

By Chance or By Design?

by Jan Bennett

Originally written for a Mother's Day Tea. The writer and LSI grant permission for this devotion to be modified and reused for other occasions.

Why are you here? I don't mean at this tea. Why are you here on earth? And I don't mean to drive your children to soccer or wash your husband's socks or to do tons of homework, either.

There are those who think the earth and everything in it happened by chance without God or miracles. They think that a lot of "accidents" over billions of years resulted in nonliving elements giving rise to life, tiny sea critters evolving into fish, then into land animals, and ultimately into people. If what they say is true, you are here just by a cosmic accident, you are just an animal, and your life has no meaning. How sad that would be!

Thankfully, God has a different answer for you. In Psalm 139:13-14 (EHV) He guided the Psalmist to write, "*For you created my inner organs. You wove me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful, and my soul knows that very well.*"

God specifically and deliberately created each person, including you. He wove you into a unique being with your own special personality, talents and abilities. You are not here by chance or by accident, but by God's design!

You are "fearfully and wonderfully made." God created you as a human being, not an animal. Your unique body and mind were designed to be far different than that of any animal He created. Best of all, He gave you and all people souls so you can believe in Him. When Adam and Eve, our first parents, fell into sin, God promised to send a Savior for them and all sinful people. Before He created the world, He chose you to be His own. You are forgiven because Jesus lived, died and rose for you, and

someday God will bring you to be with Him in heaven.

Every person, beginning with Adam and Eve, has been created by God to fulfill a specific purpose on earth. You are no exception. Ephesians 2:10 (EHV) says, “*For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared in advance so that we would walk in them.*”

Did you hear those words, “in advance”? The God who chose you before the creation of the world, who created you, and who wove you together in your mother’s womb, did it so that you can serve Him by doing the good works He prepared specifically for you. So, whether you are driving your children around, washing your husband’s socks, doing tons of homework, or telling someone about Jesus, you are fulfilling the purpose for which He created you.

Always remember that our loving God put you on earth, not by chance, but by His gracious design, so you can fulfill His good purpose for your life.

We pray: I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that very well. Thank you, dearest Lord, for creating me and for giving me my mind and abilities with which I may serve you. Thank you most of all for creating faith in my heart through the power of the Holy Spirit. Help me to serve you with my life out of love and gratitude for all you have done for me. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

Hymn CW#334: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

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