

# FAMILY



I ran into a stranger as he passed by,  
"Oh excuse me please" was my reply.  
He said, "Please excuse me too;  
I wasn't watching for you."  
We were very polite, this stranger and I.  
We went on our way and we said goodbye.  
But at home a different story is told,  
How we treat our loved ones, young and old.  
Later that day, cooking the evening meal,  
My son stood beside me very still.  
When I turned, I nearly knocked him down.  
"Move out of the way," I said with a frown.  
He walked away, his little heart broken.  
I didn't realize how harshly I'd spoken.  
While I lay awake in bed,  
God's still small voice came to me and said,  
"While dealing with a stranger,  
common courtesy you use,  
but the family you love,  
you seem to abuse.  
Go and look on the kitchen floor,  
You'll find some flowers there by the door.  
Those are the flowers he brought for you.  
He picked them himself: pink, yellow and blue.

He stood very quietly not to spoil the surprise,  
you never saw the tears that filled his little eyes."  
By this time, I felt very small,  
And now my tears began to fall.  
I quietly went and knelt by his bed;  
"Wake up, little one, wake up," I said.  
"Are these the flowers you picked for me?"  
He smiled, "I found 'em, out by the tree.  
I picked 'em because they're pretty like you.  
I knew you'd like 'em, especially the blue."  
I said, "Son, I'm very sorry for the way I acted today;  
I shouldn't have yelled at you that way."  
He said, "Oh, Mom, that's okay.  
I love you anyway."  
I said, "Son, I love you too,  
and I do like the flowers, especially the blue."



## Design Without A Designer?

In the 18th century, the most notable user of the design argument was *William Paley* (1743–1805).

In his book, *Natural Theology*, he put the case of someone finding a watch while walking in a barren countryside. From the functions which the various parts of the watch fulfil (e.g. spring, gearwheels, pointer), the only logical conclusion was that it had a maker who 'comprehended its construction and designed its use'.

Paley also discussed evidence of design in the eye—that as an instrument for vision it showed intelligent design in the same way that telescopes, microscopes and spectacles do. And he went on to discuss complex design in many other human and animal organs, all pointing to the conclusion that the existence of complex life implies an intelligent Creator.

David Hume, the 18th century Scottish

sceptical philosopher, tried to counter the watch argument by pointing out that watches are not living things which reproduce. However, Paley wrote 30 years after Hume, and Paley's arguments are proof against most of Hume's objections. For example, a modern philosopher has countered Hume: 'Paley's argument about organisms stands on its own, regardless of whether watches and organisms happen to be similar. The point of talking about watches is to help the reader see that the argument about organisms is compelling.'

*Charles Darwin* was required to read Paley during his theological studies at Cambridge (1828–31). He later said, 'I do not think that I hardly ever admired a book more than Paley's "Natural Theology." I could almost formerly have said it by heart.' However, he then spent the rest of his life developing and promoting a theory to explain how 'design' in nature could occur without God.

The phrase, "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear," is found 11 times in the Bible. This is an important concept. In John 7:17 Jesus said, "If any man will do his will, he shall

know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." In other words, a man who is in rebellion against God will never "see" or "hear" the truth, no matter how well presented.

2 Peter 3:5-6

<sup>5</sup> For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: <sup>6</sup> Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

**S**coffers deliberately ignore 2 things: (1) God created the world, and (2) the universal flood recorded in Genesis.

It is a withering indictment of these men that they are willfully ignorant. They pride themselves on being knowledgeable. They profess to be objective in their reasoning. They boast that they adhere to the principles of scientific investigation. But the fact is that they deliberately ignore any truth that requires submission to God.