

The God of the Bible - 1

God Does Exist

This series will explore what the Bible tells us about God, what He is like, and what He plans to do with the world He created.

Let's start by thinking about whether there is a God or not. We can't see or hear Him, but that does not mean that He does not exist. But where is the proof that He does? Here are three pieces of evidence which you might like to consider.

1. Nature

Look around you at the world in which we live. Is it reasonable to suppose that it all came about by chance? Surely it is more realistic to believe that this wonderfully complex and beautiful world could not have just 'happened'. Nature itself is witness to the work of a Divine Designer. As the Bible says:

He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness (Acts 14:17).

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse (Romans 1:20).

The seasons are just one example of the things which God has made. Year in and year out, spring, summer, autumn and winter come and go without fail. And we have a saying, "As

night follows day". Where does that regularity in nature come from, if there is not a God who has designed it that way?



Think of the wonder of a rose's petals, a beautiful face, snowflakes and icicles in winter. If we were each to compose a list of the things that we find beautiful, each list would be different. Put them all together and we would run out of paper. This suggests there is a God who has made them; there is no other sensible explanation.

Complexity is another feature of nature that we take for granted, but that too is part of the evidence that God has given us of His existence and power. Take the workings of the human body, for example. Then think of how the brain works, or the eye. It's too awe-inspiring for words.

Different things impress different people. One Bible writer had this list:

There are three things which are too wonderful for me, yes, four which I do not understand: The way of an eagle in the air, the way of a serpent on a rock,

the way of a ship in the midst of the sea, and the way of a man with a maiden (Proverbs 30:18-19).

Imagine you received a 5000-piece jigsaw puzzle as a present. Inside the box is a complete jumble of pieces. After struggling to finish it, you now see a picture. Could you have done that by tipping the pieces onto the table and waiting for them to sort themselves out? Of course not.

Now go back a step to its manufacture. Could the jigsaw puzzle – and you know how complex it is – have been made by accident? Could the 5000 pieces have suddenly appeared out of nothing? Of course not: an artist or a photographer produced the picture and a factory turned it into a puzzle.

Likewise, it is unreasonable to suppose that our world is an accident, the result of chance.

2. The Bible

The internet and the broadcasting media inform us about many people we have never met or even seen. People can communicate with us by e-mail and talk to us in internet chatrooms. We don't doubt that these people exist in the real world.

In the same way God speaks to us through His written word – the Bible – and shows us not only that He exists but what He is like, what He has done and what He intends to do. In it He predicted events, because He planned them, and those predictions came true. It is an amazing book that cries out to be taken seriously as written evidence for a living active God.

Surely the LORD God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets (Amos 3:7).

God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son (Hebrews 1:1-2).

We shall return to this subject.



3. The Jews

There is a group of people who are living, breathing proof of how God controls events to advance His purpose with our world. It's the Jewish people. Their remarkable survival as a people, and their re-emergence as a nation in the last century, show us that God is in control. He said to them:

"You are My witnesses," says the LORD, "that I am God" (Isaiah 43:12).

That witness has not ended, as future events will show, and we will consider those events in this series.

If there is no God and we are just the products of chance, we must assume that this is all there is in life. But there IS a God and the Bible reveals that He has a plan that can give our lives a deeper meaning and give us hope for the future. So finding out about God is much more than just curiosity. It really matters!

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