

WHY BELIEVE IN GOD, Ps.19 PT2

Questions for Christians #3

◆**Intro:** Philosopher Immanuel Kant, is quoted as saying, “Two things fill the mind with ever new and increasing admiration and awe, the more often and steadily we reflect upon them: the starry heavens above me and the moral law within me. I do not seek or conjecture either of them as if they were veiled obscurities or extravagances beyond the horizon of my vision; I see them before me and connect them immediately with the consciousness of my existence.” **READ TEXT HERE** Last week we considered the heavens, the work of God’s fingers (Ps.19, Ps. 8), the “starry host” and how it points to a Creator God. This week we turn to the “moral law within”, the second half of Ps.19, for we agree with Kant that it is so significantly a remarkable reality, that it must cause us to ponder life itself and the question “Why believe in God?”

◆Last week we looked at three cosmological clues to the reality of God’s existence: 1) The Big Bang theory 2) the science Laws of Cause & Effect, and the Law of contingency 3) the obviously complex design in the universe that strongly suggest an intelligence behind it. Today we’ll finish up with 6 more clues all of which involve the most fascinating piece of creation: mankind.

◆**Clue 4. The Human Fit.** read Ps.8 here...

◆The Anthropic Principle is the term scientists have given this observation that all of created reality seems intelligently designed specifically for human life (anthropos). Everything lines up just so, making human life possible. Francis Collins wrote (*Language*

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of God) that there are some 15 constants (gravity, nuclear forces in atoms, etc) with precise values. He explains that if any one of those constants were off by one part in a million, sometimes one in a million millions, we could not have gotten the universe we know. Matter would not have been able to coalesce, etc. Other scientists today claim there are 140 constants that are necessary for human life.

◆ Now think about the odds that the unthinking universe would just happen to throw up just once such a perfect hand of cards, such as our earth, with all those exactitudes necessary for human beings. Is it possible that you and I play cards, and on every hand I just happen to deal myself all four aces? Sure it's possible, just as it is possible that out of all random cards of the universe our planet is the one that just happened to produce all aces (constants) needed for human life to exist. But, if you are playing cards with me and I deal myself 4 aces even twice or three times, it would be unreasonable for you NOT to believe there was something was going on! So it is perfectly reasonable to believe that there is some mind or purpose behind our universe. The perfect fit universe is another clue to the existence of God and the veracity of the Bible.

◆ "You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honour. 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

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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!" Psalms 8:5-9, NIV.

◆"God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."" Genesis 1:28, NIV.

◆"The highest heavens belong to the LORD, but the earth he has given to man." Psalms 115:16, NIV.

◆You see, the theology of God's Word lines up perfectly with the study of God's world. Bible has been saying all along the very things science is affirming! It's reason to consider it's truth and it's reliability when it urges us to follow God.

◆Clue 5. Human Meaning

◆Like it or not we humans wonder about meaning. No other part of creation does this as far as we can tell. Atheism and evolutionism answer that there is no meaning. All things are random. Yet people everywhere have an innate longing for meaning and reason, and purpose. Why? How do you explain that? Usually an innate desire corresponds to something in reality. CS Lewis reasons: "A baby feels hunger, well there is such thing a food. A duckling wants to swim: well there is such a thing as water. Men feel sexual desire: well there is such a thing as sex. If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for

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another world.” He’s saying it’s reasonable to ponder God, and heaven, and true meaning. Now this isn’t proof that there is a God, but people in all times, all cultures, and all places have been religious. Isn’t it reasonable therefore, to suspect that there is a corresponding reality to this religious nature of mankind?

◆ Lewis continues, “If the whole universe has no meaning, we should never have found out that it has no meaning: just as if there were no light in the universe, and therefore no creatures with eyes, we should never know it was dark.”

◆ *“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end.” Ecclesiastes 3:11, NIV.*

◆ Inside we long for significance beyond our days. That’s what it means that we have eternity in our hearts. *Everyone senses that there has to be more. If it’s a fingerprint left by God on our hearts,* we have a reasonable answer to it. If not, we have nothing really, but to say the world is irrational, meaningless, and doubtful. This is exactly what happened with plasma physicist Eric Lerner, author of *The Big Bang Never Happened*. Faced with the growing evidence of intelligent design, finite time and a definite point of creation that the Big Bang Theory indicates, – rather than admit the possibility of a creator, he opts to believe that the Law of Entropy must have broken down somehow. He chooses to say there is no meaning we can find and that even the laws we seen in nature must not really be true. This is just as

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much a faith statement as any religion, perhaps a bigger one considering the data.

◆Clue 6. Human Morality

◆All humanity has a sense that some things are right and some wrong. That there is justice, and injustice, fairness and unfairness. We call this Moral Law (the second half of Ps.19). It is not a law like a science law that describes what happens when this or that takes place. (Like gravity tells you that when you let go of a brick it will head downward almost always landing on your big toe.) Moral Law tells us what human being *ought* to do, and ought not to do. And we find it is in every human society. We don't call a line crooked if we have no idea of a straight line. Now where did we get the idea of just and unjust? Of "ought"? Why is it that all across time and space, humans sense that when we do something shabby we feel badly, or responsible or uncomfortable? Some animals kill their own and eat each other without a shrug. So how do you account for our sense of morality, and that the same morality is basically universal? Unless... there is a power, a mind, a being that has declared some things good and some things not good.

◆Neither science nor evolutionism in particular can account for the moral "ought", or even speak to this. Where did morality come from if we are mere "accidental collocations of atoms" (atheist Bertrand Russell). Sometimes the evolutionist will suppose that this trait (morality or belief in God) was another of

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those that help the "survival of the fittest", so it got wired into our genes although there really isn't such a thing as morality or God. But this argument is self-defeating in two ways 1) moral law doesn't fit with evolution because it often tells us to do that which is not to our benefit or survival at all, like jumping in a frozen lake to save your *enemy*, or telling the truth when it gets you in trouble. That kind of gene should have died out by now according to natural selection 2)...because if we can't trust the our belief-forming faculties, why should we believe them when they say there isn't a God, or that evolution is the way the world came to be? However, if a holy God created humanity in his image then we know why there is a moral code programmed into our consciences.

◆ **Clue 7. Human rights:** (really a subset of morality)

◆ You may find a man who says there is no such thing as right and wrong, but if you tell him you intend to chop off his arm because you don't like him, he will tell you it's wrong. You may believe that truth is *relative* to the person. But then if you go to a foreign land and insist that all humans have the rights you believe in, and they belong there too, you have no leg to stand on. If right and wrong only depend on you or your culture, we cannot fault the Nazi's for killing 6 million Jews or Isis for bombing Christians in their own churches. They felt it was right and even moral in their culture. If moral beliefs are culturally created, you

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cannot complain that a Middle Eastern culture dominates women, or allows the sexual enslavement its youth.

◆ However, if we are all created in the image of a real God, human rights makes perfect sense as every individual is sacred by Gods declaration. Secular thinkers believe there is no God and no meaning to life and still maintain that some things are wrong even though they have no reason to back it up. This is absurd. But if the world is made by a God of peace, justice and love, then we have a *reason* for knowing that violence, oppression, and hate are wrong. Another clue! If you believe that human rights are a reality, then it makes much more sense that God exists than that he does not. -Keller 163

◆ **Clue 8. The Human Enigma**

◆ People everywhere are haunted by this idea of some sort of behavior that is right, that ought to be practiced. *At the same time* people everywhere often chose NOT to obey that idea of right, that is, we choose to go with the wrong. That is an enigma, a puzzling mystery. Man is a unique mixture of greatness and wretchedness, altruism and evil at the same time (Pascal).

Human nature is a paradox. We can calculate exactly where we are on the earth with satellite triangulation and mathematics. Those same geniuses rape, rob and enslave. What accounts for this? The reality of a creating God is the most plausible answer to the good/evil nature of man. Man is great because God made him in His image. Man is horrifying because he sinned and has

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broken that image. Our whole race has been infected by moral evil. The naturalist might try to explain man's altruism as a something that helped him survive. But it cannot explain man's evil, for evil always destroys. By the theory of natural selection, evil should have died off long ago, but we all know it has not.

◆ *"For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images ... Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts..." Romans 1:21-24, NIV.*

◆ Clue 9. Human Reason

◆ How can rational enterprises such as logic, mathematics, and science be reasonably justified when the human mind, which alone processes such things, is a result of non-thinking, irrational, accidental, process? How can the lesser (non-living, non-thinking matter) create the greater (living, and reasoning beings)? This requires more blind faith than belief in God, because we never see that happen in nature. It takes a greater leap of faith to posit that...

- ◆ -nothing creates itself into something.
- ◆ -life comes from non-life
- ◆ -persons come from the impersonal
- ◆ -order results from disorder (exact opposite of Entropy; Second Law of Thermal Dynamics)

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◆-morality comes from the nonmoral

◆-reason results from the non-rational.

◆On the other hand, as Tim Keller put it *The Reason for God*, "The theory that there is a God who made the world accounts for the evidence we see better than the theory that there is no God. Those who argue against the existence of God go right on using induction, language, and their cognitive faculties, all of which make for more sense in a universe in which a God has created and supports them all by his power." Keller. 146

◆**Conclusion:** Dave Stroder: "The theory that a powerful deity created the world brings the most logical explanation to the issues of design, morality, and the soul. If an omnipotent, wise and intelligent God created the natural universe, then we can understand why the world has beauty, music, balance and order. If a holy God created humanity in his image then we know why there is a moral code programmed into our consciences. If a personal God desires a relationship with his creation, then we can recognize where the longing in the human soul originates and why nothing in this world will satisfy it's yearning." Now we openly admit that we cannot prove the existence of God. That is we cannot put him in a test tube and study him, or unequivocally demonstrate beyond a shadow of a doubt that God exists. But what we can do is observe how belief in a Creator God actually accounts for the data around us better than the alternatives. He has left us many clues, and his fingerprints are everywhere. Therefore it is reasonable to believe in Him. What does this mean for us? Why should I believe in God?

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- ◆ *"And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him." Hebrews 11:6, NIV.*
- ◆ He rewards those who seek him!
- ◆ "And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life." 1 John 5:11, 12, NIV.
- ◆ Praise God for his love and grace. Praise God for his Son.