

THE EVIDENCE OF THINGS NOT SEEN

(Article below prepared by Robert S. Seklemian.)

The existence of a Supreme Creator, what he is like, and the authenticity of the Bible as his message to mankind, can be proved by pure deductive reasoning, without the necessity of religious faith.

Today many people do not believe that God exists, simply because they have not given the matter sufficient intelligent thought. When the facts are seriously considered, it is almost impossible not to believe in a Supreme Creator.

Let us start our deductive reasoning with the basic fact that effects must be produced by competent causes. This is self-evident to every reasonable mind. Everything that happens must be caused by something. Hence, everything that exists must have been originated by someone. And if the thing has beauty, symmetry and intricacy of design, we know that it must have been produced by a superior intelligence.

Let me illustrate by an example. When you see a beautiful painting of a flower, you know that there must have been a skilled painter, with high artistic sense and an appreciation of beauty, in order to produce such a lovely work of art. You are forced to this conclusion. You would never for a moment conclude that the painting produced itself, or just happened by chance. This being so, is it reasonable to conclude that the original flower, the intricacy and beauty of which inspired the artist to paint it, came by mere chance, without a designer and Creator? Of course not. On the contrary, it would mean that the original flower was designed and created by someone much more skillful and artistic than the person who merely copied it.

Let us use another illustration which is familiar to many: In crossing a field one day, I strike my toe against a watch. I pick it up and examine it. I find that it consists of a complicated arrangement of wheels, springs, jewels and balances, all neatly combined and arranged in a gold case and covered with a crystal. Then I note that every tiny piece of its intricate mechanism is performing according to a definite schedule, and each part is so related to the others that the hands are moved about the dial according to a dependable and unvarying routine. Now, having never seen a watch made, suppose I reach the conclusion that this watch had neither designer nor maker; that out of the earth came iron and gold and the elements of glass; that they refined themselves, fashioned themselves into springs and wheels and crystal, assembled themselves into this case, wound themselves up, and started to tick. What would you think of my reasoning? You would think me a fool of course. You would say that my story violates your reason; that the existence of the watch is positive evidence of the preexistence of a watchmaker. This is the only logical conclusion that can be reached.

We must apply the same rational, deductive reasoning to all of creation. The universe may be likened to that watch; a chronometer of tremendous size, whose parts are suns and planets; huge spheres suspended in limitless space, moving at fantastic speeds in unvarying orbits; each perfectly adjusted to all the others; and all so precisely engineered, and controlled by such unvarying laws, that their movements are exactly predictable to infinity.

Every sunrise brings a new day, and every sunset bringing another night show God's mighty hand, because thereby is demonstrated that the earth is revolving exactly on schedule, under strict control, by his immutable laws. All the precise and invariable laws of nature testify to the wisdom and power of the Creator who established them. It was by learning something of these laws and depending upon them and harnessing them, that man was able to set foot upon the moon and return to earth. If these various laws (such as, for example, the law of gravitation) were not dependable, and their effects precisely predictable, man would never have been able to accomplish what he did. And this is true of all the other great scientific accomplishments of man, such as the harnessing of the power of the atom. Such things do not occur by chance, but positively indicate a powerful controlling intelligence of very high order, vastly superior to the human.

Everything around us proves God. Every tree, plant and flower amazes us. Intricate in function and design, exquisitely beautiful in form and texture, each speaks of a wisdom and skill above the human. This is true also of the variety and beauty of the animal creation. It is an absurdity which boasts of human skill and ingenuity, and attributes to mere chance the regularity, uniformity and harmony of nature.

And the greatest masterpiece of all earthly creation is the human entity itself. It is extremely complicated, and indicates a Master Designer in every respect. Besides a greatly superior physique, man has mental attributes far above the animal creation; and the most sophisticated computers ever invented do not remotely approach the total capabilities of the human brain. But, more important, man has moral and ethical qualities totally lacking in the lower animals. George Gallup is quoted as saying "I could prove God statistically. Take the human body alone. The chance that all the functions of the individual would just happen is a statistical monstrosity." And Prof. Edwin Conklin of Princeton University has said: "The probability of life originating from accident is comparable to the probability of the Unabridged Dictionary resulting from an explosion in a printing factory."

What do we learn from this? To the reasoning mind, the fact that there are dependable and unvarying laws of nature, presupposes an intelligent lawgiver. Any other conclusion would be illogical. Thus it is not necessary to see the Supreme Creature with our eyes in order to believe in him. We can see him with our minds. As Louis Nizer pointedly put it:

“The best reply to an atheist is to give him a good dinner, and then ask him if he believes there was a cook.” And Bishop Spencer tells how someone once asked a camel driver in the desert how he could believe in God. He replied by saying, “Why do I believe that a traveler passed my tent last night? I believe, because I can see his footprints in the sand.”

Now, having established the existence of a Supreme Creator by pure deductive reasoning, we can, by the same process, determine what he is like. We can actually make his acquaintance! We can know his characteristics. So let us reason further. It is a self-evident fact that the creator of something must of necessity be superior to the thing which he has made. This is axiomatic. Therefore, the fact that man exists, with all his high intellectual and moral qualities, is positive proof that a Creator exists who not only has these same qualities, but has vastly greater powers and attainments than man. And what are the highest and noblest characteristics of man? To start with, he is the only animal with moral and ethical sense; with the ability to judge between right and wrong. He is endowed with the faculty of justice and this innate sense of justice is reflected in the laws established in all nations by civilized man. This being so, we can be sure that the Creator who endowed man with a sense of justice must be himself just. We also find in man the noble characteristic of love, sympathy, compassion and mercy. This is evidence that the Creator of man must have these same qualities, and to a greater degree than man. Additionally, man has the faculty of inductive reasoning, by the use of which knowledge and wisdom are achieved. He is able to grasp abstract principles, and thus delve into the invisible mysteries of the universe. He is able to record his findings, accumulating wisdom for other generations to profit by and build upon. This surely indicates a Creator of superior wisdom, who was able to endow man with such faculties, and who has created a universe of such grandeur and complexity so as to challenge man’s highest ingenuity in understanding some of its secrets. Thus we not only know that God exists, but we know what he is like. We know by pure deductive reasoning that he is just, loving, wise and powerful.

Then, in addition to all his other faculties, we find that man is endowed with an impelling sense of veneration and worship. It is a quality inherent in all races of men, the noblest as well as the most primitive. Man is so constituted that he must worship some person or some thing. Without exception, every culture that has ever existed has had its gods. So it is obvious that the Creator endowed man with this faculty of veneration.

Now we come to our final proposition: Would it not be logical to suppose that such an infinitely just, wise and good being as God is, having made man mentally capable of reasoning and realizing that God exists and what he is like, and having given him the organ of veneration, would then be moved by his love and justice to supply the wants of man’s intellectual nature by giving him some direct revelation concerning himself and his plan for mankind? It would be most reasonable and just for him to do so.

Where, then, is such a revelation? We find it in a wonderful book called the Bible. But why the Bible? There are many other books claiming to be God's message to mankind. Again, pure deductive reasoning identifies the Bible as the true revelation from God. The principal stamp of the authenticity of the Bible as God's revelation, which is lacking in other sacred books, is its accurate, scientifically sound account of the creation and preparation of earth for man's habitation. It starts with the reasonable assumption that a God, Creator, an intelligent First Cause, already existed. The opening statement of the Bible is: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Then, stepping over the details and the eons of time this involved, it proceeds with the narrative of the six "days" of preparing the earth for man. These "days," of course, were not twenty-four-hour days, but vast eras, each thousands of years in length. The events of these periods as described in the Bible are in complete harmony with modern scientific findings.

Briefly, the first "day" of Genesis corresponds to the Azoic or lifeless age of science; the second to the Paleozoic or Silurian period of the first simple forms of sea life; the third to the Carboniferous era of extremely lush plant growth, during which the coal beds were laid down; the fourth to the Devonian or Triassic period; the fifth to the Reptilian period of sea creatures, amphibians and birds (the "great whales" of the Genesis account obviously referring to the dinosaurs); the sixth to the period of warm-blooded animals and, finally, the creation of man upon the earth. Thus we find the Bible account to be in precise accord with science respecting the order in which life appeared: First vegetation, then sea creatures, followed by birds and amphibians, and then land creatures, and, finally, man. Is there any other sacred book or history which even remotely approaches such accuracy? This is the strongest possible evidence that the Bible is the word of God. By contrast, Chinese history tells how God went out on the water in a skiff and, taking in his hand a lump of earth, cast it into the water, thus creating the world and all upon it.

As another evidence that the Bible is of divine origin, look at the system of laws laid down in these writings. They certainly were without an equal, either in their day or since, until the twentieth century; and the laws of this century are based upon the principles laid down in the Mosaic Law, and framed in the main by men who acknowledged the Mosaic Law to be of divine origin. The Mosaic code of Laws, if never before known and now found among the ruins and relics of Greece or Rome or Babylon (nations which have risen and fallen long since those laws were given) would be regarded as marvelous if not supernatural.

If space permitted we could cite many other positive evidences, such as the precise fulfillment of prophecies recorded in the Bible thousands of years ago. We could show that the Bible contains the outline of a great Divine Plan of the Ages respecting mankind which is majestically progressing; that the present evil and calamities we find in the world are permitted for a wise and benevolent purpose, and will ultimately be for the benefit of mankind; that a wonderful time is shortly coming when every human problem

will be solved; when there will be peace on earth; and when mankind will no longer need to die.

In this article we have proven, by pure deductive reasoning, that God exists; we have shown what he is like; and demonstrated the fact that he speaks to us through the Bible. This is only the groundwork. The next logical step would be for you to study the Bible in order to know the details of God's Plan for you individually. There is nothing in the world more rewarding than this!