

Metamorphosis

- ▣ As the life of a caterpillar draws to a close but before it begins life as a butterfly is the process of metamorphosis a in cocoon.
- ▣ The same creature begins its life in one body with one set of skills and right in the middle changes form becomes an entirely new creature and then must develop an entirely different set of skills.

Life Ends for a Caterpillar



Life Begins for a Butterfly

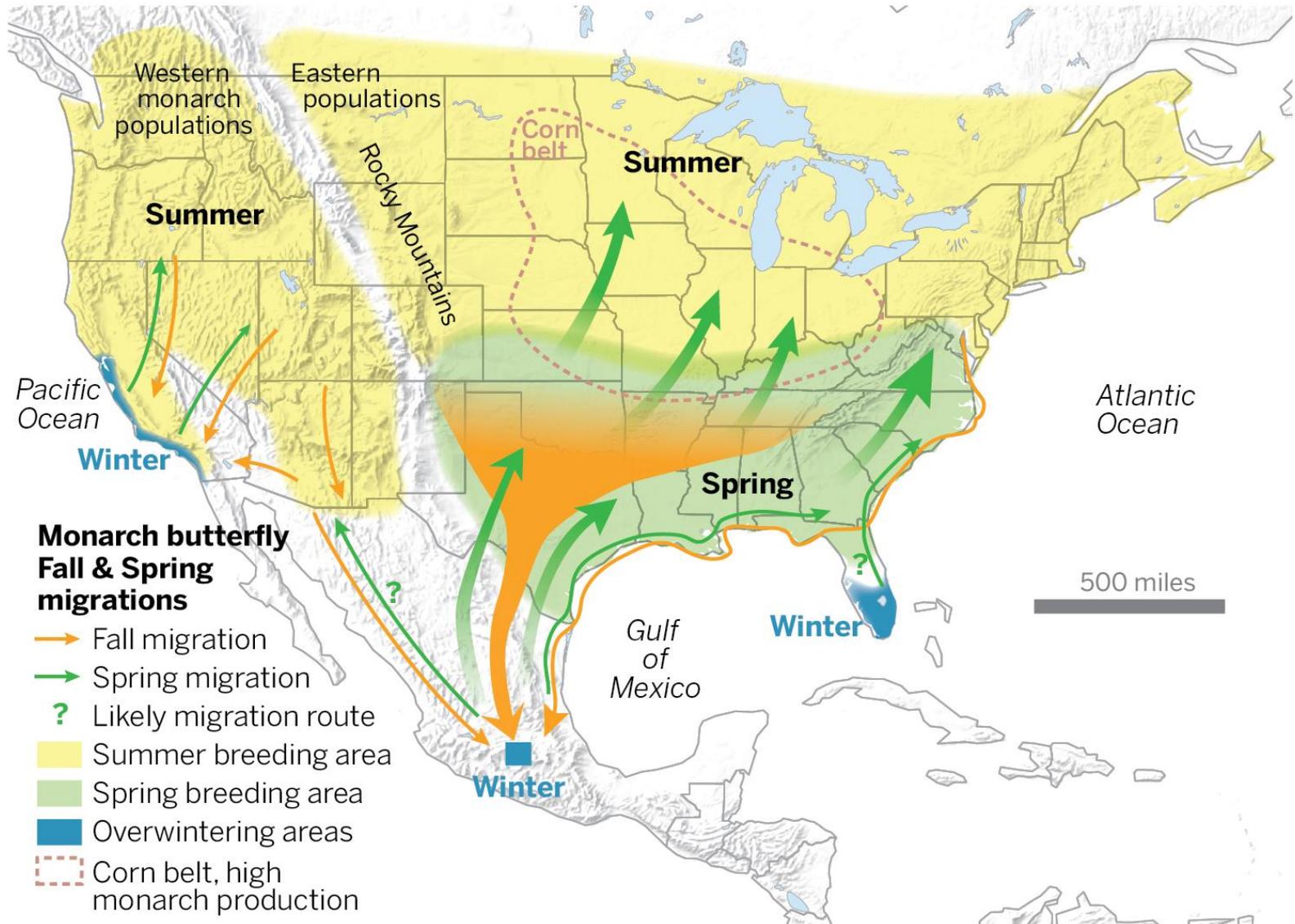


God's Creative Genius

- The Monarch butterfly has one skill set it did not have. It must navigate 100's of miles and find the specific place it needs to go.

TRACKING THE MONARCHS: WEST VS. EAST

In the U.S., the two populations are separated by the Rocky Mountains. But there's new evidence that in Mexico, the populations mix. This creates hope that any extinction in the west could be reversed by the arrival of eastern migrants.



Source: MonarchWatch.org

BAY AREA NEWS GROUP

God's Creative Genius

- This special “organ of sight” which also exists in the migration of birds is another amazing example of God's abilities.
- God is a master Architect, Craftsmen, Engineer, Designer and Creator.
- If we didn't see this happen we would proclaim it is impossible.
- God makes the impossible not only possible, but makes it look easy and natural.

Transforming a Sinner into a Saint

- ▣ **Is far more amazing and complex!!**
- ▣ **We see the easy part.**
- ▣ **Going into the water and coming out.**
- ▣ **Just like we see the easy part of the caterpillar going into the cocoon and coming out.**
- ▣ **But what happens in between in both cases is equally amazing.**

The Amazing Results

- For we are **His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus** for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Eph 2:10
- Therefore, **if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.** 2Cor. 5:17

New Things Have Come

- Like the butterfly, we emerge from the water of baptism with old things passed away.
- Like a butterfly our new abilities bring new challenges.
- No longer “conformed,” we enter God’s divinely planned process of transformation (metamorphosis).
- Unlike the butterfly who has no freewill, God wanted a fellowship with us giving our will a vital role in our growth. (Rom. 12:1-2).

We Must Gain a New Organ of Sight

- Butterflies and birds are capable of navigating 1000's of miles to the exact spot every time.
- God's power is seen every time they do it.
- Paul prayed that God would help those in Ephesus to develop this new ability to see and navigate.
- *making mention (of you) in my prayers; 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you a spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him; 18 having the eyes of your heart enlightened. Eph. 1:16-18*
- Like the butterfly, God has made it possible for us to have an “organ of sight” to help us get to heaven.

When the “*eyes of our heart*” are working

- *“The eye is the lamp of the body. So, if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light, 23 but if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! Mt. 6:22-23*
- *Therefore take heed that the light which is in you is not darkness. 36 If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, the whole body will be full of light, as when the bright shining of a lamp gives you light.” Lk. 11:35-36*
- We can't do these things until our new eyes have developed. We must learn how to know this.

Learning to Trust our New Eyes

- *For we walk by faith, not by sight. 2 Cor 5:7*
- Opens this new vista of understanding. New realities never seen before become clear.
- *while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal. 2Cor. 4:18*
- When they are full developed, the “*eyes of our heart*” replace what is seen with what is not seen.
- Only after witnessing the metamorphosis of a caterpillar into a butterfly can we really see this.

Temporary vs Eternal sight

- We don't understand the two organs of the bird and butterfly. We know they see what is near so they can eat and avoid predators.
- We also know that they can “*see*” what is 1000's of miles away.
- In the world we only see the temporary and material.
- With the eyes of our heart we see the eternal and spiritual
- We know where we are in our metamorphosis by how much true spiritual light is now within us.

Old Things Pass New Things Come

- As the eternal replaces the temporary, old things pass away and new things come.
- Eternal realities become real to us and temporary realities begin to fade.
- *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. Heb 11:13-14*
- Citizenship in heaven replaces citizenship here and we become strangers, pilgrims and exiles.

Our Dual Citizenship

- *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself. Phil 3:20-21*
- When the light within us is no longer darkness and we see these things clearly, we are reaching maturity.

Our Attitudes Depend on which Eyes

- With the eyes of our heart seeing eternal realities, all Jesus words become crystal clear realities.
- *“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,”* makes perfect sense with the eyes of our heart.
- Those who sell all they have to buy the field of the eternal kingdom don't see money the same.
- With the eternal reality of true treasure, we check our vision. If this makes sense it is the spiritual
- *“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”* (Mt. 13:12; 6:19-21)

The Eyes of Eternity

- *exercise yourself toward godliness. 8 For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come. 1 Tim 4:7-9*
- *Do not let your adornment be merely outward — arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel — 4 rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. 1 Peter 3:3-5*