

Daniel 06-01-08a

This is Sunday the 8th of January 2006. I am still amazed that I am speaking that year in my own hearing. Any time we have a new year I think back to when I was a teenager getting ready for church in the mornings and my folks would have the TV on with a Tulsa program by Pastor Pack.

And Pastor Pack was great on prophecy. He loved to study Revelation and Ezekiel and Daniel. And he was forever pointing out how events in the Middle East were lining themselves up with the biblical pattern and according to the biblical prophetic word and to listen to him you just almost felt like there wasn't any point in going to church because the Lord would probably be back before you could get to the car.

And this was in 1973, 1974. You know the 73 war had just taken place and was taking place in Israel. And so many things were happening that were in accord with the divinely revealed design.

And we had this book called 1984 that was this futuristic far off thing. And if people wanted to set something in the far distant future where there were sentient robots and space travel to other planets why they would put it in the 1990s because that was 25, 30 years off and who could imagine what would happen by then. And here we are in the year 2006.

A full 31 years after the time when I was still living at home. And we have seen more and more population of the skeletal outline of end times that is found in scripture. We could see the beginnings of it and the formation of it.

It reminds me of the Valley of Dry Bones. The bones were not covered up anymore. The sand had blown away and here are these bones laying there.

And everyone got excited and said look at this, Israel is a nation. Look at this, Europe is beginning to come together into something that looks like the final confederation, the revived Roman Empire. Look at the ever widening influence of anti-Christian forces and so on.

And we have seen nothing but this trend continue and even escalate. The Bible predicted that knowledge would increase in a dramatic way in the end times and we would say back then, look at how knowledge has proliferated. Look at our universities, look at our literature, look at the publishing industry, look at what goes across on television and radio in our century.

And that was before the internet was anything more than a gleam in the eye of a couple of guys putting together ARPANET. And now if you want to talk about the information explosion, you can find out anything. You can find anything.

If you need some obscure part for a 12-year-old computer, get on the internet. If you want to know the capital of Indonesia, get on the internet. If you want to know the capital of Wyoming,

get on the internet.

Some of us, you know, our geography is so bad. But it's the combination of the world's biggest shopping center, the world's biggest library, the world's biggest marketplace, the world's greatest, and I'm talking about the marketplace of ideas. If you want to get out there and wrangle and contend and argue for a point of view and hear the point of views of others, any idea that has crossed the mind of man is likely to be footnoted, if not fully developed, somewhere on the internet.

And the thing grows by something like 3,000 sites a day. I mean, it's just you can't wrap your mind around the explosion on the internet. One of the things, and I'm giving you a little bit of stuff I don't normally give you.

We usually just dive straight into the scriptures. But we have to keep a perspective on our time. And I saw a very interesting comment that was made.

If you want to learn a lot, one of the ways you can do it is to discipline yourself to sit and watch Charlie Rose on PBS. That guy is a lot more than he seems. If you browse past him on a channel surf, you'll look for about six seconds and say, and go on, because it doesn't seem like much is happening.

There's no stage. It's a table with Charlie Rose on one side and some person you probably don't know who they are on the other. And they're talking.

And you say, oh boy, there's a snooze, and you go away. If you watch Charlie Rose, he has some of the most interesting people, some of the most incisive thinkers, some of the shakers and movers. The program I saw the other night that I happened upon by complete chance had the president and CEO of Cisco Systems, the president and CEO of Sun Microsystems, people representing the cutting edge of technology that puts the Internet together.

And these people were talking about the future and talking about the present. And one of the points that was made in this discussion, which was deeply fascinating to me as someone who was involved in this industry in a direct way, is that they pointed out, you know, something happened since 9-11 that has been unremarked upon by the media. It is a totally remarkable change, and it went by almost unnoticed in the public eye.

And this is the sudden addition of the kind of media that the world market needs. They have been isolated. They have been doing their own thing.

They have not been a player, not been an influence, not been a place where any up-and-coming company would cast their eye. And now they are. Do you know the number of people there are in China? Do you know the number? I mean, it's the most populated place on the planet, and not far behind it in terms of population density is India.

And it's huge. These are the last two chunks of the planet to be added to the global economy

and to the global workforce. And it's a huge, it's a sea change in the business world and in the political world and in the economic world.

It's huge. It's the biggest thing that's happened in the last hundred years, and it's been virtually unnoticed except by the president and CEO of Sun Microsystems and the president and CEO of Cisco, and these other sharp and forward-looking, forward-thinking individuals. We are 21st in the world when it comes to Internet service for our population.

You think, oh, we're cutting edge, we've got all the technology, we've got the best. We are number 21 in the world when it comes to Internet infrastructure, when it comes to broadband availability for our population. There are 20 countries ahead of us, and most of them are in the Orient and in Europe.

And what can you think of that the United States is 21st in? Education and Internet. How are we going to end up being sidelined in the end-time history? In exactly that way. Our workforce being sidelined by this gigantic new workforce that has come online, literally.

Why do you think it is? Really quality tech support. We had a guy come out to install Citrix servers at our server farm at Buckner, and the guy that came out, I didn't know if he was telling me about my servers or ordering lunch. Chinese takeaway.

But I say all of that to say this. The things that we are studying in the word of God from the prophetic scriptures, and by some process unknown to me, all three of our studies are in prophetic books. Revelation, Daniel, and Ezekiel.

But you have seen, as I have, the interweaving and the symbiosis of these passages. They refer to one another. They talk about the same things in the same language.

How many times have we seen the beast? Seven heads, ten horns. How many times have we seen the Bible tell us to stand back and look at the sweep of history? And that's what I'm trying to encourage all of us to do as we look at current events. Stand back and look at the sweep of history and look at the uniqueness of the time in which we live.

We are at the end. A lot of people have said that. A lot of people have argued for it at different times in history.

People thought that Hitler was the Antichrist. People thought Stalin was the Antichrist. All that through history.

There has never been a time when the skeleton laying on the ground has been prophesied to and had its sinews and flesh come upon it and be covered in skin and be ready to stand up as a great army. It has never been so well fulfilled as it stands at the present day. There was a news article the other day.

I can't remember. Matthew may have pointed my attention to this. But I've told you many times

that there is a group that's put together all of the articles for worship in the Jewish temple.

Well, they just got another bunch of stuff finished. They just finished the robes of the high priest. And they were talking about the very things that we studied when we were going through Exodus.

They talked in detail about the bells and the pomegranates that go around the border at the bottom and how expensive this thing was to make. And gave an update on the whole status of the red heifer and the ashes and what all is going to be entailed in that. And this is no light fantasy.

These things exist. They have got every single stick, every shovel, every item necessary. They've got all of the clothing not only for the high priest but for all of the other priests that are going to minister in the Jewish temple.

They lack nothing. They have a mock-up of the Ark of the Covenant. That's the only thing they have not reproduced.

Because they figure they're going to get the real one. And they can't say where it is. And their information is solid enough.

They're not reproducing this because they've already gone up there and laid the cornerstone. And the ship, they're not at that point where they're ready to launch. But it's more like the golden shovel where you go break ground for something.

Well, they broke ground and laid a stone. And then, of course, they had to flee because the Arabs ran them off the Temple Mount. But in their minds, the work has begun.

So I say all of that to say that in addition to all of the value we get from the study of Scripture, in looking at it and seeing the interpretation of it and the timeless principles and doctrines and promises that are contained within it and that imbue it, and then we make application and we say this is how I, as an individual Christian, should live my life today, this afternoon, this evening, tomorrow morning, tomorrow during my work day, during my school day, whatever it may be. In addition to all of that, we live in a very exciting time. And I don't think any of us are going to become wild-eyed, hand-waving prophecy nuts.

But at the same time, you don't want to dismiss the movement of God in human history as we see it. The time is very near. The calendar tells us this.

There have been 2,000 years of church history now. There have been 4,000 years before that. It is clear, manifold witness of Scripture that human history is going to go for 7,000 years.

The 7,000 being the Sabbath rest, the day of the rest of the people of God that has been promised in the Old Testament, promised in the Psalms, reiterated in the book of Hebrews, that remains a rest for the people of God. We enter into that rest by faith. They are going to be

resuscitated and enter into that rest.

And to the extent that they are obedient and faithful, they will enjoy that rest in that 1,000-year reign of Christ, with the Prince Regent ruling in Jerusalem and so on. The time is very near. I think it is highly likely that barring accident, we should see it in our lifetime.

We may have the great privilege of seeing it happen and watching the dead in Christ rise first. I think that is just a privilege beyond compare. Billions of people have died.

Wouldn't it be great to be in that select group that gets to skip that step and watch everybody come up? I think you can look back on it for 1,000 years. It won't need cameras, it won't need digital images, because it will be imprinted in our souls to see the Lord Jesus Christ descending with a shout, the voice of the Archangel and the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ rise. So, keep an eye on the progress of events.

As you know, this is a very turbulent time in Israel, with Sharon and his health taking him out, with uncertainty and unrest and turmoil. Who would have thought in these past 2,000 years, after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD, who could have predicted at any time after that, that in the year 2006, the eyes of the world would be focused on this tiny... We've got counties in Texas bigger than Israel. Most of the counties in Texas are bigger than Israel.

And yet the attention of the world is focused on that spot. The people of God dwell in that spot. And the surrounding forces, you look at the European Union, you look at the clamor for peace.

A man has just come out with a book. His name... I forget his last name. It stuck in my mind because his first name is Sam.

Sam Somebody has written a book. And this book is wildly popular. Everybody's talking about it.

And it's all about how religion is the problem with modern man, or post-modern man. And that it makes this very strong argument that man needs to move from religion to reason. Because religion is what's causing the problem.

And we've got to get this religion deal out of the mix. This is the hold-up. It's militant Islam, it's militant Christianity, it's militant name your religion.

This stuff has got to go. Well, we've just studied in Revelation and in Ezekiel, both, how there comes a time when Antichrist, who has made a covenant with the many, and it's a seven-year covenant. He makes the covenant for one week, but in the middle of the week, he cuts it off.

This is going to be explicit when we move chapter 2 forward in Daniel. And what happens? This sacrifice and offering for the Jews is cut off. The woman who is riding the beast, this apostate religion, apostate in the traditional sense.

We know what apostasy really means, when the falling away takes place, the standing away. But apostasy in the traditional sense, this woman, the scarlet woman riding the scarlet beast

with a couple of abominations in her hand, adorned with gold and pearls. And the beast, part way through, gets tired of being ridden by this worldly religion and reaches around and grabs her off and chews her up.

And that's going to happen half way through. And what is the thinking behind this? When has there ever been a time in history where there was a widespread popular movement to say, let's get rid of all religion. Let's just wipe the stuff out and let's go strictly with science.

Reason is science. Science is the philosophy, the secular, humanist, materialist philosophy that the only thing that exists is what I can see. If I can't weigh it, measure it, test it, falsify it, document my findings and have others reproduce my work, it doesn't exist.

So, you know, the beauty of poetry is never going to be measurable by science. They'll say, well, what's the chemical reaction that takes place when you say, I think that I shall never see a poem as lovely as a tree. And I say, well, what's going on in the neurons that accounts for people liking poetry or a beautiful sunset or whatever.

Obviously, it's limited. It's like somebody sitting. My mind's eye, and this is the last thing I'll say, in my mind's eye, measuring everything by science and demanding that if it's not science, it's not legitimate is like a man who is deaf but has great vision.

And he says, everything in my world is what I see. If I can't see it, it doesn't exist. Someone sits down at a grand piano, plays a little Chopin, a little Mozart, a little Beethoven.

The man's oblivious to it. Can't see it. Well, look, I'll show you the sheet music.

Hey, that's just dots on paper. It doesn't mean anything. Nice pattern.

I can discern a pattern there. But what are you talking about here in terms of music? It doesn't exist. Why? I have declared that reality consists in what I see.

And I deny and decry anybody that says there's another form of perception called hearing. And that I don't see anything happening in the air with this guy just pushing keys down. Well, by analogy, if you extend that out, if you say the only things that matter, the only things that are reality are what I can sense with my five senses, you've basically done the same thing.

And there are people who have perfectly good hearing who say, don't you hear this great waltz in C-sharp minor? I mean, this is one of the most beautiful pieces of music ever written. Well, sight guy says, you're nuts. Well, that's how it goes.

That kind of thinking is going to be ubiquitous. It's going to be worldwide in the 70th week of Daniel. In the last seven years of history.

Thank the good Lord we won't be here for that. But that's what's coming. And you see the seeds already sown.

The spirit of Antichrist has been at work for 2,000 years. And sowing the seeds, sowing the seeds in the Enlightenment, sowing the seeds in secular humanism, sowing the seeds in atheism, sowing the seeds by perverting and corrupting religion, specifically Christianity, so that it can be attacked, so that it can be set up as a straw man to be burned and to be knocked down. Satan is wily.

Satan is crafty. And we're going to see something very significant in our Daniel study this morning related to that. But now, having extemporized for a bit on current events, let's turn our attention to the living and abiding Word of God.

Our scripture reading this morning is Psalm 145. Psalm 145. This is subtitled in the New King James, A Song of God's Majesty and Love.

A Song of God's Majesty and Love. It's further titled, A Praise of David. That's where you get into your Hebrew text there.

A Praise of David. I will extol you, my God, O King, and I will bless your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless you, and I will praise your name forever and ever.

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised. And His greatness is unsearchable. One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts.

I will meditate on the glorious splendor of your majesty and on your wondrous works. Men shall speak of the might of your awesome acts, and I will declare your greatness. They shall utter the memory of your great goodness and shall sing of your righteousness.

The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and great in mercy. The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works. All your works shall praise you, O Lord, and your saints shall bless you.

They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom and talk of your power to make known to the sons of men His mighty acts and the glorious majesty of His kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The Lord upholds all who fall and raises up all who are bowed down.

The eyes of all look expectantly to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. The Lord is righteous in all His ways, gracious in all His works.

The Lord is near to all who call upon Him, to all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him. He will hear their cry and save them.

The Lord preserves all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy. My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord, and all flesh shall bless His holy name forever and ever." This is a great psalm for meditating. If you want to follow David's example and meditate on the glorious

splendor of God's majesty, as he says in verse 5 and on His wondrous works, this psalm is a great foundation for it.

It's a great starting place. David says, I will extol You, my God, O King. Now, David is the king, but he says, I may be the king, but there is a king of kings.

There is a Lord of lords. And in David's day, the God of Israel was the true potentate, the true ruler. I will bless Your name forever and ever.

Now, this reminds us that David understood that his life was not limited to his time under the sun. Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever and ever. This is a commitment, by the way, that can sometimes be difficult to maintain.

Suppose we made a New Year's resolution and said, I am going to praise God every single day. Well, you might be reminded on Sundays and Tuesdays and Fridays, because of Bible class, but I think for all of us, there are days where we wake up and events have already started without us and we're playing catch-up and we're frantically trying to get hither and yon. And there are requirements and there's hustle and bustle.

We work all day long. We're frantically trying to get from here to there. We get to the end of the day and suddenly we reach the end of the fuel in our tank and we're just hardly able to drag ourselves off to go to sleep.

And the day has passed and we have not praised God. We haven't really thought too much about Him. We didn't really slow down.

We didn't really have time to sit down and think about our sins or think about our place in history or think about, you know, am I shining any kind of spiritual light? Is the Holy Spirit at work? Have I applied any of the Word of God? It was all we could do to just try to keep our nose above water and get through the requirements of the day without being drowned. It's an interesting challenge to commit ourselves and say I am going to make it a daily function of my life to stop. I don't care if my house is on fire.

I don't care if my hot water tank has broken and I'm up to my ankles in water. I don't care what happens. I will find time in the day to stop and honor the God of creation, the God of the universe.

I will daily bless Him. I will daily praise His name for the rest of my life. I will not let a day pass without acknowledging the God of my salvation, the God of my deliverance, the God of creation.

I will find a way to praise Him and it's not going to be a quick slap dash look and a prayer kind of a thing. I will... You know, you think about the amount of time we have in a day. Are there not five minutes? Are there not ten minutes that we can spend when we first get up? I know a lot of people who spend very high quality time early in the morning.

They get up early on purpose to spend time meditating on the things of God and starting the day just as we are starting the week in meditation and in acknowledgement that this day ought to be lived in the light of the word of God and in the light of God's presence and His glory. I want to say this to you. Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised and His greatness is unsearchable.

Once again, science and philosophy, human philosophy are never going to figure God out. I mean, forget it. They are unsearchable.

A search is not going to turn God up. Not a scientific search. God's greatness is unsearchable.

There is evidence of it. God has put the knowledge of Himself in the heart of every man. God has revealed His eternal Godhead and power in creation.

It's available. It's noticeable. It's clear.

But, like the ark up on Mount Ararat, there's just enough evidence to let you make up your own mind. I hear various atheists from time to time say, well, God's communication is not clear. If it was, I'd believe in Him.

It's God's fault that I don't believe in God. He hasn't made Himself clear enough. Well, God is not looking for the even the demons believe and tremble kind of faith.

God is looking for those who not just accept the fact of His existence, but trust Him, honor Him, praise Him, who recognize the need to be accepted by Him and will seek that acceptance in God's way and not on their own terms. Well, if God will meet the following criteria, I have a list of characteristics that I think God should meet. So, get your God to meet these criteria and I'll be happy to believe in Him.

Well, we see the sort of, that is not looking up on your face. That is looking down from above your nose at God. Your God doesn't meet my requirements.

Your God doesn't meet my expectations. I find your God incredible. Not credible.

He's foggy. He's fuzzy. His book is full of contradictions and confusion.

Nobody can figure out what it means, etc. Well, this is the arrogance of the unregenerate heart. This is the manifestation of a sin and a sinful attitude that goes all the way back to the guardian cherub who watched the throne room of God and decided that God was not such great shakes.

And it's a sad thing. We want to move in the other direction. One generation shall praise your works to another.

This is our responsibility as we move on and generations come up behind us to have a light that shines. That people in our periphery are aware. It's in our immediate family, our extended family.

Is our faith real or is it just a thing we take out of a box like a bow tie on Sunday and wear to church and then forget? By virtue of the fact that you're here and listening to the sound of my voice, you're not in that camp. But many of us as Christians, when you look around the world today, our generation, have lost sight of what it means to represent Christ on earth. And what is being passed on to the next generation? Multimedia, PowerPoint praise songs, fancy graphics, fancy sounds, lots of feel-good philosophy coming out of pulpits, lots of self-help.

Oh, have you got a problem? Let me give you a band-aid. Let me give you a pill. It's all about us and it's no longer about Christ and it's no longer about laying up treasure in heaven and potential in the future by claiming righteousness through faith.

It's about how can I navigate my circumstances and feel good? I want to feel good. I want to feel good about my life. I want to feel good about myself.

I want others to feel good about me and tell me so and so on. You getting choked up back there? Men shall speak of the might of your awesome acts and I will declare your greatness. Science makes fantastic discoveries all the time.

I was reading an article earlier this week about fish that live in very, very cold water. The only reason it's not frozen solid is because of the salt content which drops the freezing point and different kinds of fish have a natural biological antifreeze in their system. It's just fascinating the way this works so that this antifreeze keeps them from being like fish at the grocery where they're just rock solid.

They can't wiggle their little fins or anything. They've got this biologically produced antifreeze and the scientists are scratching their head trying to figure this out, picking their DNA apart, saying, wow, look at this. Look at all this propylene glycol or whatever it is that's being made in their system.

How do they come to this? They find these widely divergent fish that use the very same chemical and they say, you know, the DNA is not even the same. And they say, oh, you know what? This is convergent evolution. These fish evolved in two different strands but evidently their evolution converged and they solved the problem in exactly the same way.

Now, if their DNA was the same, they would say, now see, they're descended from an ancestor that also learned how to develop antifreeze. So it's a win-win. If the DNA doesn't match, it's convergent evolution.

If the DNA does match, it means they evolved from a common ancestor and it never occurs to them. Duh. Common designer solves the problem in the same way.

You don't like a bumpy ride, so you put a rubber tire on a car. You don't like a bumpy ride, you put a rubber tire on a bicycle. Oh, well, cars descended from bicycles, obviously.

Because look, the problem has been solved in the same way or look, here's my motor scooter

and here's my airplane and here's an example of convergent evolution. They both evolved rubber tires. I mean, it's just nuts.

Men will speak of the might of God's awesome acts. They'll say, look at this amazing biological life. Look at its diversity.

Look at its complexity. Look at its beauty. Look at the amazing way that problems have been solved.

Problems of digestion. Problems of movement. Problems in flight.

How did birds get hollow bones and feathers? All at the same time. Perfectly designed claws so that when they hit a branch, the thing closes automatically. It snaps shut like a spring because of the design of the tendons and when a bird's elbow, if you will, bends, it, I mean, you've seen this.

Have you ever had a, that's kind of gross, but, you know, you get a chicken foot shortly after the chicken's no longer with us and the little tendon is there and you can operate his little foot with the tendon. You pull it and it just operates. It's like a little mechanical device.

And by bending that joint, it's just like your hand. I mean, if you bend your hand back like this and out like this, your fingers naturally do a similar thing. It's by design.

Well, that's perfected in a bird so when they hit a twig, their little claws just snap shut. They got little toenails to grab into the bark and it's great. They never give it a second thought.

They don't sit there and think, man, I keep sliding off these branches. I really wish I had a way to get a better grip. And, you know, the birds that could get a grip, you know, natural selection and all the ones that slid off the branches didn't live long enough to reap.

I mean, it's just... Men speak of the might of God's awesome acts. It's all around us. Nobody can deny the awesomeness of the universe.

Science is universally impressed with these constants, you know, Planck's constant and the distance between the energy levels in atoms, the distance of our planet from our sun, the distance of our sun from the center of the Milky Way galaxy, the position of the Milky Way galaxy relative to other galaxies and other stars, the influence of Jupiter in our solar system that very conveniently sweeps about 99.9% of all of the trash out of the way of the Earth's orbit, the influence of our moon, which conveniently stirs the water of our oceans and turns over the seabeds so that, you know, if we had no moon, there'd be no life on Earth. Did you know that without the moon and the tides, life would cease to exist on this planet? Look at the moon. Exactly the right orbit.

Exactly the right distance. Exactly the right... Just enough influence on the tides. Not too much.

Not too little. And science is so impressed with the balance of dozens and dozens and dozens of

critical factors in the universe that if they were off by one decimal place, the universe wouldn't exist. Life wouldn't exist.

Humanity would not exist. This planet Earth would not exist. That the freezing point of water is exactly where it is.

That water can not only freeze but turn to steam. I mean, these are critical. That water can both vaporize and solidify.

If that wasn't true, there'd be no life on Earth. There are dozens and dozens of things, and it's so ubiquitous, and it's so impressive, and so undeniable that science has come to call this the anthropic principle. The anthropic principle in the universe is the term for the fact that there are so many uniquely balanced constants and values in the physics and the chemistry of the universe that make man possible.

And without it, we wouldn't be here, and biological life wouldn't be here either. And so they call it the anthropic principle. It just seems too convenient.

This is why, contrary to what the impression people would like to give you, recent surveys have indicated most scientists believe in God. That doesn't say most scientists are Christians, but most scientists believe in God. And I've got the survey if you're interested in looking at it.

Men will speak of your awesome acts. So what happens when men speak of these awesome acts? David says, I will declare the greatness of God. When people start talking about the wonderful things in nature, they point out the constellations in the heavens.

They point out the way that sheep and goats reproduce and how convenient it is that you have camels in a desert environment and so on. David says, I will declare the greatness of God. I will point out that this is God's work, that God deserves the glory and the credit for this.

It is legitimate for us to be outspoken creationists in a world increasingly dominated by secular humanism and evolutionists. And they say, Oh well, your position got crushed by a school board lawsuit someplace. That's a completely different issue.

Personally, I don't want anybody trying to teach the Bible in public school. Public school mangles enough subjects without screwing up Christianity as well. Christianity is to be taught in the home.

The word of God is to be taught in small groups. That's the way God designed it. Do you really want the public school? I mean, you just read some of the textbooks and you say it's a blessing that they're not trying to make some kind of sense out of the word God.

So the fact that the intelligent design people lost a lawsuit, it was an ill-conceived effort in my opinion. The arguments against it were faulty but nevertheless accepted. Intelligent design as a concept is perfectly valid and it is adopted by science.

Do you remember the little picture they had of Mars? The first time they had an overflight and there was a thing there and it looked like the face of a sphinx or something? Do you remember when they first discovered canals on Mars, quote unquote canals, and they saw these straight things? What was the immediate conclusion that was drawn when these things appeared on the surface of Mars? There must have been intelligent life on Mars. Look at these shapes. Scientists, astronomers, paleontologists, archaeologists, water canal experts, everybody in the world was looking at the data and saying this is evidence of sentient influence on the landscape.

Somebody has been there bulldozing, digging, creating, stacking blocks or something. That was their obvious conclusion. What does that mean? It means there is a valid principle that when you see unusual, you can be walking through the woods and pick up a piece of flint and you can tell right away is this a random piece of flint or is this an arrowhead? How can you tell? How can you tell that that's an arrowhead and not just a random piece of flint? Look at it.

It's got this perfectly little chipped edge that's in the shape of this pointed arch. It's got a little tail on it for binding to a stick. Somebody comes along and says, well, you know that forces of erosion and rocks falling off of cliffs and hitting the flint and I mean that water and something could have happened here freezing and thawing and it could have assumed this shape.

There are plenty of natural forces that chip rock. The fact that I have demonstrated that natural forces change the shape of rock means that the rock you have just found is probably of natural origin. We say, look, it's an arrowhead.

What does your mind tell you about this? It is the product of an intelligence. This is a well-known principle but when it comes to saying look at the world around us, look at the obvious complexity of design, look at the complete absence of any natural explanation for the programming of the DNA molecule that produces these very complex systems of vision and auditory sensation and nerves throughout your skin and endocrine systems and the blood stream and sexual reproduction. Get an evolutionist to explain how that came about.

How did we go from single-celled animals to multi-celled animals? How did that happen? They have no explanation. Why did the backbone suddenly appear in the Precambrian explosion out of nowhere as if by magic? Everything below the Precambrian layer? No vertebrae. Everything above the Cambrian layer? Vertebrae.

Any transitional fossils? Any half-backbones? No. Not a one. They appear out of nowhere as if by magic fully formed in the Precambrian explosion where all of the major phyla that are represented on Earth today appear in their final form with minor variations ex nihilo.

Everything below that is microscopic cyanobacteria and so on. Meaningless little proto-life things. Man can see the might of God's awesome acts.

God says this in Romans chapter 1, doesn't he? What may be known of God is manifest in

creation. So what happens when people point this out? David says, I will declare your greatness. They will utter the memory of your great goodness.

They say, you know, look at the way the solar system is organized. Look at climate and weather. Look how we have this moderation because of the tilt of the Earth's axis and because of rainfall and this miraculous thing by which the water that flows into the sea is returned to the air to rain back down on the mountains in the form of snow and other precipitation.

And this cycle of water swishing through the Earth is what makes life possible. This is the memory of God's goodness. A sign of God's goodness, the Bible says, is the rain falling on the just and the unjust.

When people point that out, what does David say? I shall sing of your righteousness. When people start marveling over the great work that is represented in biological life on our planet, what should we do? We should declare God's greatness and sing of his righteousness. Well, it's a great passage and we'll see the connection to our study in the book of Daniel when we come back from our break.