

The Purpose of Creation



One of the most important Creation-related verses in the Bible is Romans 1:20. In this verse, we find that one of the reasons God created the world was to testify of Himself.

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. Romans 1:20 (NIV)

This verse indicates that God's invisible attributes, including His eternal power and divinity, are all revealed through His Creation, and have been since the day the earth was created. According to the Word of God, Creation reveals everything all people need to know about Him, eliminating any potential excuse for them to live apart from Him.



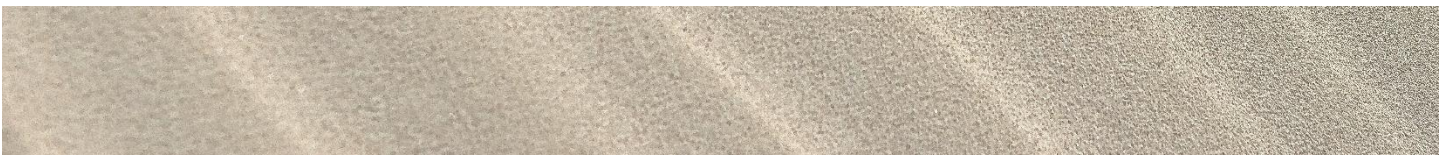


So, why would the literal Master of the Universe go to so much trouble to leave evidence of Himself in everything that He made? The answer is simple. Creation reveals God's amazing love for us and His desire to have a personal relationship with each of us. My personal belief is that this world is the first of two love letters that God has given us with the second one, of course, being the Word of God. Our God, who spoke the entire Universe into being, created all that we see so that we can have a relationship with Him. God's love for us, as revealed through Creation, is deeply personal and intimate. In Psalm 139, King David describes the Lord's vast and intricate knowledge of every one of His children. He writes that the Lord formed us in our Mother's womb and knows the number and substance of our days before we were even born. But rather than describing a cold and distant relationship that might be expected between an Engineer and His created work, this chapter describes the love and fondness between a Father and His children.

How precious also are Your thoughts to me, O God! How great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they would be more in number than the sand."

Psalm 139:17-18b (NKJV)

According to the Bible, our Father thinks of us more often than the grains of sand in all the beaches of the world. Even more importantly, His great and amazing love is displayed freely through His Creation!



One of the ways that I have seen the Lord display His love is by interacting with His people on a personal level through His Creation. Since the Lord knows each of us intimately, He knows exactly what will bring us the greatest enjoyment in His Creation. I have seen the Lord frequently modify the wildlife we see during Saltwater Studies field trips to respond to the likes and interests of those attending. Although I may return to the same beach numerous times, each time, I know that we are going to see something different as the Lord takes the opportunity to interact personally with my students and their parents. He loves to bless His children in this way.

One field trip stands out in my mind because of the unique circumstances. I had scheduled a field trip to Marco Island on the west coast of Florida to collect sea shells and had several students signed up to attend. Unfortunately, a hurricane made landfall on the Gulf Coast the day before the scheduled field trip and the winds were still too strong to be out on the beach. I knew that my students would be disappointed so as a last-minute alternative, I suggested a beach close to Fort Lauderdale on the East Coast of Florida where the winds would be less severe.

As we made our way slowly down the beach, we started to find numerous shells washed ashore by the storm. I found myself talking to one of the women who attended and learned that her family had come to the beach with me to get out of their house because their roof had developed a major leak during the storm. The leak flooded one of the main rooms, soaking their drywall and ruining numerous household and personal items. To take a brief break from the mayhem and clean-up, they decided to come to the beach with me. While this situation represented a difficult trial for their family, they were trusting in the Lord that He would provide for their needs. We continued along the beach and the conversation shifted to the sea shells we were collecting. I started to discuss different features of the mollusks we were finding on the beach.

At a pause in the discussion, the woman with whom I had been talking commented to me,

“I just love the snails with holes in the sides so that you can see the inside of the shell. I think the insides of the shell are so beautiful.”

As with everything in life, I have learned that people have different preferences in regard to sea shells. Personally, if I found a sea shell with a hole in it, I probably would not keep it because I generally collect shells for the purpose of teaching my students to identify them. The more flawed the shell, the more difficult it is for a student to identify. Consequently, I only save shells that are as close to perfect specimens as possible. Shortly after the woman’s comment, I paused to help a student identify a shell she had found on the beach. The woman continued on, looking for more sea shells. Only a few minutes later, she ran back down the beach toward me with a huge smile on her face.

“Look what I found!” She shouted. “Isn’t it just beautiful?”



In her hand she was holding a large Apple Murex shell, a beautiful type of snail. Murex snails are the supermodels of the mollusk world. God created them with a flair for the dramatic as they often display elaborate ridges, spines, and folds on their shells. The shell features are combined with beautiful white to sunset-like coloring that make them highly desirable for collectors. This Apple Murex was sporting caramel, tan and brown stripes as well as a deep purplish pink interior. It was about three to four inches long, the largest one I had ever seen found on the beach by an amateur collector. In its side were two perfectly placed holes that nicely displayed the interior of the shell.

“And look, it has holes so that I can see the inside!” She exclaimed. “I love it!”

The Lord knew that of all the people on our trip, this woman would be the one to enjoy this particular shell. If I had found it, I would have been disappointed that such a beautiful specimen was “ruined” by the holes in the side. In His infinite wisdom and love, He allowed this woman to find this shell, blessing her during her trial by giving her just the right gift that would bring her excitement and pleasure. We serve a personal God who loves His children. God is not a cold and distant Engineer but an ever-present Father who greatly desires an intimate relationship with His children. I offer you a challenge: the next time you are outside take time to pray and ask the Lord to show you something special during your time in His Creation. He has personalized blessings waiting for you!

