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hate; A time of war, And a time of peace...He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end" (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 11).

Nature and reason reveal God's existence but are impersonal and insufficient to satisfy man's need. "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" (Romans 1:20). Therefore, God has given man a specific, personal revelation.

To say that God created this world and placed man here full of questions without answers, is to make God to be either evil, neglectful or the creator of a bad joke. God is not a mere master machine-maker. God has shown his goodness in providing generously for his creatures' needs (Psalm 33:5; 111:4-7).

Since God, created men with the need for a divine revelation, the goodness of God provided for that need. "Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; You shall cry, and He will say, 'Here I am.' ...The Lord will guide you continually, And satisfy your soul in drought, And strengthen your bones; You shall be like a watered garden, And like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail" (Isaiah 58:9, 11).

### **If God has spoken, what kind of revelation would we expect?**

If man has the need for a revelation and God has the ability and will to give man a revelation, then it is reasonable to conclude that God has given man a revelation. If the Creator of this world and man has given us a revelation, how do we find it?

A revelation from God would have characteristics that would distinguish it from any other communication. A revelation from God would likely be...

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1. **A Book**-Memory and tradition are unreliable. Books are the best means of reliably preserving the original.
  2. **Unique**-A book like no other. A revelation beyond the ability of man to produce.
  3. **Universal**-The message would apply to all men everywhere.
  4. **Answers to man's questions**-It would fulfill man's great need for answers to the burning questions of life and death.
  5. **Truthful**-God's message should be the truth.
  6. **Good**-We would expect God's message to be good, uplifting and moral.
  7. **Complete**-A partial or incomplete revelation would be as bad as no revelation, for we could not be sure of the message for the missing portion.
  8. **Simple**-The message should be easy to understand and perform.
  9. **Profound**-Yet the message should also be deep and rich in information.
  10. **Not contradictory**-If the message was from an all-knowing God, then it should be internally consistent.
  11. **Without mistake**-We would not expect any factual mistakes in God's revelation.
  12. **Powerful**-It would be a message of tremendous power and influence.
  13. **Enduring**-God's message would be one that would stand the test of time.

Has God spoken? Yes! Just as God has given us evidence through nature he exists, he has also given us evidence he has given man a revelation to guide him. The evidence is overwhelming the book we call "The Bible" is that message from God. We need to lay hold onto this divine message that men have eagerly desired and sought after and do what it says.

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"Shew me thy ways, O Lord;  
teach me thy paths.  
Lead me in thy truth,  
and teach me..."

Psalm 25:4-5

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# Has God Spoken?



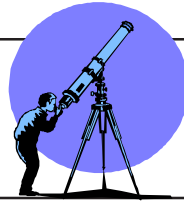
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Wayne Greeson

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# Has God Spoken?

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If one admits that God exists, he has not necessarily agreed that the Bible is the Word of God or even that God has spoken to man at all. There are several philosophical positions that take the view that God (or gods) exist yet there has been no divine written revelation given to guide man. Deism holds the view that there is a God who created this world, yet God is not actively involved with the world he created to intervene supernaturally and provide a Bible. Pantheism teaches the entire world in which we live is God, thus there can be no revelation from that which is impersonal.

If one admits God exists, that this world had a creator, yet denies God has spoken, they are no better off than the atheist who says there is no God. There is no practical difference between saying, "God does not exist" and saying, "God exists, but he has not told us anything"?

Just as God has given us evidences of his existence, he has also given evidence that he has spoken to us. God is not merely our Creator but also a Revealer of Truth, who is intimately concerned with you and I.

## Man Needs A Revelation

Man is a creature full of unanswered questions. Who am I? What is my purpose? How can I rid myself of guilt? Is there life after death?

Human philosophers have failed to answer man's questions. Philosophers have argued and clashed. Democritus and Epicurus were materialists, Plato and Aristotle believed there was a spiritual world beyond the material world. Kant was a theist, Spinoza was a pantheist, Marx an atheist. The Greek philosopher, Plato, speculated about sin, but had no answer or conclusion. He hoped a time would come when a divine revela-

tion would be given to men to answer their questions.

Without a "Bible," a revelation, the universe is a "riddle" without beginning, without end, without answer. From the depths of their souls men cry "Show me Your ways, O Lord; Teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth and teach me..." (Psalm 25:4-5; 27:7-11; 61:1-2).

## God Has The Power To Give A Revelation To Man

This world is vast in size and energy. The God who created the world must be greater than his creation, thus he is a God of power (Isaiah 40:26; Jeremiah 27:5). A God of such power would be able to give man a revelation. If God could create this world, he could give a revelation to man. "Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?" (Jeremiah 32:27). To deny the miracle of revelation, also denies the miracle of creation.

## God Has The Intelligence To Produce A Revelation

Man is a creature of intelligence capable of communication. The psalmist recognizes this. "I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well" (Psalm 139:14).

The God who created Man must be greater than his creation, thus he is a God of intelligence capable of communication. Job reasons, "Can a mortal be more righteous than God? Can a man be more pure than his Maker?" (Job 4:17; Daniel 2:20-23). A God of intelligence capable of communication is also able to produce a revelation for man. "The Lord by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding He established the heavens; By His knowledge the depths were broken up, And clouds drop down the dew" (Proverbs 3:19-20).

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## God Has The Good Will To Give Man A Revelation

To say that this world was created by a God of power and intelligence, yet God provided no revelation, is to say God had no desire or will to give a revelation. Yet, the Creator of man has the goodness to produce and give man a revelation. This is seen in the Creator's provision for all of man's needs.

Men praise and worship the Creator for his gracious provision. "The eyes of all look expectantly to You, And You give them their food in due season. You open Your hand And satisfy the desire of every living thing. The LORD is righteous in all His ways, Gracious in all His works. The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him; He also will hear their cry and save them" (Psalm 145:15-19).

Men have a great need for a revelation from God. Job exemplifies this need. "Then Job answered and said: 'Even today my complaint is bitter; My hand is listless because of my groaning. Oh, that I knew where I might find Him, That I might come to His seat! I would present my case before Him, And fill my mouth with arguments. I would know the words which He would answer me, And understand what He would say to me. Would He contend with me in His great power? No! But He would take note of me'" (Job 23:1-6).

Man's need for God's revelation was placed in man by God. "To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, And a time to die; A time to plant, And a time to pluck what is planted; A time to kill, And a time to heal; A time to break down, And a time to build up; A time to weep, And a time to laugh; A time to mourn, And a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, And a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, And a time to refrain from embracing; A time to gain, And a time to lose; A time to keep, And a time to throw away; A time to tear, And a time to sew; A time to keep silence, And a time to speak; A time to love, And a time to

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