

The Revelation of God

After considering the importance and inspiration of the Bible, we began last week looking at getting to know God. The first thing we saw was how people assume that they are respecting God when in reality, they are just giving Him lip service. Once God has our attention, we will see that He is not just some far off idea or concept. We can have a relationship with Him and truly get to know Him.

So many prophets or teachers have tried to figure out how to know God. Looking at just ten of the most popular religions, 9.5 out of 10 taught that you can know God by their rituals and disciplined living. I say 9.5 because one of the 10 was Christianity and not all who claim to be Christian get it right.

In Psalm 19, David wrote about the three ways that people try to know God. The first way, in the Psalm, is very natural as so many people are satisfied with knowing God merely through some romantic perception of His creation, although that helps. The second is through His Word revealed to us, which is the absolute way. The third way is through logic, but that can be tricky, though.

1. Be careful not to presume -

Let's look at the third way first. Logic is good, when it is rightly used. It depends on using assumptions and making conclusions based on those assumptions. If you create false assumptions to build on, you will get in trouble. David speaks of *presumptions* in Psalm 19:12-13.

Ps 19:12-13 Who can understand *his* errors? cleanse thou me from secret *faults*.

13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous *sins*; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great

transgression.

Presumptions are when you use unjustified *assumptions* about God and then use contorted logic to make it look like one is right. The more Bible you have studied, your logic about God will be more correct because it is grounded in God's Word. You won't be making speculative and outlandish assumptions about God.

H. G. Wells was never particularly religious, but after he had studied the history of the human race and had observed human life, he came to an interesting conclusion "Religion is the first thing and the last thing, and until a man has found God and been found by God, he begins at no beginning, he works to no end. He may have his friendships, his partial loyalties, his scraps of honor. But all these things fall into place and life falls into place only with God."

— Source unknown

2. Knowing God in natural revelation -

The first way of knowing God is in Psalm 19:1-6. It covers how we know *about* God as demonstrated through nature. This is called *natural revelation*. Natural revelation shows us that God *must* be real. Natural revelation shows us that there *must* be a God.

Ps 19:1-6 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.

²Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge.

³There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.

⁴Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,

⁵Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.

⁶His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof.

This is confirmed in Rom 1.

Rom 1:18-21 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

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

²⁰For 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:

²¹Because 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.

Most specifically, we know His power and Godhead.

We can see through His handiwork in us how important we must be to Him:

Ps 139:12-18 Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee.

¹³For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb.

¹⁴I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.

¹⁵My substance was not hid from

thee, when I was made in secret,
and curiously wrought in the
lowest parts of the earth.

¹⁶Thine eyes did see my
substance, yet being unperfect;
and in thy book all my members
were written, which in
continuance were fashioned,
when as yet there was none of
them.

¹⁷How precious also are thy
thoughts unto me, O God! how
great is the sum of them!

¹⁸If I should count them, they are
more in number than the sand:
when I awake, I am still with
thee.

Looking at the hand of baby, so perfectly formed, so perfectly delicate, and so humanly functional we see His care for us. We could endlessly talk about the *great* sum of God's thoughts towards us. The great sum when we get a true perception of how great God's creation is.

Our closest relative in the "animal" world is, according to evolutionists, a chimpanzee. Evolutionists love to point out that they are *practically* human (or *we* are *practically chimpanzees*) because the genetic material in each is 99% the same. Then, when you dig deeper, you find out that that little percentage ends up amounting to *450,000,000* differences. False science tries to minimize that 450 million as just 1%, but they never can explain how "precious also are God's thoughts unto me...how great is the sum of them!" If they can get you to doubt just 1% then they are on their way to minimize and then eliminate God from *all* His creation.

- First, they never explain where the DNA came from.
- Second, you can't just throw DNA in willy nilly like paint in a blender and pour out a Mona Lisa. All sequences of DNA have to be exactly right.
- Third, there is so much DNA that

works together for each kind of biological structure that you can't just have it build up over time and then one day say, "Wow! A perfectly formed and intricately functioning thyroid gland which is also known as the orchestra leader for the entire body!" If that little gland is missing in part of its function, your whole body is affected.

In reality, people are all too happy to base their lack of faith on doubts ungodly science throws at them. Imagine if all of life was based on doubt. People would avoid life because it *might* rain, or the car *might* break down, or *maybe* lightning *might* strike. Their horoscope tells them not to leave the house, so they don't. It's like the man who heard that most accidents happened within a few miles of home. He dealt with *his* fears by moving to the other side of town. Paul warned Timothy about this even back in *his* day

1 Tim 6:20-21 O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:

²¹Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.

Don't try to be professing vain babblings and oppositions of the faith and then falsely call it science. The Greek word for science falsely so called is *pseudoscience*, or pseudo-knowledge. False science, or lying science. All the way back in the apostle Paul's day, the Epicurean philosophers believed in an atheistic evolution while the Stoics believed God was part of nature and evolution unfolded naturally. Henry Morris further described the history of the pseudo-science of evolutionism before and since the days of Paul.

It soon would take the form of Gnosticism and later of Neo-

Platonism, both also assuming evolution. In other parts of the world, it had the form of Taoism, Hinduism, Confucianism or Buddhism, all based on some form of pantheistic evolution and an infinitely old cosmos. In recent times it assumed the form of Darwinism, though men are now returning again to various forms of eastern religion and their systems of pantheistic evolution, still rejecting God as Creator and Christ as Savior.

You cannot just go tip-toeing through the tulips of an evolutionary world. Now here is the point so far, there is a power in the revelation of God through nature. While we can know God by His acts and that there *must be a god*, we do need more. Knowing what He thinks requires direct revelation from Him. People will get bogged down in the science and debate the interpretation of data, but I hope that I have at least demonstrated that what we need is to hear directly from God.

3. Knowing God through specific revelation -

In Psalm 19:1-6 it certainly does say that the glory of God is manifest in His handiwork. It is only a start to know God through His creation. It's true that we can see the glory of God in His handiwork, but how much better it would be to know Him by His whispering in our ear, "You're doing the right thing, I'm glorified in you, keep going, I'm with you." The next part of the Psalm presents the second way of knowing God which comes by knowing Him through His Word. There are five ways David refers to the revealed Word of God in verse 7-11.

Ps 19:7-11 The law of the Lord **[The Bible]** is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the

Lord [**The Bible**] is sure, making wise the simple.

⁸The statutes of the Lord [**The Bible**] are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord [**The Bible**] is pure, enlightening the eyes.

⁹The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord [**The Bible**] are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

¹¹Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

People are too lazy to know God in the ways that He wants to be known. He has given us His revealed Word, but we don't make enough of it. If you want to know God, let Him tell you Himself what He is like and what He wants and how He loves you. Don't just say, "He must be powerful and He must love me, why just look at that sunset." You must also hear the message, "God is just and holy and cannot tolerate sin and He won't overlook it, He must have it paid for, He sent His Son to die for me." You won't get that by sunsets or counting genetic differences in chimp and human DNA.

How can we know God? By His Word:

Exod 34:6 And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, **merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,**

Isa 40:28 Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, *that* the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, **fainteth not, neither is weary? *there is no searching of his understanding.* [His wisdom is**

beyond understanding.]

Ps 103:8-13 The LORD *is* merciful and gracious, **slow to anger**, and plenteous in mercy.

9 **He will not always chide**: neither will he keep *his anger* for ever.

10 He hath not **dealt with us after our sins**; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. [**He gives us less than we deserve for our sins.**]

11 For **as the heaven is high above the earth**, *so* great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

12 **As far as the east is from the west**, *so* far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

13 **Like as a father pitieth *his* children**, *so* the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

1John 4:8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for **God is love**.

Num 23:19 **God is not a man, that he should lie**; neither the son of man, that **he should repent**: hath he said, and shall he not do *it*? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

Lam 3:22-23 *It is of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because **his compassions fail not**.*

23 *They are new every morning: **great is thy faithfulness**.*

4. Knowing God through the way He works in His people -

We also know what God is like through His works in the way He has dealt with mankind and especially Israel. For the sake of time, let us look at one passage.

Isa 1:13-15 Bring no more vain oblations; incense is an abomination unto me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot away with; *it is* iniquity, even the solemn meeting.

14 Your new moons and your appointed feasts my soul hateth: they are a trouble unto me; I am weary to bear *them*.

15 And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

Here, Isaiah is in the middle of a diatribe against Israel for their attitude. For Israel, they are kept by God, not to be destroyed. If they did not keep their feasts, they would have been at their worst for not maintaining their identity. However, God requires more than that of them. For Israel to be at their truest, they were not only required to keep their feasts, but to do it with the right attitude. What God was expecting, while they kept their feasts, was a true heart. This is just one interaction of thousands that are recorded in God's Word.

There is just one other of the many ways to know God in His Word. God is known by His names. Although Yahweh (spelled YHWH and pronounced in English as Jehovah) is listed as His name and meaning I AM, it is combined with other words to reveal His character. There are also other descriptive names for God used in combination. There is a handout with His names available online.

We know God by the way He works in us. This one is not actually by the inspiration of revelation in the Bible, but it is very real as He works in our hearts. Unfortunately, being imperfect, we might read our feelings as if it is God's revelation. Overtime, we are able to personally glean from how God is working through us.

Ps 48:14 For this God *is* our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide *even* unto death.

What God Does:

1. God is always at work around you.
2. God pursues a continuing love relationship with you that is real and personal.
3. God invites you to become involved with Him in His work.
4. God speaks by the Holy Spirit through the Bible, prayer, circumstances, and the church to reveal Himself, His purposes, and His ways.
5. God's invitation for you to work with Him always leads you to a crisis of belief that requires faith and action.
6. You must make major adjustments in your life to join God in what He is doing.
7. You come to know God by experience as you obey Him and as He accomplishes His work through you.

— Experiencing God, Nashville, TN

1John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

John 10:27-28 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them

out of my hand.

As Joe pointed out in a message recently about Genesis, you don't see some circular philosophical argument made to justify the assumption that God exists. In Genesis, you just get to see God at work. It's through the evidence provided in the Bible that you can prove God. It is through His acts that we get to know Him. It is through His testimony that we get to see something of how He thinks. It is through His instruction that we get to see what His will is.

Concerning the last days, Peter pointed out God's will and love for us:

2Pet 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

It is not surprising that you know that God *exists*, but you can do this without actually knowing *Him*. You can know only know God truly by knowing His Son as your Savior. Have you turned to Him and confessed that you are a sinner and need Him to forgive you forever and come into and join your heart to His? You can do this, not by blind faith, but through faith in His Word that He said He would do this. After this, you can grow in His Word and deepen knowing Him through His Word and His work in your life. When you know Him through your work, your knowledge will not be just academic...it will be through a personal relationship with Christ.

1. Be careful not to presume - Ps 19:12-13
2. Knowing God in natural revelation - Ps 19:1-6, Rom 1:18-21, 1 Tim 6:20-21,
3. Knowing God through specific revelation - Ps 19:7-14, Exod 34:6, Isa 40:28, Ps 103:8-13, 1John 4:8,

Num 23:19, Lam 3:22-23, Isa 1:13-15

4. Knowing God through the way He works in us - Ps 48:14, Heb 2:6-18, 1John 5:20, John 10:27-28, 2Pet 3:9

God the Father

The faithful
God who does no wrong
The forgiving God
The Fortress of salvation
The glorious crown
The jealous and avenging God
The Master in heaven
The refuge for his people
The refuge for the needy in his distress
The refuge for the oppressed
The refuge for the poor
Our sanctuary
A shade from the heat
A shelter from the storm
A source of strength
A stronghold in times of trouble
An ever present help in trouble
Architect and builder
Builder of everything
Commander of the Lord's

army
Defender of widows
Eternal King
Father
Father of compassion
Father of our spirits
Father of the heavenly lights
Father to the fatherless
God
God Almighty (El Sabaoth)
God Almighty (El Shaddai)
God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
God Most High
God my Maker
God my Rock
God my Savior
God my stronghold
God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob
God of all comfort
God of all mankind
God of glory
God of gods
God of grace
God of hope
God of love and peace

God of peace
God of retribution
God of the living
God of the spirits of all mankind
God of truth
God our Father
God our strength
God over all the kingdoms of the earth
God the Father
God who avenges me
God who gives endurance & encouragement
God who relents from sending calamity
Great and awesome God
Great and powerful God
Great, mighty and awesome God
He who blots our your transgressions
He who comforts you
He who forms the hearts of all
He who raised Christ from

the dead	the earth	dwelling
He who	Lord of	place
reveals his	heaven and	Our judge
thoughts to	earth	O u r
man	Lord of	lawgiver
Helper of	kings	Our leader
t h e	Lord our	O u r
fatherless	God	M i g h t y
Him who is	Lord our	One
able to do	Maker	O u r
immeasura-	Lord our	Redeemer
bly more	shield	Our refuge
than all we	Lord who	a n d
a s k o r	heals you	strength
imagine	Lord who	Righteous
Him who is	is there	Father
able to	Lord who	Righteous
keep you	makes you	judge
f r o m	holy	Rock of
falling	Lord who	o u r
Him who is	strikes the	salvation
ready to	blow	Shepherd
judge the	Lord will	Sovereign
living and	Provide	Lord
the dead	Love	T h e
H o l y	Maker of	Almighty
Father	all things	T h e
Holy One	Maker of	compassio-
Holy One	heaven and	nate and
among you	earth	g r a c i o u s
I AM	Most High	God
I A M	M y	T h e
W H O I	advocate	E t e r n a l
AM	M y	God
Jealous	Comforter	T h e
Judge of	in sorrow	consuming
a l l t h e	M y	fire
earth	confidence	T h e
King of	My help	everlasting
glory	My helper	God
King of	My hiding	T h e
heaven	place	e x a l t e d
Living and	My hope	God
true God	My light	T h e
L o r d	My mighty	f a i t h f u l
(Adonai)	rock	God
L o r d	My refuge	T h e
Almighty	in the day	gardener
Lord God	of disaster	(husbandm-
Almighty	My refuge	an)
Lord of	in times of	T h e
Peace	trouble	g l o r i o u s
L o r d	My song	Father
(Jehovah)	My strong	The Glory
Lord Most	deliverer	of Israel
High	My support	The God
Lord my	One to be	who saves
Banner	feared	me
Lord my	Only wise	The God
Rock	God	who sees
Lord of all	O u r	me

The great	for the	Faithful
K i n g	peoples	and true
above all	A	witness
gods	Nazarene	First to rise
The just	All	from the
and mighty	Alpha and	dead
One	Omega	Firstborn
The living	Ancient of	f r o m
Father	Days	among the
T h e	Anointed	dead
Majestic	One	Firstborn
Glory	Apostle	over all
T h e	and high	creation
Majesty in	priest	Firstfruits
heaven	Author and	of those
The one	perfecter	that have
w h o	of our faith	f a l l e n
sustains me	Author of	asleep
The only	life	Fragrant
God	Author of	offering
The potter	t h e i r	a n d
The rock in	salvation	sacrifice to
whom I	B l e s s e d	God
take refuge	and only	Friend of
The spring	Ruler	t a x
of living	Branch of	collectors
water	the Lord	a n d
T h e	Bread of	"sinners"
strength of	God	God of all
my heart	Bread of	the earth
The true	life	God over
God	Bridegroo	all
You who	m	God's Son
hear prayer	C h i e f	Great high
You who	cornerston	priest
j u d g e	e	Great light
righteously	C h i e f	G r e a t
and test the	Shepherd	Shepherd
heart and	C h o s e n	o f t h e
mind	a n d	sheep
You who	precious	Guarantee
keep your	cornerston	of a better
covenant	e	covenant
of love	C h r i s t	He who
with your	Jesus my	c o m e s
servants	Lord	down from
You who	C h r i s t	heaven and
love the	Jesus our	gives life
people	hope	t o t h e
Your glory	Christ of	world
Y o u r	God	He who
praise	Consolatio	searches
Your very	n of Israel	hearts and
g r e a t	Covenant	minds
reward	for the	Head of
	people	every man
God the	Crown of	Head of
Son	splendor	the body,
	Eternal life	the church
	Faithful	Head of
A banner	and True	the church

Head over	Light for	defense
e v e r y	revelation	One who
power and	t o t h e	will arise
authority	Gentiles	to rule over
Heir of all	Light of	the nations
things	life	O u r
Him who	Light of	glorious
died and	men	Lord Jesus
came to	Light of	Christ
life again	the world	Our God
Him who	L i v i n g	and Savior
loves us	bread that	J e s u s
and has	came down	Christ
freed us	f r o m	Our only
from our	heaven	Sovereign
sins	Lord and	and Lord
His one	S a v i o r	O u r
and only	J e s u s	Passover
son	Christ	lamb
Holy and	L o r d	Our peace
Righteous	(Kurios)	O u r
One	Lord of	righteousn
Holy One	glory	e s s ,
of God	LORD OF	holiness,
H o l y	LORDS	a n d
s e r v a n t	Lord of	redemption
Jesus	peace	Physician
Hope of	Lord of the	Prince and
Israel	harvest	Savior
Horn of	Lord of the	Prince of
salvation	Sabbath	Peace
Image of	L o r d	Prince of
t h e	(Rabboni)	princes
invisible	M a n	Prince of
God	accredited	the hosts
Immanuel	by God	R a n s o m
(God with	Man of	for all men
us)	sorrows	R e f i n e r
Indescriba	Master	a n d
ble gift	Mediator	purifier
Jesus	of a new	Resurrecti
J e s u s	covenant	on and the
Christ	Merciful	life
J e s u s	and faithful	Righteous
Christ our	high priest	Judge
Lord	Messenger	Righteous
J e s u s	o f t h e	man
Christ our	covenant	Righteous
Savior	Messiah	One
Jesus of	Morning	R o c k
Nazareth	star	e t e r n a l
Judge of	My friend	(rock of
the living	M y	ages)
and the	intercessor	Ruler of
dead	One who	G o d ' s
KING OF	makes men	creation
KINGS	holy	Ruler of
King of the	One who	the kings
ages	speaks to	of the earth
Lamb of	the Father	Savior of
God	i n o u r	the world

S e c o n d	The man	Almighty
man	J e s u s	Holy One
Shepherd	Christ	Holy Spirit
a n d	The most	Holy Spirit
Overseer	holy	of God
of your	The One	Seal
souls	and Only	Spirit of
Son of the	The only	Christ
living god	God our	Spirit of
Son of the	Savior	c o u n s e l
Most High	T h e	a n d o f
God	radiance of	power
S o n o f	God's glory	Spirit of
Man	The rising	faith
Son of the	of the sun	Spirit of
B l e s s e d	(Daysprin	fire
One	g)	Spirit of
Source of	The stone	glory
e t e r n a l	t h e	Spirit of
salvation	b u i l d e r s	God
S u r e	rejected	Spirit of
foundation	T h e	grace and
Teacher	testimony	supplicatio
The Amen	given in its	n
T h e	p r o p e r	Spirit of
a t o n i n g	time	his Son
sacrifice	The true	Spirit of
for our sins	light	holiness
T h e	The true	Spirit of
Beginning	vine	J e s u s
and the	The way	Christ
End	The Word	Spirit of
The bright	(logos)	judgment
Morning	True bread	Spirit of
Star	f r o m	justice
The exact	heaven	Spirit of
representat	W i s d o m	knowledge
ion of his	from God	& of the
being	Witness to	fear of the
The First	the peoples	Lord
and the	Wonderful	Spirit of
Last	Counselor	life
The gate	Word of	Spirit of
(door)	God	our God
The good	Word of	Spirit of
shepherd	life	s o n s h i p
The Head	Your life	(adoption)
The last	Y o u r	Spirit of
Adam	salvation	the living
The life		God
The Living	God the	Spirit of
One	H o l y	the Lord
The living	Spirit	Spirit of
Stone		t h e
The Lord		Sovereign
O u r	A deposit	Lord
Righteous	(earnest)	Spirit of
ness	A n o t h e r	truth
The man	Counselor	Spirit of
f r o m	Breath of	w i s d o m
heaven	t h e	a n d o f

understand
ing
Spirit of
wisdom
and
revelation

The gift
The
promised
Holy Spirit
The same
gift

Voice of
the
Almighty
Voice of
the Lord