

## **DesignedPlanet**

This chapter is one that I have a passion to share. Everyone of us, is given the opportunity to seek and find, whatever knowledge we choose. The knowledge each of us have is only a sliver, and I hope your sliver is larger than mine. Most, if not all of us, would benefit from more time spent searching scripture and trusting the guidance freely provided. "You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me, with all your heart." Jeremiah 29:13.

Like many *Baby Boomers*, I was raised going to Sunday school, and fortunate that Pam Shouse's mother was our teacher for years at Holmeswood Baptist Church. I came to a crossroad during my Sophomore Year at a Center High School Career Day. It was there that I heard Richard Beach give a presentation on Hal Lindsey's current book at the time, "The Late, Great Planet Earth." Beach had to negotiate, if not battle to be present for this public school Career Day event. That negotiation outcome would surely be different today. His position to speak at his former high school, was that preaching is a career option, and he should be aloud to present that option. He succeeded on being included, but was limited by the school district to give a secular discussion, and Beach chose to review Lindsey's book. It may have been a "secular" book, but Beach, could preach.

Beach's talk motivated me to pursue my own research on Bible prophecy, and to accept his invitation to go to the sparsely attended, at the time, "5th Qtr." at Colonial Presbyterian on Friday nights, after high school games. At the time, it was unimaginable that all of the world events prophesied in the Bible, and in Lindsey's book, would come to pass, especially living in the suburbs of Kansas City in the 1970s, but all the boxes have since been checked.

I was particularly moved by how the prophecy regarding Israel was foretold and this country would cease to exist, with Jews dispersed throughout the world, which happened shortly after the time of Christ, to finally return and become a country again, in the last days, which occurred in 1948. I could see then and now, no other possibility other than Divine Providence, for this specific beforehand knowledge, of Israeli Jews being scattered, Israel ceasing to exist, but then returning in these last days. For the world to be in such conflict over this land mass which is the size of New Jersey, as predicted, should be amazing to all who give careful consideration to these historical and current headline facts.

Bible Prophecy, as well as Creation Science, were for me the revealing path provided to me, to understand with assurance, so that my faith would become sight. "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, it is the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1 "[DesignedPlanet.com](http://DesignedPlanet.com)" became a personal ministry digest, to summarize what professionals, more astute on these topics than I, had already uncovered and made clear. I remain passionate about these studies, which leaves me beyond convinced the Bible is the revealed "Word of God."

The content of [DesignedPlanet.com](http://DesignedPlanet.com) originated, and is aimed at a Junior High level, one that I'm comfortable in grasping, relaying and writing. If you would prefer to follow similar information from an esteemed Astrophysicist, much like Sheldon Cooper from "The Big Bang Theory," with an IQ that is off the charts, but is also grounded in Bible based truth, I would recommend the books and YouTube videos of Hugh Ross. I prefer, and think most would agree, these complex matters explained in a little more simplistic manner, than Ross' brilliant presentation, is more within the comfort zone of most of us. There are many other authors on this subject, with Lee Strobel, Josh McDowell and others, that I find to be well researched and presented with clarity.

My son, Travis, after college was leading a junior high boys church group and they were having a father and son camping trip. So with a group of about 50 fathers and sons, I was graciously

invited to go along as well, although, the other fathers were a generation younger than me. I've grown comfortable being the "Happy Grandpa."

The first night, we were sitting around the campfire, mostly in silence as the kids played, when one of the dads, signaled for our attention, gathered the boys, and asked out loud, "Does anybody have anything they'd like to share with the group." As you might expect, it quickly became uncomfortably silent, as junior high boys tend to not want to be first to speak up in response to such a question as this.

It was a dark night with the sparks from the crackling fire lifting up above the silhouetted trees, accentuated with a full moon behind them. I was in a sales position at the time and spent hours each day in the car. I had been listening that week to a series called, "Creation, Believe It Or Not," from John MacArthur's program, "Grace to You" on Bott Radio Network in Kansas City. It's worth checking it out. Much of that worthwhile information from that ministry broadcast, was still fresh in my mind, and I was moved to share it, to this junior high audience.

"I learned something interesting recently." "See, that full moon," I interjected. "Do you realize that we are on planet Earth that is traveling 67,000 miles per hour through space around the sun, which is 93 million miles away, and that moon is 238,000 miles away from us right now. Yet the Moon and Sun appear to be exactly the same size from earth, and we can predict far in advance when they will line up perfectly together. The Sun is approximately 400 times larger than the moon, but 400 times further away. That's why they are the same size as they appear to us on earth. That is by design.

The watches on our wrists, as well as all clocks, are tuned to those same movements to keep precision and order, just as those heavenly bodies work together to sustain all life. Even the moon's gravitational pull works to control's the earth's wobble and the sea tides, to act as a thermostat to maintain our planet's temperature. That moon does that while also serving as a shield, attracting objects nearing our planet. Most scientists agree that we couldn't survive on earth without not only the sun, but also we need that moon at exactly the precise size, location and course. Such precise design as this, you see in all of nature, which requires a Designer. Orchestrated precision does not occur out of random chaos.

Science as taught in public schools is fascinating, but the spiritual implications when combining the scientific facts, and encouraging both young and older minds to consider the significance of how this designed planet and our designed universe, must require a Designer, is where truth begins. Synchronized order does not evolve from nothingness or through happenstance. Psalm 14:1 says it better, "The fool says in his heart, there is no God." That basic truth is where DesignedPlanet began. I felt these facts combined with a Biblical perspective is what was needed in education, for all of us, at any age.

I spent much of my free time over the next year researching and putting together similar facts and condensing them onto easy to follow brief digital slides. I researched books and videos on the subject like "The Case For The Creator," by Lee Strobel and the DVD "The Privileged Planet," and "Improbable Planet," from Hugh Ross.

So, I put in that work for a year at night wanting to create a website digest of Bible truth. I settled on the name DesignedPlanet as it was an available internet address. The name was also available on YouTube, Twitter, Facebook, so I secured them all. I bought an expensive projector with the intent to use it for school presentations. However, ultimately, the reception from schools, even cautious Christian schools, revealed little interest. No, actually there was absolutely no interest. Eventually, that projector was returned to Nebraska Furniture Mart and never used. But my passion remained.

It was not until our church, Westside Family Church in Lenexa, Kansas, asked for volunteers to mentor prisoners at the Lansing Correctional Facility, where the church service was broadcast each week, did I find my first *captive* audience for DesignedPlanet. I met weekly to lead a discussion for prisoners on life choices, with what I expected would be a difficult audience, I was surprised to find how immediately thoughtful and constructive these nights were. Prisoners have a lot of time to think about their life choices and what they need to change. Every week I'd print off 4 or 5 slide handouts for discussion, from the best of the content I had researched. After a month two, they told me, "We've been discussing of who it is you remind us, and we decided it's Andy Griffith." That was better than had it been Barney Fife. It also got me thinking, if I did have a TV dad growing up, it was Andy Griffith. The prisoners relayed this with affection, and that was evident each week as they were waiting for me by the prison gates to welcome me. Most of the prisoners relayed that they got very little communication from their family and friends while incarcerated.

I still remember by each day what the TV schedule was when growing up:

Monday\_Andy Griffith, Lucy, Gilligan's Island, The Monkees, Carol Burnett, Laugh-In  
Tuesday\_Red Skelton, Mod Squad, I Dream of Jeanie, Petticoat Junction  
Wednesday\_Beverly Hillbillies, Green Acres, Gomer Pyle, Dick Van Dyke.  
W-Th\_Batman  
Th\_Bewitched, That Girl, Tom Jones, Flip Wilson, Dean Martin  
F\_Hogan's Hero, The Man From U.N.C.L.E., Sonny & Cher, Love American Style  
Sa\_Hee Haw, Jackie Gleason, Get Smart, Andy Williams  
Su\_Walt Disney, Ed Sullivan, Glen Campbell, Smothers Brothers, All In The Family, Mash

What great shows. TV at its best. What happened? We didn't have many stations to choose from and we didn't need them. In that day, only quality entertainment with traditional family values could rise to the top to reside on network television in our homes. The times and our shows are much different now, but not better.

I launched the website DesignedPlanet.com, and was able through Google Analytics to track the daily visitors, as well as the regular twitter posts and emails sent out, containing the PowerPoint slides. The daily website visitors, locations and email open rate, was reported in real time, and I was pleased to see it could be as high as 250 people a day, from all over the world. Even on a slow day the reach is between 25-50 people. This fully funded non-profit venture is worthwhile, even if it only reaches one person a day, and even if that one person it helps, is me. Which it does. I know it has been used by Ministers and Bible Study leaders as a resource for discussions and sermons. All of this is very rewarding.

One of the key takeaways of the biblical messages I summarize, is that we are all sinners, and any good that is in us or in these efforts, is from above and not of ourselves. Lest any should boast. I'm sure my knowledge of God's truth, is very limited. I like to suggest I only have a thin slice of God's knowledge. Your slice may be greater than mine. I hope it is, and for that I'm grateful. All of the knowledge we have combined is still only a slim slice of His Truth. We should be pleased for what God has revealed to others, as well as ourselves. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." Proverbs 9:10.

TV has great influence, and is impactful in our lives, at least for today, But the Cliff Note collection of DesignedPlanet's messages does have eternal value for those who choose to explore and convey them to others.

Dolly Parton shared her thoughts on these issues, in the song she wrote and shared on her Christmas Special.

## **“The Seeker”**

I am a seeker  
A poor sinful creature  
There is no weaker than I am  
I am a seeker

You are a Teacher  
You are a Reacher  
So reach down  
Won't you reach out and lead me  
Guide me and keep me  
In the shelter of your care each day

Cause I am a seeker  
You are a keeper  
You are a leader  
Won't you show me the way

I am a vessel, that's empty an useless  
I am a bad see that fell by the way  
I am a loser, that wants to be a winner  
And you are my last hope  
Don't turn me away

Oh, I know you are a mountain  
From which there flows a fountain  
So let your water, wash my sins away

Cause I am a seeker  
You are a keeper  
You are a leader  
Won't you show me the way