

An “Invisible” God

Intro:

1. Night vision (infrared) goggles – The “invisible” becomes visible.
2. Skeptic: “I don’t *see* God!” Are we naïve because we worship a God we can’t see? *Don’t let this shake you.* Most things we believe in we haven’t seen but accept on evidence. Our judicial system is based on establishing cases that cannot be reproduced.
3. Christians “*walk by faith, not by sight*” (2 Cor 5:7). This faith is not baseless but supported by evidence. How has God chosen to reveal Himself?

1. God Created ...

- A. Rom 1:20-23 – “*His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made.*” God’s attributes, not His will, discerned via the creation.
 1. Power – “*By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible*” (Heb 11:3). Everything man does is fabricated out of what already exists. God created out of *nothing*.
 2. Intelligence – From genetic materials inside a cell to climactic balance to orbital precision of heavenly bodies this world demonstrates *order* and *design*. No “Big Bang” which would have produced only chaos.
 3. Benevolence – “*He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with good and gladness*” (Ac 14:17). These people overwhelmed with this truth, at least temporarily.
- B. “*The heavens declare the glory of God ... firmament shows His handiwork*” (Ps 19:1).

2. God Spoke ...

- A. We can know God *exists* by creation, but what does He *think*? What is His will? His expectations? What does He offer? How does He define *our existence*?
- B. Again, what is the *evidence* that God spoke? Are we trapped in circular reasoning? We believe in God because of what the Bible says? We believe in the Bible because it claims to come from God? What evidence of divine origin?
 1. Knowledge of the future – Is 41:21-23; 42:9; 46:9-11. The Bible contains *specific* prophecies, not the vague generalizations of psychics and astrologers. Kings

mentioned by name, nations rising and falling, battles won/lost. These were fulfilled not by partisans but ignorant/enemies of God. **God knew the future because He controlled events.**

2. A lack of contradictions. All publications have “Corrections” section. But Scriptures written by 40 men/1500 years. Some write poetry/legislation/history/complex philosophical treatises. Each contributes piece of whole. **One seamless story incorporated into the flow of verifiable history.**
3. Instructions to “work.” From marriage to parenthood to civic duty to employment to socialization to emotional health to finances to moral standards to gender differences God’s instructions work. **The ills of society are due to men not listening to and abiding by what God has taught. Our Creator knows us better than we know ourselves.**

3. God Came ...

- A. The Bible makes astounding claims about Jesus. He was not born of natural generation; He was not just an advanced thinker or innovative philosopher. He was “God with us.” Circular reasoning again? Evidence?
 1. He **created**: Water out of wine; food out of insufficient quantity; health out of infirmity; life out of grave. Power, intelligence, benevolence all present in acts.
 2. He **spoke**: As one with authority (Mt 7:24-29). His teaching has been scrutinized for 2000 years. His enemies could not defeat Him then, and they cannot impeach His doctrines, moral standards, claims now.
 3. He was **benevolent**: He “went about doing good” (Ac 10:38).
- C. He told Philip: *“Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father ...”* (Jn 14:9). *“No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him”* (Jn 1:18).

Conclusion: Why doesn’t God just show Himself? Because unbelief is strong enough to exist in His presence. True belief will see God as He has revealed Himself. **1 Pet 1:8** – *“Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith – the salvation of your souls.”*