The Heavens Declare

Greg Kline · Acts 17:16–31

INTRODUCTION

- We can look around and we can see that the heavens declare the glory of God. We look around and we see creation shows that it mandates there was first a creator.
- First Peter 3.15 says we should always be ready to give a defense for the hope that is within us.
- If somebody asks you, why do you believe in God? Why do you believe that there is a creator? Would you have an answer for that question?

1 Not Everyone Is Reached the Same Way

Acts 17:2–3; Acts 17:23–25; Acts 17:26–27

- He reasoned with them from the scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead.
- An important lesson for us to learn is not everyone is reached the same way.
- It's not a one-size-fits-all approach. So Paul starts with the most fundamental aspect of identifying that there is a God and that he can be known.
- He doesn't berate them. He starts with what they know.
- Our God is great, he is known. And here's the best news of all this morning. We can find him. We can know who he is.

2 Understanding God from Creation and the Cosmological Argument

Romans 1:20; Genesis 1:1

- His invisible attributes, namely his eternal power and divine nature have been clearly perceived ever since the creation of the world and the things that have been made, so that they are without excuse.
- If what begins to exist has a cause, and the universe began to exist, it would stand to reason then that the universe has a cause.
- Scientists, by and large, at this point in time agree that the world started from guess what? One specific moment in time.
- If the world was eternal, we would already be out of usable energy.
- When we look at the world around us, we have to see that God was there first.
- Even if you change the ideology of how God created the world, it doesn't change the fact that there was a God first in the beginning.

3 Objective Morality Demands a Standard

1 Peter 1:16; John 13:34; Ecclesiastes 12:13–14

- Objective morality demands a standard. And by the way, a mean God would not disprove God.

- No matter how many names you call God, no matter how much you denigrate what God has done in the Bible, if it is true, God exists, period, end of story.
- Does God make anything good? No. God is good. God is our standard.
- The more we conform to his image, the more we sound like the original, the perfect, the better we will be.
- Objective morality not only comes from the Bible pages, but most importantly, it comes from God who inspired those pages to exist.
- What is the whole duty of man? To fear God and to keep his commandments.

4 Paul's So What: He Will Judge the World

John 12:47–48; Hebrews 1:1–2; Acts 17:29–31

- The word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day. How will we be judged? According to the word of Jesus the Christ.
- In these last days, he speaks to us through his Son. Who is his son? Jesus, the resurrected Christ.
- Every message needs to have that so what. Why do I care? Why does it matter?
- God commands people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed the day on which he will judge the world.
- And this he has given assurance to all by Raising him from the dead.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Our God is alive. And we must find him.**

MY NOTES