

# *The Existence of God*

Most thinking people have considered the question of God's existence time and time again. If they have not doubted, they have at least wondered about the proofs for the existence of a Supreme Being. We are to give an account for our hope (1 Peter 3:15).

Atheists say they have come to the conclusion that God does not exist. It is impossible for a person to know that there is no God. He would have to be omniscient to be able to make such a statement. This lesson will set forth some reasons for believing in the existence of a Supreme Being.

## **THE BIBLE TEACHES THE EXISTENCE OF GOD**

Genesis, the first book of the Bible, begins with the majestic statement "In the beginning God" and declares His existence throughout. This argument, of course, has no weight with the person who does not accept the Bible as a credible witness. However, if—as in the preceding lesson—we have already established the fact that the Bible is a qualified witness, then its testimony does have some weight. In our previous lesson we presented reasons for believing the Bible. Evidence was presented to show that the Bible is a supernatural Book, that it has revealed facts which could have been known only by revelation. Since we have established that the Bible is a supernatural Book and that it has been verified in every case where verification is possible, we should be prepared to accept its testimony in matters which cannot be verified by the five senses. Because the Bible has proved its ability as a witness, I believe that it is telling the truth in declaring the existence of God. I believe there is a God.

Plenty of corroborative testimony is available. The remainder of this lesson will deal with the evidences for the existence of God that are external to the Bible.

## **NATURE TESTIFIES TO THE EXISTENCE OF A SUPREME BEING**

God's "invisible attributes, . . . have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, . . ." (Romans 1:20). The psalmist said, "The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands" (Psalm 19:1); and "When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained; what is man that You take thought of him, . . . ?" (Psalm 8:3, 4). We can survey the wondrous universe even as David did in the long ago. In fact, man now has facilities that enable him to know far more about the universe than could be known by man in the time of David. Each new discovery lends weight to the idea of the existence of God.

One thing that must impress us is the immensity of the universe. This earth upon which we live is a tremendously big object, yet it is a mere speck when compared to the sun. If the sun were cut into a million pieces, each would surpass the earth in size. This earth receives only a two-billionth part of the sun's light and heat.

The distance around the earth is approximately twenty-five thousand miles. The distance to the sun is four thousand times as great as the distance around the earth, being something over ninety-two million miles. Neptune is said to be two and one-half billion miles away, or thirty times as far away from the earth as the sun. Sirius, the brightest star of the heavens, is fifty-

one trillion miles away. The third-brightest star in the sky, Alpha Centauri, is said to be twenty trillion miles away, or two hundred thirty thousands times as far away as the sun. The distance to many of the heavenly bodies is so great that it is measured in terms of "light years." Some of them are said to be thousands of light years from the earth. This means that thousands of years are required for light, traveling at the rate of 186,000 miles per second, to reach us from those heavenly bodies. Our solar system—composed of the sun, planets, and natural satellites—is not the only solar system, according to astronomers. They tell us that there are millions of others, each with its own sun and planets.

These figures mean little to us. They are so great that we cannot begin to comprehend them, but they suggest something of the immensity of the cosmos. When we contemplate all that man has discovered, we are indeed impressed; but we have only explored the borders of the works of God. Someone, emphasizing the greatness of the universe, has said: "The glories of an extended forest would suffer no more from the fall of a single leaf than the glories of this extended universe would suffer if the globe we tread upon were to be dissolved into gases."

The immense universe shouts aloud that God is. God's existence, power, wisdom, and goodness are being constantly sounded by the heavenly heralds. Their testimony is not a mere hint; it is a declaration. If you would see divine sublimity, gaze upward into the starry vault. If you would see infinity, wisdom, and divine fidelity, consider the balancing of the stars and mark the regularity of the planetary motions. They declare not only glory, but the very glory of God! They deliver to us unanswerable arguments for an intelligent, conscious, controlling, and presiding Creator. Their testimony is proclaimed in all languages, and they are witnesses that cannot be slain or silenced.

Something exists, and something cannot come from nothing. Therefore, something has always been. The Bible calls that "something" God.

### **INTELLIGENT CREATION IS THE ONLY LOGICAL ANSWER TO THE QUESTION OF ORIGIN**

Man's reason asks, "What is the origin of this

wonderful universe?" There are only two possible answers: chance and intelligent creation. Can we believe it is the result of chance or accident? Who could possess the credulity to believe the wonderful and immense cosmos we have been talking about is the result of blind chance? Something cannot come from nothing. Effect demands a cause. I cannot believe that chance produced the material world. Let us consider some reasons for believing it is the result of intelligent creation.

First, the combination of various elements in proper quantities to produce an innumerable variety of minerals and life forms argues strongly for a combiner, an arranger. There are now 112 known elements in the universe. Everything that we see is made up of these various elements. Certain elements in given proportions form specific things when brought together. Two parts of hydrogen and one part of oxygen form water. One part of sodium plus one part of chlorine equals table salt. To illustrate this, think of the twenty-six letters in our alphabet. These can be arranged in various combinations to form thousands of different words. Words can be arranged to compose poetry, prose, a declaration of war, a treaty of peace, a newspaper article, or any other type of literary composition. However, this cannot be done without some intelligence to arrange the letters and words. Can we conceive of chance arranging the letters of the alphabet so that they will fall into place and form a Shakespearean drama? Indeed, we cannot, yet this would be as reasonable as supposing that the various combinations of the elements which make up the cosmos are the result of blind chance or accident! It cannot be!

Second, we see in the universe about us evidence of intelligent planning and designing. Design is apparent in even the small objects of nature. Every snowflake is perfect in design. Every blade of grass is a well-regulated chemical laboratory. The human bodies in which we live show design that is superhuman. The careful observer cannot long contemplate the physical organism without exclaiming with the psalmist, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). The two hundred bones, the five hundred muscles, and the thousand ligaments which bind them together present a perfect example of harmonious planning and designing.

The thousands of nerves, the thousands of veins and arteries, and the thousands of glands—all functioning and working together for the good of the body—present a picture of intelligent design. This could not be the result of chance. The intricacies of the human eye could furnish enough material to occupy many scientific volumes. The eye reveals design that can be accounted for only by the existence of an intelligent Creator. Men can study a lifetime on this one organ alone, and then they confess that there is much about it they do not know.

The same statement may be made of other organs of the human body. Of course, design in physical organisms is not confined to human beings. The multitudes of creatures around us present an unanswerable argument for the existence of God. The birds that fly in the heavens are fitted with the necessary equipment for their sphere of living. The fish that swim in the sea are fitted with the exact body types needed for their environment. Every form of life and even the inanimate objects cry out and testify to a Designer, an intelligent Designer.

Third, the existence of law and order in the universe argues for intelligent creation. The planets move upon their orbits in an orderly fashion and are mathematically adjusted to each other. The earth rotates upon its axis every twenty-four hours. At the same time, it is moving around the sun at the rate of 72,600 miles per hour. It is always on schedule! It moves according to a law. Such laws are found in every realm. So unvarying are these laws that eclipses of the heavenly bodies can be predicted with accuracy. The laws of the universe are enforced! Man has learned by bitter experience that he cannot break nature's laws without suffering the consequences. Injury follows without mercy when one is violated. Such law and order is not the result of chance. There must be a Lawmaker! Further, there must be a Power with the ability to enforce these laws, and that Power must be intelligent and wise. The laws of the universe testify that there is a Supreme Power who made them and who maintains them.

Fourth, the existence of life speaks of the existence of a living God. What is the origin of life? Since life comes from life, there must be a Life Inherent. That is what I call God. He is the only conceivable explanation of life and its ori-

gin. In seeking an understanding of the mystery of life, we must ultimately come to Him. Beyond Him we cannot go. Life does not happen by chance. It is not spontaneously generated. There must have been a First Cause.

## CONCLUSION

When we survey the works of God, we are made to ask with David, "What is man that You take thought of him, . . . ?" (Psalm 8:4). Man is a mere speck living on a mere speck, yet God has shown more concern for him than He has shown for all the stars that shine. Why? Because man was made in His image and because man is eternal. When the universe is on fire, man will survive the wrecking of worlds.

I am glad I believe in God. I pity the person who does not believe in God, who does not know God. Those who have found Him and who know Him can testify that He is the greatest source of strength that they have known or experienced in overcoming the battles of life. The heavens and the earth which are the works of His hand shall perish, but He remains and will endure. "You are the same, and Your years will not come to an end" (Psalm 102:27); "Before the mountains were born or You gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God" (Psalm 90:2). In a time of change and transition, in a world of decay and destruction, I plead with you to hold to His unchanging hand. ■

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## *Thoughts About God*

A heathen philosopher once asked a Christian, "Where is God?" The Christian answered, "Let me first ask you, 'Where is He not?'"

Aaron Arrowsmith

The celestial order and the beauty of the universe compel me to admit that there is some excellent and eternal Being, who deserves the respect and homage of men.

*De Divinatione*  
Cicero

The more I know of astronomy, the more I believe in God.

Heber D. Curtis