

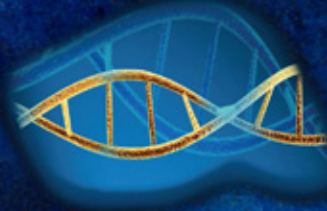
# When God created the universe, it was all about us. When we discover the Creator, it's all about Him!

*Before the Beginning* demonstrates God's epic passion for us through His design of creation. Creation's very existence reveals that incredible thought and planning were necessary to have a functioning universe. Kraft considers God's transcendent genius and brings to life His awesome message to mankind—a message which is evident from the very beginning.

This author creates a dialogue about not only the beginning of the universe, but he also prompts us to think about what took place before the beginning. We venture into a new realm of ideas and begin to contemplate the mind of the Creator. What challenges did God have to consider before it all came into being?

The distractions and stresses of life can prevent us from seeing God's plan. *Before the Beginning* reminds the reader that we must not neglect the condition of our hearts. When our heart is right, we can more easily see the heart of God. Kraft strives to help restore some "big picture" perspectives.

- Understand the purpose behind life changes.
- Think more creatively about our Creator.
- Identify and see through the enemy's deceptions.
- Gain the reassurance that there is an eternity and you are included in it!



Visualization is the courtesy of TheVisualMD.com

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.

**BlossomRidge**  
BOOKS

"I highly recommend, *Before the Beginning* for exciting, truthful reading."

Bob Devine, MBI Nature Corner

"The tone here is not of conflict with science, but of reconciliation."

Gerald Hillier, M.S. Physics, Senior Engineer, Siemens Energy Inc.

"This book may help you come to the truth of God."

Ron DiCianni, Internationally Acclaimed Artist

Jim Kraft has been a Bible believing Christian since 1980. Drawing on this and his background as a designer and artist, Jim uses his God-given gifts, the Bible and recent observations to help you see the "bigness of God" and feel God's personal concern like never before.

RELIGION / Christian Life / Science

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## Preface

When we experience the beauty of God's creation, it is natural to begin to contemplate how this world came into existence. It is in these moments that we are closest to unlocking the door to the room that contains God's incredibly creative attributes and artistry tools. And what a vast repertoire of gifts our Creator (with a capital C) encompasses! Some people have been granted the skills to paint, or to play music or to design things. But while we require tools and inspiration, God has the ability to create something from absolutely nothing! There were no bowls of fruit or beautiful seascapes or memorable characters in God's life to serve as His inspiration. When God Creates, He starts with nothing. In that sense, we're not really Creators of anything (with a capital C)! However, I would say that we are *creators of lesser things*. We take great pride in working with all that God has given us to work with and try diligently to do the very best we can. After all, He put synaptic receptors in our brains that fire eloquently with truly great thought! But none of these great creation thoughts can compare with the ideas of God, the Alpha and Omega. We are encouraged to "consider creation" throughout the Bible:

*I remember the days of long ago; I meditate on all your works and consider what your hands have done.*

Psalm 143: 5

Today, our days are overflowing with commitments and the pressures of everyday living. Unfortunately, a jam-packed and hectic life can burden our hearts and weigh us down, like an over-stuffed suitcase that we drag by our side as we trudge through a busy airport. Daily "busy business" can cause us to miss the blessings and insights

that can come through by simply taking a little time to “consider these things.” When we finally do, we can truly begin to see the Master’s handiwork and creative genius. One of the reasons why I am very excited about writing this book is that as a designer, I use easy-to-use artistic perspectives that lead me through the design process. I am excited to share these with you so that you can *engage* God’s passion each and every day! This type of relationship with God will fill your life in a new way and can bring a new sense of peace and joy. It’s kind of like skipping; you just can’t be sad when you skip across the yard of life. Try it sometime!

When we consider the care and utter brilliance that went into creation—the passion that God has for you and for me—it is amazing!

My initial hope for this book is that it will cause us to look at creation in a new light; that we might see creation as an event which points to God’s complete plan for humanity. His Word directs us to study it. Recent scientific discoveries actually support it. And I pray that this book will be used as a tool, an actual *agent of change*, which will help you to discover the Creator’s deep passion that was behind it all. That passion is an incredible gift, sent directly from the heart of God to you and me.

As we humbly *consider* the very beginning—the time before Genesis—our hearts may be touched in ways we may never have imagined. God was there, thinking and planning, before the existence of *anything*:

*Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.*

John 17: 24

*Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.*

Psalms 90: 2

When asked about our own ideas about how the world began, it is easy to default to a “just add water and stir” answer: God spoke and it happened. However, when we pause to really reflect on the planning that went on *before* God spoke the world into existence, the awesomeness of this act can fill us with wonder.

As we work towards understanding the creative process as a whole, and apply what we learn to the Biblical snapshot of God and His works, we can better understand His creation. We can then recognize the incredible, loving forethought that God put into every divine act described in Genesis.

Furthermore, we will also discover that God is still passionate about us; calling out to us daily, in a very real and tangible way. He desires to know us and to be close to us, as a father longs to be with his child. To live and die on this planet without giving credence to the God who created this universe will not only result in missed personal blessings, it will ultimately affect our eternal destiny—a tragic consequence indeed.

*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. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

Romans 1: 20–21

After God completed planning and designing the universe, creation commenced. By His Word, God spoke all into existence:

*Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.*

Genesis 1: 3

In the beginning, therefore, God was central to the abyss of the universe, less the stars, sun, moon, galaxies, and even space as we know

it! The gospel of John opens with the words, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” He is eternal. God’s other attributes include: omniscience, omnipresence and omnipotence! Our understanding is limited, but God has no limits. However, we might ask ourselves, is it possible to go beyond our current capabilities of understanding in our finite state? Can we push the limits of understanding as we investigate this topic, even when His creative power, genius and IQ are inconceivable?

If we can gain a stronger sense of God’s identity and learn what His *mission* is, then perhaps the worship that we express back to God may be better focused and more passionate.

God reveals Himself in creation. Just by acknowledging the observable evidence in fossil, coal, and canyon formation in the recent volcanic eruption data of Mt. St Helen’s should make us pause and think. These findings support biblical creation. What’s even more of a concern is that God’s wrath is unleashed when men suppress truth:

*For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them.*

Romans 1: 18–19

Hosea 2 describes that it is in God’s character to shake the earth in the day of our Lord. The big question that presents itself is: Is the shaking of the earth God’s wrath being revealed? And if so, what should be our response? Again an area to pause and think through.

Furthermore, the Bible teaches that God is a jealous God. In Deuteronomy, Moses writes,

*For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.*

Deut. 4: 2

God is jealous that the glory of His creative work is being usurped by those who purposefully (or inadvertently) are advocating a “random chance” belief system, such as the one found in Darwin’s Theory of Evolution.

“Glory is the supernatural signature of God.” This profound statement from James MacDonald, senior pastor of Harvest Bible Chapel, stems from Psalm 19:1, “Heavens declare the glory of God.” We should be the generation that “gets out of the way” of God’s glory.

Solid science has revealed, and is continuing to reveal, evidence that creates skepticism pertaining to Darwinian evolutionary theories. As of this writing, over 4,000 scientists and scholars across the globe<sup>1</sup> share this skepticism, along with another 1,000+ physicians and surgeons.<sup>2</sup> These numbers represent only those who have gone on record with their beliefs. There are also a notable number of professionals within the scientific and medical community that have chosen not to go on record or haven’t been “officially” surveyed, who also share in this skepticism.

I also believe that the muzzling of new scientific discoveries which “don’t fit” existing scientific models must be addressed. Researchers must be able to reach logical conclusions unencumbered by the anchor of old-theory science.<sup>3</sup> This citation reference dates back to 1954. I believe it’s time for a change.

I hope that when you are finished reading this book, you will understand that you are at the very epicenter of God’s passion and that this realization would begin an ardent quest to learn more about our loving Creator. My second hope is that you will be able to look past the propaganda society is perpetuating and be able to simply ponder the wonder of creation in its purest sense.

*Before the Beginning . . . God Designed* weaves together many of life’s unanswered questions regarding perplexing events. Finding a connection between the invisible and intangible Spiritual realm and the visible, concrete world will help to settle and clarify many of these perplexities. I hope to demonstrate how art, science and the natural world all work together to reflect the glory and creative genius of the Ultimate



Designer—the Lord of the Universe. I pray that this will allow you to develop a deeper relationship and appreciation for our Creator and in turn you will be able to see the world around you with fresh new eyes and renewed wonder!

You may even learn how to engage the creative and visualization process more quickly. I pray you will strive to be curious and to ask questions. You might just come away from this book seeing life from a completely different point of view!

The purity, the wholeness and completeness of heart, mind, body and soul that God intended for us before the beginning is truly something to contemplate. The old can become new again when we come to know God for who He really is: the Planner, the Designer and the magnificent Creator of all things!



1

## What Was He thinking?

**W**hat was on God's mind when He was creating? What prodded Him to create, conscious *beings in His own image*? 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 did He create you . . . and me? Why does He

## 2 Before the Beginning

produce such heart-touching beauty everywhere? And what about the precision found in life-sustaining order? His awesomeness is in every crevice of existence! God is involved in all of creation.

*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

How deeply can we ponder this moment prior to tangible creation? Like a child who is about to look into a gigantic telescope with a special lens filter that allows him to peek into another dimension—and a timeless one at that—we are left breathless at the very thought of peering inside the mind of God.

But God gave us the ability to ask some very deep and intriguing questions. He has given us gifts of creativity and the ability to wonder. How far do we take His declaration that we are His true image bearers? And just how much of ourselves do we invest in our quest for truth?

In this respect, we have been given a mission in the book of Matthew. When asked by the Pharisees which commandment of the Law was the greatest, Jesus responds,

*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul and with all your mind.*

Matthew 22: 37

According to these words, we are to truly give our all in striving to understand His creation and all things of God! He is requesting that we seek to know Him with every fiber of our being. Searching the deeper things of God (profound and bottomless) also takes a work of the Spirit of God, which may or may not *reside* in us.<sup>1</sup> *If* the Spirit resides then understanding will come easier.

One of the first and deep questions is “Why did He create us?”

Was God just bursting with excitement, wanting to share about His creations to come and divine understandings with someone else? In John 3:16, God is described as a *compassionate* God. Were we cre-

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## Why did He create us?

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ated so God would have someone to love . . . an object of His love as stated in John 3: 16? God is beyond generous, sharing eternal life and all that accompanies this privilege. I don't mean to humanize God's feelings or expressions of His love, but God expressed

intense passion for all of mankind by offering up His Son in a death sacrifice for the sake of restoring the fellowship that was once experienced with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

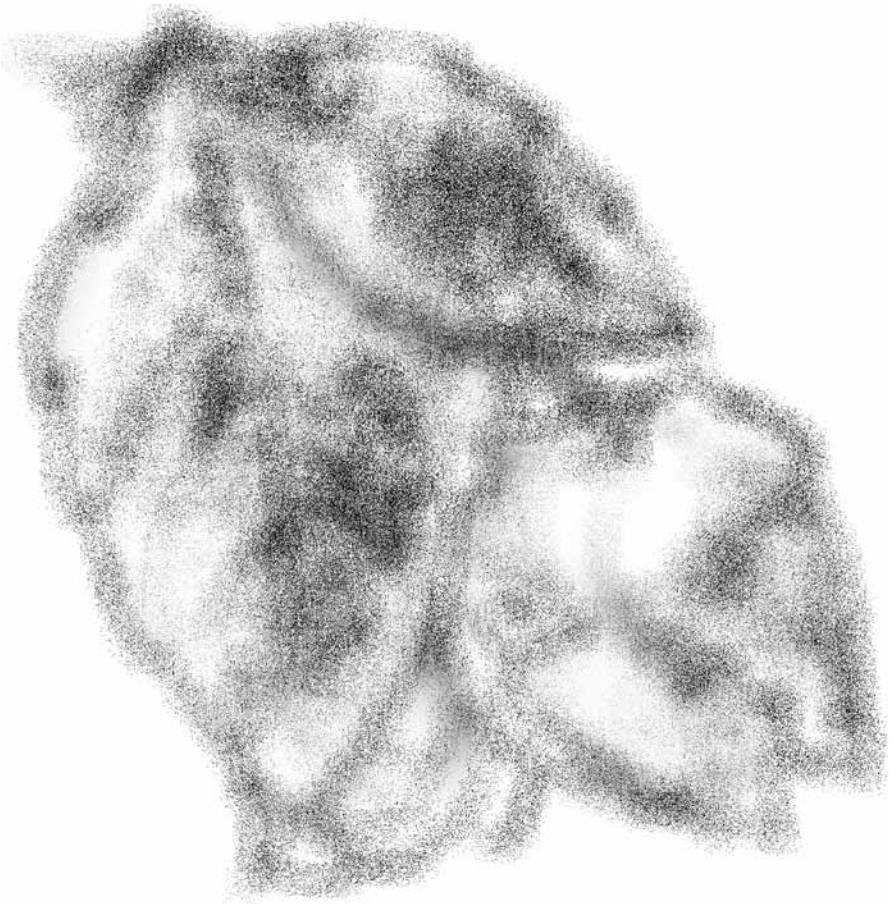
What was God thinking with such an intense act? The relationship is certainly one that we could identify with—a father and a son—but the sacrificing of that cherished child for the salvation of all mankind? This was an act beyond all human comprehension; a loving deed intended to save, but I believe He also wanted to spark our curiosity. Ultimately, this would become the single most impactful act of all time for all of humanity.

*Your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.*

Psalm 139: 16

God was entering names in the Book of Life before He even formed the world! The verse above implies that there is a dimension and a beginning where time doesn't exist. That is such an amazing thought! In order to be able to do this, He had to give names to those before and after us. He knew we would struggle to comprehend this idea upon reading it. Could the verses be intentionally written for us to get a glimpse into this timeless dimension?

Congruently, we are always told we can't think in a realm without time. In the premier of the Star Trek TV series Deep Space 9, a



### 3

## Inspirations of God

**W**here did He begin? There were no palettes, no drawing boards, no paper or pencils. There were no reference books, no “how to” books, no inspiration of any sort to draw upon. To help us understand God’s creative process, we need to truly understand that there was . . . *nothing*. There are a number of “design basics” that are commonly used in the world of art to begin a study of God’s inspiration and design process.

One of these design points of reference can be seen by examining the spiral found in seashells. This design basic is found in most areas of industry. You'll find it in clothing styles and furniture

design. It can be found in the inner workings of machinery, the spring of a watch, and even in our exercise machines. You will find the spiral starting point in an artist's painting. It can be used as the design itself or used to create eye-travel. This contrast-creating element will dance your eye around in a pleasing flow, sometimes simplified in a spiral shape. The seashell has many other facets of design elements including the shells' colors, texture, function and even the sound of its "echo of the sea." They have all been starting points for man's creations. We use whatever works for us, whether it's an acorn, an apple or an ant.

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

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To help us understand God's creation process, we need to truly understand . . . *nothing*.

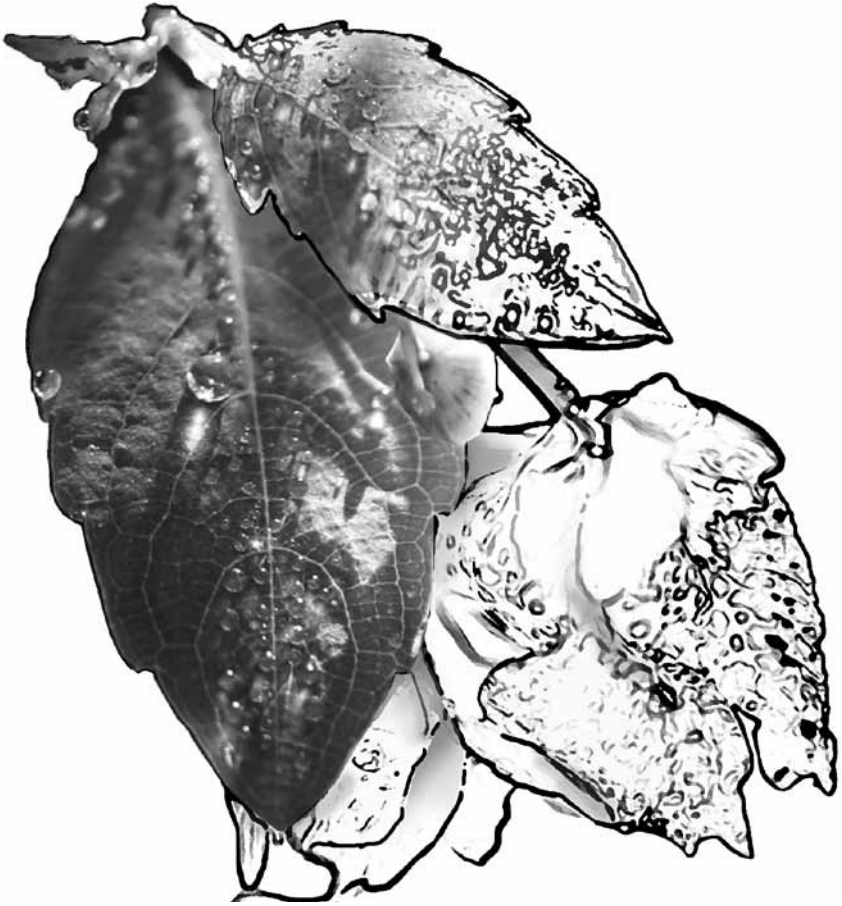
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As we think design through; God didn't even use a collection of molecules, atoms, electrons, protons or DNA as a starting point. Each of these microstructures had to be designed with their abilities to react with one another prior to the elements, creation and function. He designed all these with an empty palette. No chemicals, no organic material to breakdown, no beakers, burners, scopes, measure-

ment devices, computers or even modeling software. If we were to break down nothing to a mathematical equation it might look like:

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

I can't even use "0" because zero is a number! I am not a mathematician in any way, but even I can understand this.



## 9

### Unveiling Creation Design

I sometimes wonder if one attribute of God is that He is modest. God is not jamming His authorship of everything that exists down our throats. He is leaving our acceptance of the true creation origin in our own hands. He is asking us to lean on faith rather than our own understanding. As the title of this chapter implies, there can be a “veil” shielding our view. At presentation ceremonies, there is an appropriate time to “reveal” whatever it is being featured. The presenters write an agenda

of items that need to be addressed prior to unveiling. This adds drama and meaning to the event. Some items that may be covered prior to the unveiling include: the process, who did what, how long it took to create it, what sacrifices were made and the accolades of all involved.

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I wonder if God is conducting a ceremony of sort as His creation is unveiled to each of us.

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Next, as the veil drops and as the item is revealed, applause and delight follow. We do this because it's fitting for the occasion. I wonder if God is conducting a ceremony of sort as His creation is unveiled to each of us. Perhaps as we began our walk with the Creator, we couldn't fully appreciate His handiwork because we were not able to see it. I have a missionary friend in Istanbul and this experience is very clear to her. When someone gets the big picture of faith, they start to see beauty for the first time. Not that this is a soul barometer by any means, but an observation found in her area of ministry. Whatever the

case, as we begin to see more and more, the appreciation of beauty and His handiwork are one of the rewards we get for seeking His Kingdom!

## Change Blindness

National Geographic examined an intriguing human behavior on one of their programs.<sup>1</sup> The camera crew created several situations, similar to the "Candid Camera" style of years gone by, to conduct some experiments. One scenario was done with a woman on a blind date. She was so focused on the male-female interaction that she was completely blind to the extensive activity

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He is leaving our acceptance of the true creation origin in our own hands.

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When someone gets the big picture of faith, they start to see beauty for the first time.

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## Endorsements

### 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, 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 just 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 untypical, 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. These projects have generated multiple millions of copies in print and have been translated into languages all over the globe. Some of his work can be viewed at [www.TapestryProductions.com](http://www.TapestryProductions.com).

“A story I heard illustrates the battle written about in this book very well. 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 teenagers.

“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.”

## The heart of it.

Man can create great works of art 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* the Master Designer. One of God's masterpieces is within each of us. It is our hearts. He authored, designed and engineered our hearts with two distinct purposes. One purpose is to power our bodies and the other is to possess a heart capable of emotion, of passion, sadness, joy, anger and, above all else, love.

Unfortunately, tumultuous times can skew our perspective and affect the condition of our hearts. Whether young or old, we can begin to *devalue* the miracle of who we were meant to be. *Before the Beginning* 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* and the *creation* that He put before us.

Our hearts are God's masterpieces. They are so important to Him that He tells us that "above all else, guard your hearts." When we guard our hearts we can more easily grasp our Creator's heart.

Our heart connects us to God. If that connection changes 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* other than God, the Artist, Author, and Designer of our hearts?



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