

# OUR INHABITED UNIVERSE

## Exploring God's Purpose In Creation

We live in an inhabited universe. We are not alone in the cosmos. There are other worlds populated with intelligent, sentient, volitional beings. Planet earth with its human race was created by God as the crown of all creation, the crescendo expression of God's creative power. We were made to experience and reveal the highest beauties of God's character. We were designed to partake of the deepest intimacy of God's love and educate the universe at large regarding that love. That's *who* we are and *why* we exist.

**Charles Darwin**—*On The Origin of Species, or The Preservation of Favored Races in the Struggle for Life*. (First edition title of the book, published in 1859).

**Richard Dawkins**—In a universe of electrons and selfish genes, blind physical forces and genetic replication, some people are going to get hurt, other people are going to get lucky, and you won't find any rhyme or reason in it, nor any justice. The universe that we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, no evil, no good, nothing but pitiless indifference. (Quoted in *Christianity Today*, Feb. 2009, p. 54).

**Abraham Heschel**—In pre-Nazi Germany the following statement of man was frequently quoted: "The human body contains a sufficient amount of fat to make seven cakes of soap, enough iron to make a medium-sized nail, a sufficient amount of phosphorus to equip two thousand match-heads, enough sulphur to rid one's self of one's fleas." Perhaps there was a connection between this statement and what the Nazis actually did in the extermination camps: make soap of human flesh. (*Who is Man?*, p. ).

**Review and Herald, vol. 4, p. 380**—All heaven took a deep and joyful interest in the creation of the world and of man. Human beings were a new and distinct order.

**Review and Herald, vol. 3, p. 265**—Man was the crowning act of the creation of God, made in the image of God, and designed to be a counterpart of God; but Satan has labored to obliterate the image of God in man, and to imprint upon him his own image.

**Steps to Christ, p. 17**—It was the tempter's purpose to thwart the divine plan in man's creation, and fill the earth with woe and desolation. And he would point to all this evil as the result of God's work in creating man.

**Education, p. 15**—When Adam came from the Creator's hand, he bore, in his physical, mental, and spiritual nature, a likeness to his Maker. "God created man in His own image" (Genesis 1:27), and it was His purpose that the longer man lived the more fully he should reveal this image—the more fully reflect the glory of the Creator. All his faculties were capable of development; their capacity and vigor were continually to increase. Vast was the scope offered for their exercise, glorious the field opened to their research. The mysteries of the visible universe—

the “wondrous works of Him which is perfect in knowledge” (Job 37:16)—invited man's study. Face-to-face, heart-to-heart communion with his Maker was his high privilege. Had he remained loyal to God, all this would have been his forever. Throughout eternal ages he would have continued to gain new treasures of knowledge, to discover fresh springs of happiness, and to obtain clearer and yet clearer conceptions of the wisdom, the power, and the love of God. More and more fully would he have fulfilled the object of his creation, more and more fully have reflected the Creator's glory.

**Hebrews 1:1-2—1** God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, **2** has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds.

**Revelation 12:12**—Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them!

**Ephesians 3:10-11, NIV—10** His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, **11** according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**Job 38:4, 7**—Were you there when I laid the foundations of the earth?... When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

**Revelation 1:20**—...stars are the angels...

**Luke 3:37-38—37** ... the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Cainan, **38** the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.

**Job 1:6**—Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them.

**Genesis 1:26-27—26** Then God [Elohim] said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness”... **27** So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

**Genesis 2:18, 24—18** Then the LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.”... **24** For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

**1 John 4:8**—God is love.

**Romans 13:10**—Love does no harm.

**Ecclesiastes 7:29, NCV**—God made people good, but they have found all kinds of ways to be bad.

**1 John 5:19**—The whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one.

**“God is Love” — 1 John 4:16**

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All Scripture References are from the New King James Version unless otherwise noted.