

The Book of God #1

Text : **Psalm 19: 1-14**

S#1.

A. What do you know about God ?

1. Is God real ? How do you know ?
2. How many Gods are there ?
3. What is God like ?

B. Man can only know what God is willing to reveal about Himself.

1. Most believers believe in God because other people told them about Him.
2. Anything passed on by word of mouth gets distorted along the way.
** A phrase passed down a line may be different when it arrives at the end.*
3. Oral traditions change over time and even more so when translated.

C. God communicates Himself in two ways which cannot reasonably be distorted.

1. God revealed Himself in what He has made. (**General Revelation**)
2. He revealed Himself verbally and by actions. (**Specific Revelation**)
3. He has revealed Himself in writing.

S#2.

D. God willing, we will do some lessons about how God communicates with man.

1. God's communications can be broken down into two basic categories.
 - a. General revelation
 - b. Special revelation
2. The objective of this lesson is to briefly introduce each of these.
3. But first, we want to remind ourselves of some general facts about the bible.

I. The bible is a unique book.

S#3.

A. When inventing the printing press, one of the goals was to print bibles.

S#4.

1. In 1440 Johannes Gutenberg adapted Chinese block printing to invent moveable type.
2. By 1452 he was printing the Gutenberg Bible. (*Sold for 3 yrs wages of office worker*)
3. From then until now the bible has been the world's best-selling book.

B. God revealed Himself over time, not all at once.

1. The scriptures were written over a period of approximately 1500 years.
 - a. During that time the world radically changed.

- b. As great empires rose and fell each left its mark on society's cultures.
- 2. Job is considered the oldest book, but the date is unknown.
- 3. The books by Moses were written from about 1445 to 1405 BC (Esther 450-331 BC)
- 4. James is the first book of the N.T. (44-49 AD) and Revelation the last. (90-96 AD)

C. God used many human authors with widely varying backgrounds. S#5.

- 1. Many count 35 writer, but there were more like **40** of them. (*Psalms = 6 writers*)
 - a. 30 contributors to the O.T.
 - b. 10 or 11 writers of the N.T.
- 2. The writes were of widely varied backgrounds.
 - a. O.T. : Shepherds, farmers, warriors, priests, preachers, gov. officials, king
 - b. N.T. : Fishermen, Tax collector, Doctor, Jewish leader
- 3. Most were common men without extensive education except Daniel and Paul.

D. The divisions in God's book were added by men. (bible means = book) S#6.

- 1. There are divisions that are inherent to the book which were not added.
 - a. There are 66 separate writing that have been put into one book, the bible.
 - b. The 39 writing concerning the time under the Law of Moses is called the O.T.
 - c. The 27 writing concerning Jesus and His church are called the N.T.
- * *The word "Testament" means covenant which is an agreement or contract*
- 2. Archbishop Stephen Langton and Cardinal Hugo de Sancto Caro developed the system of 1,189 chapters in the 1227 AD that we use in modern bibles.
- 3. The first English bible to use both chapters and the 31, 173 verses was the Geneva Bible which was printed in 1560.

E. The books of bible are arranged by topic, not by date, author or importance. S#7.

- 1. The Jews divided the O.T. into the Law and the prophets. (**Matt. 7: 12, 22: 40**)
 - * The five books of the Psalms were considered as separate.
- 2. Christians divide the O.T. into five categories :
 - Law, History, Poetry, Major Prophets, Minor Prophets
- 3. Christians divide the N.T. into four categories :
 - History, Epistles of Paul (to Churches – Preachers) General Epistles, Prophecy

F. The bible and most books in it contain various literary styles. S#8.

- 1. It contains history, but is not history written as a historical record.

2. It contains science, but it is not written as a science book.
3. It contains laws, but it is not written as a law book.

G. The styles of the bible make it easy to adapt to every culture.

1. Any legal system has to be constantly updated.
 - a. For example : If a biblical law had dealt with transporting people or cargo, it could not now be universally applied. (or .. eye for and eye)
 - b. An American religion added two books to supplement the bible citing that reason.
 - c. The Romanist cite this reason for giving the church legislative authority.
2. The bible uses styles that contain principles which are universally applicable.
 - a. It is 43% historical narrative. (All the stories teach)
 - b. It is 33% poetry which stimulates the heart to moral values.
 - c. It is 25% pros discourse in which values are taught.
3. Thus, it presents eternal truths which can be universally applied.

II. God first revealed Himself by means of “general revelation.”

S#9.

S#10.

A. The term “*general revelation*” refers to manifestations of God observable by all.

1. General revelations are unending and universal.
 - a. They can be seen in Asia the same as in Europe, Africa or the Americas.
 - b. They could be seen before the flood, in the time of the patriots and are still seen.
2. General revelation does not require faith or education; all people can observe them.
3. Therefore, God declares that no man has any excuse for not seeking God.

Rom. 1: 20 – For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. S#11.

B. The created universe is the most obvious proof of the existence of God.

1. Remember our text :

Psa. 19: 1-4 – The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. 2 Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge. 3 There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard. 4 Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their utterances to the end of the world. In them He has placed a tent for the sun,

2. How can one not acknowledge “the glory of God” when he observes the creation.

C. Consider the creation of mankind.

S#13.

1. **Psa. 139: 13-14** – For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother's womb. **14** I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well.
2. When one considers the complexity of the human body he must acknowledge God.
3. Shared phycology class with medical student who became a believer as a result of his studies of the human body. (*Man still can't totally understand it.*)

D. The conscience and the mind of man reveals his creator.

S#14.

1. **Rom. 2: 14-15** – For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, **15** in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them, **16** on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus. **S#15.**
2. The researchers have found babies as young as six months old already make moral judgments, and they think we may be born with a moral code hard-wired into our brains. (PhysOrg.com)
3. The existence of an innate sense of right and wrong is proof that there is a God.
4. The existence of man's conscience is proof that there is an authority above man.
 - a. No other animal feels regret after killing another animal.
 - b. Animals can be taught to fear consequences, but they don't instinctively feel guilt.

E. The existence of the physical universe proclaims the existence of its creator. **S#16.**

1. This is the premise of both our text and **Rom. 1: 20**
 - a. **Psa. 19: 1-4** – The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. **S#17.**
 - b. **Rom. 1: 20** – For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.
2. The launch of the huddle space telescope has magnified the witness of the universe.
 - a. One cannot help but be awed by the enormity of our universe.
 - b. Hubble reveals an estimated **100 billion** galaxies in the universe. (200 undiscovered)
 - c. There are believed to be in excess of **200 billion** stars in our galaxy.
 - d. The total number of stars is estimated as 1+24 zeros.

III. God also reveals Himself by means of “special revelation” to groups.

S#18.

S#19.

A. God has made special revelations from creation until Christ and his Apostles.

1. God completed His revelation in Jesus.

Heb. 1: 1-2– God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

S#20.

2. Among other things, the coming of Christ was a message from God to us.
3. As part of His mission, the Christ sent His Holy Spirit to inspire the N.T. writers.

B. Special revelation started in the garden and continued through the O.T. S#21.

1. **Gen. 3** ... God pronounced judgment as a result of the fall.
2. **Gen. 6** ... God warned Noah of the coming flood.
3. **Gen. 12** ... God called Abraham to leave his family and follow Him.
4. **Gen. 28 & 35** ... God revealed Himself to Jacob and later spoke to Him.
5. **Exod. 3** ... God spoke to Moses out of the burning bush.
6. **Exod. 19** ... God spoke to the Israelites from the mountain.

C. God revealed Himself to people other than Israel.

1. The bible narrative centers around Israel because they were the seed of Abraham.
2. **Dan. 2** ... God gives Daniel the interpretation to Nebuchadnezzar’s dream.
3. **Dan. 4** ... God reveals His power over Nebuchadnezzar making him graze.
3. **Dan. 5** ... God wrote on the wall of Belshazzar, ruler of Babylon.

D. God reveals His power through various providential events.

CONCLUSION :

A. We know God because God has revealed Himself to us.

S#22.

1. He wrote a book about Himself and how He accomplished His plan in Jesus.
2. He revealed Himself to all mankind in a general way.
3. He also revealed Himself in a special way to specific individuals and groups.

B. God has revealed Himself to you; how will you respond to Him ?

S#23.

S#24. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :

Psalm 19

1 The heavens are telling of the glory of God;
And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.

2 Day to day pours forth speech,
And night to night reveals knowledge.

3 There is no speech, nor are there words;
Their voice is not heard.

4 Their line has gone out through all the earth,
And their utterances to the end of the world.
In them He has placed a tent for the sun,

5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber;
It rejoices as a strong man to run his course.

6 Its rising is from one end of the heavens,
And its circuit to the other end of them;
And there is nothing hidden from its heat.

7 The law of the Lord is perfect, restoring the soul;
The testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.

8 The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.

9 The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever;
The judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether.

10 They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold;
Sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb.

11 Moreover, by them Your servant is warned;
In keeping them there is great reward.

12 Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults.

13 Also keep back Your servant from presumptuous sins;
Let them not rule over me;
Then I will be blameless,
And I shall be acquitted of great transgression.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
Be acceptable in Your sight,
O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.