

Ir-ot-03
The Creation
(Moses 1)
By Lenet Hadley Read

(Here is background to inspire teachers and students concerning the Creation)

I. The creation was an astounding work performed by God to meet the physical *and spiritual needs* of all mankind.

A. We understand less than a pinch of the tremendous works of “The Creation.”

Many scientists have written *books* to show how enormously complex God’s creations are. Each highlights amazing features in their own field of study. Each shows how unlikely it is that a habitable earth would exist at all without a highly intelligent creator. The consensus of studies of many different scientists shows how any slight change in any one of myriads of precise factors would have left a void or else a horribly inhospitable environment instead of the beautiful *Blue Planet*, earth, so uniquely blue because its abundant waters allow life.

B. “One scholar has said, ‘Both astrophysicists and microphysicists have lately been discovering that the series of events that produced our universe had to happen in a . . . precise way . . . if they were to produce life as we know it . . . We have reason to be impressed by the astonishing fact of our existence.’” (Holmes Rolston III, “Shaken Atheism: A Look at the Fine-Tuned Universe,” *The Christian Century*, December 3, 1986.)

C. Other scientists, speaking of these same kinds of facts in their own separate fields of study, use such terms as the “staggering precision,” the “stunning accuracy,” the “exceedingly delicate tuning of values,” the “crucial ratio” of elements, the “totally astounding” balances, the “exquisite precision.”

D. Just one of the examples of incredible precision is the distance of the earth from the sun: “Just a bit nearer to the sun, and Planet Earth’s seas would soon be boiling; just a little farther out, and the whole world would become a frozen wilderness” (Alan Hayward, *God Is*, p. 63).

E. Another is: “The earth is at the ideal position from the sun to receive sufficient energy to activate climactic processes and support life, but it is far enough from the sun to avoid fiery death by sudden bursts of energy” (Melvin Frost, *Improvement Era*, January 1970, p. 36.)
[Many additional examples can be obtained from *Improvement Era*, January, 1970.]

II. The creations of God help us spiritually by helping us know He exists.

A. Whittaker Chambers lost his faith in any God because his family and the world were in chaos, the whole world being at war. But after having a baby daughter, he described what changed his life. “I was sitting . . . watching her eat. She was the most miraculous thing that

had ever happened in my life. I liked to watch her even when she smeared porridge on her face or dropped it meditatively on the floor. My eye came to rest on the delicate convolutions of her ear --- those intricate, perfect ears. The thought passed through my mind: 'No, those ears were not created by any chance coming together of atoms in nature. They could have been created only by immense design.' The thought was involuntary and unwanted. I crowded it out of my mind. But I never wholly forgot it or the occasion. ... If I had completed it, I should have had to say: Design presupposes God. I did not then know that, at that moment, the finger of God was first laid upon my forehead." Because of recognizing the significance of God's creations, he later came to believe again in God. (Whittaker Chambers, *Witness*, p. 16.)

III. A major purpose of God's Creation, however, is always overlooked: that God's amazing creations were also established to help us *comprehend His truths*.

- A. Moses 6:63 teaches that *all things were made to bear witness of Christ*.
- B. It is important to recognize that it is *not just the existence of things* in creation that testify of God. *Through His creations, the Lord gave us "likenesses" to help us understand His great truths*.
- C. For supporting Scripture see Romans 1:20. Here Paul taught, "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made."

That is, God created the things of the earth *to help us understand the spiritual truths He wants us to know. Therefore, things of this earth were created to help us understand not just that there is a God in Heaven, but even many things about God and about His works.*

IV. Christ has been called *the* master teacher precisely because He was so adept at illustrating truths from the things of the world. *But this tribute vastly misses the mark.*

- A. *Truly He is the Master Teacher, because as Creator, He made the things of the earth and heavens to teach of truth.* Then, when upon the earth, He used the things He had purposely created to teach. He created the Sun and then used it as a symbol to help us understand that He is the Light of the World, and, more than the Sun, can bless our lives with great light and thus, precious growth.
- B. As creator, He made the meek lambs, then as our Shepherd and our Redeemer, used them as witness of His kind and loving watch over His people, and of His meek and humble sacrifice as a lamb.
- C. He created plants whose need for the sun's rays cause them to always turn toward its source. He created them as witness of our need to turn toward His light. In fact there is a song which plaintively asks, "Why don't men respond to light, like the flowers do?"

- D. Christ created the differing light powers of the sun, the moon, and the stars and used them as symbols to teach us there are three degrees of glory in His kingdom, and that the glory of the sun is the greater. And thus we are moved to seek the greater light (1 Corinthians 15:40-42).
- E. Christ created earth so most of it would have seasons, and used the symbols thereof to teach that while death will come upon living things, rebirth will follow, just as resurrection will follow our death --- because of Him.
- F. Christ created deep fountains of water beneath the earth to illustrate He is a Fountain of Living Water which came out of the earth in resurrection to bring us Life.
- G. Christ created the pure-white, simple, but beautiful lilies. Then he used them to teach of the spiritual beauty most desirable to God. ("Consider the lilies of the field.... They toil not, neither do they spin"... yet... Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these." (Mat. 6:28-9.)
- H. Jonathan Edwards, an early president of Yale, understood the symbolic purpose of some things. He showed how *the daily rising of the sun*, (not just Easter), and its *daily* awakening us in the process, is a witness that when Christ, the True Sun, comes, He will awaken us all from death. "As the sun, by rising out of darkness and from under the earth, raises the whole world with him, raises mankind out of their beds, and by his light, as it were, renews all things and fetches them up out of darkness, so Christ, rising from the grave and from a state of death...raises all his church with him....And as all the world is enlightened and brought out of darkness by the rising of the sun so by Christ's rising we are begotten again to a lively hope, and all our happiness and life and light and glory and the restitution of all things is from Christ rising from the dead, and is by his resurrection." (Quoted in Perry Miller, *Images and Shadows of Divine Things*, p. 60).

The Creation in every way bears witness that God exists. **But His creations were also given to help us understand His wonderful truths. It is a joy to search for all the marvelous witnesses found in God's creations.**