

## Revealing God

For many years, perhaps since the beginning of human curiosity, we have taken Psalm 8:4 and rearranged the question. In that psalm, David asks: **What is man that You take thought of him, and the son of man that You care for him? (Psalm 8:4 NASB)** Many people have turned this around to become; **“What is god that we should take thought of him?”**

All animals display a certain amount of curiosity. We observe cats are drawn to explore partially open cabinet doors. We humans are always seeking to gain more knowledge and explore those regions that have never been or seen. Our curiosity has led us to so many quality-of-life improvements that we may reach a point where we think that we are self-sufficient. We have solved so many problems and we continue to solve problems. It is little wonder that many of our “well educated” people have come to believe we no longer need the crutch of a mythological god. Our science has answered so many questions or explained so many mysteries that were once attributed to some god that we no longer see a need for any god in our life or our modern society.

We may not be ready to call ourselves atheist but we no longer believe in God or, at best, we question our belief. Our belief in God has become more of an insurance policy than a bedrock of our life. We hold on and continue to make minimum effort. The exercise of our belief is reduced to a point where we have placed God as an afterthought rather than placing Him as a priority.

In Ecclesiastes, Solomon tells us that there is nothing new under the sun. Satan has always helped mankind to either lower God’s place or to outright dismiss Him. David tells us in the 14<sup>th</sup> Psalm that only fools dismiss God.

**The fool has said in his heart, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, they have committed abominable deeds; there is no one who does good.**

**The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God. They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one. (Psalm 14:1-3 NASB)**

As I said earlier, many turn to science to find all of the answers and seem to revel at the thought that science explains away God. We want to apply logic and rationalization to remove God from the creation and the sustaining of our universe.

This reminds me of a quote from Louis Pasteur that tells us what the father of modern immunology thought about the very science in which he excelled.

*A Little science takes you away from God, but more of it takes you to him.*

More than 150 years before Pasteur shared his thoughts on science and God, Isaac Newton shared a couple of quotes that I share. We may remember Newton for his contribution to the physical sciences with his laws concerning gravity, energy, and motion. He also tormented many of us with his contributions to the branch of mathematics know as Calculus.

Here are two quotes from Isaac Newton:

*Atheism is so senseless. When I look at the solar system, I see the earth at the right distance from the sun to receive the proper amounts of heat and light. This did not happen by chance. Gravity explains the motions of the planets, but it cannot explain who sets the planets in motion.*

The point of this mention of Pasteur and Newton is to show that real scientist acknowledge the design of our universe is indicative of an intelligent and powerful God. Even Einstein, while he never accepted a god that was involved in human events, he acknowledged a god that operated on a larger scale.

How are we to know God? Has He revealed Himself to us? If so, how has He been revealed? God has revealed Himself in several ways. We may consider two methods through which God is revealed.

First, there is the general revelation. This is the nature of God that we may observe. This revelation is not hidden but is available to anyone who will pause to see. The quotes from Isaac Newton that we read earlier are an example of general revelation. We may find this mentioned in the Bible. In his letter to the church in Rome, Paul speaks of the sins that separate us from God. This separation is not unique to the Jews who were God's chosen people. Even those who had never received any direct communications from God or His prophets could know about God. Paul mentions that God will bring His wrath on those who do not accept the truth of God.

**For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. (Romans 1:18-23 NASB)**

In addition to the observed evidence of God in nature, we have a conscience that helps us to have a sense of the proper way to live.

**For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them, on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus. (Romans 2:14-16 NASB)**

Second, God reveals Himself is through special revelation. For us, we find this special revelation in the Bible. Perhaps the most dramatic and purest manner of God being revealed is found in the person of Jesus the Christ.

The writer of Hebrews starts off with the reality that God once talked with the patriarchs but now, in the last days, God talks to us through His son Jesus the Christ.

**God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. (Hebrews 1:1-3 NASB)**

Not only did God the Father create the world in conjunction with Jesus, we are told that Jesus is **and the exact representation of His nature.**

While He was on this earth, Jesus said of Himself, **I and the Father are one. (John 10:30 NASB)** As He approached the end of His earthly ministry, He once more underscored the unity between Him and the Father. Let's look in the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of John and begin with verse 6.

**Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him."**

**Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? (John 14:6-9a NASB)**

The apostle John begins his gospel account of Jesus by telling us that word was with God in the beginning and word was God (John 1:1) He does not leave us hanging about what or who is the word.

**And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth. John testified about Him and cried out, saying, "This was He of whom I said, 'He who comes after me has a higher rank than I, for He existed before me.'" For of His fullness, we have all received, and grace upon grace. For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him. (John 1:14-18 NASB)**

Not only did Jesus bring us the grace of God, we see the very nature of God as revealed in the life of Jesus. Paul, in his letter to the church in Rome, builds the case that everyone has sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). At the same time, Paul tells us that the nature of the gospel of Jesus Christ reveals God to the world.

**For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it *the* righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS *man* SHALL LIVE BY FAITH." (Romans 1:16-17 NASB)**

We see God revealed to us through our faith in Jesus, through His plan of salvation as revealed in Jesus. For us to see God, we must have faith. If we seek to please, we must have faith (Hebrews 11:6).

We live in a world where faith is no longer accepted. We want proof. We seek the unchallenged facts that may be independently verified. That is not how God reveals Himself. Paul knew how the world thinks. In his day, the Jews kept wanting signs and miracles to demonstrate and reveal God. The educated Greeks wanted everything to fit a logical explanation. God is not revealed through those expected patterns. Rather God is revealed through the preaching of Jesus and Jesus crucified.

**For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,**

**"I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE,  
AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE."**

**Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not *come to* know God, God was well-pleased through**

**the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. (1 Corinthians. 1:18-25 NASB)**

Yes, God has revealed Himself to us through the simple message that Jesus died on the cross to pay the debt of our sins. He (Jesus) was raised again on the third day to conquer death and ensure our eternal life as promised by God. This simple message is still the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.