

## "Designed by God"

Is this world designed by an intelligent and loving God, or have we come into being by accident or chance? Is there evidence of an intelligent designer or did we evolve from non-living matter? Hello I'm Phil Sanders and we're In Search of the Lord's Way. Stay tuned.

Welcome to In Search of the Lord's Way. We're here to search God's Word, because we love Him and we want to please Him. Since the Bible is divine in origin, it teaches us the truth. We want nothing more and nothing less than the truth. We "buy the truth" and aren't willing to sell it. Thanks for spending time with us today. We love to hear that you're watching or listening. And we want to be a part of your life each week.

A person's view of the beginning affects his whole outlook on life. We must all deal with questions such as: Who am I? Where did I come from? Does my life have a purpose? And am I of any value? What we believe about our origin will determine how we see ourselves and our place in life. If we consider ourselves merely as a complex animal which evolved from a one-celled creature, we'll have a pretty uncertain view of life. But if we consider ourselves unique individuals made in the image of God with an eternal destiny, then there is great reason and meaning to our existence.

Charles Darwin taught that man evolved over time from other species through the process of natural selection or what is better known as "survival of the fittest." A biologist who followed Darwin's thinking said, "that man is the result of a purposeless and natural process that did not have him in mind." The Bible, however, teaches in Genesis 1 that God created the world and all of the creatures within it. Male and female, they were to reproduce after their own kind. About man, God specifically says in verses 26 and 27 that He made man in His own image and gave him, man dominion over all the earth. These views are very far apart and cannot both be true. So, what we believe about how we came to exist makes a great difference in how we see ourselves.

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Well the Edmond church will now worship in song, we'll read from Psalm 139:13 to 16. And we'll explore how we were designed by God.

Our reading today comes from Psalm 139, verses 13 to 16. "For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth; Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; And in Your book were all written, The days that were ordained *for me*, When as yet there was not one of them." That's a reading from Psalm 139. Let's pray together. Father, we're so grateful for Your love, and we're so thankful that in Your wisdom and power, that You made us and designed us to be the people that we are. And Father help us to love You, and may Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus name, Amen!

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

The word "created" means "to call into being something that never previously existed." God simply spoke, and something came into existence. God created the world and everything that's in it, every plant and every animal. Last He created man in His own image. The Bible says in Hebrews 11 and verse

3, "By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible."

Now believing God intelligently created the world and everything in it is not a blind leap of faith. It's built on observing all the order and purpose that's evident in the world. Proverbs 3 and verse 19 says: "The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding He established the heavens." God purposefully designed the world and all His creatures with wisdom and understanding. And the more we study this world and the human body, the more we realize the order and the purpose that God put into everything that He made.

But those who reject faith in God suggest a different way to explain the existence of life. Some claim that life evolved from non-living matter; but if we rule out God, then the origin of life is a mystery. It's a great leap of faith to assume that life could come from non-living matter. They think there was a gradual development of complex molecules from the basic elements until they finally became molecules that could reproduce themselves and are assumed to be living.

Well evolutionists once spoke of the primordial soup that spawned life, but many now question that since they learned of how complex life really is. The basic building blocks of life are proteins that make up our DNA. The DNA provides the information or intelligence needed to reproduce the proteins which give us life.

Now each protein is quite complex. It doesn't just happen. Protein molecules are made up of a complicated series of amino acids that are ordered by the various genes in our DNA. Sir Fred Hoyle, one of England's prominent scientists argued that the chance of higher life-forms emerging accidentally from non-living matter is comparable to a tornado making a Boeing 747 jet out of a junkyard.

Living cells use over 75 special kinds of proteins and RNA molecules to make one protein following DNA's instruction. And what we know about airplanes convinces us that their flight is the result of creative design. What scientists know about the way living cells make protein suggests, just as clearly, that life also is the result of creative design.

Now in 2004 prominent British philosopher and proponent of atheism Professor Antony Flew renounced his atheism. Why? He said because "the argument to intelligent design is enormously stronger than it was when I first met it. It now seems to me," he says, "that the findings of more than fifty years of DNA research have provided materials for a new and enormously powerful argument to design." Flew had to admit he "had to go where the evidence leads." And that's to believe in a Creator.

Now evolutionists once believed that man had vestigial organs, body parts that lost all or most of their original function. There were supposed to be 180 such vestigial organs in humans. Well this list included such things as the tailbone, and the appendix, even parts of the ear and eye. And now that list is almost obsolete. Medical science discovered that these organs played very essential roles and were not "useless."

What these organs teach us is that God had a special purpose behind everything that He has made. Psalm 139:13 to 15 says, as we read, "For You (that is God) formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, *And* skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth."

Now evolution, according to Darwin, is in a continual state of motion, with gradual change happening over long periods of time. He believed the fossil record should be filled with examples of transitional forms from one species, or one kind of animal into another; now these forms go from the

less complex to the more complex. But paleontologists didn't find these transitional forms. They found gaps in the fossil record. There was no evidence of transformational intermediates between documented fossil species.

Now many people forget the number of hoaxes that evolutionists have posed to support their theory. They put forth "missing links" between apes and men. They believed the fossil records would show how one kind of animal evolved into another, but none of the fossils ever showed a transitional link between one creature and another.

Now instead of gradual change as evolutionists expected, what they found were sudden appearances of new species and the overlapping in time of species. One evolution scientist, S. M. Stanley, admits, that "Species that were once thought to have turned into others have been found to overlap in time with these alleged descendants. In fact, the fossil record does not convincingly document a single transition from one species to another."

The first fossil hoax was Java Man found in 1891. They said they found a missing link, and what was the evidence? They found a skullcap, three teeth, and a femur or thigh-bone. They found the thigh-bone 50 feet from the skull a year later, and it didn't come from the same individual. The skull came from an ape, while the leg bone came from a human.

Well second, Neanderthal man was found in France in 1908. Neanderthal man was thought to be ignorant, ape-like, stooped and knuckle-dragging. But the evidence proved that Neanderthal man was just as human as we are, and his stooped appearance was because of arthritis and rickets. Neanderthals are now recognized as skilled hunters, believed in after-life, and even skilled surgeons. They found one Neanderthal skeleton whose withered right arm had been amputated above the elbow.

Third, there's Piltdown Man who was found in 1912 in a village named Piltdown in England. It was no missing link; it was merely an early human. And the evidence came from a human skull and a jawbone of an orangutan. Well this deception lasted more than forty years before it was proven to be a hoax.

Fourth, there is Nebraska Man who was found in 1992 in western Nebraska near Snake Brook. Some scientists said this was the missing link until they discovered the fossil was only the single tooth of an extinct wild pig.

Fifth, there is 'Lucy,' this is the popular name given to a famous fossil skeleton found in 1974 in Ethiopia by American anthropologist Donald Johanson. Now to many, Lucy is regarded as a certain link between ape-like creatures and man and supposedly proves evolution. But "Lucy" was not human at all; she was a chimp-like animal, very different from humans.

Rather than look to fossils for imaginary missing links, perhaps we should look to the amazing design that's right in front of us. This purposeful design all around us argues for an intelligent designer. And that designer is God. He's the only one with the unlimited power and wisdom to create us. Revelation 4 verse 11 says, "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

Microbiologists tell us of the utter complexity of a single, living cell. Benjamin Miller and Ruth Goode said, "That the cell has been likened to a power plant, a furnace, a chemical laboratory. In its reproductive functions it's been described as a factory complete with manager's office, files of blueprints and plans, intercommunication system, assembly line with foremen and workers."

They said that "None of these fanciful analogies does justice to the living cell. All of these man-made systems put together, however ingenious and efficient, could not reproduce the functioning of

this single unit of life, that's too small to be seen with the unaided eye." My friend, Wayne Jackson, in his book, *The Human Body—Accident or Design?*, asks, "If the living cell is more 'ingenious' than any 'man-made system, who made it? Are we to conclude it just happened? That's wholly illogical."

The human body is an engineering miracle. It's indeed fearfully and wonderfully made. We have trillions of cells in our bodies, and they're marvelously designed and show their function. For instance, the human red-blood cells are saucer-shaped and fairly flat, permitting the transfer of oxygen and carbon dioxide throughout the body. Nerve cells, on the other hand, "have long, thin extensions to transmit messages." Hebrews 3 and verse 4 says, "For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God." Now these exceptionally complex cells didn't just happen! God designed and built them for their functions. And only a wise God could make them!

Charles Darwin in the *Origin of Species* said, "If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed, which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory (that is the theory of evolution) would absolutely break down." Then he added, "But I can find no such case." However on page 167 of the *Origin of Species*, Darwin spoke of the eye. And he said, "To suppose that the eye...could have formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree possible." You see, even then, Darwin doubted himself. He did not know in 1859 what we know today about the eye.

Now you're watching me because God gave you eyes and listening because God gave you ears. Bioengineer John Lenihan said, "That the eye is an exceptionally sensitive optical instrument displaying many striking features of design and performance; even the windscreen washers and wipers (that is, in your eye) have not been forgotten."

Just think! Your eye can see moving images by the thousands as they change. Your eye makes adjustments to the amount of light, to distance, and to angle automatically. Every camera we own was patterned after the eye. Wayne Jackson argues, "If the function of the camera demands that it was 'made,' doesn't it stand to reason that the more complex human camera, the eye, must also have had a Maker?"

Likewise, the ear is a marvel. Using membranes like the eardrum, small bones, muscles that amplify the sound inside your ear, and 25,000 auditory receptors, the brain is able to receive these vibrations and interpret whether they come from thunder, or a voice, or from thousands of other tones that we hear.

One authority says, "Amazingly, the inner ear, although no bigger than a hazelnut, contains as many circuits as the telephone system of a good-sized city." Can you believe that a city's telephone system could design itself or just happen by accident? Your ear is far more sophisticated than this microphone that I'm wearing. Did this microphone just happen or did someone make it?

You're watching me, because God gave you a mind that can understand sights and sounds. How did material things by themselves ever produce consciousness? How did we ever become aware of ourselves and of other things around us? How did material things by themselves ever produce language? Language demands the organization of words and symbols that are understood by more than one mind. How did language pass from one person to another? Now you're listening and reasoning about what I am saying. How did you gain the ability to reason? One more thought: where did your sense of right and wrong come from? Surely you didn't get that from material things.

The Bible says in Romans 1 and verse 20, "For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse." Oh let's be grateful for all that God has done in

giving us this marvelously designed world and life. Every bone, muscle, organ, and tissue shouts that God made us in His image. Let's pray together. Oh heavenly Father, we're grateful for the love, the wisdom, and the power that You have shown in making us. And may we love You enough to do Your will on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus name, Amen!

Let's see, the fossil record doesn't give us any "missing links" or intermediate forms showing the transition from one species to another. And, the body itself shows us an incredible amount of design. Well these facts make it reasonable to believe that we've been created not products of natural selection. It takes far more faith to believe that non-living matter produced life than it does to believe in God. It takes far more faith to believe a reptile could gradually become a bird than it does to believe in creation. It takes far more faith to believe an eye or an ear were accidents of nature than to believe God designed them.

This world contains everywhere the marks of all-powerful and all-wise Designer, and that Designer is the one and only God. He is your God. He made you, gave you life, loves you, hears your prayers, and wants you to live with Him in heaven for an eternity. Now you can learn all about Him in the Bible. He gave us this precious book to answer our most important questions of life. It's the only book that will tell you where we came from, why we're here, and what will happen to us after we die.

Now to enter into a spiritual relationship with the Lord, believe in Him with all your heart, turn away from sin and follow His Word, confess the name of Jesus as the Son of God, and out of love be baptized into Christ. Now when you're immersed into Christ, you're baptized into His death. At that time the Lord will wash away your sins by His blood (Acts 22 and verse 16) and He will add you to His church. Now nothing you can do is more important than getting into a right relationship with the One who created you. We hope you'll do that today, and let us know about it.

Well we hope that today's study of God's Word and God's creation has blessed you. If you want a free printed copy, or CD of this message, "Designed by God," then mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to [searchtv@searchtv.org](mailto:searchtv@searchtv.org).

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