

Genesis 1:1 *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.*

Romans 1:18-23 *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold [suppress] the truth in unrighteousness; ¹⁹Because that which may be known of God is manifest [made clear] in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. ²⁰For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made [God's wisdom and knowledge and planning and design are seen in every part of the earth and heavens around us], even his eternal power and Godhead [along with His infinite power and loving, providing nature]; so that they are without excuse: ²¹Because that, when they knew God [they could clearly see that God has given them their lives and everything they need to sustain them], they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations [but they had to invent in their minds other ways for the universe to exist], and their foolish heart was darkened. ²²Professing [proclaiming] themselves to be wise, they became fools, ²³And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image [idol] made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.*

I. Introduction

- A. The existence of God gives a reason for the existence of moral authority everywhere and at every level, such as:
 - 1. Family
 - 2. Society
 - 3. All levels of government
- B. The existence of God gives an explanation for the conscience and moral standards seen in people throughout the world
- C. The existence of God gives us reason to expect that He would leave us a record of Himself
 - 1. By implication through His creation we can know of His existence. From the law of cause and effect, the effect (the universe) implies a cause (a creator)
 - 2. In concrete form in a written record we can know Him personally
 - 3. The Bible nowhere tries to prove God's existence, but rather presumes it and shows evidence of it.

- II. Inward Revelation, verses 18-20 (God shows Himself to us if we will just examine ourselves honestly)
- A. Innate Truth (something that must be true because of the nature of the system it is found in). God built into people the existence of Himself
1. We know God is righteous and just or we wouldn't try to hide our evil deeds, verse 18
 2. We know God is loving, and that He provides everything we need for our lives, or we wouldn't try to worship and make sense of Him, verse 19. When men reject this revelation of God about Himself, they must:
 3. Create for themselves a god that will allow them to do whatever they want. These are atheists, false religions and idol worshippers. They are without excuse before God (verse 20) when they:
 - a. Imagine a system that has no need for a creator (evolution).
 - b. Imagine a system that has always existed apart from a creator
 4. Every system that excludes a creator is chosen by the individual and is reinforced by the world system.
- B. Unique Intellect (verse 21) given by God to make choices for him/herself; a free will
1. Moral Will: God created man with a free will. This ability to make moral judgements is part of the image of God that we were like.

*Genesis 1:26 And **God said, Let us make man in our image**, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over [let them reign over] the fish of the sea, and over the fowl [birds] of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*
 2. Moral Intellect: God put a sense of right and wrong (or good and evil) into each person. People universally put high value on some things (human life, the right to control something you work for), less value on other things (lower forms of life, things that are plentiful such as air and water), and negative value on bad things (murder, stealing, destruction for no reason). No society can last without laws and order within itself.

Romans 2:14–15 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law [of Moses], do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves [even though the Gentiles, who were not given the Law from God, make the same laws to govern themselves]: ¹⁵Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness [All people show God's Laws written on their hearts and consciences by behaving like the Law demands]...

3. Moral Purpose (verse 21)

- a. Even with free will, people have a way to fit into God's larger plan for His creation, which they can either accept (on God's terms) or reject.

Ecclesiastes 12:13–14 *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter [This is what life is all about]: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. ¹⁴For God shall bring every work [action, behavior] into judgment, with every secret thing [thought, attitude], whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*

- b. Even though they may have a reputation for wisdom in the world, God says they are making themselves into fools by rejecting Him

Psalms 14:1 (see also Psalm 53:1) *The fool hath said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have done abominable works [horrible deeds], there is none that doeth good.*

III. Outward Revelation verse 20 *"²⁰For the **invisible things of him** [God] from the creation of the world **are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made**, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they [those that suppress the truth] are without excuse."*

A. Revelation of Cause

1. Every effect (the universe) must have an adequate cause (God). Genesis 1:1
2. Whatever effect caused the universe must be greater than the universe.
3. God Himself does not have a cause, since He is eternally self-existent.

B. Revelation of Creation. "...the creation of the world [is] clearly seen..."

1. Creation Had Order. God has left His "handprints" everywhere in creation.

1 Corinthians 14:40 *Let all things be done decently and in order.*

Psalms 119:89-90 *Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven. ⁹⁰Thy faithfulness is unto all generations: **thou hast established the earth, and it abideth** [the earth You established endures].*

2. Creation Shows a Designer. "...so that they [those that suppress the truth] are without excuse."

Psalms 19:1–3 ***The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament** [from the sky to the stars] *sheweth his handywork.* ²Day unto day uttereth speech [they continually speak to people], and night unto night sheweth knowledge [they show how well God put the universe in order]. ³*There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard* [all people understand without a word being spoken] ...*

IV. Historical Revelation, verses 21-23 ²¹*Because that, **when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*** ²²**Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,** ²³*And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things.”*

A. In Past Cultures

1. Before Noah’s flood people lived much longer lives. Noah’s father overlapped with the life of Adam, and could have been told of Adam’s first-hand conversations with God.

Genesis 6:5 *And **God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.***

2. After the flood, Noah’s family of 8 all went through the flood together, and reported the before-the-flood world conditions to those after the flood for many generations. At this point in history everyone spoke the same language.

3. After the Tower of Babel, different cultures developed as people settled with their linguistic tribes. Every ancient culture on earth has a story of a great flood that destroyed a previous civilization.

Isaiah 1:4 *Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity [a people with great guilt], a seed [family] of evildoers, children that are corrupters [children who do wicked things]: **they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward** [they have turned their backs on God].*

B. In Present Cultures

Everywhere on earth people are turning away from God. This is most clearly seen when men murder each other, killing someone made in God’s image. There are too many other examples to cite.

Proverbs 1:7 **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge:** but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Quote: “When men choose not to believe in God, they do not thereafter believe in nothing, they then become capable of believing in anything.”—G. K. Chesterton

Isaiah 5:20 *Woe [Disaster will happen] unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*

V. Conclusion: What happens when a nation rejects belief in God?

A. God turns away from that nation

Romans 1:24, 26, 28 *Wherefore **God also gave them up** to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves [sexual sins, piercings, tattoos, much worse things]...For this cause **God gave them up** unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:... And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, **God gave them over** to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient [things that should never be done];*

B. There will come a day of accounting

Hebrews 9:27 *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

C. God still loves anyone willing to turn to Him

Hebrews 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to please him [God]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is [that God exists], and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*

D. The terms on which God will accept you is simply by belief in Jesus Christ, God the Son. His perfect life was the price He paid for your imperfect one, and that He substituted Himself willingly so that you can be reconciled with your Heavenly Father. Eternal life is given freely as a gift by simply believing.

John 3:36 ***He** [anyone] **that believeth on the Son** [Jesus] **hath everlasting life:** and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*