

Clearly Seen

Introduction. Johannes Kepler, a 16th century German mathematician and astronomer, was known for theories explaining the motion of the planets. He was influenced by the Polish astronomer, Copernicus, who discovered that the sun, not the earth, was the center of the solar system. Later, Kepler learned about the work of the Italian physicist and astronomer, Galileo, who invented the telescope, and eventually obtained one of his own and improved its design. He's considered one of the fathers of modern science. According to his series of mathematical calculations, the universe was created on April 27th, 4977 B.C.

The fact is no one knows for sure the age of the Earth, much less its birthday. While the Bible doesn't disclose the Earth's age, it does reveal its origin in Genesis 1:1. The world's wisdom would lead us to believe that true scientists don't believe in creationism, and most don't believe in God. But that's not the case.

In a 2017 Huffington Post article, "12 Famous Scientists on the Possibility of God," writer, Carol Kuruvilla, reports a survey that says 51% of scientists believe in God or some form of a Higher Power.

Francis Collins, a geneticist, who holds a Ph.D. from Yale, was appointed by President Barack Obama to head the National Institutes of Health and was retained in that position by President Trump. President Biden also asked Collins to continue serving. The NIH web page states that "Dr. Collins is the only Presidentially appointed NIH Director to serve more than one administration. In this role, Dr. Collins oversees the work of the largest supporter of biomedical research in the world, spanning the spectrum from basic to clinical research."

Collins is highly respected in his field and has written a number of books on science, medicine, and religion, including the New York Times bestseller, "The Language of God: A Scientist Presents Evidence for Belief."

In an essay for CNN Collins wrote, "I have found there is a wonderful harmony in the complementary truths of science and faith. The God of the Bible is also the God of the genome. God can be found in the cathedral or in the laboratory. By investigating God's majestic and awesome creation, science can actually be a means of worship."

There are many scientists today who would echo the sentiments of Dr. Joseph H. Taylor, a 1993 Nobel Prize winner in Physics, "A scientific discovery is also a religious discovery. There is no conflict between science and religion. Our knowledge of God is made larger with every discovery we make about the world."

While we're likely not in the birth month of the Universe, we can declare that everyone knows there's a God, because the evidence is all around us. In fact, the Creator designed the universe so that His many invisible attributes would be "clearly seen" in the things He made, so that we are "without excuse" (Romans 1:20). To get a great idea of how God has revealed His power and nature, we'll look at Psalm 19:1-14.

I. The Revelation of God (vv. 1-11)

- A. David, the author of Psalm 19, loved to meditate on the truths revealed in God's Word, but he never lost the thrill of studying God's creation. Although not equal to the Bible, the creation gives us a visual display of God's wonderful character.

- B. The literal translation of Psalm 19:1 says, “The heavens are counting out the weightiness of God.” Like a banker who draws from a limitless vault of gold coins, God’s creation counts out the Creator’s infinite wonders for all to see. And it’s our privilege and duty, as special beings made in God’s image, to count out the weightiness of God.
- C. God’s creation, surpassing all limits of language, culture, gender, and age, preaches about God constantly and effectively. The moment God created the world, His world began proclaiming things about the Creator, and it has continued ever since.
1. There are exceptional scientific reasons to believe that God created the Universe, a small sampling is included here:
 - a) The existence of the Universe requires a first cause.
 - b) The fine-tuning of the Universe.
 - c) The origin of information in DNA and the origin of life.
 - d) The origin of irreducibly complex molecular machines.
 - e) The origin of animals.
 - f) The origin of humans.
 2. To give some semblance of just how unlikely the Universe occurring by chance would be, let’s use a simple illustration of the 2024 NCAA Men’s Basketball Championship, which will be played tomorrow night.
 - a) Everyone who’s really into college basketball fills out a bracket of 64 teams who begin playing for the championship every year in March. No one in the history of NCAA basketball has ever had a perfect bracket.
 - b) Chris O’Byrne, Fowler College of Business lecturer, a college sports fanatic, and former options trader on Wall Street, was asked to calculate the odds of a perfect NCAA bracket.
 - c) He estimated the chances of picking a perfect bracket are: 1 in 2 to the 67th power, or 1 in 147,573,952,589,676,412,928, or about 147 quintillion. That means every person in the country will need to fill out 27 billion brackets so we can reach the odds of getting that perfect bracket.
 - d) That’s just the odds of 64 teams playing in a basketball tournament! It’s obvious that our universe demonstrates order, complexity, and design that we can trust and calculate with absolute accuracy. How do reasonable people think all of this occurred by mere chance?
 3. But the fact is, the world doesn’t necessarily need science and computations to acquire knowledge of the Creator.
 - a) God’s revelation isn’t limited to a few engineering observations that only specialists can see, even though the minuscule details are incredibly compelling proofs of the creation of the world.
 - b) We don’t have to get caught up in minuscule details that supposedly prove His existence — He has plainly revealed His nature and glory throughout the Universe so that no human would miss them. Indeed, we were made to look for emanations of His glory and to glorify Him.
 - (1) We can find evidence of Him any time we walk out into the forest or the canyon. In fact, we can find His handiwork anywhere we look.

- (2) Sadly, according to the Bible, people already know the Creator and are desperately seeking any excuse to dispute His existence. As 2 Peter 3:5 says, "They deliberately ignore" the evidence that everyone plainly sees.
- D. Because the wonders of God preach His glory to all men, no man or woman can say, "I didn't know" or "The revelation wasn't clear."
1. This God, who reveals Himself and knows all hearts, concludes of every man, woman, and child: "They are without excuse" (Romans 1:20).
 2. Cicero, a Roman philosopher who lived not long before Jesus, wrote, "What can be so plain and evident, when we behold the heavens and contemplate the celestial bodies, as the existence of some supreme, divine intelligence, by which all these things are governed?" (De Natura Deorum, 2.2).
- E. Special revelation, on the other hand, is God's revelation of Himself and His will for man in the 66 books of the Bible. Written over a period of 1,600 years and penned by about 40 different men, the Bible reveals a history of God's communication with man culminating in Jesus (John 1:1-4; cp. Hebrews 1:1-2).
1. In addition to revealing the character of God and the origin of evil, the Bible offers the only logical explanation for man's origin, purpose, and destiny.
 2. Its central message deals with the redemption of man through Jesus of Nazareth and can be summed up in three statements: 1) Someone is coming; 2) someone has come; and, 3) someone is coming again. Psalm 19:7-11 provides us with a description of the Word of God, testifies to its character and the effect of that Word on those who hear it, and explains the surpassing value of the Word to those who obey its commands. Let's take a closer look at both what the Bible is and what it does.
 - a) What the Bible is.
 - (1) The perfect law (v. 7). There's no error in the Bible, either in historical fact or in spiritual truth. Of course, the Bible records the lies of men and Satan, but the message of the Bible is the revelation of truth (cp. Psalm 119:128, 160).
 - (2) The sure testimony (v. 7). The Word doesn't change; it's sure and steadfast (cp. Psalm 119:89). It's God's testimony of what's true, right, and dependable; something to which one can anchor his life.
 - (3) The right precepts (v. 8). Precepts are "statutes, rules for right living." Some rules are wrong rules but God's Word is right. The result of obedience to God's rules is a blessed life.
 - (4) The pure commandment (v. 8). The demands that some religions make on their adherents aren't pure, but God's Word is pure, even when dealing with sin (Psalm 12:6; 119:140; Proverbs 30:5). Nothing in the Bible, rightly understood, could lead a person to sin.
 - (5) The clean fear of the Lord (v. 9). The Word of God, properly studied, produces a healthy fear of God (cp. Deuteronomy 4:10; 31:12; Psalm 111:10) and cleanses the soul. A life of sin is pictured as unclean and filthy (Isaiah 64:6; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1; 2 Peter 2:20-22).
 - (6) True, righteous judgments (v. 9). God's evaluations of men are true; He knows everything completely. It pays for the Christian to believe what

God says and not depend on his own evaluation or the evaluation of those in the world. Lot made this mistake and lost everything (Genesis 13:10-11; 19:26).

- (7) Better than gold (v. 10). The most valuable possessions in life aren't material in nature (Psalm 119:72; Proverbs 8:10; 16:16; Luke 12:15; 1 Timothy 6:17-18). Spiritual values are far more rare, precious, and lead to greater blessings (Matthew 6:19-21, 33).
 - (8) Sweeter than honey (v. 10). The spiritually-minded individual doesn't need the artificial devices of the world for satisfaction; the Word satisfies the spiritual appetite (Psalm 119:10; Matthew 5:6).
- b) What the Bible does.
- (1) Restores (v. 7). The word "converting" means "returning" or "turning back." The Word of God has the power to redirect our lives. It refreshes and heals.
 - (2) Makes wise (v. 7). Jeremiah 8:9 says, "The wise men are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the Lord; and what wisdom is in them?" (cp. Psalm 119:97-104; Colossians 1:9; James 1:5).
 - (3) Rejoices (v. 8). The spiritually-minded person finds joy in the Word of God (Jeremiah 15:16; Philippians 4:4).
 - (4) Enlightens (v. 8). "The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple" (Psalm 119:130).
 - (5) Endures (v. 9). Other books fade and are forgotten, but the Bible remains. Many hammers have been worn out on the anvil of God's Word.
 - (6) Enriches (v. 10). The word of God is better than gold or silver (Proverbs 3:13-15).
 - (7) Satisfies (v. 10). Honey satisfies the body; the Word of God satisfies the soul.
 - (8) Warns (v. 11). It's better to prevent sin and avoid trouble than to confess sin and try to remedy mistakes. Knowing the Word of God and obeying it guides the Christian on the safe path (cp. Proverbs 2:1-22).
 - (9) Rewards (v. 11). Money can't buy the rewards of a godly life: a clean conscience, a pure heart, joy, peace, and answered prayer. Note that there's a reward in keeping the Word (the present), not for keeping it (the future). The reward comes in the performance of God's will (James 1:25).

II. The Rejection of Man (vv. 12-14)

- A. In the last three verses of the psalm, David reflects on himself in relation to God and His revelation.
 1. In Psalm 8 he looked at the dignity of humanity (8:4a). Now he reflects on humanity's sinfulness and limitations. Human beings are such insignificant parts in the vastness of space.

2. Just as nothing is hidden from the heat of the sun (v. 6), and even as the “voice” of the natural revelation penetrates to “the ends of the earth” (v. 4), so God’s Word penetrates and examines a person.
- B. The Lord has revealed His Word in speech and written forms accessible to people. In turn the psalmist, as a redeemed creature of God, prays that his expressed and unspoken words may be acceptable to his God, his Rock, and his Redeemer. Once you learn this magnificent revelation, you must use it!
- C. It’s truly sad that the problem isn’t people’s inability to see Him but their rebellious hearts (Psalm 78:32).
1. In Romans 1, despite all their intelligence and scientific skills, the Gentiles refused to acknowledge the Creator. They “suppressed the truth in unrighteousness” (v. 18).
 - a) “Suppress” means not merely “to hold” but “to hold down,” thus to prevent the truth from exerting its power in the heart and the life.
 - b) The truth isn’t merely quietly held while men go on in immorality, for it’s the nature of truth to exert itself, make its power felt; it’s held down so that it can’t exert itself.
 2. God is revealing Himself everywhere, all the time. He’s not just whispering but showing Himself clearly for all to see, in an infinite number of ways.

Conclusion. God has given us ears to hear, eyes to see, and hearts to understand. He could’ve left us in the dark because of our willful effort to cage His truth and because of our impiety and injustice.

But Psalm 19 suggests that the Creator communicates His glory without regard to language or intelligence; it’s not restricted to — or even primarily understood by — science. Even a child can intuitively see God’s beauty, harmony, love, and order.

God’s wonders are clearly seen, not just in the design of natural laws, the elements, the stars, DNA, cells, or individual species but also in the fully functioning systems and relationships necessary for life. A watch’s beauty lies not just in the individual metal parts but in how well it runs.

We simply need to remind people about the things they already know. God made us to worship Him (John 4:23), and God Himself takes a personal interest in making sure that each one of us has knowledge of Him. May the simple truths in this psalm lead us to a radical love for God, who lovingly filled His creation with profound lessons and elaborate reminders about His existence.

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