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CREATION WEEK: GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION

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Love can be defined as a feeling of warm personal attachment or deep affection as for a parent, child or friend.¹ Love can also be defined as the benevolent affection of God for His creatures or the reverent affection due from them to God.² This paper deals with the latter definition of love. Our love relationship with God was deeply established when God announced that He was creating man in His image. No other creature was created in the image of God "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness....." (Genesis 1:26).

God has created us in His image (Genesis 1:26), and at a time when we have gone astray, He has invited us to come and reason with Him (Isaiah 1:18), and He has called us as His sons and daughters (1 John 4:1). He is prepared to dialogue with us whenever we are in doubt of His very existence and concern for us. He says, "To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal? Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength not one of them is missing" (Isaiah 40:25-26).

The purpose of this paper is to show that God's creation had a purpose. The paper goes through God's six days of creation. It is evident that God's plan was intended to establish strong bonds of love to man.

God's Acts of Love in the First Day of Creation

On the first day of creation, God made a partition between darkness and light (Genesis 1:3-5). Visible light has radiant energy of wavelength of between 320 - 800 nanometers which is sensitive to our eyes and which enables us to see objects and therefore enable us to move confidently on land, sea and in air. "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble for he sees by this world's light." (John 11:9). Most of the work which we do is done at daytime and the discovery of fire and other types of artificial lights have extended our working hours in the dark. Animals which move at night are sensitive to the faint light produced by stars and other luminous bodies in the sky.

Darkness as created by God has a purpose. Most of creation rests at night. If it was not for the darkness we would be tempted to exhaust ourselves with work. Jesus speaks of working twelve hours of day-time and twelve hours of darkness for resting (John 11:9). The night hours also provide cooling time for the earth's surface temperatures to be bearable. Plants also respire at night to give oxygen needed by a number of living organisms.

God's Love in the Second Day of Creation

On the second day of creation, God created the expanse or atmosphere (Genesis 1:6-8). The atmosphere close to the earth is called the troposphere. Above the troposphere is the stratosphere, where the ozone layer is located. The function of the ozone layer is to protect the earth and its inhabitants from extreme harmful ultraviolet radiation. The ozone layer filters harmful ultraviolet radiation as it reversibly decomposes into oxygen. Excessive exposure to solar ultraviolet radiation can cause blisters and, in the long run, cancer of the skin. Water vapor found

in the atmosphere also absorbs the ferocious heat of the sun.

The atmosphere that God created on this second day of creation is also the home of the air we breathe. The major constituents of air are oxygen and nitrogen gases. Oxygen is present to the tune of 21%, while nitrogen dilutes oxygen and forms 78% of the air mixture. Despite the movement and rotation of the earth and the winds which blow across the surface of the earth, God has uniquely maintained the ratio of oxygen and nitrogen constant. If the oxygen level was to rise to 25%, spontaneous fires would break out and consume the earth, and if the level would fall to 15%, many life-forms which depend on oxygen for survival would suffocate.³ Therefore, for oxygen to remain at 21% of the atmospheric air composition during all these six thousand years since God created the earth is evidence that random processes advocated by evolutionists are questionable.

The air over the ages has powered strong ships and continues in many parts of the world to move sail boats. Windmills have been used over the ages in many countries to grind grains. Wind driven water pumps are still used to this very day. There are quite a number of wind driven electrical generators throughout the world and many countries are considering tapping wind energy to generate electricity.

Air is the source of oxygen needed by all living organisms. Anything that is considered to have life whether a small unicellular organism or a multicellular organism needs oxygen to mediate in all energy processes. It is not by accident that this element is the only one capable of undergoing reduction to form another useful product - that is water. Because oxygen is slightly soluble in water at temperatures found in water, creatures which live in water are accessible to it making life for water creatures possible.

Air is light, and because it is not rigid since the particles in air are far apart from one another, it provides cushioning and buoyancy when introduced in tires, and since it is cheap, it is used to inflate automobile tires, and hence automobile industry and transport heavily rely on air.

The birds of the air, winged plant seeds, aircraft and light gas balloons, paratroopers and sky divers float on air, and hence air is a medium that makes air transport possible.

Communication by sound is afforded by the presence of air. Had the expanse been a vacuum, it would have been impossible to communicate by sound energy here near the earth.

Clouds in the form of water vapor float on air. Clouds are important in the hydrological cycle, and air provides the medium in which they can be located before they yield their contents as rainfall.

Also present in the expanse close to the earth are other gases such as carbon dioxide needed by plants to make carbohydrates, and also to retain solar heat and to keep the earth warm. The fear now is the emission of much of it in our atmosphere to the extent that it will absorb an increased quantity of heat that will cause global warming, something that was not intended by God. The expanse is also vast and provides a home for all the planets, stars, moons, and galaxies. All the stars, planets and galaxies move in perfect collisionless paths something that is hard for man to comprehend.

God's Love in the Third Day of Creation

On the third day of creation God gathered the waters into one place to make seas and for the dry land to appear (Genesis 1:9-10). On this third day God also created vegetation, seed - and fruit-bearing plants and trees (Genesis 1:11-13). Clearly on this third day, God was preparing a home for humans. He prepared for us a firm ground to live upon, to walk on, travel on, to do our

activities without being threatened by water. In His design He created us as terrestrial creatures and provided us with the anatomy and physiology to occupy the land.

The land has furnished us with building materials such as stone, raw materials for making mortar, bricks, and for storing water. The land also supports trees and vegetation which we constantly need.

Of the minerals, He has given us structural metals such as iron, cobalt, manganese, nickel, aluminum, copper, lead, tin, zinc. Decorative metals such as chrome, gold, and silver have also been implanted in the earth by God for us. Protective metals such as zinc against iron corrosion, magnesium against the corrosion of other metals have also been provided. Still other metals in the form of oxides function as pigments to color our world. Some of these metal oxides used as pigments include: zinc oxides, titanium oxides, and iron oxides, to mention only a few. Still other metals which are responsive to temperature changes such as mercury are used in thermometers throughout our modern civilization. In biological systems, a metal such as iron is uniquely designed by God to do specific tasks which no other metal can do.

Our modern civilization could not have been possible without the presence of iron to make automobiles, giant sea vessels, trains, building bridges, and other steel structures. Iron is also ferromagnetic, and from it we have been able to construct useful electromagnets.

Why metals should differ from one another is something that only God knows. Although copper and aluminum, for example are not ferromagnetic, they conduct heat and electricity much better than iron. Silver is a good conductor of electricity, and gold is resistant to corrosion. There must be a designer who ordained such behavior in metals; this designer knew that we would need all these materials.

Also interesting is the ability of certain metals, such as zinc and lead, to produce electrical energy when treated by acids.

The land also is the home of our forests, grasslands, rivers and lakes. The forests provide us with food, shade, and shelter for wild animals, insects and birds. Furthermore, forests also help to lower the temperature of the earth and also protect our rain catchment areas from drying out. Certainly these things did not happen accidentally.

From the very beginning God provided each creature with its own vegetation to feed-on and provided the necessary anatomy and physiology to suit each case. Human beings were given teeth to chew the food, a tongue to turn and mix the food, a stomach to store the food and an alimentary canal to absorb food into the body system. Of the fruits and grains that man was given to eat (Genesis 1:29) all these contain starch which is digestible to man. To grass eating animals God provided special organisms within their digestive systems which could breakdown cellulosic nutrients for food. Man cannot eat a cellulosic diet. He does not have the enzymes to break it. Both cellulose and starch are polymers of glucose. The subtle structural difference between cellulose and starch determine which one of them will be food for grass eating animals and which one will be food for man. In cellulose glucose units are linked through glycosidic β 1 - 4 linkages while in starch glucose units are linked through glycosidic α 1 - 4 - linkages. These fine subtle molecular differences between cellulose and starch are discriminated by digestive enzymes of man and ruminants. For each organism God provided specific enzymes to cope with the prescribed diet. Although several years have rolled by, the diet of man has remained the same and grass eating animals are still restricted to their diet as God commanded.

The land is also a dynamic place. From it God created man and the animals (Genesis 1:24-

26; Genesis 2:7) and on it man and animals found a place to live and multiply and fill it as God commanded (Genesis 1:28). God created living creatures from abundant and inexpensive elements. Living organisms are composed mainly of five major elements: carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and phosphorus. The other elements, such as calcium, iron, zinc, copper, sulfur, and magnesium, are present in very small quantities. Had living creatures been formed from expensive and rare metals such as gold and other precious metals and rare gases, it would have been impossible to reproduce and fill the earth.

The seas or oceans, lakes and rivers were also formed on the third day. These water bodies form a great gift to man. The oceans play a major role in the hydrological cycle. Water evaporating from the oceans rises up to make clouds that eventually bring about precipitation on the land. This precipitation brings moisture to feed land plants, and water to quench the thirst of animals and humans. The seas greatly modify the temperatures of the continents. Had it not been for the seas, oceans and lakes, the temperatures of the land would be unbearable. Without oceans, temperatures would either be too cold or too hot at night and during the day respectively. Water is one of the substances with a very high specific heat and can be able to retain much of the heat striking it and also lose it slowly over a period of time. In hospitals hot water bottles are used specifically because of the unique properties of water to retain and lose heat gradually.

The seas and oceans are still useful to man for transport and for sports. Seas and oceans are sources of food, of fish, of sea animals, of sea weeds, of salts and other elements such as bromine and magnesium. Therefore God had a purpose in creating the oceans. Seventy-five percent of the earth's surface is covered with water. If we consider that 75% of our bodies are made up of water, one sees why there had to be a large proportion of water on the earth's surface

to support life on earth.

Without water there is no life. Although water as a molecule has a mass of 18 atomic mass units, it has unique properties such as melting point and boiling point than other compounds of similar mass. Water can exist in three stable phases: gaseous, liquid, and solid and each one of them is important for the sustenance of life on earth. In the gaseous form water can be transported in air to form clouds. The vapor form of water can also be used to provide mechanical energy in steam engines. The liquid form is what we drink, wash our bodies, our clothes, irrigate our fields, and move upon in ships. In the solid form we skate on it, and it provides shelter for deep-sea organisms from extreme cold temperatures. Here again we see the hand of God in providing a suitable environment for His created creatures.

Water is a good solvent for nutrients and wastes of living organisms. Enzymes of living organisms only work in a solution of water where most of them are found soluble. Surprisingly, although water is a wonderful commodity, it is abundant and cheap. How wonderful is God's benevolence!

God's Love as Seen on the Fourth Day of Creation

On the fourth day of creation, God created the sun, the moon and the stars. The sun is undoubtedly the powerhouse of the earth. How the sun keeps on converting unlimited supply of hydrogen to helium and in the process provide light and heat for years without running out of fuel is something that we cannot comprehend easily.

Light, especially from the sun provides a time framework for man and other creatures to know when to rest, when to feed and when to work. "The moon marks off the

seasons and the sun knows when to go down. You bring darkness, it becomes night and all the beasts of the forest prowl. The lions roar for their prey and seek their food from God. The sun rises and they steal away; they return and lie down in their dens. Then man goes out to work, to his labor until evening” (Psalm 104:19-23).

The seasons which help man to know when to plant, and when to harvest come about as a result of the earth’s position in its yearly journey around the sun and its tilted rotation on its axis towards the sun. The relationship between our major light source, the sun and our earth has been constant, reliable and exacting. “As long as the earth endures, seed time and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease” (Genesis 8:22). God has put enough fuel in light source objects until when His purpose is fulfilled. No one can speculate on how much fuel in the sun has been used and how much is left.

Out of His own love towards us, God’s light from the sun is free; it is clean and there is enough of it for us all. He (God) has given us the ingenuity to store it in chemical cells and later use it to light our homes. Solar energy can also be converted to power our man made machines and other objects. Most important of all the sun powers plants through a process called photosynthesis to make food for us and for our livestock. He makes grass grow for the cattle and plants for man to cultivate bringing forth food from the earth” (Psalm 104:10). Some of the food made by plants is used by themselves as raw materials to grown into large trees for us to harvest as timber, fuel, flowers, medicines, perfumes, rubber latex, dyes and insecticides to mention but a few. Large trees provide shade for man and animals and the grass and shrubs keep the soil from erosion, from hardening and from losing moisture.

God did not forget that we needed warmth, hence He gave us the sun to provide us with

radiant heat energy and put in place a regulating mechanism with which that heat could be accommodated. In contrast to the other planets such as Mercury and Venus which have average day-time temperatures of 350°C and 480°C respectively and night time temperatures of -170°C and -330°C respectively our planet Earth was favored by God to have an average surface temperature of 22°C at all times.⁴ The planet Mars which is close to us has an average temperature of -23°C, which is hostile for living things.

As if that is not enough God also provided solar radiation in the ultraviolet range of 290-320 nanometers to enable man and other vertebrates to synthesize vitamin D in their skins. Vitamin D is essential for maintaining optimum levels of calcium needed for bone formation in man and in all other vertebrates.⁵

All revolving planets and stars and galaxies are kept in their courses and avoid crushing or colliding with one another by the perfect balanced forces of gravitation and the centrifugal forces. All things are held together by divine forces (Colossians 1:15). Venus, a terrestrial planet close to the earth, is as hot as boiling lead, and her clouds can rain sulfuric acid.⁶ Mars, which was previously thought to have life on it, is devoid of it. The vacuum that separates the stars is cold, and the crushing pressures of white dwarfs or black holes (also known as neutrons stars) is also hostile.⁷ The friendly acts of God of planting man on planet Earth confirm that He planned things for us.⁸

The universe is rightly balanced between expansion and an inward gravitational compaction. Radiotelescope studies do indeed predict that some stars are moving from us (a red shift), but there is also a gravitational force which balances the outward expansion.⁹ The expansion seems to play a role in preventing the universe from crushing back on itself. The

gravitational force is necessary to keep matter collect into galaxies, as opposed to dispersing into gases.⁹ The ratio between the universe's actual density and the so-called critical density is called Omega. This ratio has been observed to be constant.⁹

The four fundamental forces seen in nature, namely, gravity, electromagnetism, strong and weak nuclear forces, are perfectly balanced.⁹ If any one of these forces would attain a different value, life on earth could not be possible.¹⁰ Furthermore, if the strong nuclear force were slightly weaker, multiproton nuclei would not hold together. Hydrogen would be the only element in the universe.¹¹ On the other hand, if the strong nuclear forces would increase slightly, all the primordial hydrogen would be synthesized into helium early in the history of the universe. Without hydrogen the stars could never begin to shine.¹²

The weak interaction force in hydrogen allows it to burn slowly and at a steady state. If this force would be interrupted to be either too weak or slightly stronger, any form of life dependent on sun-like stars would be in jeopardy.

In every star there are two forces operating together: the gravitational force holds the star together, and the electromagnetic force allows a star to radiate energy. These forces balance one another and allow a star to operate like our sun. If these forces are out of balance, a star would either become a red giant or a blue dwarf making them unable to sustain life on planets.¹³ Calculations show that if the strength of this gravitational force were altered by a mere part in 10^{40} , we would have a world in which all stars would be either red dwarfs or blue giants, and stars like our sun would not exist¹⁴.

It turns out that "constants of nature" such as the strength of gravity have exactly the values that allow stars and planets to form. The universe, it seems, is fine-tuned to let life exist,¹⁵

and science is unable to give answers to these facts.¹⁶

That the universe is fine-tuned and is not chaotic is evident from entropy considerations. Entropy can be defined as a measure of disorderliness or the amount of disordered energy in a system. Entropy stipulates that systems are moving towards equilibrium. If systems all move towards equilibrium, eventually there will be no energy to do work. The Big-Bang theory cannot explain why and how the universe began with a highly ordered system and is now drifting towards disorder. Science has brought us no further on this question than when Isaac Newton asked, “Whence arises all that order and beauty we see in the world?”¹⁷

God’s Love as Shown on the Fifth Day of Creation

On the fifth day God created all living things found in the water and the birds in the air (Genesis 1:20-21). The number of organisms found in the waters of the earth are numerous (Psalm 104: 25). There we find giant blue whales weighing almost 100 tons and tiny planktons. We find beautiful fish decorated in all kinds of patterns and colors and we find pearls left behind by dead creatures.

For each living organism found in the sea God provided it with the means to move and feed. He provided gills to fish to breath with and made the seas and lakes to aerate themselves through the water turbulence brought about by gentle and strong water waves.

Although the seas are frightening and the deep waters have formidable pressures, yet the little we know about water creatures is that they were created for our enjoyment. Fish is a major source of protein to many inhabitants of this earth. The bones of fish are easy to grind to form ingredients in the process of making animal feeds.

The birds of the air have also fascinated man. Some birds are terrestrial like the chicken, the turkey and the ostrich. The majority fly in air while some are classified as marine birds. There is still much more to learn from birds. One thing we know is that birds can fly long distances on very little fuel of their bodies. They know when to migrate and the time to return to their usual abode (Jeremiah 8:7). Their system of breathing is very complex and different from other vertebrates and there is still more to learn about the system.¹⁸

The ability of birds to fly in air was instrumental in designing aircraft. The large wings and the shape of the fuselage in aircrafts was modeled after the birds of the air. Had it not been for the existence birds of the air we would never had the imagination and inspiration to build air vessels which would be airborne against gravity for hours and over long distances. When man observed carefully how birds fly, how they land and turn direction in mid-air and how they glide man got the initiative to copy what the Master Creator had done.

To-day man has built huge aircrafts weighing several tons and capable of carrying hundreds of passengers and tons of cargo against the forces of gravity. Worldwide air transport now carries many passengers from one city to another, from one country to another and from one continent to another. The volume of goods and passengers transported by air is on the increase.

Some birds can be eaten as food for man. Ancient Israel was fed with protein of birds during Moses's time (Exodus 16:13). The domestic chicken is a bird which forms an important diet to man. Not only is its flesh eaten but its eggs as well. Large birds like the turkey and ostrich provide sufficient quantities of very popular meat. Large farms of ostriches will provide eggs to feed many in future. Feathers of birds are not only decorative but can also be used for cushions and pillows.

God's Love as Shown on the Sixth Day of Creation

On the sixth day God created living creatures of the land: livestock, creatures that move along the ground and wild animals each according to its kind. Of the wild animals they were created according to their kind. Of the livestock these also were made according to their kind. Of the livestock which we are familiar with include: cattle, sheep, goats, donkeys, horses, camels, and llama. Livestock has been closely associated with man since creation time. The functions of livestock became obvious after the Fall and to this day we can appreciate God's action of designating certain animals to be livestock. Why certain few animals should be picked from the rest to be domesticated livestock and for others to be impossible to tame is God's design. A small child can lead a cow weighing 300 - 400 kg to pasture, to its stable and to be milked without any problem, but a rat small as it is cannot be tamed or controlled.

Of the animals which were designated as wild, they are still wild up to this very day. Attempts to domesticate some wild animals has met very little success. Only the elephant of India has been used for transport purposes and other chores but of the rest of the wild animals they have remained wild up to this very day. The instincts which make certain animals behave as domestic or livestock and others behave as wild animals were put in place by God and did not arise by chance.

At creation time God provided food for animals. Genesis 1:30 shows clearly that the original food of all animals at creation time was the green plant.

God's purpose of creating terrestrial animals was an act of love to man. The spectacle of seeing teeming wild animals feed, walk, and reproduce brings joy and amazement to man and constitutes educative lessons to generations of mankind. People pay thousands of money to visit

zoos and game parks to see God's creation. The Lord Himself declared that what He had created was good (Genesis 1:31). Even to-day when we see a lion, a leopard, a cheetah, an elephant, a rhino, a hippopotamus, a zebra, a giraffe, a buffalo to mention but a few animals, we concur with the statement that what God had created is indeed very good. Some countries have used images of certain animals as emblems or symbols of their countries presumably in admiration of God's creation.

By the sixth day God had prepared for man a beautiful home. There was the well watered garden of Eden (Genesis 2:10). All kinds of trees were found in the garden (Genesis 2:9). The trees were beautiful, pleasing to the eye and good for food (Genesis 2:9). There was also gold and other precious stones (Genesis 2:12) and there were also aromatic resins as perfumes (Genesis 2:12). To check idleness God gave man work to do - to care for the garden that He had given him (Genesis 2:15). He also gave him a challenge of exercise restraint and obedience to the Creator by asking him to keep away from the tree of knowledge and evil.

As for man himself, he is fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14). Man was the climax of God's creation. "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness and let them rule over the fish of the sea, and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth and over all the creatures that move along the ground" (Genesis 1:26). Thus man was extremely favored as he was bestowed with knowledge. In the first act of exercising his intellectual power he was invited to name the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Whatever man called each living creature that was its name (Genesis 2:19-20).

The spectacular advances that man has made in engineering, in technology, in medicine, in science and in communication confirm God's benevolent privilege that he should be

knowledgeable in all things. No other created creature has attained the kind of sophistication that man now has.

Studies¹⁹ have shown that DNA sequences in man and in one of the closest primate, the chimpanzee, genomes show very little difference. Human and chimpanzee DNA base sequence differ on the average at one base per one hundred bases. The morphological differences and intellectual differences between man and chimpanzee cannot be explained entirely on just DNA base differences. There is more to it than just DNA structures that make man different from other creatures. Although there is now excitement that DNA sequences in the human genome has been worked out²⁰ we are nowhere closer to understanding the secret of what makes man what he is. Man is highly intelligent than all created creatures and has in many ways used intelligence to subdue the earth (Genesis 1:28).

Man's ability to communicate by the spoken word; by a sign language; by writing and now by the electronic media places us far ahead of other creatures intellectually. Our highly developed visual ability; our possession of highly manipulative hands; our bipedal stance and our being highly social creatures confirm that God created us as rulers of this earth. No wonder has one remarked²¹ "Man may be regarded as the centre of the world if man were taken away from the world, the rest would seem to be all astray, without aim or purpose leading to nothing the whole world works together in the service of man in so much that all things seem to be going about man's business and not their own."

God's Love to Man by setting aside the Seventh-Day as the Sabbath

God set aside the seventh-day of creation week as the day he rested from all what He had

done one the preceding six days (Genesis 2:2). God rested not because he was tired but because he wanted to punctuate His creative activities with a special day to remember those activities. There was no fatigue on God's part to create, because He spoke and it came to be; he commanded and it stood firm (Psalm 33:9) therefore His setting aside a day to rest had implications involving man. The other creatures; beasts of the field, livestock, plants, creatures in the air and in the seas do not know the Sabbath or a day of rest. That is why Jesus declared that the Sabbath was made for man and it is up to man to know the meaning of Sabbath and what to do with it.

Sabbath day is a day to rest from all our daily work "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy" (Exodus 20:8-11).

In keeping a day holy we devote our thoughts and interests to God and give praises to Him and adoration for having placed us on this earth and given us the entire cration to rule and subdue it.

The Sabbath is a lasting covenant to remind us of our special relationship with God as our creator, our trust, our provider and sustainer of our lives. "You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the Lord, who makes you holy" (Exodus 31:13).

In observing the Sabbath, we are to worship God. At Jesus's time places of worship were the synagogues and there, worship services were conducted on Sabbaths. Jesus made a custom of attending worship services on Sabbath (Luke 4:16).

Sabbaths are days of delight and rejoicing and because God declared them holy they

sanctify us. Hence the setting aside of a Sabbath day was an act of love on us by God.

Summary

Instead of man giving glory to God, he has become conceited and Satan is pleading with him to deny God.

Despite our rebellion, God is pleading with us in love to turn to Him. The prophet Isaiah writes:

“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you! See I have engraved your name on the palms of my hands” (Isaiah 49:13, 15, 16).

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