, of St. Cloud, Florida, wrote "I was walking in my backyard one morning and just happened to notice this tiny frog asleep on my orange tree. It reminds me of Isaiah 40:15, 'Behold, the nations are as a drop of a bucket, and are counted as the small dust of the balance: behold, he taketh up the isles as a very little thing' (KJV)."*

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](mailto: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 winter 2025 entries is February 15, 2025**. 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 March from winter submissions, the first week of June from spring submissions, the first week of September from summer submissions, and the first week of December from fall 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](http://www.CreationIllustrated.com)





## STUDY GUIDE

### for *Creation Illustrated*, Winter 2025 Edition, Vol. 31, No. 4

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. Creatures Near and Dear to Us—“Coy Coyotes” story, pages 6–13**

1. How many different vocalizations of coyotes have wildlife specialists identified? p. 9
2. Name the three categories that their conversions fit into. p. 9
3. Explain how the Navajo mythology helps teach some of the personality traits of the coyotes and what Christian insights we can glean from them. p. 9
4. What is the Latin name for coyotes, and what does it mean? How many species are there? p.10
5. Explain the difference between the Eastern and Western coyotes? p. 10
6. What is the range of the coyote, and how large is their typical territory? p. 10
7. What is a key attribute of their ability to adapt, and what does that help teach us? p. 10
8. How do coyotes help maintain the ecosystem? What is their estimated population? p. 13

#### **II. Re-Creation Outdoors—“Hiking Kahili Ridge” story, pages 14–19**

1. What location did the couple choose to enjoy their 25th anniversary? p. 16
2. What is the nickname of this island? p. 16
3. How much rain does Mount Waialeale receive each year? p. 17
4. What was the cause of so much pain during their hike? p. 17
5. How did the writer's husband help her? Explain the spiritual lesson learned from it. pp. 18, 19

#### **III. Creation Up Close—“Humble Servants” story, pages 22–27**

1. List some important functions that ferns perform to improve the environment. p. 22
2. How many different species of ferns, mosses, and lichens have been identified? What is the way they propagate without flowers or seeds? p. 23
3. Explain the unique characteristics of dragon's gold moss. p. 25
4. List the ways lichens are resilient. p. 26
5. What is the meaning of *epiphytes*, and how does it relate to ferns, mosses, and lichens? p. 26

#### **IV. The Creation Week—“Creation Day 5, Part 1—Sea Creatures” story, pages 28–36**

1. What is the Hebrew word and definition for *abound* or *abundance* found in Genesis 1:20? p. 29
2. What is the earth's largest ecosystem, and what percentage of the earth does it cover? p. 30
3. How many sea creature species are estimated to exist? p. 30
4. List the seven categories of sea creatures that God created, and write down your favorite creature from each category. pp. 30–34
5. Name a fish that exists in both ocean salt water and fresh water rivers? p. 31
6. How do sea creatures help us build our faith and gain a fuller understanding of our Creator? pp. 35, 36



# Winter Family Fun Activities

Don't let cold weather keep you and your family away from fun outdoor activities. Remember the saying, "There's no bad weather, only bad clothes!" Dressing warm in layers is a great way to start out and adjust if necessary by removing a layer if needed. Here are some great ways to enjoy God's creation during the winter months.

## Full Moon Nature Hike

The moon beams reflecting on the glistening snow appears like a blanket of diamonds and provides dazzling experience for all. Even in areas without snow, moonlit winter outing can be exciting. Pack a few treats and hot thermos of herb tea to help sweeten the experience. Look at a full moon calendar and choose a night when the moon will be full or nearly full. Be sure to note the time it will appear in the sky as this changes with its cycle. During winter 2025, the full moons are January 13 (called a *wolf moon*), February 12 (called a *snow moon*), and March 14 (called a *worm moon*). Have fun researching the different names of the full moons and what they mean.

## Winter Stargazing

Winter is generally considered the best time for stargazing. The colder air helps the sky appear clearer with less haze. Also, with longer periods of darkness there is more time to observe the night sky. You can even try to take some photographs to share online with Psalm 19:1, "The heavens declare the glory of God." Research on the internet how to do astrophotography with your cell phone.

Here are a few important stargazing events to mark on your calendar:

- On January 13, 2025, Venus and Saturn will appear very near each other in the evening sky. Venus, being a closer planet, will appear much brighter. Look west in the sky about 30 minutes after sunset to enjoy this special event.
- In the early morning of March 14, 2025, there will be a beautiful total lunar eclipse. The moon will turn shades of orange or copper. The peak time will be from 3:20 to 3:30 a.m. EST.



The publishers stargazing many moons ago.

**UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)**

**Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation**

Publication Title: Creation Illustrated Issue Date: Oct. 1, 2024

Frequency: Quarterly Number of Issues Published Annually: 4 Annual Subscription Price: \$12.95

Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: Oct. 1, 2024

1. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer):  
913 S. Wilbur Rd.  
Spokane Valley, WA 99206  
 Telephone: (509) 269-1424

2. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher:  
913 S. Wilbur Rd.  
Spokane Valley, WA 99206

3. Complete Mailing Address of Principal Office and Headquarters of the Publisher:  
Thomas M. Ed  
P.O. Box 14162  
Spokane Valley, WA 99214-1162

4. Complete Mailing Address of the Publisher:  
Thomas M. Ed  
P.O. Box 14162  
Spokane Valley, WA 99214-1162

5. Complete Mailing Address of the Editor:  
Thomas M. Ed  
P.O. Box 14162  
Spokane Valley, WA 99214-1162

6. Complete Mailing Address of the Business Manager:  
Creation Illustrated Ministries, Inc.  
P.O. Box 14162  
Spokane Valley, WA 99214-1162

7. Complete Mailing Address of the Circulation Office:  
 (Leave blank)

8. Complete Mailing Address of the Distribution Office:  
 (Leave blank)

9. Complete Mailing Address of the Advertising Office:  
 (Leave blank)

10. Complete Mailing Address of the Subscription Office:  
 (Leave blank)

11. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Office:  
 (Leave blank)

12. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Office:  
 (Leave blank)

13. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Office:  
 (Leave blank)

14. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Office:  
 (Leave blank)

15. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Office:  
 (Leave blank)

16. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Office:  
 (Leave blank)

17. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Office:  
 (Leave blank)

18. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Office:  
 (Leave blank)

19. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Office:  
 (Leave blank)

20. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Office:  
 (Leave blank)

1. Publication Title: Creation Illustrated Issue Date: Vol. 31, No. 2, Summer 2024

2. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: Oct. 1, 2024

3. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer):  
913 S. Wilbur Rd.  
Spokane Valley, WA 99206  
 Telephone: (509) 269-1424

4. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher:  
913 S. Wilbur Rd.  
Spokane Valley, WA 99206

5. Complete Mailing Address of Principal Office and Headquarters of the Publisher:  
Thomas M. Ed  
P.O. Box 14162  
Spokane Valley, WA 99214-1162

6. Complete Mailing Address of the Publisher:  
Thomas M. Ed  
P.O. Box 14162  
Spokane Valley, WA 99214-1162

7. Complete Mailing Address of the Editor:  
Thomas M. Ed  
P.O. Box 14162  
Spokane Valley, WA 99214-1162

8. Complete Mailing Address of the Business Manager:  
Creation Illustrated Ministries, Inc.  
P.O. Box 14162  
Spokane Valley, WA 99214-1162

9. Complete Mailing Address of the Circulation Office:  
 (Leave blank)

10. Complete Mailing Address of the Distribution Office:  
 (Leave blank)

11. Complete Mailing Address of the Advertising Office:  
 (Leave blank)

12. Complete Mailing Address of the Subscription Office:  
 (Leave blank)

13. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Office:  
 (Leave blank)

14. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Office:  
 (Leave blank)

15. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Office:  
 (Leave blank)

16. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Office:  
 (Leave blank)

17. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Office:  
 (Leave blank)

18. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Office:  
 (Leave blank)

19. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Office:  
 (Leave blank)

20. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Office:  
 (Leave blank)

**UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE® (All Periodicals Publications Except Requester Publications)**

**Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation**

Publication Title: Creation Illustrated Issue Date: Vol. 31, No. 2, Summer 2024

Frequency: Quarterly Number of Issues Published Annually: 4 Annual Subscription Price: \$12.95

Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: Oct. 1, 2024

1. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer):  
913 S. Wilbur Rd.  
Spokane Valley, WA 99206  
 Telephone: (509) 269-1424

2. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher:  
913 S. Wilbur Rd.  
Spokane Valley, WA 99206

3. Complete Mailing Address of Principal Office and Headquarters of the Publisher:  
Thomas M. Ed  
P.O. Box 14162  
Spokane Valley, WA 99214-1162

4. Complete Mailing Address of the Publisher:  
Thomas M. Ed  
P.O. Box 14162  
Spokane Valley, WA 99214-1162

5. Complete Mailing Address of the Editor:  
Thomas M. Ed  
P.O. Box 14162  
Spokane Valley, WA 99214-1162

6. Complete Mailing Address of the Business Manager:  
Creation Illustrated Ministries, Inc.  
P.O. Box 14162  
Spokane Valley, WA 99214-1162

7. Complete Mailing Address of the Circulation Office:  
 (Leave blank)

8. Complete Mailing Address of the Distribution Office:  
 (Leave blank)

9. Complete Mailing Address of the Advertising Office:  
 (Leave blank)

10. Complete Mailing Address of the Subscription Office:  
 (Leave blank)

11. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Office:  
 (Leave blank)

12. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Office:  
 (Leave blank)

13. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Office:  
 (Leave blank)

14. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Office:  
 (Leave blank)

15. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Office:  
 (Leave blank)

16. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Office:  
 (Leave blank)

17. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Office:  
 (Leave blank)

18. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Office:  
 (Leave blank)

19. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Office:  
 (Leave blank)

20. Complete Mailing Address of the Fulfillment Office:  
 (Leave blank)





**Ignite  
Your Child's  
Learning!**

# **MY TEACHING LIBRARY**



**MyTeachingLibrary.com**

**CLICK ON AD - Go Right to WEBSITE !**



## **Where you can get...**

- CURRICULUM SETS**
- UNIT STUDIES**
- BOOKS**
- FLASHCARDS & POSTERS**
- RECORD TEMPLATES**
- ...AND MORE!**



**A Christian-owned company you can trust!**



# BCE Academy

Your Success is our Goal!

A fully accredited homeschool program

## Basic Christian Education offers:

- Full-service homeschool curriculum
- Biblical based, character building
- Accredited
- Full record keeping
- Official transcripts
- FREE Diagnostic Testing & Placement with enrollment (\$50 value)



Call for personal assistance:

**866-567-2446**

Open enrollment with BCE Academy, or purchase individual curriculum at your convenience.

Download our free catalog



**BASIC CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & BCE ACADEMY**

[www.BasicChristianEducation.com](http://www.BasicChristianEducation.com)



Christ-Centered  
**LIVE**  
Online  
Science  
Classes

**Taught by former college professor and homeschool dad, Greg Landry**

Superior Instruction that leaves out the guesswork in:  
• Biology • Chemistry • Physics • Anatomy & Physiology •

*What others say:*

*"Your orientation toward training students to be researchers and critical thinkers is just what our girls needed. It has also spilled over into how they approach history and literature ..." - Carol*

Learn More at:

**CollegePrepScience.com**

**CLICK ON AD - Go Right to WEBSITE !**

**FREE GIFT!**

## God's Story

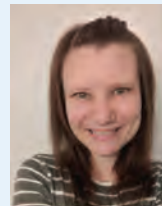
*A Chronological Journey Through the Bible*

Compiled by Sheri Graham

Go to this link to grab your copy for free!

<https://tinyurl.com/sherigift>

[www.SheriGraham.com](http://www.SheriGraham.com)



**clarissarwest.com**

On Social Media @ clarissarwest

**Biblical Encouragement & Practical Tips for Homeschool Moms**

**FREE Biblical Word Study eBook For Subscribers**



**Find my books on Amazon**





**Nature Drawing & Journaling Book**  
\$26.95

**Nature Drawing & Journaling DVD Set**  
\$29.95

**Help students UNPLUG and get creative through Art Journaling with Barry Stebbing! For ALL Ages**

**How Great Thou ART**  
Homeschool Art Curriculum – Classical & Christian Education  
ORDER TODAY AT:  
[howgreatthouart.com](http://howgreatthouart.com)

**CLICK ON AD – Go Right to WEBSITE !**

**Calming Harp**  
*Music that Quiets the Soul from the Psalms of David*  
Steve Rees, Harpist

**Harp Music benefits:**  
Blood pressure and heart health  
Surgical recovery  
Sleep and relaxation  
Depression  
Anxiety  
Calming  
Documented "Mozart" effect

Free listening samples at: [calmingharp.com](http://calmingharp.com)

These harp CD's are my original compositions from the Psalms of David using a Hebrew letter to musical note relationship recorded in the musical frequency of 528Hz.  
Order your CD's or MP3's today at: [www.calmingharp.com](http://www.calmingharp.com) and begin enjoying this beautifully, calming music today!

Featured CD's:  
*Psalms of Aliyah*  
*Keys of David*  
*Living Water*

**Following God's Clear Commands in an Age of Confusion**

**CRYSTAL VISION**  
Reflections on Following God's Clear Commands in an Age of Confusion  
Brian M. Heaphy

Brian Heaphy, a former Navy SEAL Officer, now serves as a marksman with words and photos for the glory of God while drawing upon his subsistence lifestyle in Alaska's remote interior. Scripture-driven truths and insights in his new book *Crystal Vision* will help guide and encourage readers through life's vital issues and questions. A perfect gift, devotional, group study tool . . .

Print - \$14.95 eBook - \$12.95 Learn more at:  
[BrianHeaphy.com](http://BrianHeaphy.com)

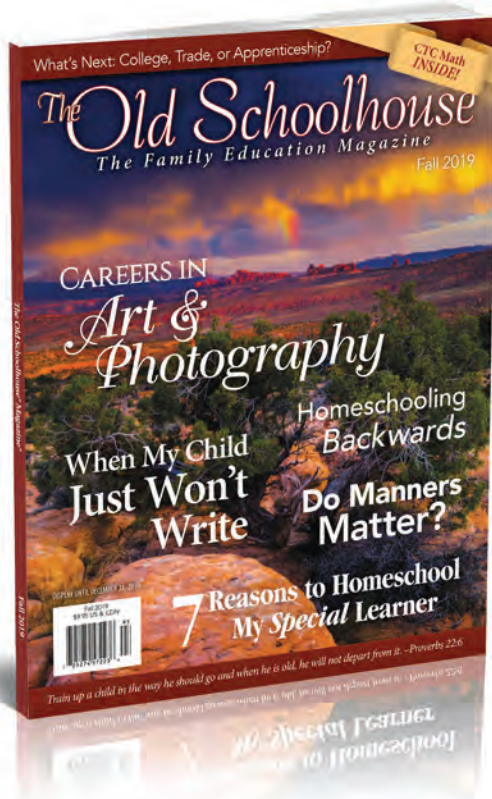


# Christian Children Don't Belong in Public Schools.

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

Luke 6:40

[www.TryHomeschooling.com](http://www.TryHomeschooling.com)



*The Old Schoolhouse*  
The Family Education Magazine



# For the Whole Family!

## Seminar FROM GLORY TO GLORY

is seeking to provide principles of Christian character development.  
(Now in 13 languages.)

**SIGN UP FOR CHARACTER-BUILDING TRAINING**

[RevivalSeminars.org](http://RevivalSeminars.org)

### THE LITTLE LAMB



Patrick McCullough

### THE LITTLE LAMB Meets Different



Patrick McCullough

#### First 2 in a Series of 12 Character-building Children's Books !

Book 1: Teaches to obey our parents.

Book 2: Teaches that being different is okay. (coming soon)

He tells the flock to be obedient to His voice and He tells the lambs to obey their parents so they do not get harmed. All day long they enjoy the Good Shepherd's songs and easy voice as they feast on the plentiful green grass.



"The kids are still talking about you and the book . . . even asking what Pure in Heart will do next on his journey . . ." —Cindy from live book reading by the Author

ORDER AT: [www.FishCreekProductions.com](http://www.FishCreekProductions.com)  
OR AT: [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com)

## FEEL CLOSER TO GOD UNDERWATER



Make underwater exploration a worshipful experience with this online course

**ENROLL NOW**

REEF  
MINISTRIES



# 101 of the Greatest Adventure Stories Ever Told



## Start your own G. A. Henty Library Today!

Now for a limited time: \$18 for Hardcover and \$12 for Softcover. Special pricing on Sets.

For more than a century the G.A. Henty adventure stories have been beloved by boys and girls all over the world for their fast moving and engaging narratives of great times in history. Each Henty hero exemplifies the traditional virtues of hard work, courage, and high personal honor.

And, each hero is at the center of fast-moving adventures that capture the reader's interest and will not let go - adventures that take place during great historical events. Through the eyes of the hero, readers experience the horrors and trials of the French Revolution, life in Colonial Australia, and the Fall of Jerusalem. These books have made history come alive for generations of children, and provided them examples of the highest Christian character.

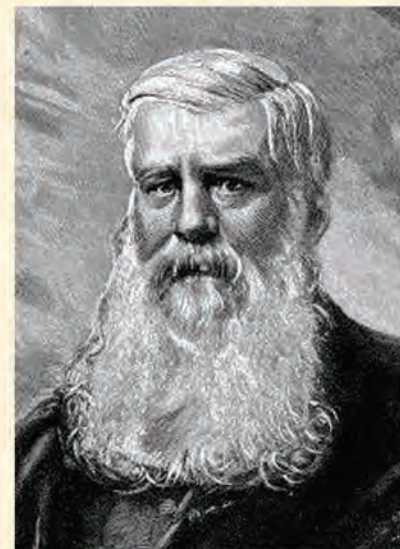
Henty knew his subject. First as a British soldier in the Crimean War, and later as a war correspondent covering campaigns throughout the British Empire, Henty experienced first hand many of the events he describes. For this reason Henty's descriptions of places and events have an element of realism to them which makes them stand out from other historical fiction. Many of the descriptions are of places that Henty visited or of events that he actually witnessed.

All of Mr. Henty's books are published by Robinson Books in beautifully bound hard and soft cover editions. These preserve the typesetting and formatting of the Henty masterpieces that were printed in Scotland

over a century ago. Profusely illustrated with the original woodcut and lithograph illustrations, a set of our heirloom quality Henty editions is an investment that will be a family treasure for generations to come.



**Complete Hardcover Special!**  
All 101 G.A. Henty books for \$1199  
(40% off the individual book price)



*As special correspondent for the Standard Paper during the reign of Queen Victoria, G. A. Henty not only wrote about history - he lived it. Many of his wonderful stories are centered around great historical events that he personally witnessed.*

**Creation Illustrated readers get Free Shipping on all orders. Enter the promo code CREATION during checkout**

Contact us: Robinson Books  
P.O. Box 1250  
Cave Junction, OR 97523  
(541) 499-8914  
matthew@robinsonbooks.com

[www.RobinsonBooks.com](http://www.RobinsonBooks.com)






# *Song of the Hills*

So soft are the hills in the rising sun,  
Blue shadows lift and the day has begun.  
So stirs my heart with a wond'rous delight,  
For a new day after darkness of night.

So still are those hills, yet loud is their voice,  
Singing in tones that ring and rejoice:  
"God is our Maker, all glory to Him,  
Through endless ages, whose light ne'er grows dim."



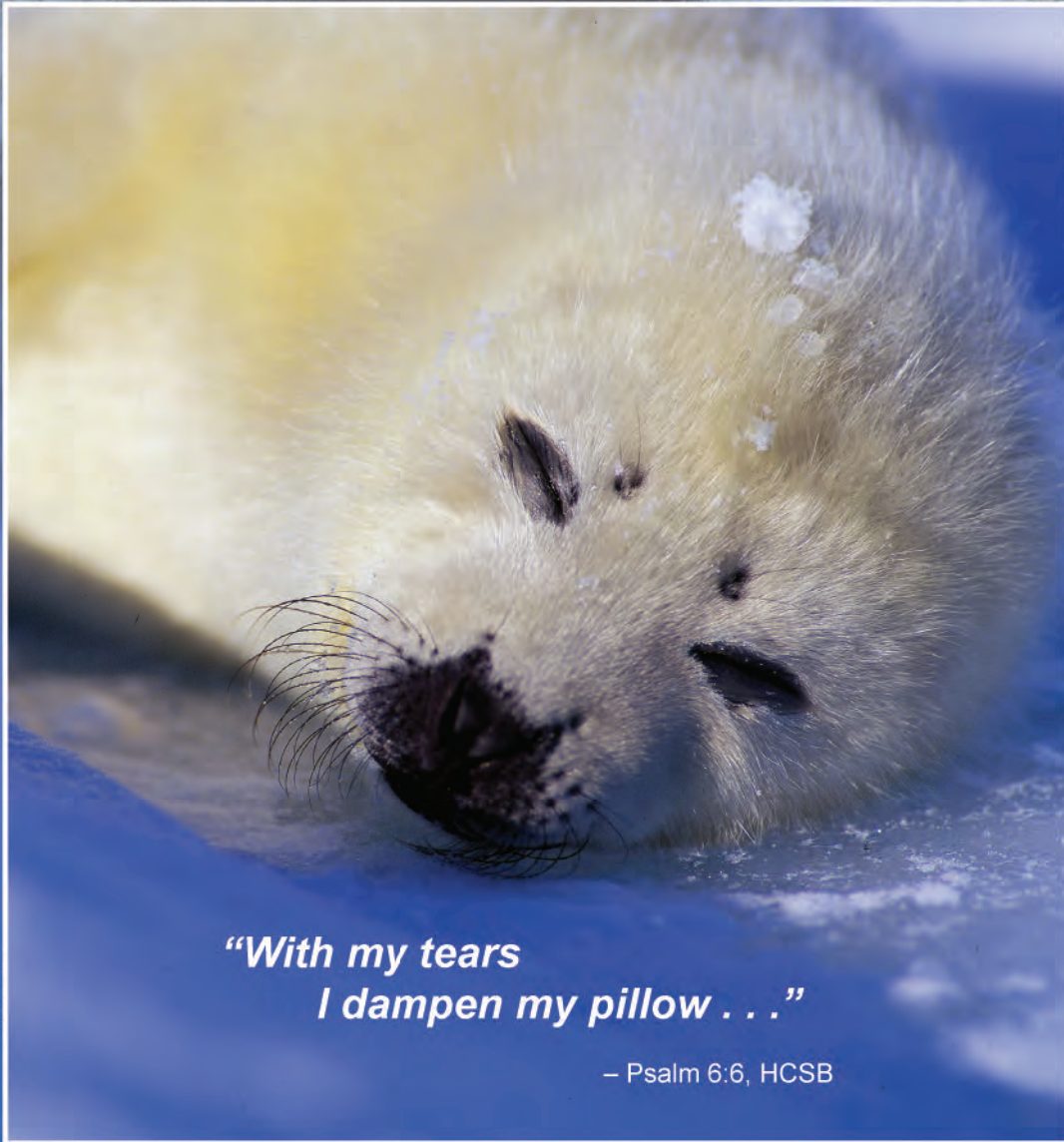
A serene winter landscape featuring a snow-covered shoreline in the foreground, a line of evergreen trees in the middle ground, and a body of water in the lower right. The sky is a deep blue with soft, wispy clouds, and bright sunbeams radiate from behind the trees, creating a hazy, golden glow. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and majestic.

And now as I stand in the cooling breeze,  
While sunbeams dance over mountains and trees,  
Up to the hills I can lift my glad eyes,  
Praising my Savior, the Lord of the skies.

How great is His art, how wise are His ways,  
Giving to all the rich joy of new days.  
The song of the hills can show us His love,  
Pointing the way to our service above.

- Jeanne Eproson





Scott Swanson

*“With my tears  
I dampen my pillow . . .”*

– Psalm 6:6, HCSB

# Creation

ILLUSTRATED

YOUR COMPANION . . .  
IN NATURE, IN SCRIPTURE, AND IN LIVING  
[www.creationillustrated.com](http://www.creationillustrated.com) • (800) 360-2732