

Defending Our Faith

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I'm going to start today in 1 Peter 3:15, This is a scripture I think we've all heard many times.

1 Peter 3:15 *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; (NKJV)*

The old King James says to *be ready to give an answer*. We are to be able to defend our faith to those who ask—that's very important, especially in this day and age. I think the last few words here, "*with meekness and fear*" tell us we have to do it humbly, but we do need to be able to give an answer when we are questioned. It has to be an answer concerning a hope that is within us. This hope has to have a solid foundation and it must be backed up by knowledge; if we don't have knowledge, we won't have a solid foundation. Look at Ephesians 4:13.

Ephesians 4:13 *till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;*
14) that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting ... (NKJV)

Knowledge is what we need to have so we are not *tossed to and fro*. There are a lot of winds blowing these days to try and toss us to and fro. I remember a course that I took in my first term in college and the professor said,

"I'm going to take everything you believe and I'm going to tear it apart, which sounds kind of wild."

He was saying that he was going to take things that we think we know and was going to make us examine them, so that what we know really has something behind it. Do we have a basis for our beliefs? This is called critical thinking and there are courses in college on critical thinking. These are critical times that we are in, as never before, we need to worry about and think about the depth of our knowledge and know what really backs up our faith. We need to take our faith seriously, being able to defend it. To defend it to our children, our families and anyone really who asks, and also most importantly, to ourselves. If we can't defend our faith to ourselves, we can't defend it to anyone.

So, my title today is: Defending our Faith

I brought part of my library today as a bit of a “show and tell”. There are some things I would like to share with you. I’m going to start with a book that my wife introduced me to and had me read. It’s called Already Gone; Why your kids will quit the church and what you can do to stop it. It’s written by Ken Ham and Bret Beamer. The book describes a survey that they took of young adults in their twenties—all church going people; church going young adults in their twenties. The book is chock full of statistics and some are kind of shocking. It mentions that during Elementary and Middle School, 95% regularly attended church, so they were all from church going families. But by the end of High School this was down to 11%. So, they were already gone by the end of High School. We tend to think that students lose their religion, lose their faith in college but here it has already happened in High School.

In High School classes there are scientific demonstrations, conversations on energy, force and acceleration, chemical reactions, electricity, magnetism; students are wowed by science. When I was back in High School there were all these absolutes that I was learning. Then came Biology class. I still remember quite vividly in Biology class we had a teacher with his white jacket on and he was up in front of the class and dissecting a frog. I guess I remember because of the feeling in my stomach—I’m really not into that sort of thing, I would never be a doctor. He was having what seemed to be a good time. He was taking all these little parts out of the frog—here’s the heart, here’s the liver, the lungs, this and that and laying them out on the table. He was saying that there are these same components in our bodies. Then comes evolution. So, the students tend to think, that what they are doing in science is so good and so exacting that this must be true also. The book Already Gone advocates a website, “Answers in Genesis” and there is some good material there but they believe in the Young Earth Theory, that the earth was created 6000 years ago. We don’t teach that. In Genesis 1, at the very beginning:

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*
2) *The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.* (NKJV)

It could be translated “*the earth became*”; that’s what we have used in some of our literature in the church. Looking at different translations, it indicates that the earth did exist before these six days of creation, what we call *the six days of creation*. But it was in a tremendously devastated state. Genesis 1 begins a new era; something new that God is doing. He’s working with human beings now and He has this plan that He started and is carrying out so it’s a completely new era. What happened before that? I think perhaps God really feels that it doesn’t matter, as far as what He’s doing now—it’s really none of our business perhaps, or maybe something we don’t need to know.

One argument for the *young earth theory* is ocean salinity; measuring the time of creation by how the oceans gained salinity, as material was dissolved and flushed into the oceans. At a conference on historical dating methods, Ryan McGillivray wrote a paper titled Ocean Salinity As a Failed Scientific Clock. He had this to say:

For a process to be considered a good natural clock it must contain the following: unknown initial condition, an irreversible process, a uniform rate and final condition.

He just shot down all the methods that man has for judging the age of the earth because we can't really guarantee any of these factors. Once your evidence is discredited, your credibility is gone so we have to be careful as far as that goes. Heading back to Already Gone again, there's something interesting that they have to say. Those young adults in their twenties who dropped out of church, the dropout rate was higher among those who had gone to Bible study. My parents sent me to Bible study for a short time, but about all I remember was that I didn't like it and I complained about it so it didn't last very long, which is probably good. If what is taught in Sunday school, with stories like Jonah and the whale and Noah and the flood, Satan can make young people think it's just a bunch of fairy tales. So, we need to think about the depth of our knowledge and our faith.

Notice Deuteronomy 6:4.

Deuteronomy 6:4 *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!*
5) *You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.*
6) *And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.*
7) *You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.*
8) *You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.* (NKJV)

So, concerning these young people, we are commanded to teach our young people, to teach our family, but if Bible study is left up to Sunday school, I think we have a problem. My wife and I attended some meetings quite a few years ago in the United church—the UCG education task force—and the emphasis there was on getting parents involved in teaching their children at home—teaching about the Bible. I know I've been bothered over the years and I think my wife has also by thinking that some of the Sabbath schools we have are just to keep the children occupied and really somehow make them interested in going to church, which really is not the right goal. We can't really teach and convince others unless we can teach and convince our own selves and our family.

There are four important things that God has done that we do believe in.

- He has designed our physical bodies with complexities beyond our wildest imagination.
- He has created a very special and unique environment for us—this earth that we live on.

- He has created a plan that He is working out and we're about to be a part of that plan at the Feast—the Holy Days showing that plan.
- He has given us a comprehensive text book containing history and instructions.

So how do we come to strengthen our belief in all of these things? There are some very good sources out there. The absolute proofs are hard to come by but there can be overwhelming evidence—sometimes completely overwhelming that really is a proof.

For the western world today, evolution is a myth of creation. Every society has what they call the “creation myths”. A myth is a story that could be true or false. In this modern world, evolution is the “creation myth”. In other words, man has devised his own story about these incidents and purpose or lack thereof, of human beings. It's very deeply embedded in our educational system.

People call our creation myth, “Intelligent Design” by an infinitely wise God—that's our creation myth and it's true. One time when I was teaching, before I retired, there was a position open in the biology department. One of the men who came to be interviewed, during the interview he admitted to believing in Intelligent Design. He became the laughing stock of the faculty forum—the internet forum. I remember one comment:

Intelligent design is to evolution as astrology is to astronomy.

That's a common belief amongst college faculty. So, of course, he didn't get the job. You can't believe in creation by evolution and creation by God. The two are really mutually exclusive. There will be rebuttals against any case that we make for our beliefs. There will always be detractors. The key is, can we make a strong enough case for ourselves, for our families, for our children and for others who ask? Absolute truth is hard to come by, but if we can make a strong enough case it can absolutely justify our faith.

Two books by Michael Behe, which I have brought along today, I think are quite important. They are The Edge of Evolution and Darwin's Black Box. Michael Behe is a bio-chemist and biochemistry has made some tremendous advances and discoveries in the last few decades. They have been able to analyze what's actually going on in the body chemically. as far as enzymes, proteins and how they interact. They've been able to map these things out in the processes; actually map out how systems are functioning in the body. His books really shoot down the theory of evolution if anything ever did. The Edge of Evolution—we'll start with that—discusses what are the limits to the theory of evolution, when it comes to random mutations. Or how far can mutations go? What is the limit mathematically? There are three distinct parts to the theory of evolution;

a common ancestor — natural selection or survival of the fittest — random mutations.

The first is false. The second—survival of the fittest—can be true to some extent. The third—random mutation—can occur, so we need to study into that. From generation to generation, DNA is copied and the copying is quite accurate but errors do occur. It's estimated that one time in 100 million is one part of a gene copied incorrectly to the next gene of the next generation. So, the vast majority of these errors are detrimental. Once in a while there might be something beneficial but generally, they are detrimental and cause some form of disease.

Today, man can analyze and compare DNA from these samples and can identify when mutations have occurred. There has been much research in the area of malaria because it's been such a curse on mankind. In Behe's book, The Edge of Evolution, he has a very long discussion of the malaria organism. Much research in mutations has been done in the area of drug resistance and because of the size of the malaria problem and the size of the data available, it's a very good case to study as far as mutations go. The malaria argument goes like this:

Consider 1 billion people infected with malaria at a particular time and each person carrying about 1 trillion malaria parasites. That's 1 billion trillion parasites. So, if you thought our national debt was bad, this is a very, very large sample size to be dealing with. The chance that a mutation in a particular gene from generation to generation, if that's 1 in 100 million and the number of genes in the malaria organism, there's a million, million organisms and a chance of a mutation occurring in 1 in 100 million. Then the chances are almost certain that something will happen there quickly. It happened in a very short time that a parasite can become resistant to a new drug. If it takes two different independent mutations to block a drug, in this case quinine, the chance is 1 trillion times 1 trillion. If you look at what happened in malaria, the resistance did occur about a decade later, so it took time because the chances were so much lower—but it did happen.

The science considers the chimpanzee to be our closest ancestor because of the similarities in our DNA. So, what are the chances of random mutations transforming a chimp to a man. To do a comparison, consider the population of 100 million chimps versus a million trillion parasites. A gestation period of years instead of a few days and the number of mutations to accomplish this change from chimp to man, the time required is a number too great to even contemplate.

Another case under study was the E Coli bacteria and this resides in our intestinal tract. A study at Michigan State University maintained a culture of E Coli bacteria for ten years to study the mutations. The E Coli gestation period is about twenty minutes so twenty minutes from generation to generation. In ten years, there were 260,000 generations passing on any possible mutations and the results were that not much happened. There were a small number of incoherent changes but it was still E Coli.

Behe's other book, Darwin's Black Box, discusses intelligent design and what he terms irreducible complexity. I would like to read just a couple of passages from this book

about irreducible complexity. This is from Darwin's Black Box by Michael Behe on page 39 and he starts off with a quote by Darwin.

If it can be demonstrated that any complex organism existed that could not possibly have been formed by numerous successive slight modifications my theory would absolutely break down.

Then Behe comments:

What type of biological system could not be formed by numerous, successful, slight modifications? For starters the system that is irreducibly complex. By irreducibly complex, I mean a system composed of several well-matched interacting parts that contribute to the basic function wherein the middle of any one part causes the system to effectively cease functioning, that would be considered irreducible complexity. Irreducibly complex system cannot be produced directly by slight successive modifications of a precursor system because any precursor to an irreducibly complex system that is missing a part is by definition a non-functional. This is a powerful challenge to Darwin's evolution. So natural selection can only choose from systems that are already working.

As I mentioned, biochemistry has made tremendous advances in the last few decades, analyzing the design of different functions of the body. Behe mentions quite a number of them in the book. I think one of the most amazing to me was the function of the eye. I would like us to see what he has to say about that. Beginning on page 18 of Darwin's Black Box by Michael Behe. I want to read just a couple paragraphs. You have to be a biochemist to really understand what he's saying. He gives a little assembly, this is a sort of an aside, just to indicate the complexity. It really is mind boggling.

When light first strikes the retina, a photon interacts with a molecule called 11-CIS-retinal which rearranges within picoseconds (a picosecond is one trillionth of a second) to transretinal. The change and the shape of the retina molecule forces the changes and the shape of the protein rhodopsin to which the retina is tightly bound and it alters the protein metamorphosis and alters its behavior. Now it's called metarhodopsin and it sticks to another protein called transducin before roping into metarhodopsin, transducin had tightly bound a small molecule called GDP. But when transducin interacts with metarhodopsin the GDP falls off and a molecule called GTP binds instead. GDP metarhodopsin now binds to a protein called phosphodiesterase located in the inner membrane of the cell. When attached to metarhodopsin and its entourage, the phosphodiesterase acquires a chemical ability to cut a molecule called CGMP. Initially there are a lot of CGMP molecules in the cell but after the phosphodiesterase lowers its concentration another membrane that binds CGMP is called an ion channel and acts as a gateway that regulates the number of sodium ions in the cell. Normally the ion channel allows sodium ions to flow into the cell and a separate protein actually pumps them out. The ion channel and the pump keep the level of sodium ions in the cell within a narrower range. When the amount of CGMP is reduced because

of the cleavage of the phosphodiesterase closes causing a cellular concentration of positively charged ions to be reduced. This causes an imbalanced charge across the cell that finally causes the current to be translated down the optic nerve to the brain and the result is vision.

So again, this was a little optional piece to put in there just to show the complexity. They were actually able to map out these processes that go on in the body. This is only half the story. Here all these changes that have occurred to produce this little bit of current to go down the optic nerve and now it has to be reset back to the original condition for the next photon that comes along. That's just as complex if not more so. So, we have this huge complex operation and this whole process has to be repeated ten or twenty times per second so we can see motion. I sometimes think, couldn't God have found a simpler way to do this? We can convert light to electricity with a little silicon or crystal. I think God has sort of overdone it—I shouldn't say that—but He's made things really complex to show the power of His Mind and what He is able to do and what He has designed.

Romans 1:20 is a scripture we have heard often.

Romans 1:20 *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 ... (NKJV)*

We see the power of God's Mind in just one instance of this design of the human body, but if we look around us, it's in everything. The world we live in, is absolutely designed for our habitation. What I read above just describes how the eye converts into an electric current but there is so much more. The iris controls the amount of light that is entering the eye. The diameter of the opening is controlled by a set of muscles. It is really part of what we could call a closed loop feedback system. Light is sensed by the retina. This information goes to the brain, the brain sends a signal to the muscles that if there is too much light it constrains the iris and the amount of light hitting the retina is reduced. What if it overcorrects and cuts off too much and then the brain calls for more light and this overcorrection can cycle and we would just see a fluttering. The body is full of these feedback control systems and a feedback control system. If you have designed one as an engineer, it has to be quite exacting in its perimeters or it's not going to be stable.

Another design of the eye is the center of vision called the "fovea" and that is about a two-degree little slice of our whole field of vision. It has the resolution that allows 20/20 vision. About half of the nerves that go into the nerve over the optic nerve bundle, come from this little, tiny area which gives that phenomenal resolution. If, like a camera, we had equal resolution with a whole field of vision, how could you read. It would be overload and you couldn't concentrate on any tiny spot. We would have difficulty doing about anything in life. So, here's another design feature that is quite incredible that you don't see in cameras.

Here's an experiment: Close one eye and force yourself to look at one letter in some text. While you maintain your center of focus on that letter, try and tell what the letters are just a few places away. You can't do it because you don't have the resolution, so that's interesting. From a little googling on the internet, I found a number for the number of gigapixels in the human eye and what I found was 576 gigapixels. So, if you think of 576 gigapixels from each eye going into the brain, the brain has to instantly convert that into a three-dimensional image; another very phenomenal thing.

The brain can cover blind spots in the eye. There is always a blind spot and they are off to the side. I know about where mine are because I've done this experiment. It's where the optic nerves come into the eye and you can have damage to your eye that causes other blind spots and I've had this happen. One time our children toilet papered our bedroom and taking it down they tore off a little piece of tape on the ceiling and left a spot where the paint is missing. I can lay in bed and look up and move my eye until I center that blind spot over that spot and the ceiling then is perfectly white—the bad spot is gone. That's another experiment you can try; just find something that is quite small and move your eye and you can make things disappear.

So not only is the eye an example of an irreducibly complexity, it's such an extreme example. Behe has other examples in his book, such as blood clotting and the immune system; they are both tremendously complex. Blood clotting has to happen only where there is bleeding and has to be precisely controlled and not get out of hand and block arteries. The covid injections have been known to cause blood clots which can be quite dangerous. Every medication that man devises does have some side effects. Hopefully, there are more good ones than bad. That's what we depend upon but there is always some side effect.

Intelligent Design presents what we call “an elephant in the room”—Behe mentions that. He says scientists' refusal to acknowledge the elephant in the room is that one side of the elephant says Intelligent Design and the other side says God and to scientists, they can't talk about God.

Look at 139:13.

Psalm 139:13 *For You formed my inward parts; You covered me in my mother's womb.*

14) I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well. (NKJV)

David knew that God designed our bodies and we are finding that out very clearly through biochemistry right now. Another book I brought is [In the Beginning: Compelling Evidence for Creation and the Flood](#) by Walt Brown. This is an unusual book in that there are no restrictions on it. It's all on the internet and the website is www.creationscience.com. You can read the whole book on the internet and copy off anything you want to use in a class or anywhere you want to use it or just use different topics for your own study. He was an evolutionist until his studies showed the

impossibility of the theory. Walt Brown has a PhD in engineering from MIT and is a retired Air Force colonel. He taught at the Air Force Academy so he has quite good credentials. But that doesn't mean we can believe everything he wrote because pretty much what he wrote has quite a bit of speculation. So mostly what he wrote is speculation, but he does provide some very good examples and some good arguments. Some in favor of creation and some things are to research further. In the book it lists 131 categories of evidence for creation; from biology, astronomy, the physical and earth sciences and gives a paragraph or more about each one. He does spend a lot of time on the flood. Of course, the Bible tells us about the flood and just about every culture has legends about the flood—a traumatic flood in which only a few people survived by boat. It is pretty much a universal story but is discredited by scientists who then discredit the Bible. If you believe in Jesus Christ you have to believe in the flood because He mentions the flood—Matthew 24:38.

Matthew 24:38 *For as in the days before the flood, they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark. 39) and did not know until the flood came and took them all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. (NKJV)*

Jesus Christ believed in the flood and so do we. The scientific world assumes a uniform earth model that gradually changed over millions or billions of years. Land masses creeping, tectonics, glaciers ebbing and flowing and carving features leading to the earth as it appears today. The flood completely upsets all of these conclusions. The flood was a mammoth cataclysm resulting in a happening on the earth in a very short time. In the book, In the Beginning, Walt Brown formulated a theory of how the flood occurred and is basically compatible with the Bible. According to Brown's theory, a crack opened and propagated clear around the earth. Where did all the water come from? Genesis 7:11.

Genesis 7:11 *In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, on that day all the fountains of the great deep were broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. (NKJV)*

So, there was a great deal of water underground and according to Brown's theory, an awesome amount of water under great pressure. Once a crack opened it was like bursting a balloon and then this crack propagated around the globe and vast amounts of water shot up into the atmosphere and then came down. This were the fountains of the great deep. In this tremendous event, some land collapsed where these cracks were and the ocean trenches were formed, mountains were pushed up, some earth was moved sideways—just a tremendous upheaval worldwide. I was thinking, it must have been a bumpy ride on Noah's Ark. I think that God really must have intervened there and kept them in some fairly calm waters.

There's a couple of pictures here that I think are rather profound. One shows all the sediment layers—perhaps you can't see it too well in the camera—but there is a tree trunk going through all these layers of sediment. This has been witnessed in several

places. After Mount Saint Helens erupted sediment layers were formed in the bottom of Spirit Lake and there were tree trunks stuck in that, similar to this picture but much smaller and not as many layers, but still the same effect.

Another picture here shows the mountains are just jammed together like an accordion, so things were pushed sideways. This has occurred in some places. If the earth was perfectly smooth, right now the water would be 9000 feet deep so there had to be a tremendous change in the whole layout of the earth—when all this water came out the oceans had to have a place to sink, mountains were pushed up and then the dry land appeared.

There are some points to consider in explaining our faith.

One is that we need to study.

2 Timothy 2:15 *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (NKJV)*

We need to keep studying. Studying God's Word, but also studying this world around us and maintaining our faith. It takes continual study to maintain something that is strong in our minds because things tend to fade in the mind. So, we have to keep up on scientific research and see what's going on. I think especially in biochemistry and then in astronomy we have the new telescope out there that is providing some awesome pictures.

Two, watch out for tricky and insincere questions.

Matthew 22:15 *Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him in His talk.*

16) *And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of men.*

17) *Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?"*

18) *But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, "Why do you test Me, you hypocrites?*

19) *Show Me the tax money." So they brought Him a denarius.*

20) *And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?"*

21) *They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."*

(NKJV)

They tried to trick Christ with questions but He had a rebuttal for them. Today, in politics especially, people are asked questions to try and make them look bad, to trip them up. Look at Proverbs 26, just a short couple of sentences.

Proverbs 26:4 *Do not answer a fool according to his folly, Lest you also be like him.* (NKJV)

There will be people who try to trick us. We might be asked a question designed to make us look stupid, such as:

*You don't believe in evolution?
How dumb and out of step can you be with the scientific world?*

Scientists have done tremendously deep research now, and if they're honest about it, many no longer believe in evolution. So, I say we are on the right side. Christ answered a fool according to his folly and we need to think about a response if we are asked something that is not sincere.

Three, answer when you are asked seriously.

Matthew 7:6 *“Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.* (NKJV)

We can't just spew out what we believe and be a show off. We need to be able to give an answer when it's sincerely asked for in a right way and to do it humbly. One more verse along that line, Proverbs 9:7.

Proverbs 9:7 *He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself, And he who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself.* (NKJV)

We need to give advice or answer questions only when they're asked honestly.

Four we need to teach our children.

That's a responsibility—teach our children and actually our families. Deuteronomy 11:18.

Deuteronomy 11:18 *Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.*

19) You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. (NKJV)

God's Word and the true things that we believe in need to be taught to our children and our families. Ephesians 6:4.

Ephesians 6:4 *And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.* (NKJV)

Again, we need to teach our children what is true about God and creation and all that He has done.

Five, be an example of a person of understanding.

Philippians 2:14 *Do all things without complaining and disputing,
15) that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault
in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as
lights in the world,
16) holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I
have not run in vain or labored in vain. (NKJV)*

We are to *be wise as serpents and harmless as doves* as Christ said in Matthew 10:16.
In Matthew 5:16.

Matthew 5:16 *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good
works and glorify your Father in heaven. (NKJV)*

We are to be “lights” to the world. If this causes us to be questioned in a sincere way, we need to be ready to give an answer humbly and have response for what we truly believe in our hearts. So, what am I saying in this sermon? We need to be doing some studying, we need to make sure our faith is on a solid foundation. Romans 1:22.

Romans 1:22 *Professing to be wise, they became fools,
23) and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like
corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.
24) Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts,
to dishonor their bodies among themselves ... (NKJV)*

This is the world that we live in. This is a story of modern society and God says,

“If you think you’re wise”, as people do say today, “I’ll show you Who is wise.”

He shows us remarkable things that He has created that truly are astonishing. Go back to where I started, 1 Peter 3:15.

1 Peter 3:15 *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to
give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you,
with meekness and fear; (NKJV)*

So be ready to give an answer to our children, to our families, to others who ask honestly and first of all to ourselves. If the answer is not in our own minds and ourselves then we can’t share it with anyone else.