

Created for a purpose

The Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines *cosmos* as "an orderly harmonious systematic universe."

We live in a powerfully ordered world. An article in Scientific America (Sept, 1971) reads, "As we look into the universe and identify the many accidents of physics and astronomy that have worked together to our benefit, it almost seems as if the universe must in some sense have known that we were coming."

As we look at the God of nature, there is no doubt an amazing Designer has been at work. And man & woman are at the pinnacle of His creation. When God comes to His chief creation, when He forms Adam, His acclamation is no longer, this is good but this is *very good* (Gen.1.31).

We have been put together in an incredible way. Just consider the complex genetic code. Five histones are involved in DNA; histones are thought to be involved in some way in governing the activity of the genes. The chance of forming even the simplest of these histones is said to be one in 20, to the power of 100 – a number larger than the total of all the atoms in all stars and galaxies visible to the telescopic eye.

All this is very well but I sometimes feel scientists, indeed people in general, can be overly concerned with looking into the "how" of creation, while God yearns to tell us the "why" of creation.

Sadly, some have taken the hard existential road, hoping to find significance through sex, drugs, hard rock, investments, top of the corporate ladder and come up empty. The writer of Ecclesiastes did the same (Eccl.2.1-11).

The Westminster Confession said it different, "the chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy Him forever."

If I am the pinnacle of God's creation, I am His masterpiece. I am the "apple of His eye."

I am designer-made. I am loved. I am made in the image of God. I have dignity.

So what happened?

When Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, mankind could no longer operate at their optimum creative best.

We turned away from the guide book – enter chaos > suffering, violence and abuse. But I can't just stand outside of the picture, I must recognise I am part of the problem.

Then God carved a way to come back. My self-centredness created chaos out of God's order. Through His death, Jesus brings order out of my chaos. As at the very beginning, God one again brings light – this time, it's into our darkness.

It is true that God desires a life of active kindness toward others, but some people get the cart before the horse. In Ephesians 2.8,9 Paul tells us we cannot work up our salvation, it is a gift from God. He pursued us with His grace. Then we became *poiema*, a word in the Greek which can be translated poem. Imagine! It has also been variously translated masterpiece, or work of art.

Paul continues, “created in Christ Jesus for good works, prepared beforehand...” God has a blueprint for my life. One that will match my passions, my nature, my abilities. A “divine fit.” So we are created for a purpose!

I am as Rick Warren puts it, a 747 waiting on the runway, engine humming, ready for takeoff. This can be you.

Why not ask Him now to do what He does best? Remind yourself of the first four words of the Bible: In the beginning God...”

Ask God to come close as he did at the very first, in Creation. He still offers new beginnings!

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