

# God and the Atheists

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Let's ask what are the biggest questions of mankind or that an individual human can ask. Some of these are: Where did we come from? How did this universe, the earth—nature around us as we call it—how did it get here? Where are we going? Is there a purpose in life? All of those questions are the big questions in life.

I can remember as a little six or seven year old kid. I can remember it just as clear today. In my parent's bedroom on the closet door, there was a full-length mirror. I can remember staring at myself in this full-length mirror, just looking at myself and asking, thinking to myself, "Who am I? Who is this person staring back at me in this mirror? Who am I? Who is this person? How did I get here?" I can remember as a little kid. And, of course, that lasted for thirty seconds or a minute and then I ran out and played.

Then, in college, I asked those questions in earnest because I went to graduate school in psychology. And in both graduate school and undergraduate school, most of the professors were atheists. All of them believed in evolution. Most all of them labeled anybody that believed in God as "naïve and simple-minded." They looked down on people who were Christians. The atheists, meaning most of the intellectuals, most of the professors, believed that over the millennia, going back past the dark ages, past the birth of Christ, back into the early time of mankind, that mankind created gods to explain things that man could not explain. So, they believe that the gods that existed in antiquity and God today were created in the minds of human beings.

Let me give you an example. This principle, by the way, is called "a god of the gaps," meaning that if there is a gap in human understanding in any particular area, that humans invent a god to explain what they don't understand. An example would be the ancient Scandinavians. In their day, man couldn't explain thunder and lightning. They didn't have the science to be able physically to explain thunder and lightning. So, the Nordic people invented the god, "Thor." This god was up in heaven and he threw lightning bolts down on earth and that created the lightning and the thunder. So, they had an explanation.

Now the Greeks, the Romans, and pagans have created a god of the gaps. In other words, they created a mystical god to explain something they could not understand at the time. The fact is that once some of the phenomena were explained, then there was no need for a god. In the case of lightning and thunder, science eventually figured out what lightning was and what thunder was and there was an explanation. So, there was no need for the god Thor in the minds of these atheists.

Now, what happens is the atheists today use this historical fact of mankind creating a god of the gaps to refute the existence of the true God. Today, there is a huge effort among scientists, educators and intellectuals to attempt to prove a creation without a

creator. They want to convince the next generation—the ones they're teaching and training—that there is no God. They do so by claiming that the universe came into existence all by itself. You don't need a god to explain that. Or they say that the existence of the universe can be explained without a creator; the existence of life can be explained without a life-giver.

Modern atheists today accuse us who believe in God of doing the same thing as the ancient pagans. They say that the Bible is just a collection of myths to explain things that man in the past could not understand. "You all continue to believe in the Bible, which is just a collection of myths." That is what is being taught our children. That's what's being taught in college, in graduate schools.

And the question is: Is this true? Our young people today are bombarded in school by atheistic evolutionary teaching. They can't get away from it. And our young people need to prove one way or another: Is there a creator God? Is there a spirit world, something that we can't see? Or has science become so advanced that they really have proved there is no God; there is no need for God because all of this can be explained; everything around us (the universe, the earth, the solar system) can be explained without the necessity of God.

So, what we're going to do today is answer this question. And what we're going to see before we're done is that God is backing atheists into a corner by recent scientific discoveries so that they are without excuse. The title of the sermon is:

### God and the Atheists

It's amazing to watch what God is doing in these end days so that nobody can stand before Him and say, "We didn't know. We didn't have any information," because God is going to hold everyone, all of us, to account.

The first point we want to make is:

#### **1. Scientists and science itself have been very wrong in the past.**

They have made enormous mistakes in the past. We need to keep that in mind as we go through this.

Let's look at the state of scientific beliefs about the time Christ walked on the earth, give or take a couple of hundred years in either direction. Claudius Ptolemaeus was a Greek astronomer in the second century AD and he theorized the following, which was commonly believed: The earth sat motionless in the universe. The earth didn't rotate; it sat motionless at the center of the universe. And the sun rotated around the earth. So when you woke up in the morning and saw the sun coming across the sky, the sun was doing the moving and not the earth.

Then, Ptolemaeus postulated that all the stars were fixed in a sphere that surrounded the earth. In other words, the stars were in their places around this sphere in various parts and the sphere rotated around the earth once every twenty-four hours.

This theory was widely accepted before the time of Christ and right after the time of Christ. And, as we know today, all those concepts have been disproved over the last five to seven hundred years. To be fair, science has made startling advances in the understanding of the universe and the explanation of what's going on out there.

In fact, Nicolaus Copernicus, a Polish churchman and scholar, in 1543 absolutely proved that the planets and the earth revolve around the sun. He scientifically proved it, but it was not accepted by the Catholic Church. Absolutely not accepted because in their view it somehow diminished God by the fact that the earth wasn't at the center of the universe. What it actually did was diminish man. It in no way diminished God.

The fact is up to the 1700s, all major scientists believed in God. Galileo, Sir Isaac Newton, they all believed in God as we'll see in a little bit. So did Einstein. And the centers of higher learning were most often centers of religion. Many scientists were theologians and vice versa, because the religious centers of the day had the textbooks, had the scholars, and had the people who had the education.

All, virtually everyone, believed in God up until the time of Darwin. In the last 200 years, things have changed radically. From Darwin's time forward (the early 1800s), modern science over the decades has gradually come to scoff and deride a belief in God. They believe that is just a myth. Scientists began to say to Christians over the last couple of hundred years, "You're doing exactly the same as the pagans. You create a god to explain what you don't understand. And we scientists, we understand it now. Therefore, there is no need of a god and you need to listen to us."

For centuries now, looking back to the 1800s and earlier, it was generally believed by religious scholars, by theologians as well as scientists that the universe was in a steady state of existence. Meaning, the universe did not move. And those who believed in God believed that God created the universe as something static and that He placed all the stars in the heavens, as He wanted to do, as He deemed fit. And that the universe was static. They called it "The Steady State Theory." Those who were religious believed that since the creation of the earth, all the stars were fixed in space and that the earth was the center of the universe.

However, the atheists believed this Steady State Theory, particularly since the time of Darwin. They believed that it was the universe that was eternal, not God that was eternal. They believed that the universe has always existed. If you say to them, "You're accepting that on faith," they say, "No, we can scientifically prove that."

The point is that if you believe the universe is eternal, then guess what is at the pinnacle of that universe? It's the mind of man. Not God—the mind of man. So, scientists began to grow in vanity and pride by saying "The universe has always existed. We

have evolved according to Darwin." And now the mind of man, the mind of the scientists is the pinnacle of evolution—pride and vanity!

That all came to a crashing stop. (You can see God up there just smiling.) It came to a crashing stop in 1912. There was a scientist at the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona. His name is Vesto Silfer. He discovered that a dozen galaxies out in space were moving away from the earth, some at 100 million miles an hour. It just absolutely shocked the scientific community. And, of course, they just scoffed at him because that would refute the Steady State Theory if the universe were expanding.

Then seventeen years later in 1929, Edwin Hubble, for whom the Hubble telescope is named, he worked out of the Mount Wilson Observatory in California. He found that the entire universe was expanding—everything was moving away from everything else. He described it like a giant raisin cake. You mix up the dough and put raisins in it. The raisins are uniformly distributed in this cake. Then, you put it in the oven, apply heat to it, and the cake starts to expand. Hubble said the raisins are like the galaxies. If you look at the raisins inside this cake as it begins to expand, each raisin is moving farther away from every other raisin. They're all moving farther apart from each other. Hubble said that that is exactly what is happening in the universe.

Hubble found that the Hercules Cluster—a cluster of about 20,000 galaxies—is moving away from us at 25 million miles per hour. In addition, the Hydra Cluster is moving away at 162 million miles per hour. Then Hubble looked at the most remote clusters that could be seen at that day and time. They were moving away from the earth at 95 percent of the speed of light. The fact is nobody knew why. They didn't have a clue.

It stunned the scientific community that the universe was not steady; it was expanding. And, this unsettled those, particularly the atheists, who believed that the universe was eternal and that the universe was steady and fixed in space. It was like a nuclear bomb going off among the atheists. They initially did their very best to discredit Hubble and Silfer, but over the years the evidence has become so great that the atheists were forced to accept it.

It was a logical question: If the universe is expanding, what caused it to expand? And then, if you rewind the movie to go back in time to bring it back together, the obvious conclusion was that the origin of the universe began with a single event in a single point in space, a tiny, tiny infinitesimally small piece of space, and in it was an unbelievably powerful energy and bam! The universe came into being. This concept came to be called "the Big Bang Theory."

Over the years, it has been accepted and proven and re-proven and re-proven, but it created problems for the atheists because, if you rewind the movie as I said, there was a time when nothing existed. The universe was not eternal. This put these atheistic scientists in a very difficult position because how do you explain how the universe came into being. In other words, what happened before the Big Bang? If all of this came from nothing, what happened before that?

Let me read from a book called The God and Stephen Hawking. It was written by John Lennox. He's a Ph.D. of Mathematics at Oxford University, not a dummy. This is page 45. Notice what he says about those of us who believe in God.

Even if non-believers don't like it, the Big Bang resonates powerfully with the Biblical narrative of creation. That is why before the Big Bang gained currency so many leading scientists were keen to dismiss it since it seemed to support the Bible story.

The atheists just could not accept the fact that there was a time when nothing existed. They couldn't accept that. They didn't know how to deal with it. And more importantly, they couldn't explain how something came from nothing. How do you explain that? It's not an easy concept for an atheist to come to grips with. However, it is a very easy concept for those of us who believe in a creator God. God created the physical at that time and the whole physical universe came into being. What a marvelous fireworks display that would have been—what it was!

The fact is since the evidence is so overwhelming and so convincing that there was a time when nothing existed; the atheists are now put into a position of trying to explain how the universe came into being and what happened before the Big Bang. Now let's keep in mind this first point, that scientists have been wrong in the past. Scientists thought the earth was flat. Scientists thought the earth was the center of the universe. So we need to keep that in mind, closing out this first point.

## **2. How does science today attempt to explain the existence of the universe without a creator?**

How did the universe come into existence without a creator? Let's look at the world's most famous living scientist for that answer of what science is currently thinking. The world's most famous living scientist is Stephen Hawking. He recently retired from the Lucasian Professorship at Cambridge University. That was a position that was once held by Sir Isaac Newton. Stephen Hawking has contributed to humanity's understanding of black holes. He has contributed greatly to science and I think most of us know he suffers from motor neuron disease. If you've ever seen a documentary about him or watched something on PBS, you see him in a wheelchair. He's 73 years-old and his body is betraying him. He can only communicate through a computer and a manufactured voice. That voice has a special character and people recognize that as the voice of Stephen Hawking.

Now let me read from his book The Grand Design on page 180 where he explains his modern and modern science's belief about what happened before the Big Bang. Now listen very, very carefully. He is saying:

Because there is a law of gravity, the universe can and will create itself out of nothing.

Let me say it again.

Because there is a law of gravity, the universe can and will create itself out of nothing.

What some people do is just slam the book shut and say, "There you have it. It's all over with. We've got the explanation. We don't need God. No need for a creator."

How was that received? There is a colleague of Stephen Hawking's at Oxford, which is near Cambridge. He's a chemist and he's also an atheist by the way. He called Stephen Hawking's theory a cosmic bootstrap principle. We've heard the saying, "pull yourself up by the bootstraps." Well, I think anybody that has tried that, when more people wore boots, you lean over and tug on the straps of your boots to try to pull yourself up off the ground but it doesn't work. What this chemist is saying is that what Hawking said is similar. It's as ludicrous as trying to pull yourself up by your bootstraps.

Let's look more closely at this statement by Stephen Hawking and see that this statement (from a very brilliant man—there's no question about it), this statement contradicts itself. In this book that I just quoted God and Stephen Hawking, by John Lennox, Ph.D. (himself from the same university and a colleague of Hawking's) on page 31 says this about the statement "Because there is a law of gravity, the universe can and will create itself from nothing." So let's listen carefully. John Lennox says,

It is seldom that one finds in a single statement two distinct levels of contradiction, but Hawking appears to have constructed such a statement. He says the universe comes from nothing that turns out to be something.

This is contradiction number one.

And then says that the universe creates itself.

Self-contradiction number two. You can't create yourself when you don't exist. Lennox goes on to say:

That's not all. His notion that a law of nature—gravity—explains the existence of the universe is also self-contradictory since a law of nature by definition surely depends for its own existence on the prior existence of the nature it purports to describe.

A law of nature—gravity—is just descriptive of what already exists—gravity. So if nothing existed before, how can a law of nature exist as Stephen Hawking said it would? Hawking states that the universe "comes from nothing that turns out to be something." And the law of gravity is not nothing. The law of gravity is something. So how can the universe create itself if it doesn't exist, as Hawking says it does?

A physical law only describes what is already in existence. The physical law can't bring something into existence. In other words, if we say "A creates B," then A has to exist before it can create B. B can't create A. A must create B and A must pre-exist B. How can A if it doesn't exist bring B into existence? It can't. These are mental gymnastics of the highest order when you try to work your way through that.

Keith Ward, an Oxford Philosopher of Religion says this in his book God, Chance and Necessity on page 49,

It is logically impossible for a cause to bring about some effect without already being in existence.

So for Hawking to say, "Because there is a law of gravity, the universe can and will create itself out of nothing," is self-contradictory and not even logical. It reminds me of the tail end of our time with the Worldwide Church of God when ministers attempted to explain the trinity. It is unexplainable. It is illogical. And, yet, people go through all these mental gymnastics. You're sitting in the audience shaking your head and you think, "What he's saying doesn't make any sense and it's obvious he doesn't even understand what he's saying" because it's unexplainable. And the same thing is true when you try to say that because there is a law of gravity, the universe will create itself out of nothing. It's illogical. It won't work, and, yet, scientists are attempting to explain through numerous venues how the universe came into existence without a creator God.

What God has been doing down through the centuries, and particularly so today, is discrediting these atheists through the very scientific revelations they discover themselves. We'll see that God is doing this. He's discrediting those who say that the universe created itself out of nothing.

### **3. God's word has all the answers.**

God's word has always had all the answers. Let's just look at three proofs out of the Bible that God exists. The first, Mr. Armstrong talked about from time to time.

#### **3A. The law of biogenesis.**

That law states very clearly that life can only come from pre-existing life. In other words, a rock can't create a fish. A rock has no life. A fish does. It doesn't work for something that has no life to create something that does have life. Let's go to Genesis 2 and look at verse 7. Let's get back to the basics of what the Bible reveals as to the origin of everything. I'll read all of this out of the King James except for a couple of scriptures I'll note when we get there.

**Genesis 2:7.** *And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, ... (KJV)*

Now, stop there. At that point, Adam was a corpse. There was no life in him.

I remember talking to a widow on the day her husband died. It was later that day. She said, "I was holding his hand and he took his last breath." She couldn't recall the exact amount of time, a minute or maybe two minutes. And she said, "I witnessed the life leave him." And she said the same thing, "At that point, he was just a corpse." That spirit, we know goes to God.

So, when God formed man out of the dust of the ground, at that moment, Adam was just a corpse. And, then, notice.

*7b) ... and [God] breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living ... (KJV)*

The King James says, "soul." It means a living creature or a living being.

Here we see that the only way that you can impart life is from pre-existing life. That pre-existing life was God and God imparted life into His creation. Before that, that creation was just a corpse. It had no life in it, like a rock, or a mountain, or a stream, etc.

The question then becomes: If God gave life to Adam, then, who created God? I can remember going through these mental gymnastics even when I was a kid growing up and mom was dragging me to church. You'd have these questions. If God created Adam and God created everything that is, then who created God?

There are only two possibilities. The first possibility is that some other being created God. Let's assume that may be as correct for argument's sake. Then, who created that being? And if you say somebody else created that being, then, who created the being that created the being that created God? You could march yourself back into eternity and you have to draw the conclusion that there is just a series of beings that created other beings and that never ended. Which is more logical, to believe this first postulate or second, that no other being created God because God has been in existence forever and Christ has been in existence forever?

Which is the most logical and which one is revealed in the Bible? Let's go to Deuteronomy 33 and look at verse 27, very simple. It's very, very simple. Once you prove the Bible is true and is the word of God, the answers are all there. Moses is recounting Israel's history since they came out of Egypt. It's toward the end of that recounting and notice what he says.

***Deuteronomy 33:27.*** *The eternal God is [your] refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: ... (KJV)*

Meaning and going on to say that those arms support you, take care of you and provide for you.

The fact is that it is revealed in the Bible that God is eternal. And that makes perfect sense to anybody who is seeking the truth. Therefore, the only conclusion is that life in



the form of God and Jesus Christ has existed for an eternity. That is the only conclusion that one can draw.

We know physical life has not existed forever. Therefore, spiritual life must have existed forever, in the form of God and Jesus Christ. Again, this is the only logical conclusion that can be drawn. And, as always, the Bible has the answer. Let's go to Isaiah 42 and let's read verse 5. If we believe that God exists and believe that the Bible is His word, the answers are all there.

***Isaiah 42:5.** Thus [says] God the Lord, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out; he that spread forth the earth, and that which [comes] out of it; he that [gives] breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein: (KJV)*

So this first proof that God exists is the law of biogenesis—life can only come from pre-existing life.

### **3B. Design in creation demands a designer.**

Design is not random. If you don't have design, you have chaos. But if you have design, then you have to have a designer. You have to have somebody that imparted design whether it's an automobile or a building or nature itself. Let me read from a book by William Paley. He was a theologian and a naturalist that lived in the early 1800s. His book is titled Natural Theology on Evidence and Attributes of Deity, a very high falutin title. On pages 12 through 14, Paley gives us this thought experiment. Einstein was great at having thought experiments and, long before Einstein—a hundred years, Paley had this thought experiment. Let me read.

In crossing a heath, suppose I pitch my foot against a stone and were asked how the stone came to be there. I might possibly answer that for anything that I knew to the contrary, it had lain there forever. Nor would it perhaps be very easy to show the absurdity of that answer. But suppose I had found a watch upon the ground and it should be enquired how the watch happened to be in that place. I should hardly think of the answer, which I had given before that for anything I knew that the watch might have always been there. The watch must have had a maker. There must have existed at some time and at some place or other an artificer or artificers who formed it for the purpose, which we find it actually to answer, who comprehended its construction and designed its use.

Going on:

Every indication of contrivance, every manifestation of design, which existed in the watch, exists in the works of nature with the difference on the side of nature being greater or more and that in a degree exceeds all computation.

Meaning it is mathematically impossible to say how all of this came into being by accident or by just randomness.

Now a watch is a complex device. There is no question about that. And the watch, obviously, had a creator. How much more complex is the universe, the solar system, the earth itself, how much more complex are those than a watch? And to say that that all came into being by itself or to say that has always existed forever without ever having a beginning is just ludicrous. If there is design, there must be a designer.

Let's go to Genesis 1:1 and look very carefully at the first three verses of Genesis. We want to look very carefully at these because God gives us answers. We are told:

***Genesis 1:1. In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth. (KJV)***

We can clearly see that there is a design in the heavens and there is a design in the earth, which presupposes a designer.

Now we also know that there is an undetermined time gap between verse 1 and verse 2 because there is a huge change between verse 1 and verse 2. God does not reveal what that time period is, but when we go to verse 2, we read:

*2) And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. (KJV)*

Now, the Hebrew word for "was" in "the earth was without form" is Strong's #1961. It is the Hebrew word hayah, h-a-y-a-h, "haw-yaw" as it's pronounced. It's a very primitive root and one of the definitions, in addition to *was*, is *became, or to become*.

So, we can see how this portion of verse 2 could easily be translated within the definition of this word "the earth, then, became without form and void." God created the heavens and the earth. There was an indeterminate amount of time. And then the earth became without form and void. Therefore, something catastrophic happened between verse 1 and verse 2. We understand what happened and that's an account for another time. We don't want to get sidetracked into that.

Going on in verse 3, then after the earth was without form, God said in verse 3:

*3) ... Let there be light: and there was light. (KJV)*

Meaning that the light from the sun and the stars (which were already in existence due to verse 1) were not visible from the earth's surface but, then, they became visible. And, then, began the seven days, not of creation, but of re-creation. All of which reveal that God was the original designer of everything.

With that in mind, let's go to Psalm 19:1. I'm going to read this out of the New Living Translation. David is speaking. We're just going to read verse 1 as we close this point. Notice what David says.

**Psalm 19:1.** *The heavens tell of ... (NLT)*

Now the Hebrew word for "tell of" can mean *enumerate or recount*, in addition to *tell*.

So we could easily translate:

1) *The heavens [recount or enumerate] the glory of God. The skies display his marvelous craftsmanship. (NLT)*

As we look into the heavens, they display God's marvelous craftsmanship. So the point is, the existence of something that has been designed necessarily presupposes someone who did the designing. And the existence of design demands a designer just as the existence of the creation demands a creator. So, we see here in this point that design demands a designer.

### **3C. The existence of law and order demands a lawgiver.**

Which is more believable? That law and order came by accident, just happened to happen? Or, that there exists a lawgiver? Which is more logical? Which is more believable? Which is more understandable? In James 4:12, we're told:

**James 4:12.** *There is one lawgiver, ... (KJV)*

One lawgiver. So, which are we to believe? All that we see, all the order, all the laws of nature, all the laws of physics, all the laws of chemistry came by accident or that there was a designer, a lawgiver? Which is more logical? I think we know the answer.

We were in Psalm 19:1. Let's pick it up again. I'll reread verse 1 and, then, we'll go on from there, again out of the NLT.

**Psalm 19:1.** *The heavens tell of the glory of God. The skies display his marvelous craftsmanship.*

2) *Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. (NLT)*

If we will only observe.

3) *They speak without a sound or word; their voice is silent in the skies.*

4) *Yet their message has gone out to all the earth, and their words to all the world. The sun lives in the heavens where God placed it.*

5) *It bursts forth like a radiant bridegroom after his wedding. It rejoices like a great athlete eager to run the race. (NLT)*

Notice this in verse 6.

*6) The sun rises at one end of the heavens and follows its course to the other end.... (NLT)*

Since creation, every day the sun follows a precise path. And the sun's path is so precise that scientists can go back and calculate when the sun rose a thousand years ago at any location on the earth. Or, you can also go forward, pick a date off into the future and it can be calculated when the sun will rise at a certain point on the earth. The sun's path is very, very precise.

So, without doubt, law exists in the universe.

Now let me quote from Albert Einstein in a letter that he wrote on January 24, 1936.

Everyone who is seriously engaged in the pursuit of science becomes convinced that the laws of nature manifest the existence of a spirit vastly superior to that of men, and one in the face of which we with our modest powers must feel humble.

We feel humbled because those laws of nature and what happens in the universe is so much greater than we are and because of that, we stand in awe as Einstein stood in awe of God. God didn't open Einstein's mind to understand the Bible or God's nature. Einstein just knew there was a God scientifically because this couldn't come into existence by itself.

Let's go to Jeremiah 10 and look at verse 12, again talking about how the existence of law and order demands a lawgiver. This is the answer. Man doesn't want to believe it, but it's the answer.

***Jeremiah 10:12.*** *He [has] made the earth by his power, he [has] established the world by his wisdom, and [has] stretched out the heavens by his discretion. (KJV)*

The existence of law and order as well as the existence of design demands a designer, a lawgiver. The Hebrew word for "establish" is Strong's #3559. It's the Hebrew word "k-u-w-n," pronounced "koon" and it means *be stable*.

Life could not exist if the universe was unstable, if everything was in chaos, without laws. God gave the laws; therefore, when He gave life, life could exist because laws existed. Let me read from a comment by the University of Chicago physicist Michael Turner, a very brilliant man. He says:

To get a universe that has expanded as long as ours has without either collapsing or having its matter coast away would have required extraordinary fine-tuning.

This can't be explained by randomness. Going on:

The odds of achieving this would be the same as throwing a dart at the most distance star and hitting a bull's eye one millimeter in diameter.

The odds are astronomical! After the Big Bang if the universe wasn't so precisely fine-tuned, either it would have collapsed back on itself due to gravity or the night sky would be completely dark because there would be nothing else around us.

The existence of law requires a lawgiver. So, God's word has the answers if we will accept those answers.

**4. We have to ask these questions in this atheistic society that we live in” Why does man want to eliminate God? Why do scientists go out of their way to eliminate God? Why do atheists crow and harp and blow the trumpet saying that we're all naïve and simple-minded because we believe in God?**

As with anything evil, guess where it begins? It begins with Satan. Let's go to Revelation 12:9. We see here, particularly as we have had now 6000 years of Satan's deception working on the minds of men, this is where we are. We're talking about the great dragon, Revelation 12:9. What is Satan's device? What is he trying to accomplish?

**Revelation 12:9.** *And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which ... (KJV)*

Here's the key.

*9b) ... [deceives] the whole world: ... (KJV)*

And we have to ask the questions. What is the motivation behind Satan's effort to deceive the whole world? What is Satan trying to accomplish? Why is he doing that? He's called the Adversary as we know. Why is he adversarial? Why is he trying to eliminate any belief in God? We know that Isaiah chapter 14 is an indictment of Lucifer. And remember what he said?

**Isaiah 14:13b.** *... I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: ... (KJV)*

*14) I will ascend above the ... clouds; I will ... (KJV)*

"Be like" or some translations say, "I will be the most High." That's pride and vanity, wanting to knock God off His throne.

Then a companion indictment of Lucifer is found in Ezekiel 28. God says, in talking to Satan, "You were perfect until"... Until what? Until "iniquity was found in you" (verse

15). And God says, "Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty" (verse 17). God created Satan a certain way and Satan allowed pride to lift his heart up.

Then the last thing in Ezekiel 28, God says, "You have corrupted your wisdom because of your brightness" (verse 17), because of your vanity and your pride. Vanity and pride are at the heart of Satan's motivation. We have all seen this in some—I hate to say it—some ministers over the years, who have been corrupted just like Satan was with pride and vanity. Pride and vanity corrupted Satan.

Now, let's ask the question: What is Satan's greatest deception? There are two and the first one is obvious. He wants us to believe there is no God. And Satan is doing his best through the modern evolutionary theory, modern science today, bombarding the whole world that God doesn't exist, that there is no God.

The second deception is even more subtle. It's that Satan himself doesn't exist. There is no spirit world. Satan doesn't exist. So, if people accept that, then they can't be on guard to a spirit-being that is trying to destroy God's creation. Mankind, atheistic scientists, atheistic professors just like Satan have had their wisdom corrupted. And they are teaching it to our children and our grandchildren. They're teaching it to the news media. They're teaching it to those who teach others, grade-school teachers, high-school teachers, in an effort to destroy anybody's belief in God Almighty.

So, God tells us in His word that mankind has lost his way. And, as we get closer to the end, it's getting worse and worse and worse to the point that the majority of people, finally, in the United States don't believe in God. It's a narrow minority now whereas a hundred years ago 95 to 99 percent of the people in this country, in western society, believed there was a God.

Let's go to Isaiah 59:9. This verse describes us. This describes modern society. This describes the world today. Isaiah is lamenting this, but, this applies far more today than it did when he wrote this.

*Isaiah 59:9. Therefore is judgment far from us, neither [does] justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness [we wait for brightness], but we walk in darkness. (KJV)*

Boy, if that doesn't describe the world, I don't know what does! Verse 10:

*10) We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes: we stumble at noonday as in the night; we are in desolate places as dead men. (KJV)*

And when the United States was founded, there was belief in God, a belief in His existence. Our current president has made it very clear that he wants the United States to be a secular society where God is off to the side somewhere. That's not a nation based on God. It's a nation based on men and guess who is influencing men? Satan.

So, what our president really says is, "I want a nation that's based on Satan, that's influenced by Satan. Remember Jeremiah 10:23.

**Jeremiah 10:23.** ... *the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that [walks] to direct his steps. (KJV)*

Man, in and of himself, independently of God, doesn't understand, can't put one foot in front of the other. The Bible says man doesn't know the way. So, if man doesn't know the way, how does man find truth? The answer is that ultimate truth has to be revealed by God. It cannot be discovered by man because man doesn't know the way. He doesn't have the heart. He doesn't have the mind.

Let's go to 1 Corinthians 2 and verse 9. (You can also use as a reference Matthew 11:25.) God tells us that only He knows the way. If we want truth, we have to look to God, not to men, not to scientists.

**1 Corinthians 2:9.** *But as it is written, Eye [has] not seen, nor ear heard, neither [has] entered into the heart of man, the things which God [has] prepared for them that love him. (KJV)*

Now look at the beginning of verse 10.

*10) But God [has] revealed them unto us by his Spirit: ... (KJV)*

It takes God's spirit in a human being to have the mind opened so God can then reveal it to us. The Greek word for "reveal" is Strong's #601, and it's a great definition. It means *to take off the cover*.

If somebody has a statue, a sculpture, a piece of art that they've done, they drape it with something. Then at the unveiling, they pull the drape off and reveal the artwork. God is saying, "God has pulled the cover off." Or this word "reveal" can mean *disclose*; "God has disclosed it to us by His spirit." Going on in verse 10 where the King James says:

*10b) ... for the Spirit [searches] all things, [yes], the deep things of God. (KJV)*

The Greek for "search" is Strong's #2045 and the root word is #2046, which means *to tell*, simply *to tell*. So this says, "The spirit tells all things, even the deep things of God." The holy spirit reveals to those whom God has called everything we need to know about creation, everything we need to know about the origin of man, the origin of the universe, the nature of man, the nature of God. It is all there.

So we see here in this fourth point that Satan deceives the entire world. Man doesn't know the way and God is the only one who can reveal to us the proper way, the way that we should go.

## 5. God reveals to us the origin of the universe.

It is plain in the Bible. If mankind just would use that as the basis, then do the scientific research, then do the examination, the mathematics, the calculations, etc., they would come to the right conclusion, but man doesn't want to do that.

Let's go to Psalm 97 and look at verse 6. This is a principle. If it would guide science, we would have marvelous revelations. It is very clear and for those of us who know God and understand God and have God's spirit, this is something we marvel in and we revel in.

**Psalm 97:6.** *The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory. (KJV)*

If we would just look up and believe in God and believe that He created everything rather than believe that somehow this all happened by some gigantic accident. Let's go back to Psalm 8 and let's read beginning in verse 3. In order to understand, one has to believe in God, and to understand, one must have a degree of humility, which many scientists today do not have because they believe their mind is the pinnacle of all that exists. Psalm 8:3, David says:

**Psalm 8:3.** *When I consider [your] heavens, the work of [your] fingers, ... (KJV)*

David knew who was the creator.

*3b) ... the moon and the stars, which [you have] ordained; (KJV)*

Not only created, but also "ordained" their paths, their circuits in the sky.

*4) What is man, ... (KJV)*

When you look up at the heavens, the moon and the stars.

*4b) ... that [you are (even)] mindful of [man]? And the son of man, that [you visit] him? (KJV)*

David had humility and he marveled at the fact that "God, You created this and I'm amazed that You even talk to us. I'm amazed that You even wrote a book. I'm amazed that we can pray to You and talk to You." That's what David is saying.

We have to have a belief in God, but we also have to have a degree of humility before Him rather than thinking we're something great. We see too much vanity and pride among God's people, too much vanity and pride among God's ministry to think that somehow we're better than other people are. We have to have humility before God before God will reveal anything to us.



God's word is not primarily a cookbook. God's word is not primarily an exercise manual. Some people try to make it into that, but it's not. God's word tells mankind everything man needs to know. The origin of all things, God tells us. He tells us about true history—everything we need to know. He tells us about His nature and the nature of Jesus Christ and Their existence for an eternity. And, most importantly, God tells us everything we need to know through His word of how to attain salvation. What does it take? What do we have to do? What do we have to become like?

Closing out this fifth point, God's word reveals all critical truth to mankind. No, it's not a cookbook. No, it's not an exercise manual, but everything we need to know to attain salvation is in that book. And true science agrees with it. I say "true science" because there are some scientists out there who believe in God. And, if you find their writings, it's very clear that true science agrees with the Bible. There is no question about that.

Yet, Satan, being the ultimate deceiver, wants humankind to separate science from religion, having no common ground, and have humans to look to science and not to God. And Satan has succeeded because God has allowed it to happen and only because God is allowing it to happen.

Let's start wrapping this up now. As we get closer to the end, as I said in the beginning, God is backing atheists into a corner, and this is prophesied. Let's go to Romans 1 and read beginning in verse 18. God knew this was going to happen. He knew that Satan would manipulate the minds of scientists, would work in the mind of Darwin and others to turn mankind away from Him.

***Romans 1:18.*** *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven ... (KJV)*

What is God's wrath aimed at?

*18b) ... against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; (KJV)*

Who scoff at God's existence, who make fun of people who believe in God, who make fun of Christians. They call us "simple and naïve" because we will believe this book, rather than their pronouncements and their theories. And they call us "simple, naïve, and stupid." Going on in verse 19:

*19) Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; ... (KJV)*

Even their own words!

*19b ) ... for God [has] showed it unto them. (KJV)*

If they would just believe.

*20) For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, ... (KJV)*

They're not hidden. If you look up into the sky, it's all there. If you look through the telescopes, it's all there. If you look through the space probes, it's all there.

*20b) ... clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, ... (KJV)*

If people have an open mind and if they are not deceived by Satan.

*20 continued) ... even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: (KJV)*

They are going to have to come up some day and explain themselves to God. God is going to say, "Look, scientists, the evidence was always there. It was right in front of your face, but you refused to accept it. In fact, many of you went out of your way to discredit Me." And they will have to answer for that.

The true scientific revelations of the past one hundred years all point to the existence of a creator. They all point to God's existence and of a staggering universe that is far beyond the imagination of men. The fact that the universe is expanding and it came from one point, that's only been known for about one hundred years. And it is more staggering, more unbelievable to the human mind than this Steady State Theory that mankind has believed in for millennia. And, it points to the existence of a supreme intelligence that makes the intelligence of man look puny.

Let's go to Isaiah 40 and look at verse 22. This is how God looks at the scientists who scoff at His existence. I don't think I'd want to be in their position, Isaiah 40:22, and at the heart of it, it is pride and vanity. Notice God's position relative to man.

*Isaiah 40:22. It is he that [sits] upon the circle of the earth, ... (KJV)*

This reveals that the earth was not flat, never has been flat. And God's word thousands of years ago revealed that. Notice further:

*22b) ... and the inhabitants [of the earth] are as grasshoppers [in God's eyes]; that [stretches] out the heavens as a curtain, and [spreads] them out as a tent to dwell in: (KJV)*

Man looks puny compared to God's power, God's intelligence, God's ability. And God is backing atheists into a corner because He is forcing them either to admit there is a creator and there is a power beyond which we understand, as in the quote from Einstein. God is forcing them into a corner so that either they have to accept His existence or they willingly choose to be blind. It's sad that most of these brilliant minded scientists willingly choose to be blind and they will have to pay for that. They will have to be called into account for it and they will have to answer for that.

We should, therefore, because these brilliant minds today who think on a plane so far above and who have mental abilities so far above us—it's still physical ability—but still they're thinking about things that we can't even comprehend hardly. And they can think of multiple things, multiple theories, multiple formulas all at the same time, very brilliant people. We should be all the more thankful for our calling because we're simple people who know things that they don't know just because of God's mercy, God's revelation, and above all, God's spirit.

We know who God and Christ are. They don't. And it's not because we are brilliant. It's just that God has called us, given us His spirit, and we read the word and we believe what it says. We know how the universe came to be. We know what man is and we know what the purpose of man is. We know the nature of God and Jesus Christ and we know how we can have eternal life—us, simple-minded people that are the weak of the world. And, through that calling, we don't have to be deceived. If we call on God, if we exercise God's holy spirit, we will not be deceived.

In closing, let's look and see what God says about those who are atheists, reject God, and refuse to believe in God. Let's close with Psalm 14:1. This is a Psalm of David. David knew God existed. He marveled at God's existence. He relied on God every day of his life. Psalm 14 verse 1, David puts it all in a couple of sentences here.

***Psalm 14:1. The fool [has] said in his heart, ... (KJV)***

What did the fool say?

*1b) ... There is no God.... (KJV)*

And what does God say through David?

*1 continued) ... They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that [does] good. (KJV)*

Apart from those God has called, apart from those God has given His spirit to. So, let's be thankful of our calling. Let's be so thankful every day. Let's be thankful in our prayers that God has revealed things to us that very brilliant men and women have sought for millennia to understand. It's all there in God's word. Let's be thankful that through His spirit, we can understand these great mysteries of life. And let's be thankful that God has called us out of this atheistic world, given us His spirit, and given us through that spirit the ability to comprehend Him, Christ, and the universe that They created.