

# I HAVE HEARD, BUT NOW I SEE

Life interruptions, both good and bad, can keep us from missing some of God's biggest blessings. It's not until we consider what He has already done for us through His Word, His Son, *and* through creation, that we can see that God is lovingly trying to catch our attention.

"...Look up or all around you, or down... you cannot escape the intricate craftsmanship of every tree, leaf, insect, bird, flower, wave, raindrop, sunset, grain of sand. We stand before it all without excuse (Rom.1:20). Without an excuse for not wondering, not appreciating, not giving thanks. Jim's book reawakens and reminds us of all this and more...."

Michael Card, singer-songwriter, musician, author.



Peacock Spider Photo: Jurgen Otto



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Begin your journey in understanding the dynamic relationship between God and His Creations.

The indescribable love and care that God shows us through Creation Design draws us nearer to His heart.

"...Jim Kraft doesn't just inspire awe in us as we read about amazing aspects of creation, he continually turns our eyes to the loving Creator..."

Dr. Stuart Burgess BSc (Eng) PhD CEng FIMechE professor, highest academic rank in British Commonwealth universities.

Jim Kraft, as a designer and Bible believing Christian, draws on God's Word and over 60 specialized scientific and medical resources to show us the intentional design found in God's creation.

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## Endorsements

### Dr. Stuart Burgess

SBSc (Eng) PhD CEng FIMechE is professor of engineering design at the University of Bristol (UK). (NB: 'Professor' is a title given only to the highest academic rank in British Commonwealth universities.)

Dr. Burgess is the designer/engineer of the NASA Space Station robotic arm and the reflector energy gathering system. His research interests include bio-inspired design, biomechanics and design in nature. He has worked in industry as a professional designer working on projects for the European Space Agency. He has published over 130 papers on the science of design and has been coeditor of the International Journal of Design & Nature. He has lectured at both Cambridge University and the University of Bristol. He is also a visiting professor at Liberty University, USA.

“This insightful book gives a fresh perspective on things we often take for granted. Jim Kraft doesn't just inspire awe in us as we read about amazing aspects of creation, he continually turns our eyes to the loving Creator. The book encourages the reader to have a deeper appreciation for both the big things and little things in creation.”

### Bob Devine

MBI Nature Corner Radio Broadcaster

Faithfully hosted radio program for WCRF Cleveland, Ohio, for over 30 years. Produced 490 episodes of interviews about various wonders of science. Affectionately known as “Uncle Bob.”

“The highest known mountain in the world is 29,035 foot Mount Everest located on the borders of Nepal and Tibet. It's the Behemoth of the Himalayas. How old might it be? Moses,

## ii Before the Beginning

that great Jewish Old Testament General writes in the 90th Psalm, verse 2, ‘LORD, BEFORE the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, you are God!’ Think about that! Before there was anything in the skies above or oceans beneath, The Eternal God was already there. What was our Universe like *Before The Beginning*? Does that sound like a contradiction? Jim Kraft, author of this book, *Before The Beginning* asks, ‘Was God bursting forth with excitement at the thought of sharing His Divine understanding and Creation to come with His future image-bearers? When love is demonstrated there needs to be an object of our love, or in this case, God’s love.’ John 3:16 opens with, ‘For God so loved the world. . . .’ ‘This means you and me! God is sharing what He possesses, Eternal Life, and all that accompanies this privilege.’ In *Before The Beginning*, Jim Kraft cites both an abundant amount of Scripture and Scientific examples of both truth and science all around us, showing us that wherever there is a *design*, there demands a *Designer*. What is His Name? Colossians I: 13–17 says the Designer is The Son of God, The Lord Jesus Christ. I highly recommend Jim’s book, *Before The Beginning* for exciting, truthful reading.”

### Gerald Hillier, M.S Physics

Senior Engineer  
Siemens Energy, Inc.

- 15 years engineering experience in aerospace and aviation with an emphasis on development of processes and materials benefiting the aerospace, military and energy production markets.
- Specialty: Applied Optics, Ceramics and Characterization of Materials using laser spectroscopy.

“This recent work by Jim Kraft treats the Creation of God and the relationship of God to humanity via its perception of creation, as a potential issue in a way most cannot verbalize. Jim gives a logical approach to understanding a complex issue by first acknowledging reverence to the creative genius of God with many unique, concrete examples. Second, potential motives



of creation, (relative and confined to human understanding), are discussed as a means to discover God’s love for humanity with the clear hope of facilitating deeper relationship with the Ultimate Designer, God of the Universe.

When applicable, examples from modern biology, astronomy, and physics are used as supportive evidence of merging creative genius and motive with God’s desire for relationship; all of this is in combination with scripture relevance. However, this is not a science text, and the author does not make recurring attempts or claims to convince the reader with empirical evidence or existing counter-arguments. Rather, the reader is urged to view the creation of the universe with open eyes and open heart in an attempt to draw near to its ultimate Designer. The examples need not be put on trial as they are presented to be divinely self-evident. The tone here is not of conflict with science, but of reconciliation. For those simply looking for a re-statement or re-building of their faith, this book provides many examples, relevant, personal ideas, and relevant scriptures.”

#### Ron DiCianni, Author and Painter

Recognized as one of the nations top illustrators. In 1989, he produced the painting that started a revolution. . . *Spiritual Warfare*. No stranger to the book industry, Ron has collaborated on over 50 book projects, is a six-time winner of the Gold Medallion Award for Excellence in Christian Literature and Retailers Choice Book of The Year winner with Randy Alcorn. Some of his work can be viewed at [www.TapestryProductions.com](http://www.TapestryProductions.com).

“A group of scientists challenged God to a contest. They felt they could create a human being just as well as He could. So the contest began. God did what He does and created a perfect human being. Embarking on their attempt, they started with the same mud God did, whereupon God interrupted them and said, “*Go get your own mud . . .*” That’s the story in a nutshell, isn’t it? God either is or He isn’t. And if He is, our attempts to erase Him, preclude Him or override Him will never work. Someday it will become much clearer than it is right now, but by then it will be

too late to recant. This book may help you come to the truth of God before that day, for the truth, dear reader, is that it doesn't matter what you believe. It's only matters what is true."

Kay Kyllonen, Pharm.D., FPPAG,  
Neonatal ICU Clinical Pharmacy Specialist

Clinical Pharmacist in Pediatrics, mother of two

"I am enjoying this book. I have been reading it with my Bible. I love the integration of Scripture, science (which in its truest form never contradicts the word of God) and concepts of design you use to enliven the reader's perception of God. I will be recommending it to others as an engaging look at the study of God's creation. Thanks for giving me the privilege to review your (and His) handiwork."

Michael Card  
Singer-songwriter, musician, author, radio host

Songs include: *El Shaddai*, *Immanuel*, *Joy in the Journey*, and *Heal Our Land*. Michael has authored over 25 books. His new book is titled: *Inexpressible: Hesed and the Mystery of God's Lovingkindness*.

"Look as far out with the most powerful telescope and it is there, color, structure magnificence. Look as far in as you possibly can with an electron microscope and it is there, design, function, beauty. Look up or all around you, or down... you cannot escape the intricate craftsmanship of every tree, leaf, insect, bird, flower, wave, raindrop, sunset, grain of sand. We stand before it all without excuse (Rom.1: 20). Without an excuse for not wondering, not appreciating, not giving thanks. Jim's book reawakens and reminds us of all this and more. It instructs us to look in places we never thought to look. Most of all it redirects the wonder to the Creator Himself. It provides the proper Point of Focus for all our appreciation and thanksgiving."

# BEFORE THE BEGINNING

*...God Designed*

Jim Kraft

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# Contents

Endorsements	i
Acknowledgements	xi
Preface	xiii
Introduction	xv
<b>1</b> What Was He Thinking?	<b>1</b>
Awesome Minds	12
Loving Us Through Design	14
Passion	15
<b>2</b> God's Heart in Communication With Man's Heart	<b>23</b>
The Ultimate Design Challenge!	34
<b>3</b> Inspirations of God	<b>37</b>
God's Heart	42
Man's Heart	43
Unhindered Joy	46
Passion in Action	46
Perspective	49
<b>4</b> God's Creation: Get the Message	<b>53</b>
Considering Creation	57
Humor	58
Extremes	64
Awe Factor	67
Variety	70
Everyone	76
Nuts and Bolts Practicality	78
<b>5</b> Diversity and Devotion	<b>83</b>
Devotion	87



<b>6</b>	<b>The Garden Around Us</b>	<b>93</b>
	Care and Provision	101
	Sweat of the Brow	103
	Perfection	105
	Biomimicry	106
<b>7</b>	<b>1.2 oz.–2,000 lb. Beasts</b>	<b>107</b>
	Animals That Challenge Us!	109
<b>8</b>	<b>The Masters and Masterpieces</b>	<b>123</b>
	Seek and You Will Find	132
<b>9</b>	<b>Unveiling Creation Design</b>	<b>135</b>
	Change Blindness	136
	Enemy of Distraction	138
	Dr. Near'rot™ Zombie Doctor™	140
	PC <sup>2</sup>	141
	What Do You See Now?	144
	Hardwired, Rooted In	145
<b>10</b>	<b>Obstacles That Keep Us From God's Passion</b>	<b>147</b>
	Unverified Information	147
	Leaving God Out	149
	Societal Misconceptions	153
	Our Own Thinking... and Barriers to Learning	162
<b>11</b>	<b>Transformers</b>	<b>167</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Hope in the Passion Creator</b>	<b>179</b>
	The Other Side of Heaven	181
	A Passionately and Creatively Prepared Place	184
	A Passionate Prayer, A Passionate Praise	186
	<b>Closing</b>	<b>197</b>
	The Renewing of Hearts and Minds	197
	<b>Addendum</b>	<b>201</b>
	A Paradigm Shift for the Better	203
	Notes	205
	References	213
	Author Biography	215

## Preface

The reason for writing this second edition is twofold. America has lost its way. Suicides are up, depression and anxiety is skyrocketing. Psychologists are now seeing an unprecedented rise in narcissism. Something is changing the way we think and interact, causing our society to become a socially inept train wreck. It seems that more and more people are focusing on the negative and have lost their ability to see the big picture. In the late 1990's, human-to-machine-to-human communications took a leap in technology. Not addressing these issues is irresponsible.<sup>1</sup>

Something in our society is devaluing human life. Could our new forms of communications be desensitizing us to human interaction—to love?<sup>2</sup> *Before the Beginning...God Designed* rips through the perspective-blocking lies to help us flawed humans see truth. Then, with God's help, life balance and objectivity can be restored.

The second reason is timing. Now is the time to read this book. By taking a journey to the beginning of things, you will discover a perspective-restoring remedy that God gave us through His servant Job. This meager attempt to put God back into our country can happen one heart at a time. God reveals himself to man in three ways, through His Word, through His Son, and through Creation.<sup>3</sup> *Before the Beginning...God Designed* helps us to consider creation foundations.

### A Messenger

I am a communications designer by trade with classes in psychology and marketing. For maintaining objectivity, I have 30 years of taking and leading Bible studies in my local church. I have worked with many start-ups companies, church and parachurch ministries launching their dreams. I introduced three national brands. I have worked with large, blue-chip companies like GE, American Greetings, and Petro Canada which have entrusted me with motivational and promotional

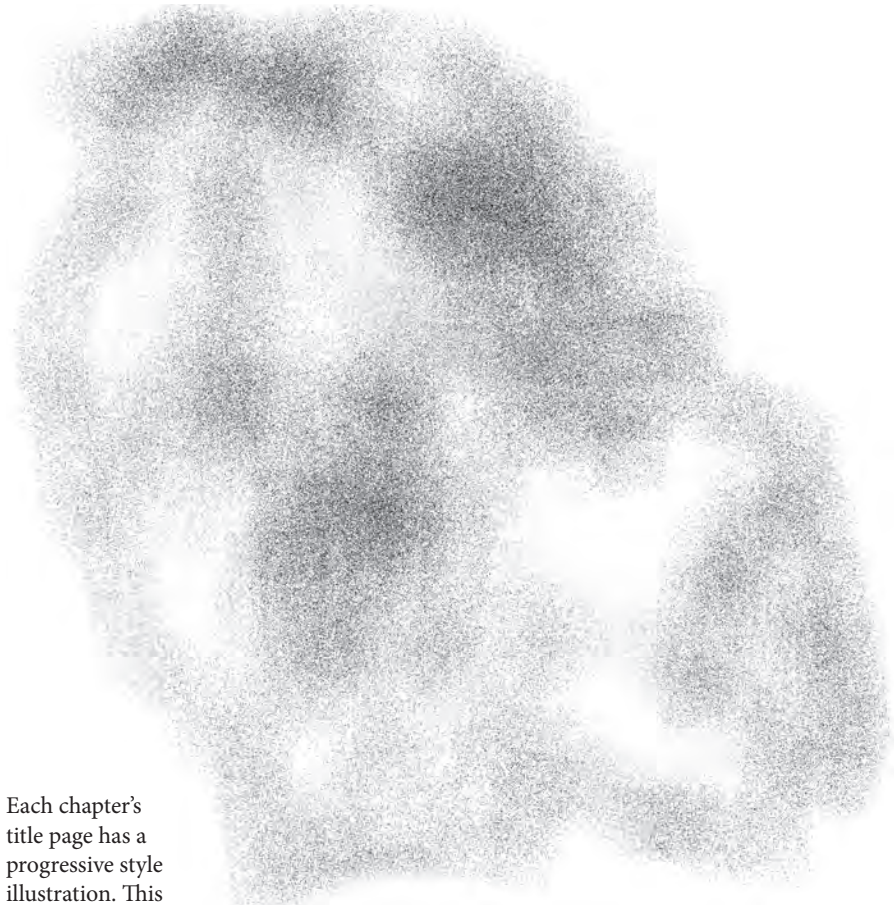
communications—the guy who can mix the research, arts, and a headline to get a message across. However, these are not the experiences that I feel qualify me to write on the subject. In fact, is there really anybody qualified enough to write about transcendent creation origins? The Word/Power of God speaks for itself and underlines the points made throughout this book. My spiritual gift is discernment. One of the aspects of this gift is the ability to ask the right questions at the right time. Many of the marketing personnel of corporations I have worked with have made comments like this one: “No one is asking the needed questions like you are, congrats you have the project.”

Twenty years of my life, I feel, have been in the middle, in between things yet to come, a place to observe, a place to feel the real pains of need and tragic loss. So much so, the desire to thrive has been threatened—where hope has been removed—a frightening place to be. Our family has experienced financial and real estate holdings loss including a farm and business loss. We’ve dealt with cancer, and raising a child with ADHD. The death of loved ones—life in its difficult areas of change. These types of life events can distort or even break our perspective.

I have also lived out specific chapters in the book, where only hands-on experience can be the real instructor. I have referenced over 60 experts in unique areas in science and research as well as multiple translations of scripture.

Cross-discipline degrees are not offered by colleges to walk you through these life challenges or see life from a creator’s viewpoint. I have not only been at the bottom of the barrel, but underneath the barrel with the crawly things as well. With that said, I can say with confidence, that a faith walk with a loving, Creator-God can offer a perspective of another kind.

Tim Mackie, Ph.D. of the Bible Project makes a wonderful observation about man’s stewardship of creation in his Science and Faith presentation made in August of 2017.<sup>4</sup> He states that all humans, male and female are royal stewards of the beauty, meaning, and order of His creation. My hope is that this writing will, in some minute way, assist in this stewardship.



Each chapter's title page has a progressive style illustration. This first graphic abstract represents a beginning thought, a twinkle in the Creator's eye.

## I What Was He thinking?

I just broke out sobbing as I witnessed teens and some other folks, see something they've never seen before. The one teen gasps for air, he looks left then right, shaking his head in disbelief. He sobs and shouts: "Oh my God it's different, it's different"! Then an older gentleman swinging his arms, bursts out in tears, trying to hold back a childlike joy he never felt before. Another teen exclaims and sobs simultaneously, "Oh my God, is this what the real world looks like?" These color blind people are seeing color for the first time, with

## 2 Before the Beginning

specially made glasses. So what's happening here—those who experience this miracle simply cry out in elation? Somehow the core of their being connected the big picture dots instantly. A knee-jerk reaction of gratefulness, expressed by tears, engages as the gift of sight is acknowledged. They're living in a significant moment—their souls somehow knew it as the spirit within them recons with truth.

What was on God's mind when He was creating the gift of sight? What prodded Him to create conscious *beings that could get this kind of message*? What was God thinking about prior to Genesis, prior to all that we see—and don't see: underwater creatures, land animals, underwater plants, plants on the earth, plants that grow in the air, man, woman, the earth, the atmosphere, the planets, gravitational pull, the stars, the sun, the galaxies. . . everything! Why does He produce such heart-touching beauty everywhere? What about the precision found in life-sustaining order? His fingerprint is on every top, bottom and middle layer of existence! His creation begs intrigue and mystery as God displays His touch on all of creation. The story of the color blind seeing for the first time tells us a few things. The first is how much we take for granted. And the second, a heart truth makes it home for the first time.

*For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.*

Colossians 1: 16 (NIV)

The many mysteries of God are something to ponder. We get a very small grasp of the amount of 'thoughts,' which many are mysteries when we think of the verse:

*How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand—when I awake, I am still with you.*

Psalm 139: 17–18

## The Angst of Passion

The word passion is full of angst because it has the power to defeat the enemy's work. Attempting to describe the creating power of God is daunting to say the least. However, having phrasing that brings us part way there, can help to communicate what He has done and is doing for us. My best shot at describing the creating power of God is this:

The Holy Spirit engaged is passion. This passion births life, hope and purpose. It can heal the original wound inflicted in the Garden. The Holy Spirit is like a fire; He brings God's presence, God's power, and God's purity together. Passion is not lust or love-making but can create life. Passion is not selfish ambition but a pursuit of restoration. Passion is not stagnant or will-less, it engages and rescues. Passion is not a spectator but it watches with care, it watches you.

God demonstrated His love to us through creation. Like many words, the meaning of passion can change depending on its context. There are two particular over-riding views that will dictate its context: God's point of view or man's point of view.

**First:** God is omniscient, all knowing and outside of time.

He knew that His free agents, Adam and Eve, would choose wrongly in the Garden. Did the sin of disobedience, which caused separation from God, create a wound that needed healing? Yes, the relationship was broken. Man was now on his own, no longer walking side-by-side with God, and left to self-manage, until God would bring a way

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The word passion is full of angst because it has the power to defeat the enemy's work.

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of restoration. **Before the beginning, God was thinking about restoration.** God uses creation to reveal Himself to man. Creation makes us wonder, it is intriguing, always revealing something new and astounding. It offers life-sustaining perfection interwoven with symbiosis, all passionately created for us to look to Him. Creation unveils the bigness of God and His love and passion for us.

**Second:** From man's viewpoint, God's instructions to us are clear. We are to love God with all our heart, mind and strength. We have an evil adversary who has one objective—stop the restoration. The enemy will use all kinds of unthinkable snares. Present and generational curses will confound and cripple, leaving us for physical and spiritual death. Satan's demonic ranks are focused in their mission. Should we yield, unspeakable torments are certain. Sober thinking will conclude that a fight for life is at hand. A reckoning of personal weakness will need to take place—a need for knee and heart bowing humility.<sup>17</sup>

*For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate.*

Romans 7: 15:

This fight of a lifetime will have to emerge from a place within, where spirit and soul reside. The power source of the Holy Spirit will drive the fight. Once the will is infused with divine energy, the resulting passion will put the King of kings *first* in our surrendered lives. It takes inspired infused passion for authentic transformation to take place.

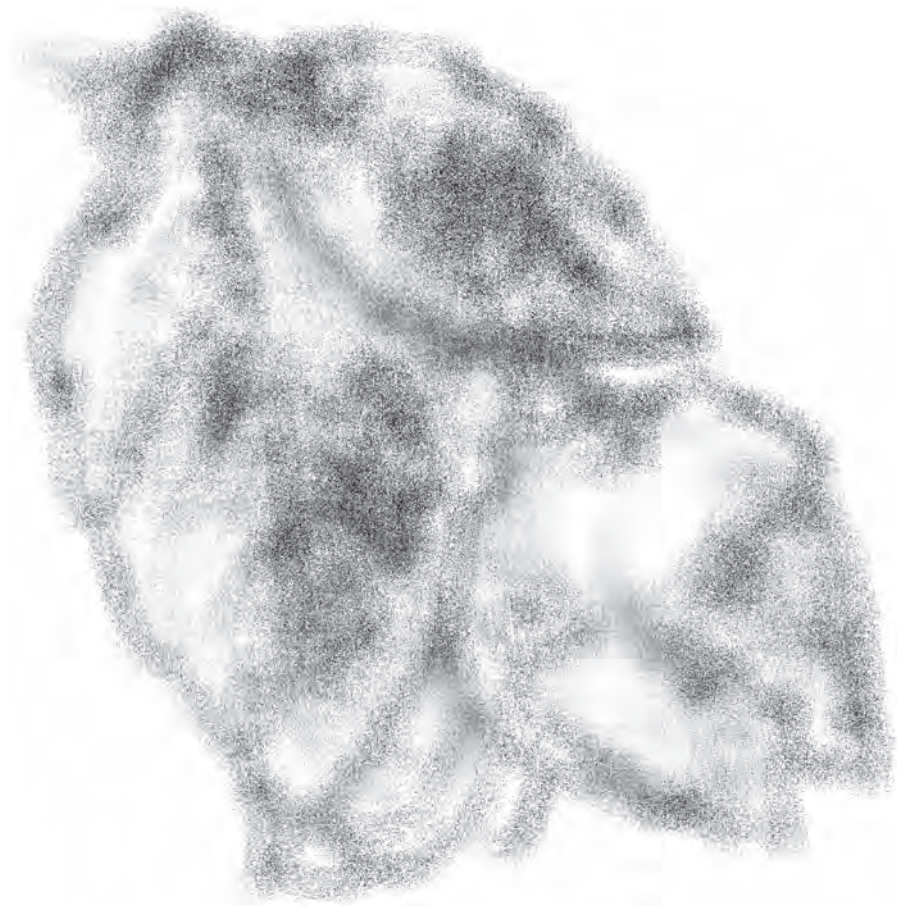
*As the deer pants for the water brooks, So  
my soul pants for You, O God.*

Psalm 42: 1

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Creation unveils the  
bigness of God and  
His love and passion  
for us.

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### 3 Inspirations of God

**W**here did God begin? He had no palette, no drawing board, no paper or pencil; there were no reference books, no “how-to” books, no internet to search, no Pinterest, no inspiration of any sort to draw upon. There was absolutely...nothing! How do we even wrap our minds around “nothing”? God didn’t have a collection of molecules, atoms, electrons, protons or DNA to start with. He had to invent these microstructures first with all their abilities to interact and react with

one-another before He could get into bigger things! There were no beakers, burners, scopes, measuring devices, no computers or modeling software, no chemicals or or-

ganic materials to work with. If we were to try and breakdown “nothing” into a mathematical equation, it might look like this.

$$(-\infty) + (+\infty) = ( \quad )$$

I can’t even use a “0” between the parentheses because zero is a number! I am not a mathematician in any way, but even I can understand this. From our earthly point of view, God’s starting point for creation was ( ). According to Genesis 1:2 it was formless and void and dark. Our finite minds can only grasp “nothing” through the understanding of “something”. After God went from “nothing” to the creation of the earth, sky, sea, and animals—He created us—in His own image. We are the crowning touch of His creation. We are above all the rest because we are like Him! We are created with a

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To help us understand God’s creation process, we need to understand what *nothing* is.

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God didn’t even have a collection of molecules, atoms, electrons, protons or DNA as a starting point.

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soul and consciousness; we are created to think!

Contemplate this for a moment—what does it take to generate a single thought? According to a MIT School of Engineering article written by Elizabeth Dougherty, “Trying to imagine how trillions of connections and billions of simultaneous transmissions coalesce inside your brain to form a thought is a little like trying to look at the leaves, roots, snakes, birds, ticks, deer—and everything else in a forest—at the same moment.”<sup>1</sup>



## 4

### God's Creation: Get the Message

**W**hen we visit new places, like the local zoo, aquarium, or local park, we can miss the handiwork of God if we are not looking for it. This chapter will provide keys to catch God's vision in creation. If you see God's vision, you have experienced an epiphany—a peek into heaven!

James 3: 17 states, "But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceful, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy." The next time you experience

wisdom from above, recognize the influence it has on you physically. When you hear truth that touches your core, you take a breath. This isn't the usual shallow breathing we are accustomed to, but a full, involuntary deep breath. It's almost impossible to avoid doing it!

This breath is a shot of wisdom from above and it comes with a side serving of peace. When information conflicts with a truth that resides in our hearts, or when someone touches on a personal area that needs addressing, we may swallow hard or our palms may sweat.

The next time you feel that you are reacting physically to news or a particular event, ask yourself, "What is God trying to tell me through

simple bodily functions?" Whether it's a facial blush, or that sick feeling in the pit of your stomach, or becoming weak-kneed—take a moment to engage your mind and process what is happening on a physical level. Try to think about things on a cause and effect basis. These effects are not knee-jerk reactions or animal instincts. These emotions are connected to our hearts and our passions. They're found in the intimate details of our original

design and discovered by us as we engage with our Creator God. When was the last time that you saw a monkey blush?

Those of us with children have great opportunities to demonstrate how loving, friendly and creative God is. Teaching children about the design process can give them a sense of wonder, and help bring a perceived distant God much closer. Close enough to see that He loves all of us dearly.

Adults can personally enjoy God's creations based on their unique experiences, educational backgrounds and insights from the Holy Spirit.

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If you can catch  
God's vision, you  
have experienced  
an epiphany—a  
peek into heaven!

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When you  
hear truth that  
touches your  
very core, your  
body wants to  
take a breath.

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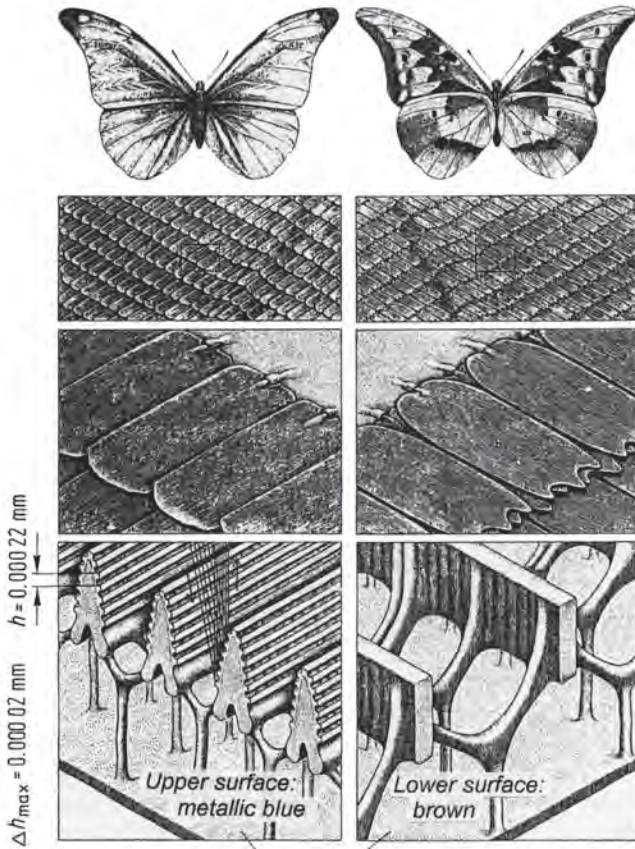
well-conceived patterns, balance and pure symmetry of design. Elements of color, texture and shape create interest and intrigue the observer.

Look further and discover divine workmanship. There is a 3-D quality to the pattern and colors. Warm and cool colors make depth visible and pleasing. The fine markings, as if painted with a small sable-paintbrush, illustrate form. Fine color gradients, like strokes of a paintbrush, create the illusions of highlight and shadow. Each stroke helps to show form and the glassy imitation “eyes.” Even the depths of eye sockets are depicted! The wing’s canvas-like surface is not overworked as a beginning artist might do. This butterfly masterpiece reflects a relaxed artist enjoying himself, who knew exactly what He wanted to accomplish.



Owl Butterfly





Morpho Rhetenor Butterfly  
Magnification: 20,000 times<sup>10</sup>

God designed the Owl Butterfly to frighten away its predators. But I believe He also designed this handiwork to be appreciated by His

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God created the colors found on the Blue Morpho butterfly without pigments!

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people from continent to continent as it migrates its flight! Its intricacy and beauty are not to be viewed on a gallery wall. This amazing painting is on the six-inch winged-canvas of what some may consider an insignificant creature—a butterfly!

The above picture is the South American Blue Morpho Rhetenor



7

## 1.2 oz–2,000 lb Beasts

**O**ur Creator went to a lot of trouble so we can enjoy a good steak, burger, roast and corned beef sandwich! Do you see the creativity of the bovine in the soccer shoes, baseball gloves and leather jackets we might use in everyday life? Some of our largest industries are built around this noble beast—the cow. Perhaps McDonalds®<sup>1</sup> wouldn't be who they are today if they were based on a hog or a tuna fish. And when you explore all of the uses this multi-functioning creature provides, once again, you should experience some shock and awe! How many people reach for cream in

colors, and patterns. The creative work is deliberate and sophisticated. In some designs you can spot two different face motifs.

You can't use half-created or partially evolved raw elements to create something. The elemental design must be fully intact for them to have these complete behavioral properties. Half-developed carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus, oxygen, sulfur and half developed neurons or atoms with a half-baked strong force wouldn't do it either. These and other raw elements need to be fully complete to function. Like a fully developed animal, if they are not complete to begin with, they would not survive. If not fully

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Could He have put these mysterious, mind-boggling animals in our midst to utterly blow away our traditional, finite thinking minds?

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## 214 Before the Beginning

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## Author Biography



Jim Kraft grew up in Willoughby, Ohio—a suburb of Cleveland. Jim earned his diploma from the Cleveland-based Cooper School of Art & Design and graduated with honors. He took marketing and psychology courses at Lakeland Community College. He also assisted Campus Crusade for Christ and Samaritan's Purse with promotions.

After freelancing for art studios and ad agencies, Jim began his career as an independent design and marketing consultant creating on and off-line communications for major corporations like GE Lighting, Petro Canada, American Greetings, BF Goodrich, Allstate Insurance, Carlton Cards, Honeywell, Holiday Inn, and Dutch Boy. He has also done work for regional organizations like Parkside Church, Friends Church-Willoughby Hills. His national brands include: EZPOLE Flagpoles®; SwissTech® Micro tools; BrailleWorks; and Maple Valley Sugarbush. He has also performed marketing communication services for over 80 church, Para-church and secular organizations.

Jim and his wife Tammy reside in Chardon, Ohio and have two grown children. Jim has taught marriage enrichment and biblical creation. Tammy has a degree in Family and Child Development from The University of Akron and is working as a Consultation, Training, and



Education Specialist with local school systems implementing prevention programs. She has assisted me in marriage enrichment and biblical creation classes and has been a group leader and facilitator for women's Bible studies.

## The heart of it.

We can create great works that capture man's attention and cause wonder and appreciation. We call these men and women "Masters," and their creations—masterpieces. However, these masterpieces do not compare with God's masterpieces. He is Life's Master Designer. One of God's masterpieces is within each of us; it is our hearts. He authored, designed and engineered our hearts. Hearts that are capable of passion, sadness, joy, anger and, above all else, love. Our heart is a barometer to our souls.

Unfortunately, tumultuous times can skew our perspective and affect the condition of our hearts. The problem is, our senses can be so deadened that we can't recognize that there is a heart/soul issue that needs a loving touch from Heaven. Whether young or old, we can begin to *devalue* the miracle of who we were meant to be. *Before the Beginning...God Designed* addresses the emotional, physical and spiritual fallout of a lost perspective, and offers the healing and enduring hope of *God's perspective* through His *Word*, His *Son*, and *Creation*. Our hearts are God's masterpieces. They are so important to Him that He tells us to, "above all else, guard your hearts." When we guard our hearts, knowing and owning His Word, we can more easily grasp our Creator's heart and experience His bigness personally. A Spirit filled heart connects us to God. If that connection renews us, we become more like Christ. We slowly begin to understand the incredible love and passion that God has for us.

Who else would be better to address *heart issues* than the Artist, Author, Designer and Finisher of our hearts?

