

## How God Can Be Known



*Evidence for the existence of God is all around us...and within us.*

**T**here are some things that can be learned about the true God even if a person has never seen a Bible. People of all nations and of all times have had strong religious beliefs. Why are people the world over convinced that there *is* a God?

### The Existence of God

1. It takes a plan and a design to put a house together. When you see a beautiful house, you know for certain that, sometime in the past, somebody planned and built that house. Read God's Word in the book of Hebrews 3:4. ***What should tell people that God "is" or "exists"?*** *(Put your answer below)*

2. Did you ever look up into the heavens at night and really *think* about how the whole universe came to be? The moon, the stars the planets...where did they all come from? Did it all just come into being by accident? Read Psalm 19:1. ***What should tell people that God "is" or "exists"?***

3. The word Gentile means, "non-Jews." Sometimes though, as in the next passage, the Bible uses the word Gentile to mean "non-Christian," or unbeliever. Even unbelievers who have never seen the Ten Commandments seem to know the difference between right and wrong. There is a voice that God has placed into the heart of every human. Read Romans 2:14-15. ***What is that voice called?***

### Creation Says More about God...

4. Read Romans 1:18-20. Here the Apostle Paul tells us that no one has a good excuse for not believing in God. By looking at creation, we understand not only that God exists, but we also see some of the qualities of God. ***What are two of these qualities (verse 20)?***

#### ICON KEY

Introduction

Important point

For further reading

5. Look up Psalm 104. It is God who not only created the world, but also sustains it until this day. He keeps the waters from again destroying the earth, as they did in the great flood (Genesis chapter six). In Psalm 104, verses ten to thirteen describe the amazing way in which God supplies water for all His creatures. Verses fourteen to 23 tell of the careful attention the Lord gives to the needs of man and beast. Read verse 24. *If creation shows us anything, it shows us that GOD HAS GREAT...*

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What we have discussed so far is called *the natural knowledge of God*. This is what any person can and should know about God even if he never looks at a Bible. The Lord gave people this knowledge on for a reason, as we will see.

## God's Purpose in Making Himself Known

6. We are going to look at what happened to the Apostle Paul while he was in Athens, Greece. In that age the great buildings on the Acropolis such as the Parthenon, which are now in ruins, were in their prime. For now, we will skip to the end of this section. Read Acts 17:26-27. God has carefully planned ahead of time exactly where and when each of us will live our lives...and He does it for a single purpose. *From verse 27, what is that purpose?*

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7. Some people think that God is so high above them that they can never learn what they need to know about Him. *What does that same verse 27 say about how far away God is?*

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May the one true and real God, who alone "is" and "exists," show *you* that He is indeed very close to you right at this moment! Ask His Holy Spirit to teach you ever more and more about Him.

## What the Natural Knowledge of God Doesn't Do

8. Back up one chapter, to Acts sixteen. Verses 16-23 tell of how the Apostles Paul and Silas were thrown in jail for casting an evil spirit out of a girl. Later, an earthquake forced open the doors of the prison, and the jailer was about to commit suicide, thinking his prisoners had escaped. However, Paul assured him that all the prisoners were present and accounted for. The crisis was over, and the jailer was saved. *Now the jailer, too, had a natural knowledge of God*. He already knew of the existence of God. Nevertheless, there was one question that creation and his conscience could not answer. *What did his natural knowledge of God NOT show to the jailer? (verse 30)*

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9. Turn ahead one chapter again, to Acts seventeen. Paul took his Good News message to the philosophers on Mars Hill in Athens. Paul could tell they were religious from the many altars to different gods that were in their temple. They even covered all the bases by dedicating one altar to "the unknown god", just in case they missed one! Obviously, they believed in the existence of God. *The men of Athens knew there was A God, but what did they NOT know?*

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## The Revealed Knowledge of God

10. Read I Corinthians 2:6-14. Paul says in verse nine that, no matter *how* good their natural knowledge of God was, no human being could ever have guessed God's plan for saving mankind. *Through whom does God reveal all that we need to know about Him? (verse ten)*

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11. Read John 5:39. If you skim the verses before and after this one, you will see that Jesus was talking to people who did not believe in Him. And yet these same people were supposed to be experts in the Old Testament of the Bible! Somehow, they had missed the entire focus of the Old Testament. *What is it?*

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According to verse 39, then, *where does God reveal to us everything that we need to know about Him?*

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12. Read II Timothy 3:15. Paul was writing to the young Christian pastor, Timothy. According to this passage, *where does God reveal to us everything we need to know about Him in order to be saved?*

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Because God uses the Holy Bible to *reveal* Himself to us, the Bible is known as *the revealed knowledge of God*.

### Additional Bible Readings

For more Bible reading on this subject, see Psalm 139.

