The Mallee Fowl

The Australian Mallee Fowl has been nicknamed “the thermometer bird”. There is a good reason for this. Most birds sit on their eggs to keep them warm until they hatch, but the Mallee Fowl does things differently.

The male bird builds an “incubator” for the eggs. He begins by digging a hole 1m (3ft) deep and 5m (16ft) wide. He then collects lots of decaying leaves and twigs and makes a huge mound in the hole. When it has been wetted by rain, the bird covers this with a layer of sand, making a pile about 1½m (4½ ft) high. The material may weigh over 300 tonnes! Like a gardener’s compost heap, the pile heats up, collects lots of decaying leaves and twigs and makes a perfect incubator.

When the temperature is just right the female begins to lay her eggs in the centre of the pile. She lays an egg each day for about a month. Each time, the male bird covers the egg and the temperature is maintained until the egg hatches. If it becomes too hot or too cold the chicks would never hatch. If it gets too hot, he scratches some sand off, and if it gets too cold he piles more on. When the chicks hatch, they turn on their backs and dig themselves out through about ½m (2 ft) of leaves and sand. They can fly at once and feed themselves. In fact, they never even know their parents.

The Mallee Fowl could never have evolved. The baby birds never see a nest being built, so how could they gradually learn to build that huge “incubator”? How could they learn that the temperature needed to be kept constant and how did they get that special “thermometer” in their beak? And how do the baby birds know they have to dig their way out of the pile when they hatch? Evolution can’t answer these questions. The amazing Mallee Fowl must have been created in the beginning by God.

GOD HAS SPOKEN!

Think of a world without language—not being able to talk or listen to other people, or should be that God has given us language! But it’s even more wonderful that God has spoken to us! First of all, he has spoken through His creation. “The heavens tell the story” (Psalm 19: 1-2). Then He has spoken to us through the Bible, which tells us about creation, the history of the world, and how God has been at work in His world. The Bible is our Maker’s handbook: “All Scripture is given by God and is useful for teaching and for showing people what is wrong in their lives. It is useful for correcting faults and teaching us our world, about God, and about ourselves.”

The Bible also tells us about the most wonderful way God has spoken to us. “God has spoken to us through His Son” (Hebrews 1: 2). God came to earth in the Person of Jesus Christ to show us that He is not only a powerful Creator, but that He loves each of us. Jesus died on the cross for our sins, then rose again, so that we could be forgiven and live forever with Him. God wants us to know and love Him. We begin by asking Him to forgive us and to send His Holy Spirit to help us live the way He wants us to. God has spoken to you, now He wants you to talk to Him!