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Not So Simple

Proof of God's existence doesn't always show itself in extraordinary miracles. In fact, some of the most powerful proof for God is all around us. His presence can be seen in the seemingly simple and mundane aspects of our daily lives, showing itself in things we take for granted. Rushing about our lives with our human thoughts and ambitions, we seldom consider what is allowing these actions to take place. We may wake up in the morning, go about our day, and then fall asleep at night without lending a single thought to just how we accomplished this.

Christians know that when God designed the world, He did so with us in mind. Of course, the Creator takes care of His creation; but we may not realize exactly what this means, and what a strong argument it is for proof of God! Indeed, a miracle is not needed to verify the existence of the Lord. We don't need to "prove" anything when proof is seen, consumed, and breathed every day. Three of the simplest life-giving elements on earth – sunlight, water, and air – are shouting out evidence for our God. We just need to learn how to listen.

On a bright summer day, we may lean back and look up into the sky, shading our eyes with our hands. We squint against the brightness and glance, for the briefest moment, directly at the sun. This fiery sphere is powerful enough to burn our eyes and leave us blind, yet we could not live without it. Although we can scarcely glance at the sun without harming ourselves, without it we would not exist.

Subconsciously, we all know how important our sun is to us. Its perfect design protects our very existence! When we closely examine the sun, its size, its heat, and the light it produces make it clear that it was formed by a Creator. And not just any Creator, but one who is powerful enough to fashion the universe, wise enough to give it a perfect design, and loving enough to do it solely to sustain our lives. Psalm 19:1 reads, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork." A study of the skies reaffirms this Bible verse and shows us that the Lord is indeed a glorious God.

The more science advances, the clearer it becomes that God fashioned our entire solar system in a way that protects us. From the size of the sun to the tilt of

the earth, our world keeps us safe in ways we can barely comprehend. If Earth's distance were a mere five percent closer to the sun, all water on the planet would evaporate (Martin). Excessive heat would force it to remain in this gaseous state, drying up the earth and depriving us of water. In turn, this proximity to the sun would create a massive greenhouse effect, burning up all life on earth! How could we come into this perfect situation by pure chance? The world could not simply evolve into a flawless state of being; our placement in the universe is no coincidence. It is evidence that our world came about by intelligent design.

We are aware that as the earth orbits the sun, its continuous rotations give us days, nights, and change of seasons. However, that is not all they do for us. If the sun shone constantly on one area of the planet, that region would soon become hot, dry, and uninhabitable. At the same time, the side of the earth tilted away from the sun would become cold and sparse. Humans, and most animals, cannot survive for extended periods of time in either temperature extreme. Therefore, we are blessed that God gave earth a balance and a rotation.

In the article *How the Earth's Unique Planetary Position Shows us God's Design,* Sherri Seligson wrote, "A planet's sun needs to be located at a proper spot within a galaxy so that there is not too much [e]ffect from the galaxy's massive center with its large gravitational force, and excessive debris that would constantly fall onto the planet." The Milky Way spans the distance of 100,000 light years (Wikipedia). In all this vast space, our solar system is in the perfect location to keep us safe.

By taking time to examine the position of our universe, we will come to the conclusion that we are protected by a someone who is loving and merciful. Sherri Seligson stated later in her article, "If you assign probabilities to all of these components, the likelihood of a planet having all of these features is one thousandth of a trillionth. Now there are likely hundreds of billions of stars out there, but one thousandth of a trillionth is even smaller than that. WE ARE RARE!" (Seligson).

Even the slightest shift in our solar system would quickly destroy our world. In relation to the sun, Earth is in an ideal position. In relation to our galaxy, the sun is also in the perfect place! Could this happen by chance? Could an entire universe form in such a way as to protect life, against all odds? Placing our faith in chance is both risky and foolish. If this amazing world just happened to come into existence, it could just as easily cease to exist. However, Isaiah 37:16 is offered up as a praise our Lord and Creator, and it should put our minds at rest. "Oh Lord of hosts, God of Israel…You are God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth."

Now, let us direct our attention to another of earth's life-giving elements: water. This is yet another substance that is too-often overlooked! How many times during our day do we walk to the sink and fill up a glass of water? Or take a quick sip from a water fountain as we pass it in the hall? Usually, we perform these tasks without even realizing we are doing it. Drinking water is a mere moment in our day: unremarkable, unnoticeable, and unmemorable.

But how quickly this could change! What if we were no longer able to take a drink of water whenever we felt thirsty? Rafi Letzter proposes this question in one article: “Imagine that the taps switched off tomorrow, the rivers and streams ran dry and the oceans turned into dry valleys. How would you react? And more importantly, how long would you survive?” Research has shown that depending on age and health, a human will take anywhere from two days to one week to die from dehydration. We seldom think of water as being a lifesaver. Even so, if any component of water were to change, the entire race of mankind would die within a week! The next time you take a drink of water, think of this: that water is not only aiding to your comfort and soothing your thirst…it is keeping you alive.

The chemical composition of water is another aspect that is extremely important to life on earth. Another name for water is H_2O. This means that in one water molecule, there are two atoms of hydrogen and one atom of oxygen. All water on the planet is made of H_2O; but if all water on the planet came about by chance, how easy would it be for the chemical composition to be altered a little? For example, if another oxygen atom was added to a molecule of water, the entire molecule would change to H_2O_2. This would cause our “water” to become hydrogen peroxide. In the website reference.com/health, it is stated, “In high-dose cases of hydrogen peroxide poisoning, large amounts of oxygen can be released during digestion that can create a gas embolism in the patient's blood, gastric wall or brain…Consumption…has the potential to kill by multiple mechanisms.”

Obviously, life of any kind would not have lasted very long if all we had to drink was H_2O_2. Adding one atom of oxygen to water has disastrous results! How is it that the perfect substance to keep us alive and healthy could randomly occur? Water, a relatively simple element, may not be so simple after all.

In order to better understand the complexity of God's creation, let us look at another component of water: its expansion upon freezing. Water is one of the only elements in nature that expands when it freezes. Usually, a substance will grow denser, acquiring more mass and therefore becoming heavier. If this were the case with water, all bodies of water, from the largest ocean to the smallest pond, would be affected. Upon the arrival of winter, water on the surface of a lake would freeze and sink to the bottom. More open water would be exposed to the frigid air, freezing it in turn. Thicker and thicker layers of ice would form. Some bodies of water would freeze completely – leaving, in short, a colossal ice cube. In extremely cold regions of the earth, this ice may never fully thaw (Wile).

What would this year-round freeze do to the organisms living inside the lake? They would die out rapidly, crushed by the weight of ice and the lack of oxygen. However, God thought of this long before we did! He cares for every part of His creation – from people, created after his own image, to the smallest organism in a remote, frozen pond. Matthew 10:29 reinforces this: "Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin? And not one of them falls to the ground apart from your Father's will." In his textbook *Discovering Design with Chemistry*, Dr. Wile affirms, "…the only reason the organisms that live in lakes can survive the winter is because water has

this unusual property of expanding when it freezes…the fact that water expands on freezing is just another in a long line of examples that show the earth was designed by God to be a haven for life."

Finally, this brings us to air, our third and final topic. Among our life-giving elements, air is perhaps what we rely on most of all, what we are most conscious of needing. Indeed, even the slightest deprivation of it has an immediate effect on us, both physically and mentally. When you take a breath, countless steps occur to use that air for your body. When your lungs take in air, your diaphragm contracts to allow them to expand. Oxygen from the air is absorbed through your lungs and into your bloodstream. Red blood cells will carry this life-giving substance around your body, delivering it to your organs in order to keep them running. This is basic information that most of us are aware of; we all know that we need oxygen in order to live! Despite of this simple truth, oxygen is generally taken for granted. After all, we are still able to breathe, and our bodies are still functioning properly. Clearly, the air our bodies use is doing its job. But what if it wasn't?

Oxygen makes up a fairly large percentage of the air around us. However, when we breathe, oxygen is not the only thing we are taking into our body – and thank goodness for that! Dr. Wile states in his chemistry textbook, "The reason we breathe, of course, is to get the oxygen that is in the air…We don't use the other gases that are in the mixture, but we are very fortunate that they are there. If the air we breathe were pure oxygen, we would suffer all sorts of health problems, including blindness!"

In recent history, we have seen the effects of a plethora of oxygen. In the 1950's, a "blindness epidemic" struck a large percentage of prematurely-born babies. These babies were often placed in incubators while they continued to develop outside the womb. However, while in these incubators, one quarter of the babies would go blind. Their condition was caused by a too-high percentage of oxygen in the incubators. When research exposed the culprit, the blindness epidemic was tackled. However, because of the difficulty in determining the ideal oxygen level for premature babies, it was not solved for many years (washingtonpost.com).

Indeed, the ratio of oxygen to other gases in the air is a delicate balance. In the air we breathe, 21% is oxygen, 78% is nitrogen, and the remaining 1% is made up of a variety of gases. This combination of gases is the perfect ratio to preserve Planet Earth! If the amount of oxygen was one percentage point higher, we would see seven times as many forest fires as we do today. If it were 2.5% higher, fires could break out at random, causing even inflammable material to catch flame (Wile pg. 41). This infinitely precise proportion could only come about by a purposeful creation. How could a "big bang" result in the perfect composition of air to keep us alive? Job 33:4 sums up the truth of our creation with a few simple words: "The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life."

By taking a closer look at three "simple" elements, we can eliminate the possibility of existence by chance. Some people around us may need to see God working miracles in order to believe in Him. What they don't realize is that our universe is filled with miracles! Every breath we take is a gift from our Creator.

Every glass of water we drink is a taste of God's goodness. The warmth of sunshine on our skin is a blessing from the Lord. When we stop for a moment and consider all the wonders around us, it will become clear – beyond a doubt – that our world has been formed by a loving God.

"The Lord reigns, He is clothed with majesty…The Lord on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, than the mighty waves of the sea. Your testimonies are very sure; holiness adorns Your house, O Lord, forever." (Psalm 93: 1-5) Let this be the song in our hearts as we praise God for the incredible world He has given us!

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