

Those who believe the Bible to be the Words of God maintain that there is only one God and that all other religions have false gods. And since the God of the Bible is the only true and living God who created the universe then He must be infinite in wisdom and power; He would have to be, to be God. But how can we know? Is there any evidence? Has God communicated with mankind and if so, do we have any record of His communication? What has He said, and what does He want from us? These are questions that need to be answered if we are going to believe in God.

There are a number of observations we should make in our quest for truth observations that point us in the right direction. Why is it that wherever men can be found on planet earth, they worship a god of some sorts? Some pray to idols of wood or stone but they genuinely believe there is a god who created the universe and that they need to relate to him. This instinct within every man must indicate something. It is not learned and in fact it is atheism that must be learned. Einstein came from an irreligious Jewish family yet he was devoutly religious until he was given scientific books to read and at the age of 12 chose to reject religion and God,

especially the God of the Bible. Without the secularization of his young mind he would have continued to believe in God; the God of the Bible.

religions are different so which one can we believe? If there were no churches, no pagan temples, no Bibles or other religious books in the world, what evidence would there be to convince a child of the existence of God? Is there anything in the world that would testify to the existence of a supreme being? The answer is obvious. If there is a Creator God then everything He has created must have His fingerprint all over it. If He is a God of intelligent design then creation must demonstrate intelligence. If He is a living God then there must be life that can be observed. And if God has any interest in His creation and has intervened in the affairs of men down through time, then there must be evidence of His interference in history.

Imagine that you lived in a world where there were no books and no Bible. All you knew is what you could observe around you. Any honest observer would have to agree that there is perfect order in the universe. The sun rises exactly as expected every morning; the moon appears according to set times. You can set the lunar clock by its sightings; in fact

men a few thousand years ago did just that! They waited for sightings of the new moon to start each month. There is nothing random about creation; everything is running like clockwork. Why?

That there have been great changes on earth there is no doubt. The earth's surface is scarred all over where plates in the crust have shifted and been pushed upward to form mountain ranges. How did these changes happen? The physical force required to slide the Indian continent up over the China continent and produce the highest mountains in the world at Everest is mind boggling. Then there are the fossil remains that are buried in the earth's crust all over the globe; sea shells encased in sandstone at the top of mountains anywhere in the world. Tropical animals such as elephants, are found frozen in the Arctic north. Great changes have occurred.

The vast coal, oil and gas deposits known as fossil fuels, tell a story of violence in the past when vegetation and animal remains were suddenly trapped within the crust of the earth; composting and changing their state. The extent of these deposits demands a global catastrophe in which all forms of animal, vegetable and marine life perished and much of it is preserved today in its fossil form.

One of the greatest puzzles is the Antarctic ice cap. How did it get there? It did not arise from falling snowflakes because the interior of the vast continent has none! Antarctica has less precipitation than the Sahara Desert! - less than one inch per vear! Yet the ice has been drilled to more than 4,000 meters and the average winter temperature is -63°C at the South Pole. Temperatures lower than -80°C have been Ice is frozen water. recorded. did the water rise to nearly 5,000 metres above the current sea level? - a little less than the height of mount Ararat where Noah's ark rested.

Then there is the mystery of life. Every thing about us manifests evidence of life with such complexity that we can only stand in amazement and wonder.

Observe the tiny sparrow or finch flitting from branch to branch chirping merrily -it has minute claws, hollow bones and minute sinews. Who taught it to fly? It has a digestive system, lungs to extract oxygen from the air, waterproof feathers, and a blood circulation system through which a tiny heart pumps blood. Each bird has its mate and the female builds a nest, lays eggs and warms them until they hatch, then she feeds the tiny chicks until they can fly. But they are only a microcosm of thousands of larger birds that fill our

skies. Everything has life from birth to death. Everything manifests minute intricate design. Nothing could possibly be produced by accident no matter how many millions of times over the accident was replicated.

How do fish survive under water without air to breath yet they need oxygen. How do they manage to extract oxygen from water. Who taught them to swim, to feed, to reproduce?

The animal kingdom is amazing to behold: Everything from elephants down to ants. They all breath, eat, feed, sleep, breed. Why do all creatures have the same systems; they feed, they breathe, they reproduce according to their unique DNA. Each has its special design fixed in its DNA like blueprints in an engineering office. Those blueprints were prepared by a designer whose signature is stamped all over every product. The lungs of a bird, a fish and a man may be different but they all extract oxygen for the blood stream without which the heart cannot operate.

But what of the brain in all of these forms of life? Intelligence is an amazing thing. What is memory? How do things that happened yesterday register in the brain to be recalled in 60 years time? Even animals and birds can remember; birds know where the town cat prowls and they

avoid his haunt. Their eyes are constantly scanning the skies for predators that might swoop on them at any moment. Who told them to be watchful and even where to watch?

The brain controls the functions of the body and every form of life operates at a set temperature. Normal temperatures for mammals range from 97° F to 104° F. Most birds have a normal temperature between 106° F and 109° F. Fish and "cold blooded" animals cannot maintain a constant temperature and adapt to their surroundings. They hybernate when temperatures drop too low.

Humans operate at 98.6°F but infection or over-exertion can raise it. The nerves in the skin communicate to the brain when the temperature changes in order to maintain a constant temperature. the atmospheric temperature or skin temperature the brain releases rises perspiration through glands in skin; the perspiration evaporates and evaporation causes cooling. Thus the body has its own air conditioning system which operates on exactly the same principle as commercial refrigerators. When it is cold the skin shivers to create warmth and heat is generated from the food we eat. If body temperatures vary too much it can be fatal so the brain must

monitor body temperatures constantly and thermostatically control it when required.

Even if there was no human being to teach us, no Bible to read, no church or temple to visit, the evidence abounds that there has to be an intelligent Creator for the "the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so

There is no reasonable alternative. If any thinking person honestly opens his or her eyes, everything he sees shows the marks of a consistent pattern requiring a common origin and a common Designer.

that they are without excuse" (Rom.1:20).

The next question that one might ask is, If there is a Creator of the universe does He communicate to His creation? and how does He communicate His creation? But first we must make another observation which any honest person will agree is most significant and it is this, that among all the millions of living creatures there happens to be one that stands unique and superior to all others. None of the birds, mammals or fish come anywhere near to the supreme position occupied by mankind. Man has a likeness to his Creator that no other

created being possesses. No other created being can take pen and paper and record the past or the present. Who ever heard of a mammal designing an automobile? or an Aeroplane? or an ocean liner?

Who ever heard of a monkey that could speak French or Latin, English or German? When did anybody ever have a family pet that could drive a motor vehicle, cook a meal, build a house or obtain a University degree?

The intelligence required to design a computer chip, a television screen or iPhone sets mankind apart from every other form of being and places him over and above all others, indeed, so far above that his creative powers of thought and ability to produce and manufacture objects conceived in his mind bear a distinct similarity to the Creator of the Universe. Human ingenuity is the fingerprint of the Creator and any honest thinking person can come to only one conclusion; that the Creator of the universe, whoever He is, must have made the human species in His own image and in His own likeness.

Students of zoology have studied mammals and birds and how they communicate with one another by emitting a variety of sounds accompanied by a series of manouvres designed to

attract attention but whoever heard of a bird or mammal that compiled an English or Russian dictionary or wrote a Greek grammar. Communication skills are so highly developed in the human species that it suggests that the Creator of the Universe had in mind when He created man, that He wanted to communicate with him and with none other of His creation. In fact it suggests that His purpose in creating man was to have one with whom He could fellowship:

"And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Gen.1:26-27).

How Has God Communicated?

In ancient times God spoke to His prophets who communicated His message to their fellow man. There were many "holy men of God" (2Peter 1:21) who spoke the words of God and their words were recorded and preserved for future generations. The Bible is the final record of what God has communicated to the human race.

Four thousand years ago God chose one man and his descendants to **preserve** the

words given to God's prophets and that man was Abraham. His descendants were the Jewish race.

In addition to prophecies both fulfilled and future, the Bible records accurate history of the human race from the beginning of creation to the time that a complete record was achieved. Thus we can know where we came from and where we are going.

The Apostle Paul indicated that the time would come when "prophecies shall fail" and be "done away" (1Cor.13:8,10). There would be no need for prophets because a complete and "perfect" revelation would be available in the Bible (1Cor.13:10).

Only God knows the future; we call it foreknowledge and there are very many instances recorded in the Bible supported by history, that demonstrate that the Bible is an accurate record of what God wants to say to us.

The **Bible records the following histories** and prophecies that prove it is not a human record but the Word of God.

1) There was a worldwide flood - Sea shells and fossils are found in the tops of mountains. Fossil fuels such as oil, gas and coal came from buried marine life, animals and vegetation.

- 2) Civilization began after the Flood in the Middle East - all ancient historical and archealogical records testify to it. Museums are full of the evidence.
- 3) Ancient cities such as Sodom, Jericho, Tyre, Nineveh, Babylon and Jerusalem were all destroyed in fulfilment of Bible prophecy and as history records the archeological records are in museums.
- 4) Nations rose and fell exactly as recorded in the Bible Ur, Assyria, Samaria, Egypt, Babylon, Edom, Persia, Greece and Rome all rose and fell exactly as recorded in the Bible.
- 5) When Christ came he fulfilled very many prophecies written hundreds of years before - born in Bethlehem of a virgin; descended from David; Herod would seek to kill him as a baby; He would be taken to Egypt to escape; He would grow up in Nazareth and be rejected by His people. He would ride into Jerusalem as the King of Israel on an ass's colt and be betrayed by Judas for 30 pieces of silver, imprisoned, tried and crucified; soldiers would gamble for His clothes; He would be offered wine on the cross; criminals would be crucified at the same time; He would be buried in a rich man's tomb and rise from the dead after three days. All these prophecies were perfectly fulfilled.

- 6) The Bible states that after Christ was crucified, Jerusalem would be destroyed and the Jews scattered into all nations but that the Jews would return to the land in the "last days" while still rejecting Christ this happened in AD70 and Israel became a nation on 14 May 1948.
- 7) Bible prophecies foretold that the Roman Empire would continue in a weakened form until Christ returns and will be revived in the last days The Holy Roman Empire lasted 1,000 years after Imperial Rome collapsed in AD476. Napoleon, Kaiser, and Hitler failed to restore it but the EU has begun to bring the nations of Europe together and it will finally be divided into 10 parts.
- 8) Russia (ancient Magog) will lead Iran (Persia), Turkey (ancient Togarmah and Gomer), Libya and Sudan (ancient Ethiopia) in an invasion of Israel in the "last days" and at that time Israel will turn to Jesus Christ during the last 7 years before Christ returns to reign over the earth for 1,000 years Russia is now in Syria on Israel's border, Turkey and Iran are turning to Russia for economic and military aid. Communism and Islam are joining forces globally.
- 9) Britain and America (Ancient Tarshish) and Saudi Arabia (ancient Sheba & Dedan)

will side with Israel in the last days to oppose the Russian invasion of Israel - the US provides military aid to Israel and has defence treaties with Persian Gulf States that are afraid of Iran.

10) The "kings of the east" must come to the final conflict known as Armageddon to be fought in the Middle East - Asian nations are all arming with the latest weapons and China's Belt Road plans to rebuild the old Silk Road to the Middle East!

Jesus said that before He returns there would be a time which He called "Great Tribulation" and Daniel prophesied it would last for seven years in which the human race would be almost entirely wiped out. Jesus said,

"Except those days should be shortened there should no flesh be saved" (Matt.24:22).

The Bible indicates that **before the Tribulation** comes the Christians will be removed in what we call **the Rapture**. The Bible states:

"The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout...and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1Thess.4:16-17).

"Then shall two be in the field; the

one shall be taken, and the other left" (Matt.24:40).

God's purpose in communicating with mankind is to reveal His love and mercy; to offer **pardon** for guilt and **power** to overcome sin in our lives. He offers **eternal life** and an assured place in heaven after death for all who place their trust in His beloved Son; Jesus Christ. And He offers deliverence from the coming Great Tribulation in these last days of history.

The first advent of Jesus Christ was to obtain redemption for mankind by the shedding of His blood to atone for our sins. Today He offers eternal life as a free gift to all who turn from sin to God and place their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ alone.

"The wages of sin is death, but the **gift of God is eternal life** through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom.6:23).

The Bible makes it clear that those who are trusting in Christ will not pass into the Great Tribulation which will be the **time when Israel will seek the Lord** and testify for Christ. The Bible says:

"For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them...But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you

as a thief...For **God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation** by our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him" (1Thess.5:2-10).

Your good works will never save you, religion will never save you, only Christ can save you if you will call on Him.

"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast" (Eph.2:8-10).

"Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" (Isa.55:6-7).

Will you call on the Lord to save you right now? He wants to save you.

Free literature can be downloaded from the Herald of Hope web page and hard copies are available on request explaining the prophecies listed above from

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