

Wonders of Creation Redemption - Part 2

by William MacDonald

William MacDonald emphasizes the intricate wonders of God's creation, showcasing the perfect design of Earth and the marvels of life within it.

Duration: 49:04

Scripture: Romans 1:19-20, Romans 8:29, Romans 11:33-35, Revelation 5:9

Topics: "Redemption"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes the perfection of God's creation and how it is perfectly designed for human habitation. The speaker highlights various examples of the intricate and amazing aspects of nature, such as birds building nests, bees regulating temperature in their hives, and plants with medicinal properties. These examples serve as a reminder of God's wisdom and creativity in creating the world. The speaker encourages the audience to appreciate and marvel at the beauty and complexity of the natural world as a reflection of God's love and adoration for us.

Transcript

Chapter eleven, Romans chapter eleven, beginning in verse thirty-three. Romans eleven thirty-three, O the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his way past finding out! For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counselor? For who has first given to him, and it shall be repaid to him. For of him, and through him, and to him are all things, to whom be glory forever.

Amen. This morning we were starting a little series on the wonders of God in creation, providence, and redemption, and we thought for a while this morning of the wonders of the human body, and then the wonders of the starry universe. Wonder of wonders! Vast surprise! Could greater wonder be, that he who built the starry skies, wants to let it die for me.

Does it impress you tonight to think, one day you're going to see this? Redeemed by his precious blood, you'll stand in his presence, and gaze upon the one who flung the planet out into space. You'll uphold them by the word of his power, and even if there's someone here tonight who's not saved, you're going to see him too. You're going to see the marks of Calvary in his hands, feet, brows, and sides.

The man of Calvary. It's really quite breathtaking to me, that God has ordained it that those who are saved by grace through faith in him, are destined to be conformed to the image of this wonderful one. I'd like to

think some more with you tonight about some of the wonders of God in creation.

I think of the planet on which we live. Paul writes in Romans chapter 1 verses 19 and 20, What may be known of God is manifest in them, that is in people. For God has showed it to them, but since the creation of the world, his invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and thought is, so that they are without excuse.

When the Lord finished the work of creation, he said that it was very good, and no one of us tonight can realize how very good it was. Everything the Lord made is perfect, and this is never more true than of the planet on which we live. He designed this planet so that it would be absolutely fit for human habitation.

We take it for granted, but there are a lot of amazing things connected with a simple statement like that. Perfect for human habitation as to beauty, as to comfort, and as to economy. As far as we know, the earth is the only planet in the universe that can boast those advantages.

The planet earth is just the right size. If it were different, the blanket of atmosphere around it would be either too dense or too thin, and we wouldn't be able to live. Very hard for me to accept that that happened by chance.

The tilt of the earth is just exactly right. Tilt of the earth in its orbit, that's what causes the four seasons, and it makes the cultivation of the land possible. Without the earth tilted the way it is now, this whole planet would be a vast Sahara, a vast desert, and the rotation of the earth is not accidental.

It's finely tuned to just the right speed in its 24 orbit around the sun, and it disperses the warmth of the sun uniformly, and it guarantees the wind and the ocean currents. Who would have thought of that? Just think of impersonal forces calculating all of that. The atmosphere around the earth is just what we need to breathe.

Take a deep breath. That's right, love. 21% oxygen and 78% nitrogen, and every one of us is living proof here tonight of the suitability of the atmosphere around us.

Be thankful for that breath you just took. God designed an ozone layer around the earth to protect us from the harmful rays of the sun. Man is poking holes in that ozone right now by uncontrolled contaminants, but that's man's problem, not God.

Man is doing that. Water is indispensable. As far as we know, the earth is the only planet that has water in liquid form.

Amazing coincidence, isn't it? He's so generous that he covered four-fifths of the earth with water. God is generous in all that he does. He's a prodigal God.

Four-fifths of the earth, oceans, streams, lakes, rivers, and as I say, science knows of no other planet that has such a supply of water in liquid form. It's a major constituent of all living matter, and it's good as a solvent in your laundry, isn't it? As good as a coolant for beverages and steam for power plants. You have a mind that can do all that.

Set apart a planet like this because his delights are with the sun sitting in. Design that planet so it'll be just right for human observation. Water is not like some other liquids, you know.

Some water is heavier than other water, and it's a good thing because the heavy water sinks to the bottom of the lake where it doesn't freeze, and thus allows the fish to live down there. Free that such a thing would happen by chance, isn't it? Somebody said that to think that all of this would happen by chance would be comparable to taking blobs of tape and pouring them against the wall and producing the Mona Lisa. That's exactly right.

It would be comparable to that. Taking blobs of tape in your hands, pouring them against the wall, and coming up with a masterpiece, a marvel of the planet on which we live. But of course, as we said this morning, this extends to all that God has made.

Not only the human body, not only the starry skies, not only the planet on which we live, everything that came from the hand of God is filled with awesome splendor. Psalm 148 verses 10 and 13. Wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, let them praise the name of the Lord.

I think, for instance, of the migratory instinct of birds. It's really enough to stagger the imagination. The birds know their proper destination.

They know the right place for them to nest, and to feed, and to winter. One sandpiper flies 9,900 miles to get to its winter home. And, fuel.

What about fuel? Well, it's fat in the body. How does that bird know how much fat to allow to accumulate in its body before it takes off? It does, and the computation has to take in the distance, and it has to provide for adverse winds. It can't fly too fast to use up too much fuel.

It can't fly too slow to use up too much fuel. Talk about a calculation. It knows just when to start to get to its desired habitation, and it can't land anywhere in between.

It's a land bird, and there's no land on its flight. It's the same as if you went in to buy a new car in the dealership, and you write out all the papers, you get all through, and just as you're going out the door with the keys, the dealer says, oh I'm sorry, I forgot something. He says, here's a cup of gasoline.

This will do you for the life of the car. That's comparable to the fuel efficiency of these birds, and they have a built-in navigational system. It would be fatal for them to drift off course, so they constantly adjust for the winds that they're encountering, and you know it's an interesting thing that men have tried to disorient them over and over again.

You know, to put them inside a box, and turn the box around, and do everything that the human mind can think of to disorient the bird. They take off and fly properly to their desired station. There's a bird in Germany called the lesser white-throated warbler, and flies up from the south Germany during the summer, and lays its eggs and rears its young, and then a very strange thing happens.

Those parrot birds are guilty of parental neglect. They take off on their migration south, and they leave the little ones behind them. Not to worry.

A little while later, the birds, the little ones, take off and fly to exactly the same place that their parents have gone, and they've never been there before. Lesser white-throated warblers can do more than warble, and mankind understand how they do such a thing. They arrive at the right place at the right time.

What a wonderful God we have. So, put that ability into a little bird. A little bird you can hold in your hand.

And, it'll get to the right height. You get to that height, and you deepen the clam, and the clam's back, of course, down. The force of gravity, and the seagull comes down with the force of gravity, too.

Just before it gets to the sand, it spreads its wings, and of course, the clam is smashed open by them. So, the seagull just sexually and meekly harassing people. Who taught us these things? I tell you, we were fascinated as boys.

Just watching Paul Francis' entire program. Isn't it wonderful to be in a world like this in real life? It's all the Lord's doing. The one who we love and adore.

He's planned it all. I know you feel that when you go to some gorgeous place in the world. We go to Yosemite.

And I don't think I ever go to Yosemite without taking my sacred name with that. Other people talk about Mother Nature. There was a hunter in South America and he was attracted by the cries of a very distressed bird.

And he thought, well, come on here. So he just decided to stay around and see what was going on. This bird was flying around crazily and making a lot of noise.

And pretty soon this hunter realized that there was a nest in the tree. And then he saw a snake crawling up the tree to get to the nest. That's why the bird was distressed.

No wonder the snake was after the little one. The bird flew off and went to a particular plant and took a twig with some leaves attached to it. Flew back and laid that twig with the leaves on it across the top of the nest.

The snake went up, went out on the branch, out toward the nest, and decoyed. Started down the tree again. And the hunter, later on, learned that the leaf was from a bush that deadly poisons the snake.

And the sight and smell of the leaf caused the snake to retreat. The hunter's bird plunged aside from creation. I'm sure some of you have seen the bird playing the broken wing act.

Have you seen that? The bird has a nest. And the little ones are in the nest. And there's a cat.

The cat's half of the little one. And the bird comes out of the nest. He comes down to the ground and sits barely above the ground, flies, and sits in front of the broken wing.

That's not an act. Dinner. The bird with the broken wing.

That's a bird. The bird has no broken wing at all. That's not an act.

Here's another one. The seed. The bird.

Think of the hummingbird. Talk about a small creature. And yet what wonderful things they are.

I don't know how you can watch a hummingbird and know about a hummingbird without worshipping the Lord, its creator. That hummingbird can hover. It can power dive.

It can fly upside down in order to elude predators. It can fly sideways and backwards. It can do anything but float.

Not float. It has the most rapid wing beat of any bird. Its little heart beats 1,260 times a minute.

Isn't that amazing? And all hummingbirds weigh less than an ounce. And some only weigh in grams. My goodness.

I felt so sorry for the people in Germany and Austria this summer. They don't have hummingbirds. They've never seen a hummingbird.

The brains of the hummingbird, though they're small, are proportionally bigger than any other bird. Proportionally bigger. And in migration, some hummingbirds fly 500 miles.

Hummingbirds can fly across the Gulf of Mexico without refueling. I want to tell you, that's amazing. When you see them around the flowers, they're always darting in and out and getting the nectar and the honey.

Just absolutely marvelous. But they can go for 20 hours on a gram of horse fat. Tremendous fuel efficiency.

In fact, you don't have a hummingbird. You think of the wonder of the homing instinct in the creatures, pigeons, doves. We never had a dog when we were growing up, but we did have pigeons.

We used to take them up to a hill with a reservoir. And we used to let them go and try to get home before they did. Never did.

We couldn't get it. They always knew the way. It's marvelous.

It not only does this. There was a cat that came back to his home after eight years. The story was told in Our Daily Bread by M. R. D. Hahn II.

He says a homeowner in Van Cross, Wisconsin, said he heard a cat meowing on the front porch. And when he opened the door, a big, long-haired, gray cat walked in. Checked things out, began purring, and then jumped up on the chair.

Turned out to be his favorite chair. Family members couldn't believe their eyes, but when they compared the cat's pictures taken eight years earlier, they could only conclude that Clem was a cat that had left and is now home. It's marvelous.

Eight years. We used to have her. She was a dump.

I'm sure some of you saw that Moody film. I was intrigued by the archer fish. There's a fish swimming below the surface, and there's a bug flying above the surface of the water.

And the archer fish lets go of a stream of water and tells a myth. But, there's quite a lot of mathematical computations involved in that. That fish has to think about its own speed.

It has to think about the speed of the bug and the direction that it's going. And then, you know what it's like? When it gets into the water, or something, it can't escape all of that. And that fish is a good example of that.

So, this is a picture of Clem. And then it sends its gums to her trap, and they can sense it in their trap. Think whether Clem will land on this branch.

Can she swing through with her? She does all kind of stuff, doesn't she? And sometimes, of course, the food chain is involved. The ladybird beetle feeds on those aphids that are bad for your apple trees, and you can see that in the movie, and swans lay their eggs on bloodworms, and then the little ones develop and eat the bloodworms. You know, the complexity of God's marvelous creation.

Crop damage is reduced by friendly bugs that prey on harmful insects. And, of course, how bees pollinate crops. You can give a mind to all of these things.

Turn lights on, all of these things. Turn off ants and turn lights work in the soil, and they take these plows, they aerate the soil, and they turn it, and they drain it, and they enrich it. and they scatter plant seeds, and they serve as scavengers, consuming 90% of the dead bodies.

I think it's wonderful how God has created creatures with camouflage. How they can just merge into their environment, and you can't see them. The visions, of course, the illustration change color with their background.

Outside my door this morning was a walking tweet. Yeah, who looks like that? It's a walking tweet. Some birds look like me.

Some bugs look like me. Dark thorns. God is endlessly ingenious and original.

And astonishing. I think it's iridescent. The male pigeon, you know, has the colors, like the colors of the rainbow around its neck.

Who's that? Marvelous, the way those feathers are in there, woven into that glory of iridescence. Of course, these are feathers to an unusual degree, as well. It's all done by the arrangement of the feathers.

And yet, it's so marvelous that years ago, there was a book called *The Glory of Iridescence*. A whole book written on the subject. Isn't it wonderful to think that the one who did all of this, walked the dusty streets of Nazareth, and plodded on through Jerusalem, all the way from Nazareth, he went from Egypt as well.

So, gravitation is a mystery. We know what happens, but we don't know why it happens. Nobody understands gravity.

And gravity comes up. Out of an everyday thing, you throw it up and it'll come down. An object falls towards the earth.

And it's the force that holds the universe together. And the moon's gravitation causes a tide on earth. Now, this isn't really the same thing.

This is the thing. I was brought up on the Atlantic coast. And I used to read about the Gulf Stream.

A stream of warm water originating down in the Caribbean. It comes up north, and then it crosses the Atlantic. And it goes up by Ireland, and the north of Scotland over to Norway.

And it's still warm water. Incredible! That's what keeps some of those places from being ice floes. It weren't called the Gulf Stream, but we have one on the west coast, too.

The Japanese Stream. This is the thing. Now, how can God do that? I want to tell you, the Atlantic and the Pacific are whole, whole oceans.

Now, how can God sustain a stream of water going through those oceans and still maintain this warm water? Don't try it in your bathtub, it won't work. You cannot duplicate that in any way. Some years ago, I was on a hike out in the high Sierras in California with Tom Olsen.

If you're here, you know Tom Olsen, the sunlight observer. And we stopped a month, one day, by a stream. They always stop by a stream for water.

And I saw something that I couldn't believe. There's a bird up there in the Sierras, known as the Wanda Weasel. And that little bird came in, and flew right into the water.

And walked along the bottom of the stream, feeding as it went. And then it had its meal. It came up out of the water, too.

It did. The bird went into the water. It didn't have to fly.

The bird was in the water. It was lumped with water. Some of you saw the movie film Prior Claims.

It's a very real sense that there's nothing new under the sun. And God had a prior claim on many of the things that we take for granted today. A Frenchman was watching a wasp build its nest.

And that's how a discovery was made, how to make paper out of wool. A Frenchman learned from the wasp. What's the word? Paper? Marvelous.

The temperature inside a beehive rises too much. The bees know how to position themselves near the entrance. They flap their wings.

If they didn't, the beehive would melt, and they'd lose the honey. They know how to air condition that beehive by flapping their wings at a rate fast enough to do the job. Actually, their cooling system puts the electric fan to shame.

Incidentally, the brains of the bees are about the size of a fan head. Electric eels came long before electricity, and fireflies can provide light without heat. It's amazing how many things we can't do.

So, after a cold, why the doctors don't get pneumonia for that. It's funny, we can fly to the moon, but we can't build ropes without potholes. So many things we can't do.

I think I'll allow the bees to show us our new positions. Temperature, temperature, temperature. The temperature in the early stages of their immune system is low.

Their immune system is very high. All of these elements are ants and spiders and bees. Silkworms, they made threads long before men made them.

And female moths broadcast something like radio signals, and the nails have a repeating sound. We call that walkie-talkie. And bats are noted for their remarkable radar.

There's a poem on trees like what we use on the news. But the largest creatures move longer than trees, heavier than a hundred tons of acidity. And it's as if an artifact was on the tree's head.

How much food does it take to sustain such an animal? Probably four tons of krill every day. Four tons of krill every day. That's three million calories.

A baby blue whale can put away a hundred gallons of milk every 24 hours. A hundred gallons of milk every 24 hours. And when a blue whale surfaces, it takes in the largest breath of air of any living thing on the planet.

It's straight and higher than a telephone pole. And you know what we said about animals and what we said about human beings? We can say about flowers and plants and trees and all the rest. It's marvelous, isn't it? Calm in all its glory, it's not a rage like this one.

It's as if it was those blue anemones out on the hillsides of Israel. And it's orange like a laundry table. And of course, it's so beautiful.

And all the rest of the living things on earth today are as beautiful sometimes as the earth itself is. It's not beautiful. Therefore, it's probably never going to be the context that some of them have been growing there for 4,000 years.

4,000 years. Well, I don't know. Indians stand in front of those trees.

It's not the English person. I'm not sure who can do that. Some of them do that.

They're in an area called the White Mountains. Do you ever stop to think of what we owe to trees? We owe fruit to them. Nuts to them.

Shade. Olives. Oil.

And we've been refreshed by them on a hot day. And they provide lumber for buildings, pulp for paper, and turpentine and a host of other things. I was with a man in Tucson, Arizona.

And he told me that they have a mine out there. And they found that the roots of a misty tree, 700 feet below the surface, a misty tree was in search of water. It was following what Bill called the scent of water.

And it went down 700 feet at the bottom. Some of you are saying, well, it does that to the pipes in front of my house, too. You have to call the road group.

It's marvelous to think of a genus flytrap, isn't it, that can capture insects? And I think it's marvelous, too, when you think of plants that God has put on earth as medicines. Turpentine, right. Beautiful for medicinal purposes.

In fact, I saw that they were sending some men, some organizations were sending men down to the Amazon Valley and checking with the natives, the nationals who lived there in the Amazon Valley, and finding out what roots and plants they used for medicine. Thinking they could learn a lot from them. And they probably did.

Think of the fragrances of the flowers that God has made. The more closely they're studied, the more beautiful they are. Which is more than you can say for wax.

No wonder Paul said, Every work of God is marvelous beyond description. And there's nothing that God has made that doesn't indicate intricate and perfect design. There are infinitudes of wisdom and knowledge that we have not yet explored.

And for sheer beauty and efficiency, nothing has there ever been done. You know, even men who don't acknowledge the Lord know that. I'd like to read you a quotation from Immanuel Kant, a philosopher.

He wasn't a believer, and his sentences are inexcusably long, but I'll translate them. He said, For instance, the human self. Well, I was thinking of that when I was speaking about the dimensions of the universe.

Numbers have lost their power. Can't take it in. To reckon, nay, even thought fails to concede adequately.

And our conception of the whole dissolves into an astonishment without power of expression. All more eloquent because it is from translation. The creation is so marvelous that it's beyond the power of words or numbers to express.

And beyond human thought to take it in. The truth is that no language can express the greatness of God's creation, and no mind can possibly take it in. Sir Fred Hoyle, he was a British scientist and astronomer, and he was a skeptic as well, and he said that for the first cell to have originated by chance was like saying that a tornado could sweep through an airplane junkyard and assemble a giant jet fighter.

It's an unbeliever. Harold Morowitz, Department of Molecular Biophysics at Yale, says that the probability of a single bacterium being formed spontaneously in five billion years was infinitely remote. And other illustrations have been used to show the absurdity of attributing the wonders of creation to chance.

Somebody said it's like taking all the parts of a typewriter, putting them in a washing machine, turning on the switch and waiting until the typewriter disassembles. Or believing that a tornado could blow through a printing shop and assemble the cold type so accurately as to produce an English dictionary. Or throwing bricks randomly and building a palace.

Or hurling pieces of scrap metal to the wind and building a sports car. In spite of their stubborn clinging to evolution, scientists stand amazed at the wonders of creation. I like it.

They use such words as incredible, wonderful, intriguing, and marvelous. And one of them acknowledged that what we see should be sweeping us off our feet in amazement. They don't have any idea that they're going to cause believers to worship the Lord with increased intensity.

Yet that's the net result. Somebody says this, and with this I close. The Book of Psalms climaxes with a mighty crescendo of praise to God.

The last six psalms add instrument to instrument until, in one final blast, everything that has breath praises the Lord. Hear the antiphonal choirs as one generation praises God's work to another. Listen to their percussion section, fire and hail, snow and vapor, stormy winds fulfilling His word.

And the wind instruments add their notes, the birds and the flowers, the sun, moon, and stars. Angels in heaven praise Him, the kings of the earth. Is your voice in there? Praise the Lord.

All creation, all animate and inanimate creation is praising Him. I want my voice to be heard praising Him as well. Tomorrow I'd like to go on with the subject of the wonders of God in Prophets.

We heard about His creatorial glory. But there's more to it than that. And I think the wonders of His providence are just as great.

How He runs the universe is marvelous. And I think it's especially marvelous for those who are confused about how He intervenes in their lives and does things in our lives that would never happen according to the laws of chance or providence. Father, what can we do but bow and worship? We think of the simplicity with which it's all said in the Bible, in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

And yet all eternity will not be able to exhaust the meaning of those words. Thank You that You've given us minds and eyes to take in, in some little measure, Your glory in creation. We pray that as we go through life we might not be too busy to stop and examine the things You've created.

And see You in them all. Let me marvel tonight that the same One who did all of this, the One that came down to planet earth, went to Calvary, was lifted up between heaven and earth as if worthy of being the One, and that He died there as a sacrifice for our sins. It's all overwhelming, my dear Lord.

We pray, we worship, we adore. Our hearts are full. We just want to look up into Your face tonight and say, We love You.

The Savior's Word is in You.

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