As the Creator, God had the right to humans discovered hydraulic power, many living creatures were using it.

The arrows show four hydraulic rams on this digger. They raise and lower the arm, and open and close the grab bucket.

One of them is the starfish. Under each of its five arms are thousands of tiny tube feet. The starfish draws water into its body through an opening in the centre (arrowed, left). This water is pumped along tubes in the arms to each of the tiny feet, making them open and close. Spiders use hydraulics, too. They pump blood into their legs to extend them. Some spiders can jump as high as 50 times their length!

The hydraulics used in modern machines had to be designed by intelligent people — it was no accident.

The hydraulics used by starfish, spiders, and other creatures had to be designed, too. Their Designer is God, the Creator of everything!

Lots of people believe there is life on other planets because they can't believe that we are alone in such a huge universe, with its billions of galaxies and stars. But we're not alone! There is a God who created all those stars, every planet, and all life on earth, including us, and He loves us.

Heaven belongs to the Lord. But he gave the earth to people.” (Psalm 115: 15-16). As the Creator, God had the right to make just one inhabited planet, and the rest of the universe so that we could worship Him for His great power. We don’t believe that astronomers will ever find life on other planets, because life can’t start by accident, and so many things need to be just right for life to exist. Earth is right for us, because God made it that way.

Our planet is more important than everything else in the universe because God Himself visited it 2,000 years ago in the Person of Jesus. He died on a cross so that our sins could be forgiven, and rose again so that all who accept Him can live with Him for ever. “God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that whoever believes in Him may not be lost, but have eternal life.” (The Bible, John 3: 16). There are many bad things in the world now, but Jesus will return some day, and create a new heaven and earth. All who love Him will be part of that!
Films and TV programmes about space travel, such as Star Trek and Star Wars, always have stories about people meeting aliens from other planets. Some people say they’ve seen UFOs (Unidentified Flying Objects), which they believe are alien spacecraft. However, most of them have a simple explanation, e.g. unusual cloud shapes or objects like weather balloons. Yet, many people still believe there are intelligent beings on other planets. For years scientists have been using radio telescopes like the one on the left, hoping to pick up messages from outer space, but none have been detected.

There are two main reasons why people believe that there are other inhabited planets. First, they argue that the universe is so big that there “must be” other planets out there with life; earth can’t be the only one. However, “must be” is not a good scientific reason for believing it. The second reason is the idea that life will somehow just “happen” if a planet has all the right conditions. Yet no-one has ever been able to explain how life began on earth, since life doesn’t come from non-life.

We believe there is life on earth because God created the right conditions, and then created life, in the beginning. The Bible says: “The Lord created the heavens… he made the earth.” (Isaiah 48: 18)

There are thought to be around a trillion stars in the Andromeda Galaxy. That’s 1,000,000,000,000! Many astronomers believe that there must be other stars with planets like our earth. But there is no evidence.

We may think that the diet of dung beetles is rather horrible, but God created these tiny insects to play an important part in looking after His world!

These insects perform a very useful service. You could call them nature’s “clean-up brigade.” They not only eat animal manure, but bury it in the ground, where flies can’t breed in it, and where the manure can mix with the soil and feed plants better.

Over 200 years ago, people from Europe took cattle to Australia. As cattle farming spread over the country, there were plagues of bush flies which fed on the animal manure. These flies spread diseases and eye infections to people. There were already dung beetles which ate the manure of kangaroos and wombats, but not cow manure. When scientists realised this, they took some of the dung beetles which feed on cow manure to Australia. The beetles multiplied, and eventually buried and ate so much of the cattle manure that the flies which fed on it were no longer a problem.

We may think that the diet of dung beetles is rather horrible, but God created these tiny insects to play an important part in looking after His world.

There are no canals on Mars, and no “Martians”!

In fact, there is no evidence of any kind of life on Mars, and nothing could live there. It’s much too cold, there’s no water, no ozone layer around the planet to shield us from the sun’s harmful radiation, and the atmosphere is too thin to breathe. It is very likely that people will soon visit Mars, but they will have to build special “pods” to live in, and find a way to create their own atmosphere, since they won’t be able to survive outside.

Life on earth would be impossible without our moon! Other planets have moons, but ours is just the right size for us. The moon’s gravity causes the ocean tides, which keep our seas and rivers clean and fresh. It also stops the earth wobbling as we move around the sun.

If you have ever walked across a field where animals had been grazing you will have noticed patches of manure (dung) left by the animals. You may even have stepped in some! Did you know that there are insects which bury and eat manure? They are known as dung beetles.

These dung beetles are feasting on a pile of horse manure

Why do so many people believe in aliens?

**Earth's special protection**

Earth’s atmosphere is like a protective blanket. Not only does it enable us to breathe, it burns up thousands of meteors – sometimes called “shooting stars” (right) – so that very few ever reach the ground. Planets with hardly any atmosphere, such as Mercury, have no protection. The photo (left) shows Mercury’s surface, covered in craters. We really should be grateful to God for our atmosphere!