

Evolution in the Bible
Sunday September 25, 2022
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Good morning, Lighthouse! Are you ready for the Word of God this morning?

How many of you here this morning have friends, or perhaps know someone, who claims that they do not believe in God?

Hebrews 11:1-6

1 Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

2 For by it the elders obtained a good report.

3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

5 By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

6 But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for **he that cometh to God must believe that he is**, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

For sinners to come to God, to be saved, to stay out of hell, to be born again, to be redeemed and all the other terms that describe the transformation every believer has experienced when they came to know Jesus; that transformation begins first with believing simply that God IS!

He that cometh to God must believe that he is...

Who besides the Lord knows how many people out there in the world there are who truly wonder if there really is a God?

The Bible is very clear about the fact that man's ignorance of God is due to a willingness on his part to remain ignorant.

2 Peter 3:5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old...

You truly may not know right now if there really is a God or not. That might actually be why you are here today.

If you remain ignorant of this, it will be by your choice.

Your friends who do not believe there really is a God or who sincerely claim they do not know if there really is a God...they are in that state of ignorance by their own choice.

In reality, those friends, maybe you, are on their way to spend eternity in a real place of eternal torment called hell because that is what they are choosing.

We could easily conclude that if that is their choice, then hell must be what they deserve.

Isn't hell what we also deserve?

We are not avoiding hell because we deserve better, we are going to heaven instead, because Jesus took our punishment for us; the same as He has done for all those who remain willingly ignorant.

What if there was something we could do to get their attention?

What if there was something we could do to change their minds, to get them to see it?

What if somehow, we could prove that there really is a God?

Paul said in **Romans 1:16-20**

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them.

20 For 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 that they are without excuse:

Can we prove that there really is a God?

I don't think we can, but that's OK, God already has; He has revealed Himself to man.

Today, we are going to look at just how He has done that. First,

I. God has Revealed to us that He is Real.

A. Initially, God reveals Himself to us through His creation.

1. Romans 1:19-20

19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed *it* unto them.

20 For 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 that they are without excuse:

2. **1 Timothy 1:17** Now unto the King eternal, immortal, **invisible**, the only wise God, *be* honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Colossians 1:15 Speaks of Jesus, Who is the image of the **invisible** God, the firstborn of every creature:

3. These verses all speak of God as being invisible; which He is.

4. So, how can you see that which is invisible?

5. **Hebrews 11:27** By faith he [Moses] forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, **as seeing him who is invisible**.

6. We see the invisible through that which it does or in what it produces.

7. You can't see electricity, but you can see what it does.

8. You cannot see the air you breathe, but you can see and feel what it does.

9. This is the same illustration that Jesus used: **John 3:8** The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

10. So it is that through what God has created and what God has done and continues to do that He reveals Himself to us.

B. That which may be known of God is manifest or shown first of all "in us".

1. **Verse 19** Because that which may be known of God is manifest **in them**; for God hath showed *it* unto them.

2. Have you ever watched a newly born baby in those first weeks and months; one of the first big discoveries is when he discovers his hands.

3. Look at your own hand; pick a finger and move just that one. Close your eyes and touch the middle one to your thumb, now the little finger...now the index finger...now the ring finger.

4. God was making hands long before man came up with robots and AI, which can, by no means, compare.

5. All of man's collective knowledge and skill from the beginning of time cannot duplicate just the smallest part of what God has done **in** every one of us!

6. Have you ever thanked God that you have a thumb? Wow, He gave most of us two of them. Snakes don't have them; birds don't have them; none but a fraction of the entire animal kingdom have them.

7. With a thumb and our superior intelligence, we can make watches, perform surgery, play instruments, throw a football, tie our shoes and a million other useful tasks.

8. And how much could we say about the human eye and the brain and the heart and the reproductive system and the entire function of the body!

C. Secondly, that which may be known of God is manifest or shown "to us".

1. **Verse 19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them.**

2. Start as far out as you can see or imagine.

3. The universe, the solar system; millions of galaxies all suspended upon nothing; billions of planets all staying in their place, moving in predetermined patterns in perfect order; all of them held there by what? (Or by Whom)? If even one fell out of place and all that balance of gravity were disrupted, would not the whole system collapse?

4. **Psalm 19:1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.**

5. There is a tiny speck in one of those millions of galaxies. We call this speck Earth.

6. Here we see eco systems that all work in wonderful harmony; weather patterns, life teeming in abundance, all with a purpose.

7. Within are cells, molecules, atoms, neutrons, electrons, photons...many of these cannot be seen. Like God, they are known to exist only by what they do.

8. Who doesn't believe in molecules or atoms?

D. So has God revealed Himself?

1. Yes, He has! Has He revealed Himself to everyone? Again; yes, He has!

2. **Romans 1:20** For 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 that they are without excuse:

3. Even the most primitive of societies rule themselves with a system defining what is thought to be right or wrong.

4. **Romans 2:14** For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves:

5. When God reveals that He is Real, which He does to every man, this initial knowledge of God places every man in one of two categories based on his choice.

6. You are in one of these two categories!

7. **Romans 1:21** Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

II. To one group, God will reveal His Righteousness.

A. As God reveals Himself to man, the reaction of some is one of gratitude and glory.

1. Most, maybe all of you here today are in this group.

2. David was a man like that.

Psalm 139:14

*I will praise thee; for I am fearfully **and** wonderfully made: marvelous **are** thy works; and **that** my soul knoweth right well.*

3. **Psalm 97:6** The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory.

4. When you look out to the heavens, do you see the handiwork of God or do you see something you think is a big accident that you really don't want to think about?

B. To those who give God glory, God sends even more light.

1. **2 Timothy 1:10** But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

2. As long as you desire it, God sends more and more light until finally you are ready to know Him.

3. When you are ready, God will set you up an appointment with one of His messengers through which God will reveal His righteousness in the gospel.

4. **Romans 1:16-17**

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written. The just shall live by faith.

5. When we teach Basic Bible Truths, which is available to each and every one of you, beginning in about Lesson Two, we share insight into the amazing righteousness of God which is available and can be received by you!

C. To teach you this is the primary reason we are here!

1. I have had the privilege of being that appointment for many of you.

2. God wants to reveal His righteousness to you...and then allow you to receive it as a free gift.

3. **Romans 3:22-24**

22 Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

4. There is a much larger group that refuse to be thankful or to give God glory.

III. To that other group God will reveal something else...His wrath.

A. When God reveals Himself to you, your response is crucial.

1. The most common response is that of no glory and no gratitude.

2. **Romans 1:21** Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

B. There are consequences for this response.

1. They **became vain in their imaginations.**

2. Speaking of imagination:

Many of these now claim to believe that a giant cosmic explosion (which came from nothing and was caused by nothing) that blew all the matter in the universe (which also came from nothing) into all these planets and galaxies with all of them orbiting, maintaining their positions and operating in perfect order.

3. Then on one of these accidental planets called Earth, somehow a single cell (that also came from nothing) without any help from anywhere became accidentally alive; and then over millions of years evolved into all this perfect and amazing life and order that we all see today.

4. Where did this idea come from?

5. Pure imagination! There is not one shred of evidence of any kind to substantiate any of this.

6. **Romans 1:22** Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

C. Yes, they became fools! But becoming a fool was just the beginning of an even greater process.

1. Next, **Vs. 21** says ...their foolish heart was darkened.

2. So there you have it! There really is evolution in the Bible!

3. Ordinary people, capable of thought, logic, and reason, rejected God and then evolved into fools!

4. When this transition to fool-hood became complete, they evolved even further!

5. Next in this evolution of wrath came idolatry.

6. **Romans 1:23** They ...changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

C. The consequences of rejecting God continue to mount up.

1. **Romans 1:24-25**

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves:

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshiped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

2. **Romans 1:26-27**

26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.

3. Which means they got what they deserved.

4. Would anyone here like to ask God for what you deserve?

5. Then in verse 28 we see the final product: atheism.

Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient...

6. It seems there is no limit to the depravity to which one can sink when he rejects God.

Conclusion:

You ARE in this process. You are in one of those two groups! The question is where?

God has revealed Himself to all of us. We have all the evidence anyone would ever need that He is real and that He is there.

You need to be very careful what you do with this truth that you face.

The truth that is before us forces us to make a choice...doing nothing IS a choice.

Don't make a choice you can't come back from.

It's not too late or you wouldn't even be here considering this now.

God is drawing you to Himself and we can help you with that.

Come see me after the service; during or after the meal and we will get you the answers you need.