24. The Book of Psalms 19:1-4

Is God Real?

a message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier (11-2-25)

Find this week's sermon audio and video message HERE.

This morning I'd like to draw your attention to Psalm 19—another psalm of David.

I'd like to use this psalm to launch us into a series I'm calling—"Is God Real?"

Psalm 19 is one of the greatest passages in the Bible to answer that question—or to put it another way—"How do we know God exists?"

Let me begin with the basics—God is a *super-natural* Being. In other words, He exists outside or beyond the *natural* realm—whereas man is a *natural* being. The Bible says that God is Spirit—which means that He is invisible to the human eye, as well as incomprehensible to all of our natural human senses.

Those beings that live in the supernatural realm (God and the angels He created) can interact with those in the natural (physical) realm—whereas human beings in the physical realm cannot interact with spirit-beings in the supernatural realm. Or in other words, we who are physical are *locked in* or <u>trapped</u> in the physical realm.

Because the natural man is trapped in a 'box' we call the 4-dimensional physical universe—there is no way he can 'poke a hole in the box' climb out and find God—no matter how long you look at your belly button and say 'ooommmhh'!

Now there are many people in the occult who use techniques like: visualization, Transcendental Meditation, Tarot cards, Ouija boards and other techniques to interact with the spirit realm. The Bible calls these practices 'divination' and condemns and forbids them—why?

Because God knows that the devil and his demons use these things to deceive people into thinking they are crossing the barrier that separates the natural realm from the supernatural.

But in reality, it is nothing more than the devil deceiving them into thinking that's what is going on so he can feed them false doctrine (lies) from the ascended 'white masters' (demons) or dead loved ones (also demons) supposedly from the 'other side' that will, if embraced, destroy them in hell forever.

No matter how sincere a person is and how hard they try they are incapable of reaching beyond the boundaries of the physical, natural realm they find themselves trapped in—and therefore are incapable of knowing or understanding anything about the *supernatural* God.

Many centuries ago, Job asked the rhetorical question—"Can a man by searching find God?" And the answer of course is—NO!

As one pastor said,

"We can't expect the bug in the bottle to understand the little boy that put it there anymore than we can expect the natural man with his natural capacities to understand the supernatural God—unless that God chose to condescend and reveal Himself to man."

That last statement becomes the foundation for this series.

The only way for the natural man to know the supernatural God is if that God *condescends* to <u>reveal</u> Himself to man.

A revelation is something that is made known to us by God—it is something that would be impossible for us to know through human logic or intelligence or our normal 5-sense capabilities—it is knowledge that comes through divine input.

When we talk about revelations from God to us there are 2 kinds: 1) Natural; and 2) Special.

- Natural revelation is God's revelation of Himself in <u>creation</u> (Psalm 19:1-6).
- Special revelation is God's revelation of Himself in Scripture. (Psalm 19:7-14)

Natural revelation gives us knowledge about God in general (He exists, He is powerful, He loves beauty and color, etc.). And yet there are many things about God that *natural* revelation (things found in creation/nature) can't tell us about Him.

And that is why God also gave us special revelation.

Special revelation is where God got 'up-close and personal' with us by introducing Himself to us, telling us His name, what He loves, what He hates, and how we can know Him personally etc.). Of course, the ultimate example of special revelation (which we're about to celebrate in a few weeks) that revealed God to man more fully and completely than anything He had previously given was—the incarnation.

The incarnation was the climax, the summit—the highest revelation of God to mankind that allowed us to see the invisible God in a way we had never seen Him before in all the years of limited revelation He had previously given to mankind (primarily through the Jewish people).

Some of the ways God revealed Himself to man in the past was through—prophets, angels, visions, and dreams—but by far the greatest example of *special revelation* was the <u>incarnation</u>.

It was thru the incarnation that God took the revelation of Himself from—*limited* disclosure to <u>full disclosure</u> by invading the 'box' (the physical realm) *Personally* in the Person of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 1:1-2 (NKJV)

¹God, who at different times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets [Old Testament], ² has in these last days spoken to us by *His* Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds...

John 1:1-3, 14 (NKJV)

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made... ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

So, coming back to our original question that became the theme of this series—"How can we know God exists?"

Colossians 1:15-16 (NKJV)

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

So, once again, how can we know God exists?

Well, if the invisible God created the visible universe and everything in it—then the visible creation would be the empirical proof for the existence of the invisible God.

I. Natural Revelation

A. The Creation (outward revelation)

Romans 1:19-20 (NKJV)

- ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.
- ²⁰ 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,

Paul said here in Romans chapter one that God has revealed Himself so clearly to the people of this world through His creation that anyone who denies the existence of God or who pleads ignorance when it comes to believing in the existence of God—He will hold them personally accountable on the day of judgment.

Psalm 19:1-4a (NKJV)

¹ The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. ² Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge. ³ *There is* no speech nor language *Where* their voice is not heard. ⁴ Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their words to the end of the world...

The Bible never tries to prove the existence of God, it doesn't need to—the creation does that!

Let me give you 3 arguments from creation that proves the existence of God.

- 1. The Cosmological Argument
- 2. The Teleological Argument
- 3. The Moral Argument

(Taken from Norm Geisler's series—"12 Points that Prove Christianity is True")

1. The Cosmological Argument

The word *cosmological* comes from the word 'cosmos'—which is the study of the universe. The Cosmological Argument for the existence of God has 2 parts to it:

a. Everything that had a beginning had a cause.

Now the question is—did the physical universe have a beginning?

I ask that question because for many years scientists maintained the belief that the universe was *eternal* and therefore had no beginning which meant—it didn't need a cause.

However, as their understanding of the universe increased through the use of more powerful telescopes, they realized that the universe is growing old and wearing out—energy is being used up, stars are dying—the universe is running down and moving towards an end.

This caused scientists to begin talking about its eventual 'heat death'.

They use the term 'heat death' to describe a time in the future (billions of years from now they believe) when the universe will eventually reach a uniform temperature (planets, stars) which they believe will be around absolute zero (-460°F) and therefore will have no more heat to produce energy to accomplish any useful work.

In other words, the universe is growing old, it's wearing out and will eventually die—even as God said in His Word:

Psalm 102:25-26 (NKJV)

²⁵ Of old You laid the foundation of the earth, And the heavens are the work of Your hands.

²⁶ They will perish, but You will endure; Yes, they will all grow old like a garment...

This is the greatest argument from science that proves the universe had a beginning—the immutable law that scientists refer to as: <u>The second law of thermodynamics</u>.

The first law of thermodynamics says that the amount of <u>actual</u> energy in the universe remains constant—the second law says the amount of <u>usable</u> energy is decreasing. Or as scientists tell us—in a closed isolated system (which evolutionists believe the universe is), the amount of usable energy decreases.

Things are running down, wearing out, rusting, going from order to disorder—it's called <u>entropy</u>. The universe is running down which means it isn't eternal as scientists once thought—its usable energy is being depleted.

Robert Jastrow, the great agnostic, and founder of the Goddard Institute for Space Research and noted astrophysicist said: "Once hydrogen has been burned within a star and converted to heavier elements it can never be restored to its original state. Minute by minute, year by year as hydrogen is used up by the stars the supply of this element in the universe grows smaller."

This is one of the most firmly established of all scientific laws—there are no known exceptions to the second law of thermodynamics, that in a closed system it always runs down and burns up its usable energy.

The idea behind a closed system like the universe is that—nothing from outside the universe is replenishing the energy that is being used up.

So, the universe is a closed system and it's burning up its usable fuel bringing it to an end.

But here's the problem (for the atheistic evolutionist)—since scientists have come to realize the universe is going to have an end, that means—<u>it had to have a beginning!</u> And if the universe had a beginning it had to have a *cause* that brought it into existence—it's called <u>the principle of causality</u>.

Everything that exists that is going to have an end had to have a beginning—and everything that had a beginning had to have a beginning cause—because nothing can't produce something!

Even David Hume, the most ardent skeptic that ever lived agreed with this and said, "I never asserted so absurd a proposition as that anything might arise without a cause."

Norm Geisler, "The principle of causality is the fundamental principle behind all science and all rational thought; only a fool would deny it".

So, our first point under the *cosmological argument* for the existence of God is: **A. Everything that had a beginning had a cause.**

b. The universe had a beginning; therefore the universe had a cause or a Beginner

Look, either the first verse in the Bible is true, "In the beginning God (the divine Cause) created everything"—or else we are left with the absurd premise which evolution is built upon—"In the beginning, everything came from nothing all by itself."

Now when scientists realized the universe was going to have an end (which meant it had to have a beginning which meant it had to have a beginning cause)—they of course were unwilling to accept the notion that God was the divine Cause that produced the universe.

So, in their pride, arrogance and hard-hearted unbelief, they had to come up with another explanation for the existence of the physical universe—hence, 'the Big Bang Theory!'

Isaac Asimov, professor at Boston University and an atheist, gave this explanation for the beginning of the universe: "There was a state of nothingness once and then 'Bang' there was something... when you have nothing you have 2 possibilities—either it can remain nothing or it can become something—guess what it became something."

That is the best explanation the evolutionist can come up with for the origin of the universe.

In response to that idea, someone asked the question, "If that's true, I wonder how long it would take for an empty garage to produce a Cadillac?"

But Asimov was not alone—British scientist and atheist, Anthony Kinney said: "According to the Big Bang Theory, the whole matter of the universe began to exist at a particular time in the remote past. A proponent of such a theory, at least if he's an atheist, must believe that the matter of the universe came from nothing and by nothing."

So, for the atheist, "Nobody times nothing equals everything!"

Quoting again from Robert Jastrow,

"Now we see how the astronomical evidence supports the biblical view of the origin of the world...the

essential elements in the astronomical and biblical account of Genesis are the same. Consider the enormousness of the problem: Science has proved that the universe exploded into being at a certain moment. It asks what cause produced this effect? Who or what put the matter and energy into the universe? Science cannot answer these questions.

For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock—he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been there for centuries." [Yeah, sitting there reading the Book of Genesis!]

Alright, the next argument after the Cosmological Argument for the existence of God is—

2. The Teleological Argument

This is the argument from design.

The **teleological argument** basically contends that—every design has to have a *designer*, every composition has a composer, every painting has to have a painter, every sculpture has to have sculptor—this is just simple common sense!

Therefore, if the universe in general and life in particular demonstrates highly complex design—it would prove that the universe and life had to have a Designer.

The only thing we need to determine is—does the universe and life demonstrate design?

a. Life demonstrates complex design

Dr. Norm Geisler gives this illustration,

"Let's say you're on the beach and you look up into the sky and you see—'Drink Coca Cola.' What do you assume? Unusual cloud formation or that some intelligent being put the message there?

Even atheists assume the latter, because that little message—'Drink Coca Cola' took an intelligent being to put it together and natural elements (wind, rain, and storm) never produce—'Drink Coca Cola' in the sky.

Or you get up tomorrow and notice that the alphabet cereal has been spilled all over the table and right in the middle it says—'Take out the garbage-mom' What do you assume? An earthquake knocked over the cereal? The wind blew on it and arranged the letters? NO!

Natural forces will never produce—'Take out the garbage-mom' when you spill the alphabet cereal on the table—only intelligent beings can give it—'specified complexity' which is the technical scientific term."

→ (Listen for Grand Canyon/Mt. Rushmore illustration)

The problem with many scientists is that they refuse to acknowledge the 'specified' complexity in nature that points to a Creator.

In his book, *The Blind Watchmaker*, Oxford University professor Richard Dawkins, a leading evolutionist, calls biology, "...the study of complicated things that gives the appearance of having been designed for a purpose."

Romans 1:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness...

There is enough coded genetic information in a single-celled organism equal to the information in Webster's Unabridged Dictionary.

Now would anyone in their right mind believe that Webster's Unabridged Dictionary resulted from an explosion in a printing shop?

Or as the book, "<u>Tornado in a Junkyard: The Relentless Myth of Darwinism</u>" by James Perloff proposes.

But that's how ridiculous it is to believe that there is no Intelligence behind the complexity we see in even simple life on the earth.

- Even "Darwin's bulldog" Richard Dawkins admits that every cell contains in its nucleus: "a digitally coded database larger than all 30 volumes of the Encyclopedia Britannica put together."
- According to Carl Sagan, "...the human brain has enough genetic information that if spelled out in English would fill the library of congress—20 million volumes (in the mid 90's)!"

Yet Sagan, before he died and other biological evolutionists continue to tell us—that all of this happened through random forces and natural processes without any intelligent intervention and design.

Years ago, Carl Sagan received a lot of money from the government for his S.E.T.I. (Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence) project, which used radio telescopes to listen for radio waves coming from outer space to try and determine if there was intelligent life out there trying to communicate with us.

The main criterion was that the radio waves had to have order or a pattern to them to prove intelligent life was trying to communicate to us—they searched for years and found nothing.

One day Dr. A.E. Wilder-Smith, a Christian and brilliant man with several earned Ph.D.'s said to Sagan: "Carl, get rid of your radio telescope and come with me into the laboratory and look through the electron microscope and I'll show you a digital code on the helix of DNA that is ordered and proves that there is outside intelligence."

Carl Sagan refused to look into the microscope.

The Bible talks about those people who are 'willingly ignorant' and therefore will have no excuse when they stand before God on the Day of Judgment.

We'll continue looking at our series "Is God Real?" next time.

If you would like to know more about what it means to be a Jesus-follower— please, reach out to us. It would be our greatest privilege to lead you into a saving relationship with Jesus Christ.

Reach out to us <u>here</u>.

Catch this weeks' audio, video, study and sermon notes **HERE**.