

LESSON 6



RATIONAL EVIDENCES OF GOD

Scripture Texts: Acts 14:15-17; Romans 1:18-20; Acts 17:27-28

In this lesson we consider evidences for God as found in nature and reason. In this natural realm much can be found that leads us toward God. When one seeks to fathom the universe, to weigh the suns, and to compute the strength of physical force, his mind must run in the direction of God. When one observes the interrelations of all nature and considers the provisions for our wants, he is led either to believe in great luck and remarkable coincidence or to have faith in the divine power of God.

Man is a rational being. He cannot help seeking the reason for things. He cannot be satisfied until he has found an answer that satisfies his longing to know the whys and wherefores. Reason and revelation support each other in sustaining our belief in God.

MEMORY VERSE: *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.*

Psalm 19:1

Creation Declares God's Glory

We read in Romans 1:18-20 that God has manifested Himself in creation revealing "his eternal power and Godhead." The whole creation in the magnitude of the universe and the minuteness of the split atom reveals God as Creator. The evidences are so clear that those who refuse to see are left without excuse. Their failure to see God is due not to intellectual inability but rather to moral perverseness. They "hold the truth in unrighteousness." The marks of God's creative power are abundant; thus men are held responsible for their failure to see God in creation. Since there is creation there must be a Creator.

The law of cause and effect that results in lightning, thunder, earthquakes, tides, seasons, and water cycles (to mention a few) is traced back to the First Cause Who is eternal. Often the question is asked, "Which was first, the chicken or the egg?" For the answer we must find a chicken that was not hatched from an egg or an egg that no hen laid. The First Cause Whom we call God is the answer.

Nature Witnesses to God

The Lycaonians were about to worship Paul and Barnabas as gods. They had so far departed from the knowledge of the Creator as to seek to worship the creature in Acts 14:15-17. Paul called their attention to God as they might see Him in nature. The rain and fruitful seasons are evidences of His watchful care over us. We are not to worship any creature, however good, but only God, the Giver of every good gift. By making use of the data furnished by nature, one can learn much about God. There is interdependence and balance in all nature. An example is bees pollinate the flowers so that we may have fruit, and in turn the bees receive their honey from the flowers.

God Reveals Himself in Man

God is nearer to us than the heart within us. In Acts 17:27-28 we find that our very existence is wrapped up in Him. God is evident to all who will look. Paul quoted approvingly the confession of the Greek poets, "For we are also his offspring." Man's intellectual and spiritual nature provides a field for study in which we may learn much about the nature of God, our Father.

God created man with moral values, the ability to decide right from wrong. This ability alone proves man to be created above animals. He is aware of the condemnation of sin and also senses the forgiving mercy of God when it is received. He can have fellowship with God and enjoy eternal life which is the result of God revealing Himself to man. Man was created righteous in God's own image. God said that he was good, very good. After man sins away this righteousness, God re-creates him back to being good again. This moral and spiritual nature of man points to the personality of God. Certainly the true character of God is far beyond our comprehension; but we know in which direction to look for Him. Faith is the key that unlocks the door that we may enjoy God's revelation of Himself.

JUST A THOUGHT

**"Moderation in sin is no more possible than
moderation in hanging."**