

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS



Man is able by the use of his mind to know that God exists. However, without information imported from beyond the earth, man is destitute of answers to some of his most important questions.

I. ORIGIN OF THE UNIVERSE

Unaided man apparently cannot know how the universe came to be. Moses' Egyptian professors taught that the universe was derived from pulp and that the earth was hatched from a winged egg. Aristotle taught that matter is the source of the universe, while the ancient Greek philosopher Zeno said it resulted from a "fortuitous concourse of atoms." In 1796 Pierre Laplace concluded that spiral nebulae gradually solidified into planets. In 1900 F. R. Moulton and T. C. Chamberlin asserted that flying matter falling away from the sun gradually cooled and hardened into planets. In 1960 it was asserted that the universe has evolved from hydrogen gas.

It is noticeable that all conjectures as to the origin of the universe, only discuss the possible development of matter, not how matter came to be. Whether the matter was pulp, a winged egg, spiral nebulae, atoms, debris from the sun, or hydrogen, no one has explained what caused the matter. Scholars assume the existence of matter in a "primeval chaos" of several gases, but they do not explain the origin of the gases. They merely guess as to what they think happened after the gases were here. They recognize, assuming that hydrogen was the original gas, that "actually there must have been something ante-

cedent." But what that antecedent something was, and how it came into existence, scientists do not know. After one has read what scholars say about the origin of the universe, one is no nearer a solution than when he started.

An excuse, pleading man's finite intelligence, has been offered for man's inability with purely human resources to solve the problem. Man has to admit that he does not know how the universe came to be. He has no hope of knowing, unless information comes from without the earth.

"... man cannot discover the work which has been done under the sun. Even though man should seek laboriously, he will not discover; and though the wise man should say, 'I know,' he cannot discover" (Ecclesiastes 8:17).

II. ORIGIN OF MAN

Unaided man apparently cannot know how he came into being. In the twentieth century it was said that "the father of all mankind" was a "shabby little Paleocene rat." The forerunner of the rat was "some barely living jelly," but the origin of the jelly is bypassed. If the jelly was derived from "soups of organic

molecules in primordial pools," and the soups from inanimate chemicals, and the chemicals from hydrogen gas, then the question as to man's origin is still unanswered. The reduction of man to hydrogen does not explain the origin of the hydrogen, and the question of man's origin is no more answered than the question of the origin of the universe.

III. MORALITY

Unaided man apparently cannot know the best system of morals. By nature, man knows some facts about right and wrong; but such knowledge is variable and inadequate. Man's inability to construct a system of true morality

caused Greek philosophers Socrates and Plato to hope that God would give instruction in morals.

When man is guided only by the light of his own reasoning, his code is nearly always selfish and self-destroying. Among most peoples, revenge and the destruction of enemies have been practiced. Compassion has been considered a weakness. Falsehood has been and still is sometimes considered virtuous. Stealing and cheating have been inwardly approved and sometimes outwardly accepted. Drunkenness is not always considered shameful, and fornication often has been inwardly endorsed and publicly overlooked. Marriage vows are not considered inviolate. To some, suicide has been considered a virtue and a blessing. Abortion and child exposure have been endorsed. Among some, funerals have been converted into carnivals. People generally do not live as well as they know they ought to, but without information coming from outside the earth, the question as to the best ethical standard remains unanswered.

IV. LIFE'S GOAL

Unaided man apparently cannot know life's goal. No problem has received more attention than the search for the highest good, for the chief purpose in living. Among the ancients, some three hundred opinions were formed as to man's reason for existing. The quest is still much investigated. Without outside help, it appears that man must always live with a question mark as to why he is here.

V. RELATIONSHIP TO GOD

Unaided man apparently cannot know how to worship God. He can know without help that God exists, but he cannot know what God wants him to do in worshiping and serving Him. Piti-able have been man's efforts in worshiping God. Without outside help, man has a tendency to corrupt God into many gods. India has millions of deities. Without guidance, man has a tendency to make all matter animated and personal. He believes rocks and trees and clouds to have souls. He begins to worship other human beings, either living or dead. Without divine instruction, man makes fornication a part of temple worship. He has been known to make human sacrifices in attempt to please angry gods. When man is left to his own resources, the question of

how to worship and serve God remains unanswered.

VI. IMMORTALITY

Unaided man apparently can have no assurance of immortality. All normal people hope to live forever, but without outside help, no one has any certification of the reality of an afterlife. In Job 14:14 we see a question without an answer: "If a man dies, will he live again?"

VII. QUESTIONS

Man's most important questions have to do with the origin of the universe, the origin of man himself, morality, the highest good, man's relationship with God, and immortality. Answers to these questions are not forthcoming from human knowledge. Unaided man is helpless in the quest for the meaning of life. Jeremiah 10:23 affirms "that a man's way is not in himself, nor is it in a man who walks to direct his steps." Millions of people have tried to disprove this Bible statement, only to become examples of its accuracy. Socrates, Plato, Cicero, Democritus, and John Locke are among the world's acute minds who have written of man's incompetence in dealing with life's most important questions.

Since man's incompetence appears incontestable, reason says that the God who sends rain from heaven and fruitful seasons satisfying man's physical needs would not leave him destitute as regards his mental, moral, and spiritual needs. Hence it is reasonable to suppose that God would break through from the outside and convey information so sorely needed for God's finite creatures. In other words, it is reasonable that a supernaturally inspired revelation should make an advent into this world as a lamp to man's feet and as a light to his path.

VIII. ANSWERS

An examination of the Bible demonstrates that what man is unable to supply for himself a beneficent Creator has supplied. The normal man is much more than an animal, and he lives not by bread alone. His greatest needs are not physical; the Bible is directed toward his greatest needs. As the human body needs oxygen, so the human spirit needs the Bible. The Bible supplies all that pertains to life and godliness.