

## Making It Better?

By Stephen Hicks

I was watching the news the other day and a commercial came on for a company called Koch Industries and in that ad, promoting many of the things they produce, they mentioned that they worked to make food better. Make food better? This has been a subject that sets me on edge every time I hear the words, "Make it better." My first thought is always, "How can you improve upon perfection and why would we need to?"

The answers to these two questions are what I want to write about in this article.

We can easily answer the latter half of the question by saying, "We can't make anything that God has created better."

Let's start with "How can you improve upon perfection?" The simple answer is that you can't. God made everything He created perfect and there is nothing to improve upon. In fact, it would improve this world a whole lot if mankind would focus one hundred percent on improving their own personal lives, instead of worrying about trying to improve that which was already made perfect.

The Lord created this world to sustain life from the very beginning. Man's arrogance has brought about most of the problems we see in this world because they refuse to follow God's instruction book, the bible.

Genesis 1:1-5 *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day."*

On the first day, He brought His light, from what the bible calls the third heaven, also known as the throne of God, into the world. Paul referenced this third heaven in 2 Corinthians 12:2-5 *"I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter."*

The second heaven at creation, if we take the word of God for what it says, would have been a vast, dark empty space between God's throne and the planet we call earth today. Most people have a hard time imagining this because we have grown up seeing the sun, the moon, the stars and planets in the sky.

He took a lifeless planet, covered with water and void of any form and then over a matter of a few days He created, what is often referred to today as the great blue marble. We have to take into consideration that, at this point in creation, the sun, moon and stars had not been created yet. That came later. We can see a picture of this perfect light, which will happen again in the future, by reading in Revelation 21:22-25 *"And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth do bring their glory and honour into it. And the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day: for there shall be no night there."*

Revelation 22:5 *"And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever."*

When His throne is here with us on this planet in the future, instead of His light shining down from the third heaven, His light will shine forth from His and His Son's thrones right here on this planet.

Now, getting back to our subject matter, let's read on. In the following verses, we will see the first heaven being created, which we call our atmosphere.

Genesis 1:6-8 *"And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day."*

God created the perfect atmosphere filled with everything all of creation would need to survive. He created a perfect balance of elements and He placed the atmosphere, the first heaven, around this world, separating it from outer space. Space is the second of the three heavens, though it is not specifically mentioned by Paul in the previous scriptures. This is a place where no man can survive without the use of manmade equipment.

Man has spent billions and billions on space exploration trying to find life on the moon and other planets, but without any success. Now they are spending more money trying to make travel into space possible by anyone with the necessary funds to do so. I'll be very surprised if God will allow this to succeed. Don't you think, that if God wanted us to explore space, He would have blessed it with more success?

God created us a perfect planet, but yet, man wants to try to find something better out in space. It is our own fault that our planet is suffering, because we haven't taken good care of what He has given us. Our arrogance has people believing that we can make things better without His help or guidance and if we can't make it better, we'll just find another planet to trash.

Let's read on about His creation in Genesis 1: 9-10 *"And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good."* This word "good," according to Strong's is the widest sense of the word, meaning that it can't be made any better.

Out of the water, the land appeared and He saw that it was good. It was good because it was made perfect. Everything our God creates is perfect. Deuteronomy 32:4 *"He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he."* 2 Samuel 22:31-32 *"As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him. For who is God, save the LORD? and who is a rock, save our God?"* These are just two of many verses showing God's perfection.

So many of our rivers, streams, ponds and lakes are polluted so that large amounts of chemicals are being added to drinking water. So much of our drinking water has so many chemicals in it that it makes it hard for us to drink without some kind of filtration. Each year the sales of bottled water go up in the U.S. and around the world. Much of that water is the same tap water we can get out of our own faucets. I heard the other day that the city of San Diego, California was going to begin processing their waste water into drinking water. They said that two other cities had already been doing this.

Every day, man continues to build in places which weren't meant to be built upon. They build in flood zones, near volcanoes, on old garbage dumps and they continually push more rock and gravel out into the oceans in order to build resorts, condominiums and residential homes. As they continue to build, they have to overcome certain problems and in many places they are forcing the wildlife in those areas to leave and find new homes, which means that man comes in contact with animals they normally wouldn't see anywhere close to them. We will pay a big price for our greed and arrogance.

Now let's read on in Genesis 1-13: *"And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the third day."*

This is the area of creation that I believe man has done the greatest damage. Through the years, we have poured countless gallons of poisons on our yards and fields in an attempt to kill anything that we didn't want there. We rake the natural fertilizers, the leaves and cut grass, from our yards and then we have to put fertilizers back on them to give them nourishment. Quite often, what we consider as weeds, are things God created for beauty and for a purpose and in many cases for nourishment. But yet, we cut them down.

Today, scientists, through cross breeding, have actually created trees that produce five kinds of fruit. By trying to improve upon different fruits and vegetables, they have created the same, but with no nutritional value. In order to improve what they've messed up, they have to add those lost vitamins and minerals back to the processed foods. That is why we find that our breads are labeled "enriched" or why most fruit and vegetable juices, unless they have been grown organically, have to be enriched also. When you see "added vitamins and/or minerals on the label, it is best to move along. Our bodies were not created to absorb most manmade vitamins and research has shown that some of these simulated vitamins can actually be over absorbed, which in turn can cause health issues, so they are of no real benefit to us.

Farmers continue to push down trees to enlarge their crop production and now many go from one crop right to the next without even turning the soil. Very few, if any, let their fields rest after six years of producing crops on them. They go right on planting, thus they have to use manmade chemicals to replace what the soil has lost.

Today, we have cancers, diabetes and other diseases which I believe are the direct results of man tampering with God's perfect creation and because of our failure to follow His instructions. We have all seen the number of recalls on produce in the past few years. Many of these recalls were traced back to crops that had been fertilized with human waste. If we, as God's children, can't produce our own food supplies or get them from good sources, then we are at the mercy of man's corruption. In that case, it is very important that we ask God's blessing upon everything that we eat or drink, being as responsible as we can when ingesting anything. This is a subject that could be an article of its own, but for now let's read on in Genesis 14-19 *"And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be for lights in the*

*firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth, And to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the fourth day."*

Here, the bible is speaking about outer space, the second heaven. This area is so great, that even man cannot count the number of the stars or other planets that exist between this earth and the third heaven, where the temple of God is. Even with the inventing of the Hubble telescope, they still can't see into the deepest parts of space. God's day is based upon the setting of the sun. A new day begins at sundown and that day ends at the next sundown. Man changed the day to end at midnight, which is in the middle of the night and the new day to begin at one minute after midnight. God's calendar month begins as the New moon appears in the sky, but the calendar of man's doesn't. The calendars, in use today, begin the year in January, in the dead of winter, instead of in the spring, when everything is coming to life. There is a push on, in this world, to change the calendars to show Monday as the first day of the week with Sunday being the seventh day. Even the names of the days of the months were changed from the names God gave them to the names of gods and goddesses created and worshipped by much of mankind.

Let's continue on in Genesis 1:20-23 *"And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day."*

On this fifth day, all wildlife were created. Each one was created just the way God wanted it and each one has its purpose in the cycle of life. They were not to be crossbred and there was no reason to genetically alter them in an attempt to make them better because they were created perfect, just the way the Lord wanted them to be. Genesis 1:24-25 *"And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good."*

Greed drives man to do despicable things, such as putting cattle, pigs, chickens, turkeys and many other animals in small, cramped holding areas. These livestock walk around in their own excrement, living so closely together that without antibiotics they would probably die from disease. Many also receive steroids in an attempt to help these sickly animals build muscle so that they weigh more at the moment of sale. In the last few years fishermen have turned from catching fish in the oceans to raising them in small cramped pools where they are fed treated foods and in some cases unclean animal scraps. When they are sold, companies deceitfully label them as "fresh caught," since they are fresh when they are netted and taken from their pools. This misuse of labeling is a clear deception and we all know who the master of deception is.

In the beginning, God created man and then placed him in the Garden of Eden, giving him authority over all of His creation, with the understanding that man was to obey God in all things. Man was not supposed to change anything.

As God's children, His creation, we are to be content with

Genesis 1:26 *"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness:..."* We are created in the image of God, but with many people, this isn't enough. Millions, possibly billions of dollars are spent each year in this country by people attempting to improve or change their looks. They don't consider the side effects or the possibility of failed procedures, which occur a lot more often than what we hear about. The first time I ever heard that women were getting injections of Botox (botulism) in their lips, I was shocked. I've seen the damage done by face and tummy lifts, and the problems with implants. Now I'm not saying that in some cases some of these changes might be necessary, but I am questioning those changes or attempts at change that are not necessary. God has a spiritual form and we are created in that image, but in the flesh. The scriptures show us that God has a head, torso, arms, legs, hands and feet. This is the fleshly pattern or image that we are made in. There weren't deformities in God's creation in the beginning. These came about later due to man walking contrary to God.

The Lord Jesus came in the flesh, in the image of how His spiritual body was in heaven. Was He a handsome man, appearing like the image that hangs upon the walls of many homes? Let's look at scripture and see just how He looked. Isaiah 53:2, *"For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him."* He didn't have looks that would draw people's attention to Him. He didn't stand out in a crowd except when He spoke the word of God. It was the words He spoke, not His looks that brought the people to Him. Jesus was content with the way He looked. He cared about nothing but serving the Father and carrying out His will.

As God's children, we should remember that God loves us just the way we are. We don't have to follow after others who are trying to change themselves to fit into what the world believes we should look or be like. If we need to conform, then we should conform to what God wants us to be and that is to be more like His Son Jesus. Matthew 11:29, "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

There is so much more that could be written about this subject, but for this article, it is enough.

The people of this world continue to try and improve about the perfection of God's creation and still they fail. The only thing we can do to ever make things right is to repent of our rebellion, our sin against God and turn to Him for true guidance according to His will. He gave man authority over all of His creation and we have made a great mess of it all.

Genesis 1:26-28, "...and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. "And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." Man's job at the time of creation and even now was and still is to be caretakers of all of God's creation. Genesis 2:15 "And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it." We have failed greatly.

He gave the man Adam the food that he, his wife and his family would need to survive. He never told Adam that he would need to genetically alter that food in order to make it better. He didn't tell Adam to process their foods, removing everything beneficial, then "enriching" it with manmade vitamins and minerals. The animals didn't need herbs and grasses with added hormones, steroids or antibiotics. Everything that God created was perfect, just as it says in Genesis 1, verse 31 "And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day."

It was "very good." It was exactly the way God wanted it.

Genesis 2:1-17 "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

When God finished creating everything just the way He wanted it, He saw a need for man to rest after working hard for six days. He created a day for us to rest from all of our weekly work and to be refreshed in it. But, man has and is still making every effort to avoid, dismiss and erase the Sabbath. Many are making an effort to change Sunday to the seventh day of the week on the calendar. The changing of times is prophesied to happen in Daniel 7:25 "And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time." This is speaking of a future time and is during the three and one half years of tribulation. I believe that these changes are already in the process. As the Protestant churches and other religions continue to unite with the leader of the Catholic Church, the changing of the Sabbath on the calendar will be widely accepted by all of them. They will accept it, because it will give the world what it wants and will make anyone who keeps the true Sabbath their enemies. In their eyes, we will be considered rebels against their false beliefs.

God has seen the effects of mankind's rebellion against Him. What we are seeing and what we will see happen in the near future is the same that God saw in the past. Genesis 6:5-6 "And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart." Matthew 24:37-39 "But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

This world will go on with trying to make things better, claiming that they are helping and never admitting that they are doing more harm than good. Even now, scientists are trying to match God by clone animals and, in some areas of the world, humans.

We have polluted our atmosphere and the water we drink. We have over taxed the land by never letting it rest. Today farmers push down more trees to make room for more crops because the ground doesn't produce the yields they used to. As soon as man began to process foods it put man on a path to obesity, illness and death. As technology increased over the past years, it began to make man lazy and it is getting worse.

Satan is sitting back and laughing at what has become of mankind. Today, most families don't sit down to eat together and if they do, one or more will have their cell phones with them. This whole process of making things better is making things worse.

Every day I ask the question, "How long will God let this continue?" The answer is, "GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart." When it comes to this, He won't flood the earth again, but instead, He will cleanse it with fire.

As God's people, we need to look at everything and ask ourselves, "Does this lead me away from God or does it lead me towards Him?" "Is it profitable to our spiritual life?" Even though something looks good to us and may seem alright, it may be harmful to us.

As the people continue to rely more on the world and the work of their own hands, God's people need to draw closer to the Heavenly Father and focus on the example of humility and servitude that Jesus lived by. We need to remain in God's world and avoid anything that takes us out of His will. We have to be an example of love and mercy in a world getting more wicked every day. We have to let our lights shine in a world that is getting darker. Let us all work to make ourselves better, by changing our lives to fit into God's will for us. END