

THE WORKS OF THE GREAT ENGINEER

Everything in our universe had to have been arranged and maintained exactly as they are in order for life to exist upon the earth. If the earth were as small as the moon, gravity would be too weak to retain the amount of atmosphere needed for man's survival. If it were as large as Jupiter, Saturn or Uranus, the gravitational force would be so strong that movement would be practically impossible. If the earth were as near to the sun as Venus, man could not bear the heat, and if it were as far away as Mars there would be snow and ice every night, even in the warmest parts. If the oceans were half their current size, there would only be one-fourth the amount of rainfall we now have. If the oceans were one-eighth larger, our annual rainfall would be four times what it presently is and the earth would be uninhabitable.

Water freezes at thirty-two degrees above zero, and if there were no salt in the oceans ice would accumulate in them over the centuries to the point that the amount of thawing in the polar regions would not balance out. This too would be a human catastrophe.

Every year a fourteen foot thick layer of the sea is drawn up into the clouds. The wind carries this moisture over the land and it drops in the form of rain, nourishes the fields and then flows back into the sea through the rivers. If those tons of water all fell at once all mankind would be wiped away, but instead it comes down in droplets so that it "watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud" and "that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater" (Isaiah 55:10). Pity the man who cannot see God in all of this.

Scientists can make a mixture with the same chemical composition as sea water, but marine life will not develop in it. But they can add a small percentage of natural sea water to the artificial, and marine life will again flourish. The lesson from this fact is that only God can make sea water. Oh, weak little boastful man, how puny thou art!

The earth must spin on its axis at a certain speed in order for us to have livable temperatures. It must weave slowly back and forth on its axis, tilting to an angle of twenty-three degrees, then swing slowly back twice a year in order for us to have our seasons. It, along with the moon, swings around the sun once a year at the rate of eighteen and a half miles per second. There is simply no chance that all such things merely happened, and that they maintain their strict schedule, without a wise and powerful Creator. No wonder the psalmist could say, "O Lord, how manifold are they works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches" (Psalm 104:24).

Thomas Edison once said, "No one can study chemistry and see the wonderful way in which certain elements combine with the nicety of the most delicate machine ever invented, and not come to the inevitable conclusion that there is a Big Engineer who is running the universe." Of course, we know that the "Big Engineer" is none other than Almighty God. It is He who upholds all things by the word of His power (Heb. 1:3).

The apostle Paul expressed it very beautifully in Col. 1:16-17 when he said, "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: and he is before all things, and by him all things consist." Those who do not believe it are left with nothing better than the nonsensical notions of fools who profess themselves to be wise.

---Elder Ralph Harris