

Seeing God

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My title today is:

Seeing God

And I'm talking about God the Father. Seeing God is vitally important to us in our Christian lives. I'd like to start by turning to John 1:18.

John 1:18 *No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him. (NKJV)*

Is there a contradiction here? There's a little more to the story. I'd like to turn to Exodus 33; Moses was up on the mountain with God the Father.

Exodus 33:18 *And he said, "Please, show me Your glory."*

19) *Then He said, "I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."*

20) *But He said, "You cannot see My face; for no man shall see Me, and live."*

21) *And the LORD said, "Here is a place by Me, and you shall stand on the rock.*

22) *So it shall be, while My glory passes by, that I will put you in the cleft of the rock, and will cover you with My hand while I pass by.*

23) *Then I will take away My hand, and you shall see My back; but My face shall not be seen."* (NKJV)

So, God did let Moses see the back part of Him but he couldn't see His face. He said *no one can see my face and live*. Whenever God spoke to mankind, He spoke from a cloud so that He was shielded and wouldn't destroy those He was talking to. We can't see God directly but we can learn a great deal about God. It's our responsibility to do so.

There are different ways of seeing. There are many things we can't see directly but can still learn about. That doesn't mean we can't see them indirectly. I think I've mentioned, we can't see gravity but we can certainly feel the effects of it. We can't see a magnetic field but back in school, I remember we would take a magnet and put a piece of paper over it and sprinkle some iron filings on it and there was a picture of the magnetic field that was clear as anything. So, there are ways of seeing things. A lot of things we can't see directly, we can see indirectly. I'd like to turn to John 3:8, talking about spirit beings here.

John 3:8 *The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."* (NKJV)

So, we can't see spirit beings but they can make themselves available for us to see. How can we see God the Father? Not visually, but I would like to consider four ways that we can come to know all we need to know about God. At least in this present age. I think this will give us a mind's eye vision of God the Father.

1. God's design in creation.

I think Rick touched on that as far as the human body goes, but let's look at Romans 1:20, which is very familiar.

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)*

There are two very different categories of living things that we categorize as animal and vegetable. How could these have evolved from a single cell that supposedly came out of a swamp some place, according to evolution. It really doesn't add up. It doesn't make any sense from an evolutionary perspective but it does from a design perspective. God made two major divisions of living things as an essential part of His creation. God designed the human body and the animals, all things that can move about and do things. God saw the need to feed them so He designed food for all of these creatures and hence the vegetation. All food ultimately comes from the soil which is where God put the nutrients. Fixed plants derive the nutrients from the soil. We humans eat vegetables and the animals. There are animals that eat animals but ultimately everything comes from the ground—from vegetation. We eat the cows and the cows eat the grass. I remember when I worked at Boeing many years ago, there was an engineer there who was kind of a jokester and claimed to be anti-vegetarian. He said, I let the cow eat the grass and I eat the whole cow.

God also created the sun as a necessary source of energy for all these living things. So we can witness a completely designed system; an overall system where God created everything needed for all life. Rick mentioned some things in the human body. The human body contains about 75 trillion cells. We can only shed so many in one day but 75 trillion is hard to imagine. They are all programmed to continually manufacture components to maintain themselves. The probability of this programming is a random function that is mathematically zero. I'd like to turn to Psalm 139:14.

Psalms 139:14 *I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Marvelous are Your works, And that my soul knows very well.*

15) My frame was not hidden from You, When I was made in secret, And skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

16) Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book they all were written, The days fashioned for me, When as yet there were none of them. (NKJV)

David said he was fearfully and wonderfully made and if there is an understatement, that is it. God looks at the human body for design ideas. When we look at robots what do we see? We see things that are designed after the human body. Birds inspired man to create flying machines.

2. God's intervention in human affairs.

We can come to see God when we witness either His actions in our human affairs or even in our own lives. Nehemia Gordon wrote a book titled, *Shattering the Conspiracy of Silence* and he called these things "God incidences". Gordon wrote a sequence of events that caused him to barely miss being in front of a cafe when it was destroyed by a suicide bomber. He mentioned that as a God instance in his own life. When my wife and I watched a video of Joseph, that portrayed the sequence of events that God caused to happen in Joseph's life. It brought him up to be second in command of all of Egypt and it was clearly a sequence guided by God. So, God inspired Joseph's dreams which caused his brothers to hate him, so they sold him as a slave into Egypt. Joseph was bought by Potiphar and then Potiphar's wife, through her lies caused him to be sent to prison. Then in prison, Joseph interpreted the dreams of Potiphar's butler and baker which led to Joseph being led into the presence of Potiphar to interpret his dreams. Potiphar seeing Joseph's wisdom and how close he was to God, made him second in command of Egypt. It was a sequence of events that God orchestrated there.

I believe God's hand was behind many things that took place in the U.S. during World War II. The way things came together to help us defeat the acts of power was phenomenal. We had vast resources and material, we had hydro power to smelt aluminum. We were able to design and produce war materials that was ramped up to an astounding level. One Ford plant was turning out one B-24 bomber every 29 minutes if you can imagine that. Somewhere there had to be produced four engines. All the electronic equipment, the armaments—everything had to come together. All of these things produced at that rate was really amazing. You could imagine the supply chain problems that had to be overcome. Today we have supply chain problems with baby food and it takes us months to iron that out. So could man by his own will really have organized all that took place? I don't really see how it could have been without God's intervention.

There is a "God incidence" in my own life that has always stood out in my memory. I've mentioned it before in a sermonette and it fits here. It's what I experienced the first time I tried tithing. I had begun listening to the World Tomorrow broadcast and started with ordering some of the booklets and reading them. After I read the tithing booklet I said, "I'll try that and see what happens." At the time I was living in a dormitory room at the University of Washington and my income was about \$50 a month from part time work on the janitor crew. I said, "I'll put \$5 in an envelope and address it to Pasadena to the headquarters" and it was anonymous. I dropped it in the mail and walked to class and I came back in the afternoon and there was a letter in my mailbox from my grandmother with a \$5 bill in it. My grandmother had never sent me money and never did after that. Somehow God needed to know how long it would take for that mail to get there when

grandma had to mail the letter and when I was going to mail the one to Pasadena and He had it all worked out. A month went by and I said I would try this again. I put \$5 in an envelope and addressed it to Pasadena and dropped it in the mail shoot. Came back and there was a letter from an insurance company and there was a check in there for \$5 and some cents. It was from a whole life policy that my mother had taken out when I was an infant and I had forgotten all about it. Somehow this letter had found me at the University on this particular day.

Some people would call these coincidences. But, in my mind, no way. It couldn't have been, it was a "God incidence"—two incidences really—and it showed me where I needed to be. It was where I needed to be.

3. Prophecy.

The fulfilling of Daniel's prophecy of the sequential kingdoms of media Persia, Greece, and Rome is well documented. Many people have argued that this was so correct that it must have been written after the fact. I actually gave a message about this not too long ago. You can counter all those arguments that Daniel did right back before all of this happened. You can prove that. There are prophecies about our time now that are happening before our very eyes. I would like to look at just a few things. Isaiah 3:12.

Isaiah 3:12 As for My people, children are their oppressors, And women rule over them. O My people! Those who lead you cause you to err, And destroy the way of your paths." (NKJV)

Today we see these flash mobs of young people that are emptying out stores. We've seen what happened to our building here from young people who were driving really recklessly outside. The mass shootings in schools that are being carried out by young people. They find a gun and take it and start shooting other children and teachers. Daniel 12:4.

Daniel 12:4 *"But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase." (NKJV)*

I think we can certainly see that. We are running to and fro and all the people are traveling. We've done so much traveling on planes around the world. As far as technology, I have little hearing aids now that you wouldn't even imagine not too many years ago. We keep hearing that knowledge is increasing exponentially, year after year. So that really is pointing to the times that we are in. Matthew 24:21.

Matthew 24:21 *For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.
22) And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. (NKJV)*

This world really has become totally unstable. I just found on the internet that it's estimated that there are 12,700 nuclear warheads in six different countries right now. It boggles my mind, God gave us minds to think, how could we come to the point where we build enough destructive power to destroy the whole earth and all human beings. It doesn't make sense as far as any logical thinking. It's not logical thinking, it's Satan inspired thinking that is doing this. We see countries that are ruled by demon possessed people and our own government has stymied as far as accomplishing things that need to be done. So today we are really experiencing this prophecy being fulfilled before our very eyes. We are in the end times and you can see it through all these prophecies. We can see God's hand in bringing us to this point. He's showing us evil, rubbing our noses in it so when the Kingdom does come, it will be an awesome thing to behold. To see the differences between God's way and man's way. There is purpose behind it and God is allowing Satan to do these things right now.

4. We can see God through Jesus Christ.

John 14:7 *"If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."* (NKJV)

Christ is saying, we see the Father through Him.

8) *Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us."*

9) *Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*

10) *Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.* (NKJV)

One purpose for Christ coming was to show us the Father—the Father's characteristics. God allotted four books of the Bible to relate the life of Jesus Christ and to show us the Father through Jesus Christ. Christ taught His feelings, His emotion. I'd like to turn to John 1:14.

John 1:14 *And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.* (NKJV)

The Bible tells us how He looked at Jerusalem and how He wanted to cuddle these people like a mother hen would her chickens under her wings—but the people weren't willing. He had that emotion and love that He showed. We can see Christ's characteristics through the gospels and God gave us all that material in the Bible to reveal what Christ was like and through Him, God the Father. We can see Christ's love, empathy, emotion and even tears. Christ said, if you've seen Me, you've seen the Father. The Bible says the invisible things of God are currently seen, being understood by the things that are made. God says, what more could I possibly show you?