

27. The Book of Psalms 19:7-14

Is God Real? (Part 4)

a message by Pastor Phil Ballmaier
(11-23-25)

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This morning, we find ourselves in Psalm 19 which we have used 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 can we know God exists?"

As we said last time, God is a *supernatural* Being which means He exists outside or beyond the *natural* realm.

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.

And therefore, the only way for us to know anything about Him (starting with His very existence) is if He chooses to reveal Himself to us—which is exactly what He did!

Now when it comes to how the invisible, supernatural God revealed Himself to mankind—He gave us two kinds of revelations about Himself: **1) Natural**; and **2) Special**.

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

I. Natural Revelation

The creation proves that God exists—which of course, is exactly what David said in the first part of Psalm 19:

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...

Now as wonderful a revelation of God the natural world is, it can only go so far in revealing God to us. That is why God also gave us **special revelation**.

II. Special Revelation

Special revelation is the personal, specific revelation of God to us of Himself through Scripture.

The Scriptures are the written revelation of God to man—His character, His righteousness, etc. This is what David goes on to say in Psalm 19:

Psalm 19:7–9 (NKJV)

⁷ The law of the Lord *is* perfect, converting the soul; The testimony of the Lord *is* sure, making wise the simple; ⁸ The statutes 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 *and* righteous altogether.

In verses 7-9 David uses six different titles for God's Word—

1. The *Law* of the Lord
2. The *Testimony* of the Lord
3. The *Statutes* of the Lord
4. The *Commandment* of the Lord
5. The *Fear* of the Lord
6. The *Judgments* of the Lord

These are expressing different aspects or facets of God's word—like looking at the multiple facets of a diamond.

I'd like to divide this second half of our series taken from Psalm 19 where we will be focusing on **special revelation** (the Word of God) into 4 categories—

- A. The Origin of the Word of God
- B. The Uniqueness of the Word of God
- C. The Transforming Power of the Word of God
- D. The Pricelessness of the Word of God

The first category on special revelation:

- A. The Origin of the Word of God

The very first time we have a record of God speaking is in the third verse of the Bible—

Genesis 1:1–3 (NKJV)

¹ In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. ² The earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. ³ **Then God said...**

Within the first few verses of the Bible, we learn that there is a God, that He is a powerful, intelligent Being who created everything and that He speaks—that He is a *communicative* God. Later we learn He desires to communicate with *us* and did so through His spoken Word—much of which was written down and became His Holy Scriptures ('*writings*' i.e., the Bible).

This is where God gets “*up close and personal*” with us by introducing Himself to us, telling us His name and personal information about Himself that we couldn’t learn from the creation.

It is also in the pages of Scripture that God tells us about man—***the reason and purpose for which we were created***. That we were created for eternity and will live forever in one of two places—either in heaven or hell.

These are questions mankind has grappled with from the beginning of time—questions such as: “*Why am I here?*”, “*What is life really about?*” And most importantly, “*What happens to me after I die?*”

All of these questions and many others God has answered in the pages of Scripture.

Old Testament scholar Gleason Archer puts it this way:

“How then can we know God or His will for our lives? Only if He reveals Himself to us! Unless He Himself tells us, we can never know for sure the answers to those questions which matter most to us as human beings. At this point it is important to observe that the Bible presents itself as the written revelation of God. This purports to be a Book in which God gives us the answers to the great questions which concern our soul, and which all the wisdom and science of man are powerless to solve with any degree of certainty.”

So, the God of all creation Who has revealed Himself through the physical universe not only speaks but desires to speak to us, and has done so down through the centuries—How?

Hebrews 1:1 (NKJV)

God, who at different times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers [*the Jewish patriarchs*] by the prophets...

The Old Testament **special revelation** came at different times and in various ways—and became God’s *progressive* revelation to mankind.

Scripture is *progressive* revelation in the sense that it goes from partial to complete—from the *limited* disclosure of God to the *full* disclosure of Himself to man (on this side of glory).

The word “*spoke*” in Hebrews 1:1 is the Greek word ‘apokalupto’ and it means to “*unveil something that was previously hidden*.”

That’s what revelation is—it’s the act by which God makes Himself known to us and without which there could be no knowledge of God.

One pastor put it well—

“Here we are on this little planet, trapped on Earth, bound by time and space sensing deep within ourselves that somewhere out there, there is some kind of intelligent Being Who created all of this. We call Him God, but we haven’t got any way to attain any information about Him.

*Satan has told us that there are many roads that will lead us to this God, so man has invented one religion after another in the hopes of reaching God—but these are nothing more than philosophical systems of faith that come from the mind of man. Whereas the Bible says that God at various times and in different ways **spoke**...”*

Some of the ways God has revealed divine truth to us in the past include—angels, dreams, visions, prophets, theophanies (appearances of God in the Old Testament), and even audibly from heaven.

But by far the greatest *revelation from God* was the *incarnation of God*—where God Himself (by becoming a Man) entered into the natural realm and dwelt among us in the Person of Jesus Christ!

Therefore, we could say with absolute certainty that the *culmination* of OT special revelation was the incarnation!

The incarnation was the climax, the summit—the highest revelation of God to mankind which allowed us to know the invisible God in a way we had never been able to know Him before through all the years of limited revelation He had previously given to us.

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], ²has 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, 14 (NKJV)

¹In the beginning was the Word...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.

- Jesus—*“If you’ve seen Me you have seen the Father for I and the Father are one.”* (John 14:9)
- Paul—*“Jesus Christ is the visible image of the invisible God.”* (Colossians 1:15)

So, man has no excuse for not knowing God—unless he chooses to be ‘*willfully ignorant*’ with regard to the existence of God. In that case, the revelation of God given to man (primarily through His word) if rejected or ignored will not save him but will only serve to condemn him!—

John 12:47–48 (NKJV)

⁴⁷ And if anyone hears My words and does not believe, I do not judge him; for I did not come to judge the world but to save the world. ⁴⁸ He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.

We often think that a person doesn’t believe in God because they lack information and all we need to do is provide the missing information and ‘viola’—people would automatically get saved!

But in reality, the truth is that often the problem isn’t in their head—it’s in their heart! (Psalm 14:1)

They *willfully* reject the knowledge of God that He has given to them (and to all mankind) in the form of natural and special revelation. The reason so many refuse to commit themselves to believing in God is because—then they would have to acknowledge His authority over their life, and they can’t handle the thought of that!

So, they either have to do away with God altogether (atheism) or create for themselves a god who is consistent with the lifestyle they want to live which is idolatry! (Elaborate)

For the person who wants to live in sin they really only have two choices—

- Believe in God and live with the guilt of disobedience (but that feels lousy)—or*
- Do away with God altogether—no God no guilt!*

One final point—yes, the Bible says, “*The fool says in his heart there is no God*” (Psalm 14:1)—but the greater fool is someone who *does* believe in God but then lives like He doesn’t exist—they will incur the greater judgment!

So, our first point under the heading of ‘**Special Revelation**’ (the Bible) is: **A. The Origin of the Word of God** (as recorded in the Old Testament).

Our second point is:

B. The Uniqueness of the Word of God

The main thing that makes the Bible unique among all the other books and writings of man is that the Bible is *inspired* by God!

2 Timothy 3:16–17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God [‘God-breathed’], and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

As Christians we believe that the Bible is *God-breathed* and *inerrant*. Inerrancy simply means that the Bible does not have any errors of fact or any statements that contradict in the original manuscripts.

All apparent contradictions in Scripture are just that “*apparent*” and not *actual*—which logically flows from the idea that “*all Scripture is God-breathed*” (given by God).

If all Scripture has been given by God, and God is perfect and incapable of error—then it only stands to reason that the Scriptures are absolutely true, error free and perfect as God Himself is perfect. (Psalm 19:7)

This makes the Bible (Scripture) unique—and yet far more than that, it’s a miracle book!

1) The Bible is a composite of 66 books written by 40 different authors from all walks of life—for example:

- *Moses* was a political leader trained in the universities of Egypt.
- *Peter* was a *fisherman*
- *Amos* was a *herdsman*
- *Joshua* was a *military leader*
- *Nehemiah* was a *cupbearer*
- *Daniel* was a *prime minister*
- *Luke* was a *physician*
- *Solomon* was a *king*
- *Matthew* was a *tax collector*
- *Paul* was a *rabbi*

2) It was written over a 1600-year period (1500 B.C—100 A.D.).

3) It was written on 3 different continents: Asia, Africa and Europe.

4) It was written in 3 different languages: Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek.

- 5) It was written at different times: David wrote in times of war and adversity, Solomon in times of peace and prosperity. It was written in times of freedom and in times of slavery.
- 6) It was written during different moods: Some writing from the heights of joy while others wrote from the depths of sorrow and despair (which any writer will tell you has a great impact and effect on the writings).
- 7) Its authors wrote on dozens of controversial subjects: A controversial subject is one that would create opposing opinions when brought up and discussed.

One author said this—

“The biblical writers wrote about such things as the Person and nature of God, the origin of the universe and mankind. The fall and redemption of human beings. Life after death. They wrote about sin, eternity, heaven, hell and so on. All of these subjects when mentioned would be met with opposing views and opinions. Go to any coffee shop or university campus and ask some of these questions and see if you don’t get as many different opinions as there are people.”

Think about it—here was one man, on one continent, in one society, one culture, one language, one walk of life, one mood, writing about a controversial subject.

A thousand years later, you have another man, from another culture, living on another continent, from another society, another language, another walk of life, different mood writing about that same controversial subject—and when the two are brought together there is absolute harmony!

The biblical writers wrote on literally dozens of controversial subjects with perfect harmony and continuity from beginning to the end (Genesis through Revelation).

The Bible may have been written through 40 different penmen—but it had one Author—the Holy Spirit!

This, in fact, that is one of the most powerful proofs of the divine inspiration of the Bible.

➔ Listen for story about Josh McDowell and Don Stewart and ‘*Great Books of the Western World*.’

The Bible is a miracle—one unfolding story from Genesis to Revelation of God’s redemptive plan for mankind.

In the OT through the coming Messiah, in the NT through the Messiah that has come—and yet both the Old and New Testaments fit together perfectly and intricately from start to finish as one book written by a single author!

Geisler and Nix in their *General Introduction to the Bible* put it this way:

“In Genesis you have paradise lost and in Revelation you have paradise regained. You can’t understand Revelation without Genesis and you can’t understand Genesis without Revelation—it’s all woven together so intricately it’s like a beautiful tapestry. It actually becomes one book with 66 chapters—one unfolding story from beginning to the end.”

F.F. Bruce, Christian scholar, professor and author—

“No part of the human body can be properly explained outside the context of the whole body—so no part of the Bible can be properly explained or understood outside the context of the Bible as a whole.”

Augustine—*“In the Old Testament you have the New Testament concealed, and in the New Testament you have the Old Testament revealed.”*

The Bible is the only religious book in the world that speaks of the unknown with the same authority and confidence as it does the known things of history.

The Bible speaks of future things with the same authority and confidence—and in the case of fulfilled prophecy—the same accuracy as it does of historical events.

The Bible has no equal including the sacred writings of any other religion.

Professor M. Montiero-Williams, former Boden professor of Sanskrit who spent 42 years studying eastern books and sacred writings said in comparing them to the Bible:

“Pile them if you will on the left side of your table but place your own Holy Bible on the right side all by itself, all alone and with a wide gap between them.

For there is a gulf between the Bible and the so-called sacred books of the East which severs the one from the other utterly, hopelessly and forever...a veritable gulf which cannot be bridged over by any science of religious thought.”

In other words—the Bible is unique and stands alone when compared to the sacred writings of the religions of the world.

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.

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