

God's Design

We all know the first words of the Bible, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Initially, the earth was without form and darkness covered it. In six days, God put everything together, adding mankind on the sixth day. The Bible doesn't define days to be the 24 hours that we consider to be a day, but it does define the order of creation. It includes everything, and it was "good."

The subject of creation isn't in our everyday thoughts but it really hit home on a recent trip to five National Parks in the Western United States: Rocky Mountain, Dinosaur (National Monument), Grand Teton, Yellowstone, and Glacier national parks. Each one was uniquely different, and in its own way, gave a glimpse into understanding our world and the relationship of plants, animals and environment in each ecosystem. *But God made the earth by his power; he founded the world by his wisdom and stretched out the heavens by his understanding (Jeremiah 10:12).*

Majestic and spectacular geological features, such as mountains, vast canyons and rock formations came to be because of glaciers, earthquakes, volcanic activity, and natural forces pushing up from below the earth's surface. Other features are the result of wind and water erosion. The geysers of Yellowstone National Park are an example of nature continuing



its work today. The geology of our world has changed over time and will continue to change because of natural forces.



Scientists and park rangers told us how plants and animals have unique qualities to survive in the habitats of extreme environments. While we take relationships of plants with wildlife for granted at lower elevations it takes uniquely designed wild life to survive in extreme conditions. I found it amazing how some plants have an acid-like solution in their circulatory system that act like antifreeze to survive the tundra's

mountaintop winters. They become food for wildlife that have their own unique qualities that allow them to survive in their environments. It shows that God continues to provide for his creation. Science helps us understand the greatness of God's creation. God has blessed us with the ability to combine His wisdom with our growing understanding of his design.



The conclusion that comes to my mind is that God has created a wonderfully complex world. Even though the ecology changes over time, life adapts and lives on. Some, like dinosaurs, do not. We have a responsibility to preserve what we have. Genesis 2:15 and 1:26 tell us that God gave humans authority over the earth. Sometimes that doesn't work so well and we need to correct our actions. A great example is this: On our drives through Yellowstone National Park, we observed hundreds of Bison grazing together. Elk fed on meadow grasses right next to the road. Wildlife was plentiful, but it wasn't always that way. For years, mankind killed the bison for financial benefit. In 1902, Yellowstone Park management began an effort to protect the Bison. Once abundant, they had been reduced to two dozen by market hunters and poachers. Thanks to preservation efforts, today, the Bison are plentiful again. Think of what you can do to preserve the earth that God has provided us.



We get comfortable with life as we know it. Step out of your usual routine and view portions of God's creation that are not in your backyard. It will open your eyes and awaken your understanding of how great our God is. What we saw on our national parks tour didn't happen by accident. The creation of all we have is by divine plan. Appreciate God's design and His plan for the future. It is spectacular! It is beautiful! It is good.



The Bible Says: *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters (Genesis 1:1-2). The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it (Genesis 2:15).*

Question: What can you do to help preserve what God has created?

Prayer: Dear Lord. We applaud your creation with beauty and life that even

lives in fragile environments. You gave us this world to care for and pass on to future generations. We pray that we will do our part. Amen.