

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 2

THE CHARACTER OF CHRIST OUR CREATOR

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 (Romans 1:20 NASB).

Like a town crier proclaiming royal edicts in a bygone age, all nature shouts with one voice, "Hear ye, hear ye!" But what does it want us to hear? The stars above and the creatures here below call together, in an



attempt to arouse the world to the glory of God. Creation leads us out of our slumber and into a sweet worship of the fearfully great and wonderful Creator, our Lord Jesus Christ!

The things of nature are "color illustrations" of God's "autobiography," the Bible. The vast cosmos serves His Word by teaching us about our invisible Creator—Jesus Christ—through Whom all things were made (Hebrews 1:2). God is worshiped by His creation (Psalm 96:9-13). And all these truths about our Lord—found in Scripture and in nature—"paint a portrait" on the canvas of our hearts, so that we might join in creation's adoration of Christ.

What truth does the universe proclaim about the Maker of all things? Let's look and see:

Christ Is Wise

Chief among God's attributes revealed in creation is His wisdom. For instance, how does Jesus turn a ray of sunlight into an eagle? Sunshine into an eagle?! Chlorophyll inside the cells of pond algae captures light and stores its energy in sugar molecules. Sugar becomes food for microscopic animals that are then consumed by larger pond creatures. These, in turn, are eaten by fish, and the fish become nourishment for bald eagles. Scientists call this transfer of energy a "food chain"—an exceedingly complex sequence of events that gives us a peek at just how smart our God is (Romans 11:33)!



God Is Holy

The insect to the left is a type of praying mantis created by Christ. As with most bugs, it has a very strange appearance. God tells us plainly that "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways" (Isaiah 55:8). Nature gives us a glimpse at our Creator's holiness—God is so very different than and set apart from His creation. Our Lord designed a million species of insects to help people understand just how alien He is compared to us (or how alien we are to our holy God).

Jesus Is Beautiful

The veil nebula, right, showcases the remains of a supernova—the colossal explosion of a single star. Only God can create such loveliness out of chaos. Every star and galaxy in the heavens heralds Christ's infinitely great beauty (Job 38:31; Psalm 19:1).



Sleeping toucan

The Lord Is Faithful

All creatures sleep, some more than others. A bat spends 20 hours a day resting, while a giraffe dozes only three. Sleep places us at risk, because we are vulnerable to attack from others. Jesus designed every living thing to depend on Him in this way. Sleep is a natural expression of praise toward its Creator (Psalm 3:3-6; 145:13b-17). When the eyes of a child or a toucan close to rest, they bow in worship before God their Maker.

Our Creator Is Powerful

The Bible commands all people: "Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these?" The universe contains at least 100 billion galaxies each with an average of 100 billion stars. "Because of [God's] great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing" (Isaiah 40:26). The incredible power needed to hold the cosmos together boggles the mind. Yet our Creator Christ Jesus does it with ease!



50 thousand light years across and 28 million light years from Earth

Christ Is Terrifying

Wasps have been called nasty, testy, cantankerous, cross, quick-tempered, and petulant. But they're really none of these. Wasps are a living symbol of Leviticus 10:1-3—they teach us that we must not "mess" with our holy God (Hebrews 10:31; Revelation 19:11-21)!





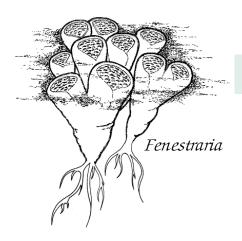
God Is Good

Millions of meteors plunge into Earth's atmosphere every day as "shooting stars." Most are pieces of rock broken free from comets. This amounts to tons of stone falling on us daily! The Earth frequently passes through cometary debris while orbiting the Sun. In His goodness, God uses the friction between air and meteors to burn up this rocky debris as it descends, protecting us. "I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living" (Psalm 27:13).

He Is Sovereign

Now why did God create such an ugly fish? The blobfish is so bizarre in appearance that most people find it disgusting! Essentially a gelatinous mass, its body possesses very few muscles. Blobfish live in deep ocean water off the coast of Tasmania and mainland Australia. We can only guess as to our Creator's motives, but one thing is certain—Jesus fashioned this animal exactly the way He wanted to—Christ is Sovereign. And whether or not we take pleasure in this fish, God does because it displays His glory (Psalm 104:31). The blobfish accomplishes the purpose for which He designed it.





Jesus Protects

Fenestraria (known as "baby toes") is a cactus-like plant that avoids the searing desert heat in a very unique way. The Lord buries each of its thick, finger-like leaves underground in the cooler soil, so that only the crown is exposed to the sun. The top parts of these leaves contain clear crystals, creating windows that allow light into the buried barrel portions of the plant. In this way, Fenestraria is exposed to enough light to survive, yet the most intense rays of the sun are prevented from cooking it.



Christ Is Fearsome

A Puritan pastor named
Jeremiah Burroughs once wrote:
"Every creature cries out unto us,
'Oh, will you not fear that God
who has made me!"

(Gospel Fear, 1649).

Are we listening?

Jesus Is So Sweet

And speaking of dangerous animals, more people are killed by hippos in Africa each year than by lions. Hippos are especially deadly if you get between a mother and her baby. But like most young animals that Jesus sweetly created, the tiny hippopotamus—with its black-button eyes, wiggling ears, and utter dependence upon Mom—communicates a special delightfulness that only God could author.



Neuron (a single brain cell)



God Does the Impossible

The "circuitry" of our brains is unbelievably complex and its chemistry is constantly changing—this allows us to learn. As you read this, your brain is adapting to the information. That's like a computer which continuously alters it own programming! How does Jesus create such an incredible network of 100 billion neurons? He is the God of the impossible.

He is Lord of Life

Christ placed geysers, called hydrothermal vents, deep within the sea. Scalding water gushes violently upward from the tops of these vents at the bottom of the ocean. Some also spew forth large amounts of caustic sulfur (known as "black smokers"). Despite eternal darkness, crushing ocean depths, water hot enough to melt lead (750° F or 400° C), and poisonous chemicals, living things—such as the beautiful giant red tube worm—thrive in this alien world!

"God...gives life to everything" (1 Timothy 6:13).

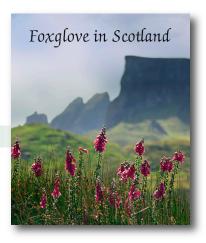


Black smoker



Christ Has Compassion

The wildflower on the right is foxglove (*Digitalis* purpurea). Jesus originally sowed this showy plant in Europe; it now adorns many gardens worldwide with its bright pink and purple. God also employs this plant to demonstrate His great mercy (Psalm 145:9). This flower contains digoxin, a medicine used widely by doctors to treat people suffering from heart disease.





God Is Ever Joyful

Christ created 20 thousand different kinds of butterflies. Why so many? His is an exuberant joy that knows no bounds. And, as with so many of His creatures, God's happiness is wonderfully revealed to us in the abundant artistry of His creations. "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth..." (Psalm 98:4).

Christ Is Our Rock

The hardest mineral in the world is the diamond. Formed by pressures approaching one million pounds per square inch (69 thousand times normal atmospheric pressure) and temperatures exceeding 1,800° F (1,000° C), God mysteriously transforms black carbon into rare crystal-clear gemstones. Yet, the One who crafts diamonds is infinitely more valuable (Matthew 13:44-46).





He Is a Jealous God

God lavishes us with many gifts to enjoy—family, friends, and flowers, sunsets, songs, and snowflakes. Yet, none of these last. At best, a friendship endures for a lifetime...but Christ's glory shines forever! He is a jealous God, putting limits on our earthly delights in order to show us that He is our Eternal Joy. Snowflakes glimmer with Christ's beauty because He made them. They also melt in our hands for a reason—Jesus is jealous for our hearts' devotion and desires that we see His loveliness above all other beauty (Psalm 27:4).

God Is Love

God is love (1 John 4:8). Nature proclaims this truth with a clear, sweet voice. We all have sinned (Romans 3:23), however, and every corner of creation has been seriously affected by our wickedness (Romans 8:20). The very fact that we exist demonstrates God's love. After all, He could have rightly destroyed the universe the moment Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden. But someday soon, Christ will dismantle His creation (2 Peter 3:10). And Jesus alone can save us from the extinction to come—but He offers us more!

"Oh, Father in Heaven, I confess that I have lived my life in rebellion against You, and this is sin. Please forgive me through Your Son, Jesus Christ—through His death on a cross. Jesus, I turn away from my sins and look to you as my only hope. I embrace You as my all-powerful God, my sweet Savior, and my Indestructible Life. Show me how to live the way You want me to live, and allow me to see and hear Your praises throughout the universe! In Your name, Lord Jesus Christ, I pray. Amen."

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Jesus Is the Prince of Peace

God is dangerous—He must destroy sin and all that has been stained by it! But we can have perfect peace with Him forever.

We have offended God, and Christ died on a cross that our offenses might be forgiven. Please believe this! But there's much more.

God can give you a love for His Son Jesus, who, by rising from the dead, showed Himself to be better than life itself. God can give you a love for His glory and His flawless character that shine in Christ.

Jesus doesn't just save sinners from Hell, He also carries them to Heaven so that they may behold His Father's character in Himself, producing an indescribable joy in His people.

The beauty, delight, wonder, terror, comfort, and peace we find in nature are dim reflections of our Creator's glorious nature. And His love allows us to safely see it. Jesus didn't create the universe to make us feel important or exalt anything in creation. He created it for one reason—His glory.

God is incredibly loving and wants to share with us a delight in His glory (Psalm 37:4). If He is moving in your heart to desire this, please obey His Spirit as He turns you from your sins, and causes you to believe that *Christ Jesus is the only way to peace with God*.

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