

Danger Zone

Denial

Psalm 53:1

February 9, 2020 am

HDBC

A Danger Zone is an area in which there is a high risk of harm, especially where this risk has been officially identified. *You see them when driving down a highway. Construction zones are often label *danger zones*. When we were in Israel and were driving through the Golan Heights we saw *danger zone* signs because areas still contained land mines dating back to previous wars.*

When you see a ***Danger Zone*** sign it is a warning to stay away, avoid that area. If you ignore the sign you could get hurt or killed. Those signs are for our protection. They are there to help us avoid disaster.

Starting a new series this morning about **Danger Zones** that relate to our spiritual lives. The danger zones that we will consider are serious! Avoiding these four zones is of paramount importance. In fact your **eternal destiny** depends upon it. So, from the start, let me say that this is a critical series, not only for us, but also for many people we know. I hope you will invite others to come, especially those who might be in danger. I also hope you will share the messages after they are posted on FB and our app.

The first danger zone is the **Denial**.

Denial can be a dangerous thing. Sometimes a person with a **serious disease** will be in denial, and not get the proper care that they need. Sometimes a person will have a **loved one die**, and they go into denial. They just refuse to believe that the person is gone. Sometimes a **student refuses** to believe they are failing a class. They refuse to think about it.

Denial may make you feel better for a while, but it does not change the facts. That is certainly true of one's denial of the existence of God. Listen to the words of Psalm 53:1. **Read the Text**

1. **The Speaker** *The fool*

Bible refers to the fool as one who is dull of understanding, awkward, rude, insensible. One with a propensity to make wrong choices.

So, the person who determines that there is no God, is this kind of person. They are dull of understanding, meaning they are missing the obvious signs and they have a propensity to make wrong choices. Look at the verses that follow. What happens when we determine there is no God? Verses 1b-3.

2. **The Source** *Has said in his heart*

The source is his own heart. Not simply outward talk, but inward conviction. He really believes it. This is a reminder of the depravity of the human heart. It is in the recesses of the heart that a man rejects or accepts the truth about God. **This is the human heart at its worst. Rejection of God.**

The key is not what you say with your lips, but what you believe in your heart. What do you say there, about God? It is in the heart that a person finds faith in the living God. It is there that salvation is allowed to come in.

The heart of the human problem is the problem of the human heart.
(Adrian Rogers)

3. **The Statement** *There is no God*

Bold, arrogant statement. The one stating it supposes that he has checked out every possibility and concluded that God does not exist. Some things are easier to check out than others.

My grandkids could ask me if there is a snake in the bathtub and I can easily determine that there are none. But to say there are no snakes in back yard more difficult, no snakes in Jonesboro, almost impossible.

Einstein testified that he did not know 1/10 of one percent about anything.

If that is true of you would you not have to acknowledge the possibility that God exists in the 99 percent of reality that you know nothing about.

The Foolish person ignores Four key pointers to the reality of God:

A. Inner Revelation (Romans 1:18-19)

Man was made for fellowship with God and there is an inner longing for that fellowship. Even the most uncivilized, pagan peoples have tried to fill this void and meet this longing by concocting all kinds of gods.

Children have no trouble believing in God unless they are taught differently. Even atheists will often call on God when they believe they are in trouble. The Bible would say there are no atheists, only fools.

B. Nature (Romans 1:20)

From the large expanse of the universe to the smallest particles, all of creation cries out there is a maker.

1) Size of the Universe

Scale Model - earth 1 inch ball - Alpha Centauri, next nearest star after the sun, 51,000 miles away.

2) Consistency in Creation

Orbits of the earth and other planets, oxygen level in the air, seasons, gravity, water supply, etc. Ocean waves, wind, etc.

3) Complexity of Creation

The Amazing Human Body

206 bones - 600 muscles - 10,000 nerve fibers

2 million optic nerve fibers - 100 billion nerve cells

30 trillion blood cells - 300 million feet of blood vessels and capillaries

ALL coordinated to work together and in the right place in the body.

The eye, containing 7 million cones and 100 million rods, JUST HAPPENS to be located next to the brain.

Eyelids JUST HAPPEN to be located over the eye.

Without moveable eyelids you would be blind!

Eyelashes JUST HAPPEN to be located on the end of the eyelids.

The ears JUST HAPPEN to be able to transmit vibrations the brain.

The mouth JUST HAPPENS to have teeth in it to break up the food.

The mouth JUST HAPPENS to have a tongue to help break down the food.

The tongue JUST HAPPENS to have taste buds so we can enjoy eating.

The jawbone JUST HAPPENS to be able to move so chewing is possible.

The mouth JUST HAPPENS to be connected to the esophagus, which moves the food downward rather than upward.

The esophagus JUST HAPPENS to lead to the stomach, rather than the brain.

The stomach JUST HAPPENS to be able to digest food so the rest of the body can stay healthy.

The lungs JUST HAPPEN to be able to exact oxygen from the air.

The heart JUST HAPPENS to be able to involuntarily pump blood at the correct flow rate.

The muscles JUST HAPPEN to be coordinated together so we can walk, write, and do other things.

Astronomer, Kepler wanted to lead friends to belief in God. Made a model of sun and planets. How beautiful, who made it? No one!

The famous artist Paul Gustave Dore lost his passport while traveling in Europe. When he came to a border crossing, he explained his predicament to one of the guards. Giving his name to the official, Dore hoped he would be recognized and allowed to pass. The guard, however, said that many people attempted to cross the border by claiming to be persons they were not.

Dore insisted that he was the man he claimed to be. "All right," said the official, "we'll give you a test, and if you pass it we'll allow you to go through." Handing him a pencil and a sheet of paper, he told the artist to sketch several peasants standing nearby. Dore did it so quickly and skillfully that the guard was convinced he was who he claimed to be. **His work confirmed his word!**

C. The Bible

Nowhere does the Bible attempt to prove the existence of God. It assumes it. Bible reveals Him on every page. Genesis 1:1. In the beginning God...

Marvelous book. Written by 40 authors, 1500 year period. Prophecies have come true, changes lives of people. Theme runs throughout its pages.

We have copies of the manuscripts and throughout history these copies show that the Bible has been transmitted accurately. Despite common skeptical claims that the Bible has often been changed through the centuries, the physical evidence tells another story. The New Testament records are incredibly accurate. There are minor differences in manuscripts, called variants, but none of these variants change key Christian beliefs or claims.

Ultimately it is a faith issue. You have to ask yourself this question. Do I believe there is a God, or not. But as you do, consider the evidence and the consequences. The Bible says Denial is foolish. It's a Danger Zone that can be avoided.

Video – An Atheist Finds Answers