



WHY IS GOD HIDDEN?

—by Peter Hammond



To the willfully blind God seems to be absent, or if He is real, He is cruel. But to those whose eyes are open there is abundant evidence.

One of the most famous atheists of the 20th Century, British philosopher, Bertrand Russell wrote: "Why I am not a Christian." When he was asked what he would say if it turned out that there was a God after all, Russell replied that he would ask the Almighty: "Why didn't You give us more evidence?"

This prompted a reaction from science teacher and author Ken Poppy that Russell "seems to be positioning himself in case he needs to shift the blame to God for not being more convincing."

God is not hidden. He has been revealing His power and majesty and truth in so many multitudes of ways. He is clearly seen in nature, conscience and Jesus.

A hidden God
17th Century French mathematician and scientist Blaise Pascal wrote: "What can be seen on earth indicates neither the total absence of God nor His manifest presence, but rather the presence of a hidden God." *"To the pure all things are pure, but to those who are defiled, nothing is pure; but even their mind and conscience are defiled."* Titus 1:15

To the willfully blind God seems to be absent, or even worse if He is there, He is cruel. But to those whose eyes have been opened there are abundant evidences of God in Creation, in our conscience and in Jesus Christ.

There is nowhere on earth, or in the universe, where His fingerprints are absent.

However, we are confronted today by a most virulent and aggressive form of atheism. One of the great ironies of militant atheists is how their whole existence seems to be consumed in fighting against what they claim does not exist.

Confronting atheists
If you have read many of the vicious atheist attacks on God you will notice how they tend to blur the distinction between Christianity and Islam. They cite horrible atrocities done in the name of religion and then they

argue that the problem is with God! Firstly, it is completely unfair to blame the victims for what their persecutors have done.

Secondly, these atheist writers ignore the vastly worse atrocities committed by atheists. Secular humanist, atheistic political regimes turned the 20th Century into the bloodiest century in all of history. The death toll left behind by secular humanist, atheist dictators such as Vladimir Lenin, Joseph Stalin, Mao Tse Tung, Pol Pot, Haile Mariam Mengistu, Samora Machel, Agestino Neto, Fidel Castro and other communists exceed 160 000 000 victims. These were not soldiers killed in battle, but civilians killed in peace time, by their own governments, in the name of scientific socialism.

Irrational reasoning
Now, we would not want to make every atheist share the guilt of what some atheists have done to slaughter multiplied millions. Neither would it be fair, or rational, for any atheist to blame Protestant Christians for what intolerant regimes and extremists have done to their forefathers.

The fact is that there is a God. He made us. He has revealed His standards of right and wrong in the Ten Commandments. We are accountable to Him. One Day we will stand before Him and give an account of our lives. God is not hidden. He has been revealing His power and majesty and truth in so many multitudes of ways. It is clearly seen in His Creation. He has spoken through the prophets. He has spoken in and through His Son, Jesus Christ. *"The Heavens declare the Glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork."* Psalm 19:1

God's handiwork in nature
If you have ever climbed the great Drakensberg Mountains then you have seen one of the watersheds of our continent. You can imagine drops of rain from the same cloud can fall on the same peak and one will flow west and end up in the Orange River, flowing relentlessly to the Atlantic Ocean, another will end up in the Tugela River and flow east, ending in the Indian Ocean.

At one point these two drops of water are a metre apart, and then a kilometre apart, then a hundred kilometres apart. Eventually they're over a thousand kilometres apart. »





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It takes one drop of water over four months to travel the full length of the Nile River from Lake Victoria through to the Mediterranean Sea. In America the Rockies are the continental divide. In South America it is the Andies Mountains. In Asia the Himalayas. In Europe the Alps.

The watershed question

These watersheds are important in geography and one watershed in Theology which impacts key beliefs more than any other is the question: 'Is there a God, or not?' That question is pivotal. The Bible begins: "In the beginning God Created the Heavens and the earth." Gen 1:1

Contrary to evolutionary belief and media propaganda, creation evidences an Intelligent Designer and science is not at odds with Christianity.

Atheism is based on the assumption that there is no God. Either one believes that the world created itself or one believes in a self-sufficient Supreme Being who always was, is and ever will be. Put another way, the question is: Is God self-sufficient and always existing? Or is the universe self-sufficient and self-existing? The point where you start will determine where you end up. "The fool has said in his heart, there is no God." Psalm 14:1

The God who is there

Every tribe and culture and nation has an idea about God and a name for God. Everyone knows that God exists, but some

people foolishly try to suppress that fact. The whole tenor of human life is affected by whether men regard themselves as the supreme being in the universe, or acknowledge a superhuman Being whom they conceive of as an object of fear or love and a force to be defied, or a Lord to be obeyed.

More than anything else, what you believe about God will make the most difference in your thoughts, your life and your eternal destiny.

Crumbling foundations

One of the reasons why we are facing such a militant and aggressive assault from atheists today is because all the pillars

of atheism are crumbling. First they are crumbling from the tremendous advance of the Gospel as millions of people are being converted to Christ every year. Secondly, at the highest intellectual levels, increasing numbers of scientists are realising that atheism is an untenable position.

Facts are stubborn things

In 'God, the Atom and the Universe', scientist Dr. James Reid, declares: "Science is preparing a surprise for mankind. At least it will be a surprise for those who have doubts about the Bible and its God. It will also come as a surprise for those who are labouring under the misapprehension that science under-

mines the Bible. In fact, it may even shock some scientists, who may be startled to find that their newly uncovered facts, or accepted theory, provide still another link in the chain of evidence that is showing that the facts of the universe support the Bible's statements – including Creation."

Purpose in design

Highly respected astrophysicist, Professor Brandon Carter from Oxford University startled many in a speech in 1973 when he pointed out that Physics and Astronomy all seem to indicate that our world – indeed the entire universe – has been constructed and maintained for a purpose. That purpose could only be the sustaining of intelligent life on this planet.

Professor Carter noted such things as consistent symmetry in the mathematical equations for gravity and the fact that if the mass of the proton were just a fraction larger or smaller, the entire solar system would collapse. All of Physics points to the fact that somehow this universe appears to have been designed for mankind. This he called the Anthropic Principle. Now, to evolutionists, purpose is one of the most repugnant of words. To recognise purpose in Creation is to acknowledge a Creator.

The privileged planet

If the earth was any closer to the sun, temperatures would be too high for any life to survive. If we were any further away from the sun, the temperatures would be too low to sustain life. The atmosphere around planet earth is absolutely unique to sustain human and animal life.

So many other scientists have made similar discoveries and observations that one can compare it to multiplied snowballs turning into an avalanche, which is sweeping away the pillars of evolutionism.

Mathematical genius

One of the greatest astronomers of all times, Sir James Jeans, observed that the more he studied the universe, the more the universe appeared to him to be one gigantic thought of a great mathematician.

Scientists who embrace Intelligent Design point to many examples, such as the moon. If there were no moon, there could be no life on earth. Without the tides, and without the moon, all our shores and bays would be filled with billions of tonnes of garbage and debris. The moon mixes the atmosphere. Just as the gravitational pull of the moon affects the tides of the seas, it works on the atmosphere and mixes oxygen into the water as the waves break upon the shore.

Upon that aerated water depends the life of the seas plankton, which provides the basis of the ground level of the whole food chain without which we would all die.

Evidence that demands a verdict

For someone who believes in evolution it is inexplicable that the moon just 'accidentally' happens to be there, and 'accidentally' happens to be just the right size and distance from the earth for all of these things to happen in such a way as to sustain life on this planet.

Then consider the nitrogen in the atmosphere. The atmosphere is made up of

78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen and 1% of other components. We should consider the fact the nitrogen mixed with almost anything becomes poisonous. However, the atmospheric nitrogen around us is extraordinarily inert. What good is nitrogen? Without nitrogen there would be no plants. So, how does God get the nitrogen to mix into the soil for the plants to feed on without mixing it into the air we breathe, which would kill us?

The balance of life

Scientists inform us that the hundred thousand strokes of lightning everyday around the globe are essential to alter the molecular atmospheric nitrogen into compounds

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Psalm 19:1

like ammonia and nitrates which are carried into the ground by rain. That system produces 100 000 000 tonnes of nitrogen plant food every year and keeps this world going.

Every time we hear the thunder, and see a bolt of lightning, we should stop and think that were it not for that lightning, life would not be able to be sustained on this planet.

All creation evidences the design and interest of a Creator

Scientists also point to the intelligent design in dust. To many people dust is something unpleasant, however, intelligent design advocates point out we should

thank God for dust. One of the benefits of dust is merely cosmetic. We are informed that the sky is not really blue, it only appears that way because of the effect of dust on light in our atmosphere. If you go 40km straight up into the atmosphere, where there is no dust, the sky appears pitch black. Perhaps you have noticed that photographs taken from the moon show black skies.

The complexity and magnificence of God's universe

But, we are informed by the experts, dust does something even more important: every drop of rain contains approximately

eight million tiny droplets of water, and each of these droplets is wrapped around a tiny speck of dust. If it wasn't for the dust, it could never rain. If it never rained, this whole world would turn into something like the Sahara desert and all of us would die. Everything evidences design.

When we consider the complexity and magnificent design of God's Creation in the universe we can see that He is not nearly as hidden as skeptics assert. "The Heavens declare the Glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork." ■

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