

God counts stars and hairs!



MODERN telescopes like the Hubble Space Telescope (left) have revealed that there are billions of galaxies, each with thousands of millions of stars. We can't imagine such numbers, and could never begin to count them (see box, right), but the Bible tells us that God not only counts them all, but also names them! If you find that difficult to believe, then remember that God knows everything and His power is not limited in any way.

This doesn't mean that He is too great to care about us, though. God cares about everything He created, even the birds, but He cares for us even more. Jesus said, "When five sparrows are sold, they cost only two pennies. But God does not forget any of them. Yes, God even knows how many hairs you have on your head. Don't be afraid. You are worth much more than many sparrows." (Luke 12: 6-7).



God knows how many hairs are on your head!

Some astronomers have calculated that there are as many as 300,000 million stars in a galaxy like the one above. This number is huge, and if you tried to count them at one every second without stopping for a rest, it would take more than 9,000 years! But there are millions of galaxies out there, and we can't imagine how long it would take us to count the stars in all of them. Yet God counts and names them all!

"He counts the stars and names each one. Our Lord is great and very powerful. There is no limit to what he knows." (Psalm 147: 4-5)



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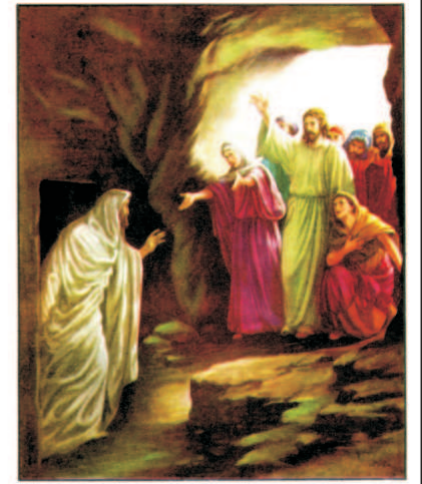
Jesus showed us how God works

Christians believe that God the Creator came to earth in the Person of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "He who has seen me has seen the Father." He told His disciples that God was working through Him, and that His miracles should prove this to them. (John 14: 9-11). When we read about the life of Jesus in the Bible we learn that He did things which only God can do, and many of His miracles were *creation miracles*. He turned water into wine; fed 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two small fish — and had food left over. When He was in a boat with His disciples on the Sea of Galilee, a fierce storm blew up. The boat was about to sink, but Jesus stood up and ordered the storm to stop — and it did! One of His friends, named Lazarus, died and was buried. But four days after he died, Jesus called Lazarus to come out of the grave, and out he came — alive, and with a brand-new body!

In all these miracles, and many others, Jesus showed us how God works. He only needs to *speak*. That's why God could create the world and universe in only six days.

Three of the creation miracles performed by Jesus

Left to right:
Feeding 5,000 people with five loaves and two fish; stilling a fierce storm on the Sea of Galilee; raising Lazarus from the dead.



Nature Notes by the Editor



Never take eggs from a wild birds' nest. It is against the law. Also, if eggs are taken there will be less baby birds, and some species may die out.

In the spring, most birds are busy building nests in which to lay their eggs. Eggs are wonderful things. If you looked inside a fertile chicken's egg you would see a tiny speck. If you placed the egg under a hen or in an incubator, and examined the egg regularly over a light, you would see some wonderful changes. On the first day the head and eyes begin to form, and by the end of the second day the heart is beating. On the third day legs and wings begin to form, and by the eighth day feathers start to grow. All this time, the chick embryo is feeding from the yolk.



By the 20th day the chick fills the whole shell of the egg. It then needs more air, so it pecks into the tiny air sac at the end of the egg. Then, on the 21st day — no later, or it would die — the chick breaks through the shell, using a special "egg tooth", to begin life in the outside world. The eggs of other birds may take a different length of time to hatch, but what happens inside the egg is much the same. The instructions to make all this happen are in that tiny speck — instructions to design a bird that will eventually make a nest and lay eggs itself, and to make sure that the chick inside the egg hatches at just the right time. Instructions always come from someone's mind; they never come by accident. The instructions in an egg must have come from God's mind!

—Geoff Chapman

Puzzle Corner

Decipher the Bible verse using the code on the keyboard below

5	16	3	12	18	6	2	11	12	27	11	13	3	11	5	5	16	3	19	9	4	13	28	12	
23	9	27	27	11	26	13	29	25	6	5	16	3	25	4	3	11	5	16	14	4	9	27		
16	8	12	27	9	7	5	16	16	3	27	11	13	3	11	19	19	5	16	3	12	5	11	4	12

Q	W	E	R	T	Y	U	I	O	P
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A	S	D	F	G	H	J	K	L	;
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Z	X	C	V	B	N	M	,	.	?
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Draw lines to link what God did on each day of creation

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7



Answers on next page

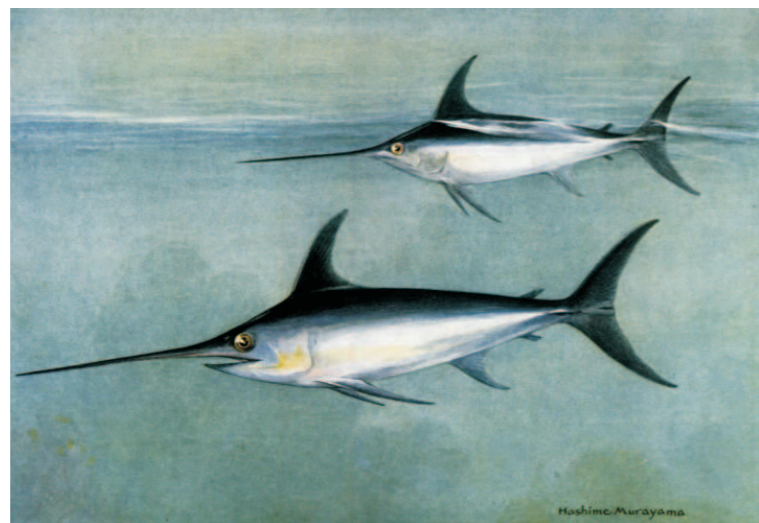
WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

SWORDFISH

SWORDFISH get their name from their sharp, sword-like bill. They are large fish, growing up to 4.3 metres (14 feet) long, and weighing as much as 536 kg. (1,182 lb). Their stream-lined shape helps them move through the water easily and quickly.

Swordfish live in the seas and oceans in many parts of the world, except the very coldest. They are popular for food, although very expensive. About 10 years ago it was feared they would become extinct, but after a special campaign to save them, they have become plentiful again.

Quite recently, scientists discovered that swordfish can heat up their eyes and brain. Some of the muscles which other fish use to move their eyes are used by



This special design helps them see more clearly in cold or murky waters, and they sometimes swim to a depth of 500 metres (1,600 feet) where the water is very cold.

There is no evidence that swordfish evolved. Fossils of similar fish have been found in the same rocks as dinosaurs. We believe these weird, yet wonderful fish were made by God on the fifth day of creation.



Swordfish skeleton at the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC.

swordfish to heat blood, which then circulates around the eyes and brain, working rather like the radiator in a water-cooled engine.

THE GREATEST THING!

We have seen that God is much bigger than we could ever imagine, and that His power has no limit. It was no more difficult for Him to create the stars than to calm the storm on the Sea of Galilee. Does this mean that God is too big to care about us? Not at all! The greatest thing God ever did was not creating the universe but visiting earth as a man. The Bible tells us that, long ago, King Solomon built a fabulous temple where the people could worship God, but when Solomon dedicated the temple



(right) he said, "But, God, can you really live here on earth? Even the sky and the highest place in heaven cannot contain you." (1 Kings 8: 27). Yet God did live on earth — He came as Jesus, a tiny baby, born at Bethlehem. Just think of it: God the Creator, making Himself so small! One of the names given to Jesus was "Immanuel", which means "God is with us." God is not too big to care for you. In fact it is because He is so big that He does love you — and every other person on earth! Jesus came to prove it, even dying on the cross so that our sins could be forgiven. "This is how God showed his love to us: he sent his one and only Son into the world to give us life through him." (1 John 4: 9). If you respond to what Jesus did for you, then you will know that you matter to God.



PUZZLE CORNER ANSWERS

Bible verse: "The sky was made at the Lord's command. By the breath from his mouth he made all the stars." (Psalm 33: 6).
Days of creation: see page one for answers.

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A GREAT BIG GOD!

God is so powerful that He only has to speak and things happen!

Lots of people believe that the world and everything in it came into being through millions of years of evolution. In the Bible (Genesis 1), God tells us that He created everything in six days, and on the left you can see what God did each day. But many Christians can't believe God really did it in six days. Is that because they don't believe that God was able to? But He is bigger and more powerful than we can ever imagine, and we should never say He can't do something just because it seems impossible to us. If God had wanted us to believe He took millions of years to make the world, surely He would have told us so in the Bible?

He counts all the stars!

Imagine placing a grain of sand between your thumb and finger, and holding it up against the night sky. That grain of sand would cover just a tiny bit of the sky. In 1996, the Hubble Space Telescope was focussed on an area of sky that small. A photograph was taken (right), and astronomers were amazed — it revealed that there were thousands of stars and galaxies in that tiny space!



Now, the Bible says that God counts and names all the stars!

Read more on the next page

FIRST DAY: Darkness and light	
SECOND DAY: Sea and sky	
THIRD DAY: Dry land, plants and trees	
FOURTH DAY: Sun, moon and stars	
FIFTH DAY: Birds and water creatures	
SIXTH DAY: Insects, land animals and people	
SEVENTH DAY: God's work of creation was finished	Creation finished God rested

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