

I. Introduction: Praise God who speaks through the two books of His revelation.

II. How Can You Know God?

A. God is transcendent. Rom. 11:33-36 Isa. 40:18

We can only know Him because He has chosen to reveal Himself. Dt. 29:29

B. God speaks through creation (natural/general revelation). Ps. 19:1-6b Rom. 1:19-20

1. Deep down everyone knows that God exists and even what He is like. Rom. 1:21

2. Why then don't all people acknowledge God? Ps. 14:1 Rom. 1:21b 3:10-11

3. Mankind deliberately suppresses the knowledge of God by deifying the creation. Rom. 1:18,21-23 II Pet. 3:5 Job 31:26f 2 Ki. 23:5 Dt. 4:19 17:3 Ps. 24:1

4. Those who refuse to heed God's message in creation are without excuse and are under judgment. Rom. 1:20

5. God also reveals Himself generally to humanity through conscience. Ro. 1:32 2:14f

C. God's revelation in creation is limited.

1. The natural (sinful) man is unable to properly recognize God in creation. 2 Co. 4:4

2. Natural revelation is not comprehensive. You can't be saved by looking at the stars. Rom. 10:14ff Acts 4:12

3. The distinct characteristics of general and special revelation are reflected in the way the psalmist refers to God in Psalm 19 – *El and YHWH*.

D. God speaks through His Word (special revelation). Heb. 1:1-2 Ps. 19:7-10

1. Scripture is an even more magnificent and clear revelation of God's glory.

2. The privilege of special revelation is not equally shared among humankind.

3. The Bible operates like glasses through which we are able to properly understand the creation, the world, and God Himself. v. 7-8

4. Why can't all people see the glories of Scripture? I Co. 2:14

E. Before anyone can properly see God's glory in creation and in the Scriptures, God must renew his heart. Ps. 19:11-14 I Cor. 2:14 John 6:44

III. Behold the Glory of God in His Creation. v. 1-6

A. In what way does the sky eloquently proclaim God's glory? v. 1 50:6 97:6

1. David is not merely saying that the heavens are glorious, but that they reflect God's glory!

2. The majestic creation is evidence of a more majestic Creator.

B. Which of God's attributes may be seen in nature? Ro. 1:19-20

1. His existence. Rom. 1:20

2. His power. Ps. 33:6,9 Rom. 1:20

3. His goodness and faithfulness. Acts 14:17 17:25 Ps. 104:13-15,27

4. His wisdom. Ps. 104:24 Pr. 8:22-31

5. His righteousness. Ps. 97:6 50:6

C. The heavens make a comprehensive declaration of God's glory. v. 2-4

1. His glory is seen at all times. v. 2

2. His glory is displayed to all people in every place. v. 3-4a

3. God is distinct from and over creation. Gen. 1:1 Acts 17:25 Ps. 90:2

- D. The sun reflects the majesty of its Creator. v. 4b-6 84:11**
1. His splendor: the brilliance of the sun. v. 5
 2. His faithfulness: the regularity of the sun's cycle. v. 6a
 3. His extensive influence of His power. v. 6b
 4. Our dependence upon Him.

IV. Concluding Applications.

- A. What attitude should we take towards the study of creation (science)?**
1. Scripture encourages mankind to exercise dominion over the physical creation by understanding and utilizing its potential. Gen. 1:28 Psalm 8:3ff
 2. The study of creation must be undertaken with a conscious acknowledgment that we are studying God's works so that we can give Him glory. 1 Co. 10:31
 3. Bad science becomes a moral issue because it often results in advances in technology which are used for evil ends
 4. What should we do if there is an apparent contradiction between special revelation and what some scientists conclude from observing general revelation?
 - a. There is perfect agreement between God's two books of revelation
 - b. You may have misinterpreted the Bible.
 - c. You may have misinterpreted the scientific evidence.
 - d. The infallible Bible has precedence over the theories, interpretations, and pronouncements of fallible and corrupt man. Isa. 40:8
 - e. Human scientific inquiry is limited. Job. 38:4
 - f. Humanistic science is not a neutral quest for truth.
 - g. Humanistic science has been unable to suppress mankind's knowledge of God.
 5. How should our children be taught about nature/creation? Deut. 6:4ff Pr. 1:8f
 6. How can creation be used in evangelism and apologetics?
- B. How does this passage point to Christ? Luke 24:27**
1. The creation reflects His glory! v. 1-3
 - a. All things were made by Him and are sustained by Him. John 1:1f Col. 1:16f
 - b. He will restore the creation to its pre-fall glory. Rom. 8:19
 2. Jesus Himself perfectly reveals God. John 1:14,18 Heb. 1:1ff
 3. Jesus is our bridegroom and champion: the sun of righteousness. v. 4b-6
Malachi 4:2 Isa. 61:10 62:5 John 8:12 Eph. 5:25 Luke 1
 4. Now the light of the gospel of Christ goes forth to all the world. v. 4a, 6 Ro. 10:18
- C. Praise God for the glory of creation. Rev. 4:11**

Discussion questions

1. What can you learn about God through natural revelation?
2. What about God can only be understood through special revelation?
3. Why don't people correctly understand God's revelation of Himself in creation?
4. Which of God's attributes are displayed in nature?
5. How does the sun reflect God's majesty?
6. Why should Christians be interested in science?
7. Why do many popular scientific theories appear to contradict the Bible?
How can this conflict be resolved?
8. How should our children be taught about nature?
9. How does this passage point to Christ?
10. What are some possible pros and cons of environmentalism?