

## The Creator's Origin of Life - 4

The phytoplankton in the world's oceans fix between 30 and 50 billion metric tons of carbon annually, about 40% of the world total.

While some living things which live among the teeming life of the plankton are quite large, others, even when full-grown, are too small to see without a magnifying glass, other kinds appear to the naked eye as fine specks of dust.

If we look at one of these tiny specks it may give us some idea of the wonder and beauty of it all, keeping in mind that there are thousands of others - many thousands - which would consume entire human lifetimes to investigate. Take for example the diatoms. Although so minute, they function as plants. Although it does not produce leaves like a land plant, each diatom creates its own dwelling as it grows.

It is an ingeniously devised house, the beauty of perfection, made entirely of pure glass. They are very small, but they are definitely not simple in their design and construction. Each diatom is made in two similar joined sections, but the pairs of sections are found in countless shapes and patterns. It is because they are constructed in two sections that they are called diatoms, from the Greek which means divided in two.

And so we might picture each tiny plant with its speck of green chlorophyll - which every plant needs to grow - building a glass palace. And in there, helped by the chlorophyll, and like the leaves in land plants, converts light pulses from the sun into energized electrons which move through a biochemical labyrinth to convert carbon dioxide and water into plant food.

This is the work that plants, as we have seen, do the world over, and only because they do it can the world's animals, including men, live. And so without the various organisms which have chlorophyll and without it the light of the sun cannot be harnessed to feed life on earth. Men cannot make it, but God "gives them their food in due season" - Psalm 104:27.

And so we have the work of these little bits of life moving through the seas, these diatoms doing their share of the work of plants, and doing it no less perfectly because each separate one is no more than a pinpoint in size. Recently the writer saw on a CBC nature video a satellite image of entire groups of green spirals, each ranging for hundreds of miles cross the seas - and each being countless masses of diatoms and other phytoplankton, quietly performing their life-giving work at the base of the oceanic food chain.

Looking at it from a strictly practical point of view, one might say "they were created for this purpose" and after each of these vast numbers of glass palaces have done their work and come to the end of their life, they sink down to form a deep ooze over miles of the sea floor.

But the Creator did not arrange it to be quite like that. They could do their work of using solar power to make food just as well if every one looked alike, yet almost like snowflakes, they are endlessly diverse, patterned with knobs and dimples, ridges and diverging lines, in spite of their minuteness.

Surely there is a good reason for this. Not only do they have a utilitarian function, but it is reflected in what God made in the beginning, as verse 31 of Psalm 104 declares - "Let the glory of the Lord endure for ever. Let the Lord rejoice in his works".