

GREAT BIBLE TRUTHS



2. God's Existence

An Introduction

The Bible begins with the fact that God exists. He is the creator of all and all good comes from him. (Psalm 19:1, James 1:17) The Bible doesn't seek to prove God's existence, but it is simply written in the light of this reality.

The name given by God himself is 'I am who I am'. (Exodus 3:14) People may hold all sorts of ideas about God, but none of these affect who he really is. We need to discover the truth about God, not from what others think about him, or our own ideas, but what he says about himself.

PROVING GOD'S EXISTENCE

Some say we must accept that God exists by faith, while others say you can lead a person to believe in God by intellectual argument. Neither are completely true. God is in the spiritual realm and not an object of scientific investigation, however God created us with minds, and so he provides proof that will satisfy our intellect if we are open to him. (Acts 14:17) Without the help of the Holy Spirit however, arguments won't prove anything. Throughout all of human history man has been given knowledge of the existence of God. He makes us aware of himself in different ways:-

1. General Revelation

Throughout all of human history man has been given knowledge of the existence of God by:-

(a) Witness of creation

First of all there is the witness of creation itself. There is no other adequate explanation for the existence of the world.

- The universe must have an adequate cause, and behind this must be the original cause. The Bible names the original cause as God himself. Genesis 1:1
- The incredible design and purpose in nature points to a designer. Genesis 1:31
- The wonder of man's own creation points to a creator. Psalm 139:14-15

(b) Witness of man himself

Secondly there is the witness of man himself.

- All men have a spiritual nature and longing. The idea of God is found among all cultures and has been there since the beginning of man's existence. The only explanation is that we have been made by a spiritual being. The Bible says that God is a spiritual being and man was made in his image. Genesis 1:26-27
- Men are naturally religious and have a concept of God. Where did this come from? Acts 17:22-31
- All men have a sense of obligation that they need to keep moral demands. In other words they have a conscience. This points to an ultimate authority from which this comes. Romans 2:14-15

We can know God exists from creation. In fact all religions believe this and are searching for God. In Job 11:7 it says, "Can you by searching find out God?" The reason we can't on our own is because:

- We are only human, whereas God is infinitely great. By ourselves we cannot know him in all his fullness. Romans 1:21-22
- We are sinful. This has produced a blindness to spiritual truth. 2 Corinthians 4:4, Ephesians 4:18

2. Special Revelation

God has revealed truth in such a way that anyone who is willing to know and obey it, can. Everyone has the opportunity to know of his existence from general revelation, but he has given special revelation so we can know him. In the Old Testament this special revelation came through the prophets, however man still could not fully know God. The full revelation of God came through the Lord Jesus Christ. God's special revelation to man comes in the following ways:-

(a) Spoken Word

God communicated his message to men in various ways, and they acted as his mouthpiece. For some his message came through an inner conviction, or through visions and dreams, (Daniel 7:1, Isaiah 1:1) by audible voice, (Exodus 3:4, 1 Samuel 3:4, 6) by direct moving of the Spirit, (2 Chronicles 15:1) and even face to face. (Numbers 12:7-8) This means of revelation didn't cease when Jesus came, nor has it ceased today. God still speaks to and through his people. In fact Jesus said that everyone who belongs to him can hear his voice. John 10:4

(b) Living Word

Jesus is the Living Word, the Word made flesh. He is the clearest and fullest way that God has revealed himself to mankind. There is no other adequate explanation for his life, work, teaching and miracles, except that he is who he claimed to be. (John 14:6) Through Jesus, the Son, we know the Father, and we need no other proof of God's existence. John 14:7-9

(c) Written Word

The Scriptures themselves claim to be a revelation as we see in 2 Timothy 3:16, and they are also where we learn of God's other revelations. From the Scriptures we learn all the truths we need to know about God, sin and salvation. It is the record of divine activity among men and interprets God for us.

(d) Direct Illumination

God has revealed himself whether people believe or not, however there can be no real knowledge of the truth without the illumination of the Holy Spirit. God will only make us aware of himself and reveal Christ to us if our hearts are open and responsive.



The world around us is evidence of a Creator. What do you think it shows us about his nature? Discuss. Romans 1:18-20

Men from all religions are searching for God. How does Christianity differ from other religions do you think?



God is always speaking to his children. How can you hear his voice more clearly?