

# CREATOR

VOLUME 5

NUMBER 2

## “BE STILL”

*Psaln 46:10*

### Part 1

How can such a small creature possibly foresee the terror that will soon invade her home? . . . Her meadow will shortly become the arena of a monumental struggle between men. Yet, she must remain focused and undistracted, obediently performing the work God has given her. You see, Christ Jesus has ordained her kind to demonstrate His holiness in a very special way!

She is a honeybee, marvelously designed and beautifully made by her Creator. She and her sisters were born earlier in spring, and their lives are now occupied with building a hive, raising young, and storing food. She has also become an unlikely ambassador for Christ. Will the approaching strangers take time to recognize the engravings of their Creator’s holy character on her being? Will they pause long enough to consider how they too might reflect the holiness of the Almighty, thus averting a battle?

. . .

In what ways does an insect bring glory to our holy God? Honeybees are so typical

of insects that they can be considered an insect archetype (AR - keh - type). This simply means that bees reveal the typical characteristics Christ built into all insects. For example, insects—like the honeybee—are composed of three body parts: *head*, *thorax* (chest), and *abdomen*. In contrast, spiders—which are not insects—possess two body parts: head and cephalothorax.

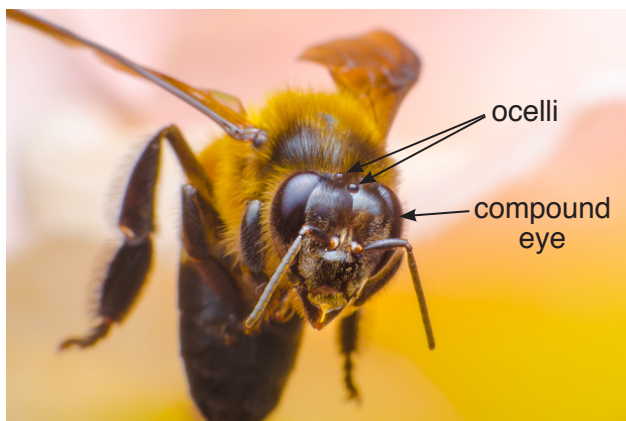
Another characteristic common to all insects is the number of legs attached to their thorax. The God of life gave people two legs. Spiders, on the other hand, have eight, as do mites and ticks. Lobsters have ten legs, and millipedes, a hundred or more. But insects have six and always six.



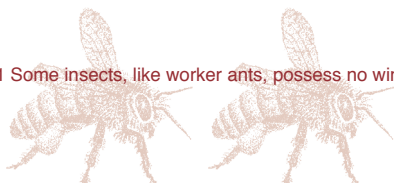
Our Lord Jesus also fastened wings to the thorax of many insects.<sup>1</sup> In fact, insects, birds, and bats are the only animals that can truly fly. Most flying insects, such as the honeybee, have two pairs of wings, for a total of four. Flies, gnats, and mosquitoes, however, have one pair of wings and are in a group of insects known as *Diptera*, which is a word derived from the Greek language meaning “two wings.”

Even if we disregard size, an insect can easily be distinguished from you and me because its skeleton is found on the outside of its body, while ours is on the inside. Our body is composed of bones covered by muscles and skin, whereas the skeleton of a bee is made of *chitin* (KYE - tin), a hard substance similar to our fingernails. Since the skeleton of an insect lies on the outside of its body, entomologists (people who study insects) refer to it as an *exoskeleton*. (Exo- is a Greek prefix meaning “outside.”)

Another thing that distinguishes insects from us is their eyes. A closeup of a honeybee’s face might send shivers down our spine, but it is a fascinating thing to study. A typical insect has two *compound eyes* and three simple eyes called *ocelli* (oh -



<sup>1</sup> Some insects, like worker ants, possess no wings.



SEL - eye). Compound eyes are composed of a highly complex and geometrically beautiful arrangement of thousands of individual lenses.

It is thought that insects perceive the world around them as a mosaic of different images. Recent research suggests that Christ



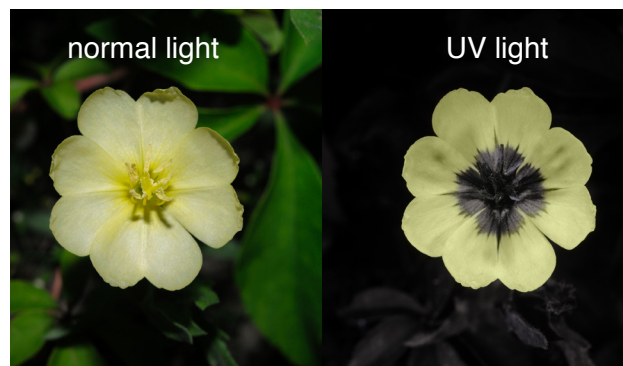
Insect Vision



Human Vision

coordinates the numerous lenses of the compound eye to form a single picture in the insect’s brain, not unlike the way we see. An insect though, probably sees an object with much less detail than we do.

It’s also suspected that insects detect a wide range of colors, including ultraviolet (UV) light,<sup>2</sup> wavelengths which people cannot see. This broadened view of the world helps



<sup>2</sup> For a further discussion of insect eyesight, see **CREATOR** Volume 20 Number 3.

honeybees, for instance, locate flowers. God paints many flowers with wonderful patterns visible only in ultraviolet light; thus, a honeybee sees shapes in a flower that we cannot see.

Despite their alien appearance, an insect's body has been constructed with many organs similar to our own. In addition to eyes, insects have a brain, a heart, a digestive tract, and kidneys of a sort.<sup>3</sup> Rather than lungs, an insect possesses tubes that traverse its abdomen, called *tracheae* (pronounced TRAY - key - ee), which allow air to pass in and out of its body. We could liken the tracheae of a honeybee to the intake manifold and exhaust pipe of a car.<sup>4</sup>

The fact that insects frighten us should give us pause to consider the holiness of their Maker. Why exactly are we so wary of them?



<sup>3</sup> The “kidneys” of an insect are known as the Malpighian tubules.

<sup>4</sup> For a further discussion of insect respiration, see **CREATOR** Volume 15 Number 4.

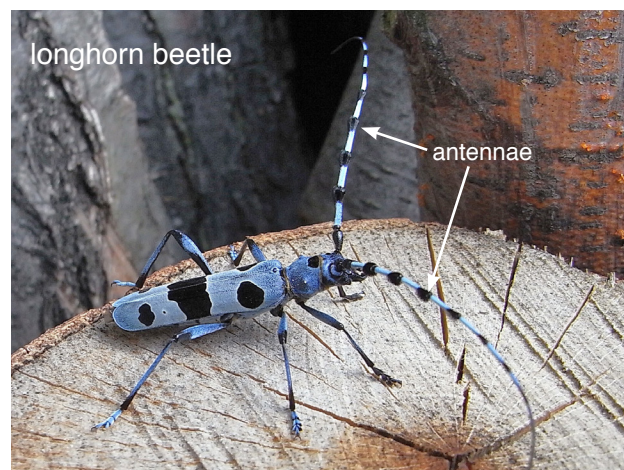
<sup>5</sup> Most insects have ears; honeybees are one of the few insects that are deaf.

Is it their small size, their ability to sting or bite, or is it their alien appearance, which we find terrifying? Take, for example, an insect's mouth—it has no teeth as we do. Rather, it has been given multiple interlocking parts for cutting, chewing, piercing, or sucking its food.

Most of us are aware that other countries have different dining customs than we do. Chopsticks may seem unusual to those living in Kenya, but no eating habits are more foreign than those of an insect! A closeup of a grasshopper's mouth can fascinate and frighten us at the same time. To some, their method of cutting up and chewing their food may even seem grotesque. We can thank our Lord Jesus for making insects so small, for their strange daily activities would unnerve us if bugs were the size of cars.

An insect, such as the common housefly, is able to taste things with its mouth. Many insects, like the fly, also taste food using their feet. God placed special hairs on the ends of a honeybee's legs to allow her to test the chemical composition of the nectar she gathers from flowers.

The honeybee has no ears or nose, which might seem a very great disadvantage.<sup>5</sup> Our Triune God, however, has given all insects two *antennae* (an - TEN - nee)—marvelous





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instruments of exploration and discovery. Each insect, using its antennae, can accurately sense its surroundings. With them, it feels in the dark, and detects odors and certain sounds. Christ also placed sensitive hairs on an insect's legs to help it detect vibrations in the air.<sup>6</sup>

A brief examination of insect design can also lead us to worship God as the great Architect, if we are willing to ponder His handiwork in these wonderful little creatures. But this takes a childlike heart and true humility (Matthew 18:1-4)! Since all creation tells of God's inventive genius (Psalm 148), what can we learn about Him by examining a honeybee, and how does she speak of His holiness?

As we have seen in the previous issues of **CREATOR**, God's holiness can be understood in two ways. The first is purity—God is unstained by sin. The other is His infinitely exalted and distinct character, which is foreign or alien to us. It is this second concept that predominates the biblical idea of holiness.

*No man has ever seen God,  
but God the One and Only (John 1:18).*

And the book of Revelation paints a startling divine portrait revealed by the Lamb of God:

*"Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth"  
(Revelation 5:6).*

The Lamb of God, however, is not some gigantic bug reigning in Heaven. In Scripture,



the number seven symbolizes the fullness or perfection of the Lord. So this reference to seven horns and seven eyes is not meant to picture Jesus as some deformed beast, but rather the holy and perfect God He is. Many people are naturally quite frightened by insects, but if they could peer into Christ's holy face they would be immensely more terrified by His piercing gaze.

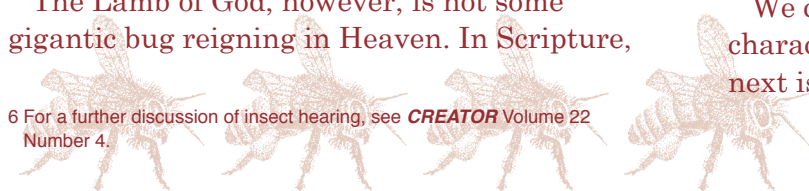
The honeybee has five eyes, which is three more than we have. Like their Creator, insects are quite foreign when compared to us. And in this way, they radiate God's holy character!

...

Our Heavenly Father clearly proclaims in Psalm 46 that His Son will be exalted among the nations and in the earth. It is, therefore, no accident that honeybees reside in this particular meadow; they were placed there to exalt the Lord God. But will the converging armies take notice? Will they obey the command of our Savior, "Seek, and you will find" (Matthew 7:7)? Will the soldiers stop and see God's holy character reflected in the smallest of His creatures and consider how they too can be holy like Him? Will the battle be thwarted? Time will tell.

We conclude our discussion of the holy character of God, as seen in nature, in the next issue of **CREATOR**: "BE STILL" Part 2.

<sup>6</sup> For a further discussion of insect hearing, see **CREATOR** Volume 22 Number 4.



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# HOME AT LAST

(A true story)

I felt a bit strange about driving nine miles to take a little bug back home. Last fall, I invaded his watery world to capture him—as well as his brothers and sisters—in order to populate an artificial pond at the HIS CREATION office. Now, seven months later, he was the lone survivor of twelve water striders.<sup>7</sup> I hesitated as I uncovered the top of the aquarium and asked myself, “Is it worth driving all the way over to the creek for one little insect?” Without knowing fully why, my heart said “Yes,” and so I went.

As I arrived at the park, I had second thoughts about releasing my six-legged friend because the weather was less than ideal. Doubts about his survival in captivity, however, propelled me to proceed with my plan to free him.

The sky was gray and the air was cool. Icy drizzle dampened my skin and the wind cut through my sweater. I walked southeast toward the creek—one-quarter-mile or so down a path in the woods. Trees were starting to show their green foliage and the smell of emerging plants was everywhere in the spring air.

Soon the bridge came into view. It was simple—fashioned from two seasoned logs laid side by side over the stream. I made my way to the creek and paused to examine its surroundings. It looked very similar to the fall scene in my mind, except greener, of course. Carefully opening the plastic container used to transport my companion of the past two seasons, I checked to evaluate his condition. No worse for wear, it appeared!

I dipped the bucket into the lively creek and allowed the container to fill gently with water. At first, my insect friend seemed hesitant to leave his makeshift home. I coaxed him a little, and moments later he was in the quieter waters near the edge of the stream. It took him no time to make his way into a protected patch of aquatic grass, and soon he disappeared from sight into his own little paradise.

“Is this how God sees me?” I thought. Some might say that I unnecessarily expended valuable time and energy on a bug, but at that precious moment of freedom I more fully realized the Lord Jesus’ love for me. He sacrificed so much to free me from sin and bring me home to Himself. The humbleness of His life far exceeds the brief humility I showed in caring for one of God’s little creatures.

Was it worth the bother to restore a single insect? Yes, it was! It brought to mind what my wife, Colleen, has often said to encourage me when I feel down: “Rick, do you know that if you were the only person who ever lived on earth, Jesus would have still come to save you?!”



<sup>7</sup> *Gerris remigis*



Carrying the empty bucket back to the car, my hands stung from the biting wind. “How much more did Christ’s hands sting from the nails?” I thought. “I’m just a man; He is God!” I’m glad I took the time to show kindness to a creature who will never remember my face. This simple act has left me with an impression of the infinitely greater love that God has for His people.

Do you want to experience the warmth of God’s gentle hands and the security of His eternal home in Paradise? It is necessary for you to recognize that you have lived your life isolated from Him—that you are a sinner. Christ Jesus, God’s Son, died on a cross so that the sins of those who believe in Him would be forgiven. He rose back to life and blazed a narrow path through Satan’s evil world to show us the way to eternal life. If you repent of your sins and believe in Christ, you, too, will have life everlasting. Christ is the only way to obtain it, however, so place your full trust in Him!

Jesus answered,  
“I am the way and the truth  
and the life.  
No one comes to the Father  
except through Me”  
(John 14:6).



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