GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#18)

God's glory is visible in *all* of creation. Don't suppress your awareness of it… open your eyes!

IT'S EASY TO *CLAIM* SOMETHING ABOUT YOURSELF …

Some time ago Theudas rose up, *claiming to be somebody*, and a group of about four hundred men rallied to him.

Acts 5:36a (CSB)

I'M AN IMPORTANT "SOMEBODY"!

But can you *demonstrate* it by your life?

HE'S A DEAD "NOBODY"!

He was killed, and all his followers were dispersed and came to *nothing*.

Acts 5:36b (CSB)

WHEN JESUS WAS ASKED IF HE WERE "THE ONE TO COME," HE DIDN'T ANSWER WITH JUST *WORDS*.

John's two disciples found Jesus and said to him, "John the Baptist sent us to ask,

'Are you the Messiah we've been expecting, or should we keep looking for someone else?' "

Luke 7:20 (NLT)

[ANSWER]

☆ ***ANYBODY**** **can say…** → **OF COURSE I AM!**

… and many *fakes* will do so.

For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Messiah.' They will lead many astray.

Matthew 24:5 (NLT)

*(Even *demonic forces* can claim to be from God – 2 Cor. 11:14.)

But JESUS *demonstrated* it by what he did.

At that very time, he cured many people of their various diseases, and he cast out evil spirits and restored sight to the blind. Then he told John's disciples,

"Go back to John and *tell him what you have seen and heard*—the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised to life, and the Good News is being preached to the poor.
And tell him, 'God blesses those who are not offended by me.' "

Luke 7:21-23 (NLT)

WHEN PEOPLE *DON'T* WANT THE TRUTH … *NOTHING* YOU CAN DO WILL CONVINCE THEM.

The Jews surrounded [Jesus] and asked,

"How long are you going to keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly."

John 10:24 (CSB)

"I *did tell you* and you don't believe,"

Jesus answered them.

John 10:25 (CSB)

And the problem wasn't JESUS!

Even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him.

John 12:37 (NIV)

IT REMAINS THAT WAY TODAY!

People make demands…

- ✓ They may demand that **YOU** prove God exists.
- ✓ They may even demand that **GOD** prove himself!

Even though …

- ✓ They have rejected the **PROOF** that surrounds them.

THEY REJECTED THE **PROOF** OF SCIENCE – things related to the *objects of creation*.

… they try to ***suppress*** the truth …

From the creation of the world, God's invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly observed in what he made.

As a result, people have no excuse.

Romans 1:18b, 20 (GW)

THEY REJECTED THE **PROOF** OF HISTORY – things related to the *facts of the creation and the flood*.

They ***deliberately forget*** that God made the heavens by the word of his command, and he brought the earth up from the water and surrounded it with water.

Then he used the water to destroy the world with a mighty flood.

2 Peter 3:5-6 (NLT)

No wonder Scripture describes such people as *moral fools!*

Only fools say in their hearts, "There is no God."

Psalm 14:1a (NLT)

REFERRING TO THE GOD OF THE BIBLE

LOOK AROUND YOU!

EVERYTHING

is a reflection of God's power, majesty, wisdom and glory.

➲ A display of design, beauty, function, interrelatedness, purposefulness, cause-and-effect, pattern, repeatability, reliability, and more!

OR ELSE: It is a reminder of the horrible consequences of sin in the world.

NOTHING

displays random, meaningless "chance" or chaos.

➲ Even seemingly "random" events operate by design, and can be understood in terms of probability or cause-and-effect.

EVEN THE THINGS THAT PEOPLE MAKE AND DO …

everything **that people are capable of doing …**
(or ever will be capable of doing) …

ALL **OF IT WAS:**

- ➢ made possible because God designed the capacity into creation.
- ➢ planned and prepared even before humans were brought into existence.

ALL **OF IT IS:**

- ➢ a reflection of God's power, majesty, wisdom, glory.
- ➢ a display of design, beauty (and many other characteristics).

➢ OR ELSE: It is an abuse or rejection of these… made possible by sin.

IF WE ARE WILLING TO FIGHT AGAINST
A *LIFETIME* OF IGNORING AND SUPPRESSING
THE REVELATION OF GOD IN CREATION…

- We will get a glimpse of God's greatness.
- We will begin to see what the writers of Scripture saw…

How great is God--beyond our understanding!
The number of his years* is past finding out.

Job 36:26 (NIV)

* (Here, great age is symbolic of great wisdom.)

Dominion and awe belong to God;
he establishes order in the heights of heaven.

Job 25:2 (NIV)

Oh, the depth of the riches
both of the wisdom and of the knowledge of God!
How unsearchable his judgments
and untraceable his ways!
Rom. 11:33 (CSB)

How spectacular are your works, O Lord!
How very deep are your thoughts!
Psalm 92:5 (GW)

His great works are too marvelous to understand.
He performs miracles* without number.
Job 9:10 (NLT)

* (In the Bible, "miracles" refers to "mighty acts of power" – whether or not they go against the "laws of nature," which God created.)

EVEN THE "LAWS OF NATURE," WHICH GOD CREATED, REMAIN CONSISTENT AND PREDICTABLE BECAUSE OF HIS POWER!

[These verses refer to Jesus, who is God in human form.]

And He is before all things, and in Him
all things hold together.
Col. 1:17 (NASB)

He sustains the universe by the mighty
power of his command.
Hebrews 1:3b (NLT)

**The universe, which is *infinite* to us,
is *finite* to God!**

AFTER ALL THAT YOU DISCOVER, YOU WILL REALIZE:

**YOUR LIMITED PERCEPTION
SEES JUST A TINY BIT OF
THE GREATNESS THAT IS REALLY THERE!**

- You will be like Job, who responded (after describing God's greatness, over all creation):

And these are but the outer fringe of his works;
how faint the whisper we hear of him!
Who then can understand the thunder of his power?
Job 26:14 (NIV)

YOUR OPPORTUNITY

LOOK

at anything!

OBSERVE: the design, beauty, function, interrelatedness, purposefulness, cause-and-effect, and everything else that is a reflection of God's power, majesty, wisdom and glory.

CONSIDER ALSO: the horribleness of sin and its consequences – which mask the display of God's glory. *(We, the human race, must take credit for those things … we can't blame them on God!)*

GOD NOT ONLY MADE *CREATION* SO THAT IT WOULD *DECLARE* HIS GLORY…
HE MADE *PEOPLE* SO THAT THEY COULD *SHARE* IN HIS GLORY!

☛ **UNSAVED PEOPLE** ARE *NOT WILLING* TO RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND TO GOD'S GLORY, as seen throughout creation!

☛ **ARE YOU?**

O Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory
above the heavens.
From the lips of children and infants
you have ordained praise
because of your enemies,
to silence the foe and the avenger.

When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
what is man that you are mindful of him,
the son of man that you care for him?
You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.
You made him ruler over the works of your hands;
you put everything under his feet:
all flocks and herds,
and the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air,
and the fish of the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.
O Lord, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
Psalm 8:1-9 (NIV)

Credits

SCRIPTURE

- Scriptures marked "NLT" – Scripture quoted from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright ©1996. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Wheaton, Illinois 60189. All rights reserved. (www.newlivingtranslation.com)
- Scriptures marked "NIV" - Scripture quoted from the HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved. (www.zondervanbibles.com)
- Scriptures marked "GW" - Scripture is taken from GOD'S WORD®. Copyright 1995 God's Word to the Nations. Used by permission of Baker Publishing Group. All rights reserved.
- Scriptures marked "NASB" - Scriptures quoted from the New American Standard Bible®, Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)
- Scriptures marked "CSB" - Scripture quotations marked CSB have been taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 2017 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible® and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Megaphone – roshellin / CC0; https://openclipart.org/detail/167691/megafono
- Eyeballs - Carol M. Highsmith / Public domain, https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:%22The_Eye,%22_a_30-foot-tall_eyeball_sculpture_in_Dallas,_Texas_LCCN2014632601.tif
- Presentation – Dennis Hinks © 2019.