

Lesson No. 1

What Does the Bible Say About the Natural Knowledge of God?

1. Is it necessary to prove that there is a God?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) **Genesis 1:1.** In the beginning **God**....
- *(b) **Psalm 14:1.** The **fool** has said in his heart, **There is no God.** They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

- (A) The Bible, beginning with its very first words, simply speaks of God as existing;
- (B) It does not consider it necessary to prove that there is a God since only a person who refuses to use his reason would deny or doubt so evident a fact. (Atheism. Agnosticism.)

2. How may all men know by nature that there is a God?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) **Hebrews 3:4.** For every house is built by someone, but **He who built all things is God.**
- *(a) **Psalm 19:1.** The **heavens declare** the glory of God; and the **firmament shows** His handiwork.
- (a) **Romans 1:19, 20.** What may be known of God is manifest in them (the Gentiles), for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are **clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made**, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.
- (b) **Romans 2:15.** (The Gentiles) show the work of the law written in their hearts, their **conscience also bearing witness**, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

All men may know by nature that there is a God

- (A) From the existence of the world;
- (B) From the testimony of their conscience.

3. What do the universe and conscience tell man about God?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a b) **Romans 1:20.** His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His **eternal power** and **Godhead**.
- (c) **Psalm 104:24.** O LORD, how manifold are Your works! In **wisdom** You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions--
- (d) **Acts 14:17.** Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that **He did good**, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.
- (e) **Romans 1:32.** (The Gentiles know) the **righteous judgment** of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death...

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

The universe and conscience tell man that God is

- (A) Eternal (without beginning and without end);
- (B) Powerful;

- (C) Wise;
- (D) Good to His creatures;
- (E) Just (fair and impartial), punishing the evildoers.

4. For what purpose has this natural knowledge of God been given to man?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

Acts 17:26, 27. (God) has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that **they should seek the Lord**, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him...

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

The natural knowledge of God should move man to search after God.

5. Is man's natural knowledge of God sufficient?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

- (a) *Psalm 96:5.* For all **the gods of the peoples are idols**, but the **LORD** made the heavens.
- (a) *Acts 17:23.* As I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: **TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.**
- (b) *Acts 16:29, 30.* Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down **trembling** before Paul and Silas. And he brought them out and said, **“Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”**
- (b) *1 Corinthians 2:9.* **Eye has not seen, nor ear heard**, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.
- (a b) *Ephesians 2:12.* You were without Christ...having **no hope** and **without God** in the world.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

Man's natural knowledge of God is not sufficient because the universe and conscience do not reveal

- (A) Who the true God is;
- (B) How man, the sinner, may escape the punishment of the just God and enter heaven.

6. Which other revelation has God therefore given to man?

THE BIBLE SAYS-

1 Corinthians 2:9, 10, 13. Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. But **God has revealed them to us through His Spirit...** These things we also speak.

FROM THIS WE LEARN-

Since man's natural knowledge of God is altogether insufficient, God has revealed Himself in the Bible. (Revealed knowledge of God.)

Before the Next Lesson

FILL OUT Work Sheet No. 1.

MEMORIZE, if you can, the Bible passages in this lesson marked with an asterisk (*).

† † †

READ Genesis, chapters 1-7. (A chapter a day.)

Work Sheet No. 1

1.

(Check the correct statement.)

- (A) The atheist denies the existence of God because he follows the guidance of his reason.
- (B) The atheist denies the existence of God because he wishes that there were no God.
- (C) The atheist denies the existence of God because he has no way of knowing there is a God.

2.

Name something in nature that impresses you with

- (A) God's power
- (B) God's wisdom.....
- (C) God's goodness.....

3.

(Insert the missing words.)

Conscience tells us that we have and deserve

4.

We sometimes hear people say: "Foreign mission work is a waste of men and money because the heathen already have a religion of their own."

Is this attitude correct? Yes. No.

Give reasons for your answer.....
.....
.....

5.

(Complete these sentences.)

- (A) The natural knowledge of God is that knowledge of God which we get from.....
.....
- (B) The revealed knowledge of God is that knowledge of God which we get from.....
.....