

Revealed In Creation

Fifty years ago today Israel was surrounded by armies from Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia. What would happen to this 19-year old nation? After their seaport was closed, Israel attacked on June 5, 1967. In the first three days, they secured Jerusalem and defeated the Jordanians. On the fourth day, Egypt's army collapsed. On the fifth and sixth days, the Syrians were defeated. In just six days, Israel tripled the size of their territory.

The world stood in awe as Christians hailed the fulfillment of Bible prophecy (Ezekiel 36-37). Go tell it on the mountain! God is real and alive and at work on planet earth!

Three Ways In Which God Continually Reveals Himself:

1. Through His _____ (Wrath)

- a. *“The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness.” Romans 1:18.* Unlike man's anger, God's wrath is a settled determined indignation with injustice. Because we are made in God's image, this need for justice is built into our psyches.
- b. Although we want justice when we are the victims, we want mercy when we are the perpetrators. God's wrath is both comforting and scary. *“Be sure that your sin will find you out.” Numbers 32:23.* Sin catches up with us whether it's through consequences (Galatians 6:7) or at the final judgment (Revelation 20:11-15). Or...we can turn to Christ for forgiveness (Colossians 2:13-14).

2. Through His _____ (Power)

- a. *“Since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.” Romans 1:19-20.*
- b. Although disease had left Helen Keller without sight, hearing, or speech, when Anne Sullivan taught Helen about God, she responded by saying she already knew about God. She just didn't know his name.
- c. *“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.” Psalm 19:1.* After reminding Job that He governs the constellations of stars as well as the lightning bolts, God explains the foolishness of the ostrich (Job 38:31-35; 39:14-17). Such are those who refuse to acknowledge God.
- d. God reveals himself in countless ways. He made 390,000 species of beetles, including the Hercules Beetle which is the size of a human hand and can lift 100 times its own weight. God's power is plain for all to see. God promises,

*“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”
Jeremiah 29:13.*

3. Through His _____(Nature)

- a. *“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – his eternal power and his divine nature – have been clearly seen...so that men are without excuse.” Romans 1:20.* Every Minnesota farmer is given 407,000 gallons of rainwater per acre per year, courtesy of his Creator.
- b. We all live on a planet that is just the right size with just the right rotation and just the right distance from Jupiter so that Jupiter absorbs almost all the comets that would otherwise strike the earth. Our moon is also just the right size and just the right distance away, or life on earth could not be sustained. Our only problem is the curse of sin, which will one day be lifted!

Several decades ago a group of Midwestern farmers were in church one Sunday only to be interrupted by a neighbor who chose to plow his field next to the church during worship. He also wrote a letter to the editor boasting of his record crops in spite of not honoring the Lord’s day. The editor ran the letter with the following note attached, “God does not settle all his accounts in the month of October.”

Each of us can insert our own name in Romans 1:19-20. “What may be known about God is plain to _____, because God made it plain to _____. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen by _____ ...so that _____ is without excuse.” God is all around you! Do you notice Him?

Discussion Questions

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1. Were you alive during the Six Day War? Have you heard about this war? Why was Israel in such a precarious position? How do you think they managed to defeat six Arab armies that vastly outnumbered them? How were prophecies fulfilled, such as those found in Ezekiel 36 & 37? Why do you think so many Christians were convinced that we are now living in the end times? Why did even non-Christians sit up and take notice?
2. Read Romans 1:18-20. How does God reveal himself through his wrath? How is God's wrath different than man's anger? Do you agree that we as humans have a need for justice that is built into us by our Creator? Why or why not? Have you ever found yourself wanting justice because you are a victim? Have you ever found yourself wanting mercy because you are a perpetrator? What does Numbers 32:23 teach us about sin and justice? What does Galatians 6:7 teach us about sin and justice? What does Revelation 20:11-15 teach us about sin and justice? What does Colossians 2:14-15 teach us about sin and justice?
3. How does God reveal himself through his power? See Romans 1:19-20 Are you surprised that Helen Keller told Anne Sullivan that she already knew about God, she just didn't know his name? Why or why not? What does Psalm 19:1 teach? How does God reveal himself according to Job 38:31-35? What does Job 39:14-17 teach us about the ostrich? How are people like ostriches when they refuse to acknowledge God? How does God reveal his power in the animal kingdom, like the beetles? According to Romans 1:19-20, does God reveal himself to every single person? What does Jeremiah 29:13 teach us about those who have never had access to a Bible or heard the name of Jesus?
4. How does God reveal himself through his nature? See Romans 1:19-20. How does God take care of his creatures? Why is it important to understand that our planet is just the right size, just the right temperature, just the right distance from Jupiter, and just the right distance from our moon to sustain life? Why do you think so many people refuse to acknowledge God's presence in spite of overwhelming evidence?
5. What did you think of the farmer who plowed his field next to the church on Sunday during worship? Do you know anybody like that? How did the editor reply to his arrogant letter? Do you feel that God has made his presence plain to you? Do you notice him on a daily basis? Why or why not?