

## Designed by God Psalm 139:13-16

**Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.**

Is this world designed by an intelligent and loving \_\_\_\_\_, or have we come into being by accident or chance? Is there \_\_\_\_\_ of an intelligent designer, or did we evolve from non-living matter? Since the Bible is divine in origin, it teaches us the \_\_\_\_\_. We want nothing \_\_\_\_\_ and nothing \_\_\_\_\_ than the truth. We “buy the truth” and aren’t willing to \_\_\_\_\_ it.

A person’s \_\_\_\_\_ of the beginning affects his whole outlook on life. We must all deal with questions such as: Who am I? Where did I come from? Does my life have a \_\_\_\_\_? Am I of any \_\_\_\_\_? What we believe about our \_\_\_\_\_ will determine how we see ourselves and our place in life. If we consider ourselves merely as a complex \_\_\_\_\_, which evolved from a one-celled creature, we’ll have a pretty uncertain view of life. But if we consider ourselves unique individuals made in the image of God with an \_\_\_\_\_ destiny, then there is great reason and meaning to our existence.

Charles Darwin taught that man \_\_\_\_\_ over time from other species through the process of natural selection or what is better known as “survival of the fittest.” A biologist who followed Darwin’s thinking said, “man is the \_\_\_\_\_ of a purposeless and natural process that did not have him in mind.” The Bible, however, teaches in Genesis 1 that God \_\_\_\_\_ the world and all of the creatures within it. Male and female, they were to reproduce after their own kind. God specifically says in verses 26 and 27 that He made man in His own \_\_\_\_\_ and gave him dominion over all the earth. These views are very far apart and cannot both be \_\_\_\_\_. So, what we believe about how we came to \_\_\_\_\_ makes a great difference in how we see ourselves.

### **Our reading today comes from Psalm 139:13-16.**

Genesis 1:1 says: “In the beginning God \_\_\_\_\_ the heavens and the earth.” The word “created” means “to call into being something that \_\_\_\_\_ previously existed.” God simply \_\_\_\_\_ and something came into existence. God created the \_\_\_\_\_ and everything that’s in it, every plant and every animal. Last, He created \_\_\_\_\_ in His own image. The Bible says, “By \_\_\_\_\_ we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible” (Hebrews 11:3).

Believing God intelligently created the world and everything in it is not a \_\_\_\_\_ leap of faith. It’s built on \_\_\_\_\_ all the order and purpose that’s evident in the world. Proverbs 3:19 says: “The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; by understanding He established the heavens.” God purposefully \_\_\_\_\_ the world and all His creatures with wisdom and understanding. The more we study this world and the human body, the more we realize the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ that God put into everything that He made.

But those who \_\_\_\_\_ faith in God suggest a different way to explain the existence of life. Some claim that life \_\_\_\_\_ from non-living matter; but if we rule out God, then the origin of life is a \_\_\_\_\_. It’s a great \_\_\_\_\_ of faith to assume that life could come from non-living matter. They think there was a gradual development of complex molecules from the basic elements until they finally became molecules that could reproduce themselves and are assumed to be living.

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Evolutionists once spoke of the primordial soup that spawned life, but many now question that since they learned of how \_\_\_\_\_ life really is. The basic building blocks of life are proteins that make up our DNA. The DNA provides the information or intelligence \_\_\_\_\_ to reproduce the proteins which give us life. Each protein is quite complex. It doesn't just \_\_\_\_\_. Protein molecules are made up of a complicated \_\_\_\_\_ of amino acids that are ordered by the various genes in our DNA. Sir Fred Hoyle, one of England's prominent scientists, \_\_\_\_\_ that the chance of higher life-forms emerging accidentally from non-living matter is comparable to a tornado making a Boeing 747 jet out of a junkyard.

Living cells use over 75 special kinds of proteins and RNA molecules to make \_\_\_\_\_ protein following DNA's instruction. What we know about airplanes convinces us that their flight is the result of \_\_\_\_\_ design. What scientists know about the way living cells make protein suggests just as clearly that life also is the \_\_\_\_\_ of creative design.

In 2004 prominent British philosopher and proponent of atheism, Professor Antony Flew, \_\_\_\_\_ his atheism. Why? He said because "the argument to intelligent design is enormously \_\_\_\_\_ than it was when I first met it. It now seems to me that the findings of more than fifty years of DNA research have provided materials for a new and enormously powerful argument to \_\_\_\_\_." Flew had to admit he "had to go where the evidence \_\_\_\_\_," and that's to believe in a Creator.

Evolutionists once believed that man had vestigial organs, body parts that \_\_\_\_\_ all or most of their original function. There were supposed to be \_\_\_\_\_ such vestigial organs in humans. This list included such things as the tailbone and the appendix, even parts of the ear and eye. Now, that list is almost \_\_\_\_\_. Medical science discovered that these organs played essential \_\_\_\_\_ and were not "useless."

What these organs teach us is that God had a special \_\_\_\_\_ behind everything that He has made. **Read Psalm 139:13-15.**

Evolution, according to Darwin, is in a continual state of \_\_\_\_\_, with gradual change happening over long periods of time. He believed the fossil record should be filled with \_\_\_\_\_ of transitional forms from one species, or one kind of animal into another; these forms go from less complex to more complex. But paleontologists didn't \_\_\_\_\_ these transitional forms. They found \_\_\_\_\_ in the fossil record. There was no evidence of transformational intermediates \_\_\_\_\_ documented fossil species

Many people forget the number of hoaxes that evolutionists have posed to \_\_\_\_\_ their theory. They put forth "missing links" between \_\_\_\_\_ and men. They believed the fossil records would show how one \_\_\_\_\_ of animal evolved into another, but none of the fossils ever showed a transitional link between one creature and another.

Instead of gradual change as evolutionists expected, what they found were sudden appearances of \_\_\_\_\_ species and the overlapping in time of species. One evolution scientist, S. M. Stanley, admits, "Species that were once thought to have turned into others have been found to \_\_\_\_\_ in time with these alleged descendants. In fact, the fossil record does not convincingly document a \_\_\_\_\_ transition from one species to another."

The first fossil hoax was Java Man found in 1891. Evolutionists said they found a missing \_\_\_\_\_; and what was the evidence? They found a skullcap, three teeth, and a femur or thigh-bone. They found the thigh-bone 50 feet from the skull a year later, and it didn't come from the same individual. The skull came from an ape, while the leg bone came from a human.

Second, Neanderthal man was found in France in 1908. Neanderthal man was thought to be ignorant, ape-like, stooped and knuckle-dragging. But the evidence proved that Neanderthal man was just as

\_\_\_\_\_ as we are, and his stooped appearance was because of arthritis and rickets. Neanderthals are now recognized as skilled hunters, who believed in after-life, and even were skilled surgeons.

Third, there's Piltdown Man who was found in 1912 in a village named Piltdown in England. It was no missing link; it was merely an \_\_\_\_\_ human. The evidence came from a human skull and a jawbone of an orangutan. This deception lasted forty years before it was proven to be a hoax.

Fourth, there is Nebraska Man who was found in 1992 in western Nebraska near Snake Brook. Some scientists said this was the missing \_\_\_\_\_ until they discovered the fossil was only the single tooth of an extinct wild pig.

Fifth, there is 'Lucy,' this is the popular name given to a famous fossil skeleton found in 1974 in Ethiopia by American anthropologist Donald Johanson. To many, Lucy is regarded as a certain link between ape-like creatures and man and supposedly proves evolution. But "Lucy" was not human at all; she was a chimp-like animal, very \_\_\_\_\_ from humans.

Rather than look to fossils for imaginary missing links, perhaps we should look to the amazing \_\_\_\_\_ that's right in front of us. This purposeful design all around us argues for an intelligent designer. That designer is \_\_\_\_\_. He's the only one with the unlimited power and wisdom to \_\_\_\_\_ us. Revelation 4:11 says, "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

Microbiologists tell us of the utter complexity of a single, living \_\_\_\_\_. Benjamin Miller and Ruth Goode said, "The cell has been likened to a power plant, a furnace, a chemical laboratory. In its reproductive functions, it's been described as a factory complete with manager's office, files of blueprints and plans, intercommunication system, assembly line with foremen and workers."

They said, "None of these fanciful analogies does \_\_\_\_\_ to the living cell. All of these man-made systems put together, however ingenious and efficient, could not reproduce the functioning of this single unit of \_\_\_\_\_ that's too small to be seen with the unaided eye." My friend, Wayne Jackson, in his book, *The Human Body—Accident or Design?*, asks, "If the living cell is more 'ingenious' than any 'man-made system,' who made it? Are we to conclude it just \_\_\_\_\_? That's wholly illogical."

The human body is an engineering \_\_\_\_\_. It's indeed fearfully and wonderfully made. We have trillions of cells in our bodies, and they're marvelously designed and show their \_\_\_\_\_. For instance, the human red-blood cells are saucer-shaped and fairly flat, permitting the transfer of oxygen and carbon dioxide throughout the body. Nerve cells, on the other hand, "have long, thin extensions to transmit messages." Hebrews 3:4 says, "For every house is built by someone, but the builder of all things is God." These exceptionally complex cells didn't just \_\_\_\_\_! God designed and \_\_\_\_\_ them for their functions. And only a \_\_\_\_\_ God could make them!

Charles Darwin in the *Origin of Species* said, "If it could be demonstrated that any complex organ existed, which could not possibly have been formed by numerous, successive, slight modifications, my theory (that is, the theory of evolution) would absolutely break down." Then he added, "But I can find \_\_\_\_\_ such case." However, on page 167 of the *Origin of Species*, Darwin spoke of the eye and said, "To suppose that the eye...could have formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, \_\_\_\_\_ in the highest degree possible." Even then, Darwin \_\_\_\_\_ himself. He did not know in 1859 what we know today about the eye.

You are watching me because God gave you \_\_\_\_\_ and you are listening because God gave you \_\_\_\_\_. Bioengineer John Lenihan said, "The eye is an exceptionally sensitive optical instrument

displaying many striking \_\_\_\_\_ of design and performance; even the windscreen washers and wipers (that is, in your eye) have not been forgotten.”

Your eye can see moving images by the thousands as they \_\_\_\_\_. Your eye makes adjustments to the amount of \_\_\_\_\_, to distance, and to angle automatically. Every camera we own was patterned after the eye. Wayne Jackson argues, “If the function of the camera demands that it was ‘made,’ doesn’t it stand to \_\_\_\_\_ that the more complex human camera, the eye, must also have had a Maker?”

Likewise, the ear is a marvel. Using membranes like the eardrum, small bones, muscles that amplify the sound inside your ear, and 25,000 auditory receptors, the brain is able to receive these vibrations and interpret whether they come from thunder, or a voice, or from thousands of other tones that we hear.

One authority says, “Amazingly, the inner ear, although no bigger than a \_\_\_\_\_, contains as many circuits as the telephone system of a good-sized city.” Can you believe that a city’s telephone system could design \_\_\_\_\_ or just happen by accident? Your ear is far more sophisticated than this microphone that I’m wearing. Did this microphone just happen or did someone make it?

You’re watching me because God gave you a \_\_\_\_\_ that can understand sights and sounds. How did material things by themselves ever \_\_\_\_\_ consciousness? How did we ever become \_\_\_\_\_ of ourselves and of other things around us? How did material things by themselves ever produce \_\_\_\_\_? Language demands the organization of \_\_\_\_\_ and symbols that are understood by more than one mind. How did language \_\_\_\_\_ from one person to another? You’re listening and reasoning about what I am saying. How did you gain the \_\_\_\_\_ to reason? Where did your \_\_\_\_\_ of right and wrong come from? Surely you didn’t get that from material things.

The Bible says, “For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1:20). Let’s be \_\_\_\_\_ for all God has done in giving us this marvelously designed world and life. Every bone, muscle, organ, and tissue \_\_\_\_\_ that God made us in His image.

The fossil record doesn’t give us any “missing links” or intermediate forms showing the \_\_\_\_\_ from one species to another. The body itself shows us an incredible \_\_\_\_\_ of design. These facts make it reasonable to believe that we’ve been created, not products of \_\_\_\_\_ selection. It takes \_\_\_\_\_ more faith to believe that non-living matter produced life than it does to believe in God. It takes far more faith to believe a reptile could gradually become a bird than it does to believe in \_\_\_\_\_. It takes far more faith to believe an eye or an ear were accidents of nature than to believe God designed them.

This world contains everywhere the \_\_\_\_\_ of an all-powerful and all-wise Designer, and that Designer is the one and only God. He is your God. He made you, gave you life, loves you, hears your prayers, and wants you to live with Him in \_\_\_\_\_ for eternity. You can learn all about Him in the \_\_\_\_\_. He gave us this precious book to \_\_\_\_\_ our most important questions of life. It’s the \_\_\_\_\_ book that will tell you where we came from, why we’re here, and what will happen to us after we die.

To enter into a spiritual relationship with the Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ in Him with all your heart, turn away from sin and follow His Word, \_\_\_\_\_ the name of Jesus as the Son of God, and out of love be \_\_\_\_\_ into Christ. When you’re immersed into Christ, you’re baptized into His death. At that time the Lord will \_\_\_\_\_ away your sins by His blood (Acts 22:16) and He will add you to His church.

Nothing you can do is more important than getting into a right relationship with the One who created you. We hope you'll do that today, and let us know about it.