

Last week was the day our nation has set aside to honor our fathers. On this day in years past I have delivered lessons dealing with the responsibly father's have as head of the household and given examples of godly fathers. But this morning I want to give attention to a different father. I want us to consider God, our heavenly Father. We will first consider reasons to believe in God and move to the nature of God.

**Reasons to believe in God.** There are many who have a hard time wrapping their hands around the idea that there is a God. After all no one has seen or heard him. There is no evidence of his existence they claim. So there are atheists who do not believe in God. Then there are agnostics. The agnostic is one who says he does not know if there is a god or not. The honest agnostic will search for answers before making his final decision.

As one searches, the best place to look is the Bible. Now the critic will say that the Bible is being used to prove itself and if I'm not sure about God, then I'm not sure about the Bible. So what I want us to consider first is reasons to believe the Bible. **2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God,...** So for now give me the benefit of doubt that the Bible is a God inspired writing.

With that said, let's consider the **Unity of the Bible.** The Bible was written over a period of 1600 years by 40 different men from different walks of life, different times, different cultures, different languages, and yet there is perfect unity and harmony among all of them. This fact alone is amazing. It would be remarkable for us to get ten people to go into different rooms, and without conversing with each other write a short story and have each story blend into the others with a continuous theme. More astounding, what would be the odds of Christopher Columbus, Ben Franklin, Abe Lincoln, John Kennedy, and Bill Gates each writing a short story and have their stories perfectly blend together into one continuous story? Their time span would cover about 600 years under different governments, languages, and customs. Consider now 1600 years and 40 different writers. By human standards, that would be impossible. How can one explain this? Answer – Inspiration.

Now let us consider **EVIDENCE OF GOD.** Faith is based on evidence. Hebrews

11:1 defines faith as evidence of things not seen. If we believe by faith that something exists, it's because we have enough evidence to convince us of such. If we see an object, then we no longer believe by faith that object exists, but rather we now have knowledge of its existence. If we can logically conclude there is enough evidence for us to believe in the existence of God, then we can easily accept the inspiration of scripture. Note the following examples in hope of providing such evidence.

**The Seas:** *(Gen 1:9-10) And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. {10} And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.* Most scholars agree that the book of Genesis was written by Moses. Moses spent most of his life in the desert regions in and around Egypt – not around the seas. How did he know that there were seas (plural) and that all these seas (plural) would be gathered together upon one place (i.e. connected together as one unit of water)? This writing took place centuries before our geographical understanding of the world and oceans. What explanation can you give for Moses' statement?

**Space:** *(Job 26:7) He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth upon nothing.* Job is considered by many Biblical scholars to be the first OT book written, which means by any historical standard that it was written well before we had a scientific survey of the heavens by astrologers. Thousands of years before we understood the solar rotations and that the earth was in a rotational orbit, Job said it "hangeth on nothing". Hundreds of years after Job, the Greeks believed that super humans like Hercules, the son of Zeus or Atlas were underneath the earth holding it up. Legend has it that when there was an earthquake, the Greek God Atlas was angry and was shaking the earth in his anger. Job said the earth hangeth upon nothing. **How did Job know to write the earth hangeth on nothing?**

Job also said that over the north was an empty space. In recent years, scientists have discovered that directly over the North Pole there is a void of stars. It is literally

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an empty space. It's known today as the Coronal Hole. Again, how did Job know to write this?

**Paths of the Sea:** (*Psa 8:8*) *The fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea, and whatsoever passeth through the paths of the seas.* Matthew Fontaine Maury is credited as the "Father of Oceanography" because he was the first to begin charting the ocean floor. In the mid 1800's, Maury was recovering from an accident and asked one of his daughters to read to him. She read Psalms 8, and when she read verse 8, he asked her to go back and re-read that verse with attention on the phrase, "*paths of the sea.*" When he got back on his feet, he spent the rest of his life searching out and charting the paths of the sea which today is used for the navigation of great ocean liners. His systematic study of thousands of historical ships' logs gave him detailed information about currents, winds, and weather conditions all over the world's oceans. His data enabled him to compile new shipping charts allowing ships to cut weeks from long voyages. In his own lifetime he was called 'Pathfinder of the Seas.' He got the idea from the Psalmist. As you enter the naval academy at Annapolis there is a statue of Matthew Maury in recognition for his accomplishments in charting the ocean floor. In one hand he is holding oceanography instruments and in the other hand the Bible. **Where did David learn to write about the "paths of the sea?"**

**The Earth:** (*Isa 40:22*) *It is he that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in:* Only in relatively recent history has man learned that the earth was round. Prior to that, it was considered to be flat. As recent as the 8<sup>th</sup> century, the early Egyptians thought the world was a flat disk floating in the ocean. Only in relatively modern history did we learn that the world is round. **How did the OT prophet know centuries earlier to write about the circle of the earth?**

**IT IS REASONABLE TO BELIEVE IN GOD ?** The previous section was to provide you with evidence to cultivate faith in God. Remember "*Faith is the evidence of thing not seen.*" With that evidence, we now want to consider the question, "Is it

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reasonable; is it logical; does it make sense to believe in God?" *(Psalms 19:1) The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.*

*(Romans 1:20) For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen ... so that they are without excuse:*

### **CONSIDER SOME FACTS**

Observe the universe. Its design and purpose demonstrates an intelligent plan. Look at the vastness, the precision of movement, the obvious design. It continues to be so precise that every day your local weather man can predict the exact minute that the sun will rise and set.

Look at the design and complexity of the human body with its thousands of miles of blood vessels and trillions of cells, etc. and how it repairs itself when broken. *(Psalms 139:14) I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.*

*(Hebrews 3:4) For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God.* The house proves the builder and since the human body was built by God in His own image, you would expect some human characteristics different than what you see in other animals. Consider just a few differences between human and animals.

1. Man thinks, reasons, plans
2. Man has a moral conscience; blushes, embarrasses
3. Man appreciates God's design and nature
4. Man has an inborn desire to worship

Animals have none of the above characteristics.

**LOGICAL REASONS TO BELIEVE THE BIBLE** A final point in this section is to suggest that it's logical to believe the Bible. Its principles provide for a better way of life that leads to peace and happiness – two things that the people of the world desperately seek. It's the only book that gives satisfactory answers to man's spiritual

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needs. *(2 Corinthians 4:16) For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.* Its TRUE influence has always been good. Regardless of whether a person believes the Bible or not, if they would live by the Biblical principles regarding people relations, our world would be a better place to live. . *(Titus 2:12) Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*

It alone teaches life after death. *(John 5:28) Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, (29) And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.* Were it not for the Bible, man would have no concept of what to expect after death. But inspired writers tell us of a place for those that have done good as well as a place for those that have done badly.

**NATURE OF GOD.** Now for the second part of our lesson let us consider the nature of our Heavenly Father. Much could be cited about God's nature, but for time sake I will mention briefly just a few. **FIRST**, He is holy. *Holy* means "set apart" and God is clearly set apart from His creation in his attributes. *(Lev. 11:44) For I am the LORD your God: ye shall therefore sanctify yourselves, and ye shall be holy; for I am holy:*  
....

In the message to Hosea, God told Hosea that he was the Holy One *(Hosea 11:9) I will not execute the fierceness of mine anger, I will not return to destroy Ephraim: for I am God, and not man; the Holy One in the midst of thee: and I will not enter into the city.* We understand that God is a spirit. *John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.* He is one God. *Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:* While God is one, he exist in three distinct Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He does not have a physical body.

**RIGHTEOUS:** God is righteous. That means he does what is right. *Psalms*

**116:5 Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; ...** This means that in judgment you will be judged fairly. Fair judgment means you reward the righteous and punish the unrighteous. You see, God is a God of love but he is also a God of wrath. We see both illustrated in Matthew 25 as the scene of judgment is pictured. **Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels ... (46) And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.**

**GOD IS TRUTHFUL.** **Titus 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began.** This means that the promises made in His inspired writings are true and if not already will be fulfilled.

**GOD CANNOT COEXIST WITH SIN.** Often the Bible references goodness as light and sin as darkness. One such place is 1 John 1:5. ***This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.*** The point to grab is that there is no sin with God. Now Romans 3:23 teaches us that we all sin and come short of the glory of God. And were it not for the redeeming blood of Jesus, we would all be doomed. This is the gospel message. **Colossians 1:12-14 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: (13) Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: (14) In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:**

Have you obeyed the gospel? Invitation