

How Can We Know God is Real?

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[0 : 0 0] night scopes, right? And we went out in the darkness and you look at the, with the naked eye, you see all these stars and then all of a sudden you look through the scope, it's like whoa, where'd all those come from? And it's just like wow. So what do you think?

What do you think when you see that? Or you view a sunrise. Now, the mountains are in the way so it's hard for us to see sunsets.

You know, you gotta go over the mountain to see the sunset, right? But we have some spectacular sunrises. And Miss Shannon seems to catch them on Facebook quite often. She's got a spot right up there on the mountain, sees this beautiful sunrise and they're all different.

It's not the same picture every time. It's the sky's got all this color and there's, it's just you can't paint that kind of thing, can you, John?

Well, yeah, you can. You can try to catch it. But he's constantly creating a new canvas every morning. I mean sigh So, let me remind you how God created this.

[1 : 1 9] God said, let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years and let them be lights in the expanse of the heavens to give light upon the earth.

God said that and it was so. And it was so. And God made two great lights the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night.

Oh, and by the way he also made the stars. Almost as an afterthought. Oh yeah, we just throw some stars up there. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Oh.

So, speaking of stars in our galaxy alone it's alright, no, don't worry nobody's hurt. In our galaxy alone our Milky Way galaxy how many stars do you think there are?

It's innumerable, right? But God said to Abraham count the stars if you can, right? Well, from from old times to present they say that you can count 3,000 stars with the naked eye.

[2 : 4 0] 3,000. So I stayed up one night no I didn't I didn't try to do that. It's like wait a minute I can start over again wait a minute but apparently they have done this over and over again you know they've counted they can see 3,000 with the naked eye.

You add a telescope to that night vision or you add you know or you add a super telescope right to that and you know how many they say I guess they estimate this because I don't think somebody stood there and counted.

200 billion stars in our galaxy alone. 200 billion. Now in 1990 they made the Hubble telescope right they sent it out it's about 340 miles above the earth orbiting around the earth right and it can see more more clearly than we can with even our super telescopes here on earth because you don't get the wobble or whatever they have that technical science language there.

So they took in 95 they took the Hubble telescope and they pointed it at a tiny dark space in the sky just to see what they would see and what they discovered was more galaxies more galaxies I mean with telescopes from earth they've already know you know there's there's these kind of cloudy things Mr. Hubble himself discovered you know there were other there were galaxies out there that these cloudy things that you saw through the telescope were actually galaxies but they just at the little dark spot you know we can't see just pointed at the why'd God do that was he doing that because he knew someday Mr. Hubble would come along and then his afterward guys would create this super telescope and point it at that and then just see that I mean because nobody before that saw that galaxies okay how many galaxies do you think there are in the universe

I mean we're one yeah that's one you can see some more there's two three how many do you think they estimate there are 100 billion 100 billion our son our son is a star okay and according to Mr.

[5 : 22] Carl Sagan brilliant man he says our son is kind of average kind of hum drum you know compared to what most stars are like it's not as exciting as most stars most stars have the super flares you know and they're really unstable they're real exciting ours is just kind of average well it's not average at all actually it is brighter than most stars it is denser than most stars it is more stable than most stars in fact astronomers say you cannot find they have not yet found another star like it because they're looking for life somewhere else and it would take a star like our star like our son to sustain life and they haven't been able to find another star like ours like our son average hum drum just happens to be the right distance from earth and the right size and the right composition and the right color and all that it just happens to be able to sustain life on the third rock from the sun because you can call the first three rocks and then after that they're they're gas and stuff like that things that secular astronomers never dreamed of never thought of so first corinthians 15 paul says stars differ in glory from other stars every star is different god has created stars with differing glory they have different types there are different sizes there are different compositions different brightness different colors did you know there's all kinds of stars with different colors they're not all just white

I thought they're all white no there's white ones there's blue ones there's red ones there's orange ones there's yellow ones I think our sun is a yellow one at least it looks like that from here I don't know it's phenomenal it's just incredible why are they all there well Psalm 19 says the heavens declare the glory of God they declare his glory they give you a sense for how huge he is how majestic he is how incomparable he is Psalm 19 shows us how God speaks to us one of the ways God speaks to everyone is through his creation his creation preaches it declares it proclaims it pours out speech to everyone so but not all see

God's glory in the heavens not all see in fact most do not see God's glory in the heavens though it's proclaiming it listen to the excuses of the fool you know Psalm 14 says the fool says in his heart there's no God that's how you know a fool he says that in his heart there's no God in his thoughts and in his intentions there is no God secular astronomers are such people who say there is no God there's no evidence for it I was trying to remember I heard this quote either Carl Sagan or Stephen Hawking were asked this that when they died if there was a God and they met this God what would they say to that God and they would say where was the evidence of all people to be asking this question that was Carl good old Carl I think he knows now doesn't he I think he knows now I think he got the similar answer that

Job got right so according to secular astronomers they say that according to their evolutionary theory the solar system was formed about 13.7 billion years ago and it started with a big bang Hubble was one of the first ones to recognize that the galaxies furthest away from us are moving the fastest away from us and thus a sense of a big bang yet here's the thing that is astonishing yet the scientific evidence the actual observable evidence in our solar system shows that if the evolutionary theory was true our solar system would not exist does that make any sense that according to the assumptions of the evolutionary theory and if the evolutionary theory were correct how they predicted everything that would come into being is not what they actually see out in space what they see all the evidence totally contradicts what they think every planet every moon just in our galaxy contradicts the evolutionary theory the big bang in fact requires things outside of known physics to still be around

I don't know why that theory is still around they make up things like dark matter and dark energy see I thought those things were real and as I watched these videos I discovered actually they're not observable you can't see dark matter you can't observe it it's just they're giving it a term for that blank space it must be dark matter there must be dark energy there and that's what keeps their big bang theory hopping along not evidence not actual observable evidence so rather than acknowledge the creator they suppress the truth and they trust their speculations in spite of lack of evidence rather than admit and by the way they freely admit over and over their theory doesn't work I saw quote after quote after quote that okay big bang theory we got to trash that we got to come up something different but we got nothing the stars that are so far away from us are so young they're supposed to be the oldest and yet some of them are so young

[12 : 28] I mean billions of years they got to be older than that everything's too young for their system and they can't explain that well they're new created stars but we have no idea how that happens kind of like the big bang we don't know how that happened either anyway those are the excuses of the fool they would rather take their speculations and devise some kind of theory to

explain the coming into being of things and the existence of things rather than admit what the true evidence says is there's God so what does God say can we know God is real has God truly given himself evidence is there evidence of the creator and how has he spoken how has he revealed himself to us well here in Psalm 19 there's two ways that he's revealed himself one we see in the first six verses through creation general revelation that is to everybody to the end of the world everyone has that evidence he has spoken clearly that he exists and then secondly

David reflects from verse seven on to the special revelation or the specific revelation that God has given in his written word how he has spoken to Moses to the prophets to men on earth and they have written these things down how he has revealed himself in the flesh to men in the first century by Jesus Christ himself not only revealed himself in all different ways but in the last days he has spoken to us by his own son whom he appointed heir of all things through whom he also created the world this was not a made up son this was not a born son this was an eternally existent son who took on flesh so God has spoken more and more clearly let's look at the first one how has God spoken he has revealed himself first of all generally by creation and creation clearly reveals God's power and nature as it says here in Psalm 19 1 the heavens declare the glory of God the sky above proclaims his handiwork the work of his hands notice the expression here they declare they proclaim the word proclaim there means to make conspicuous in other words God's not subtle about it it's not just a hint Mr.

Sagan where's the evidence right in front of your face every time you looked right there not hidden not subtle it's proclaiming it's unmistakable it's unambiguous verse 2 daily it pours out it gushes forth words nightly nightly night to night reveals knowledge it's there did you miss it today watch tomorrow look out there tonight it's there it's there every night it's there every day you're not waiting for a miracle the miracle has already been done you're seeing the effects of it I mean when you look at that how can you go no big deal how far is his knowledge known he says in verse 3 first of all now he's not talking about literal words we don't hear the stars actually saying words we don't we don't hear the sun you know preaching every day it's not a literal it's a picture they're not theirs aren't words there's not a voice that's heard but there is a voice there is a message that comes from those stars there's a message that comes from the sun every day and the message goes how far verse 4 to all the earth it goes to the end of the world no one no one has been outside of this message everyone sees it feels it feels the wind one of the songs we said

I can see him or I can hear him walking through the grass as the wind blows through the grass it's his wind God has spoken to all creation so it's not about literal words it's about thinking it's about like Jesus always said to his disciples do you get it yet have you put the dots together have you connected do you not yet understand do you not yet put it together who are you think think you know the master teacher when they ask a question what does he do he asks the question have you not gotten it you need to think that created you to think to see those stars and start like David in Psalm 8 says when I look at your heavens and the work of your fingers I think what is man and not only my insignificance to that but then another connection is not only that you think not only that who are we but that you think that you're mindful of man that you think about us and then that you care about us

[18:32] I mean you're I'm speck and you're and you not only think about me but you care about me there's some perspective there's some fear not fear like but fear like whoa whoa this is like when Peter remember on the boat you know they fished all night but just because Jesus says throw the nets on the other side okay we'll do it for Jesus and then they can't pull all the fish in and what does Peter say get away from me right all of a sudden I love Jesus he's my friend all of a sudden I'm sinful get away you're really the Lord that's the fear right like wow and then the exhibition of God's creation what is it that

God puts there that's kind of the dominant witness the biggest the brightest the most amazing witness in his sky we see it every day the universe for he says in them in this universe in them he has sent a tent for the sun the sun it's the biggest the brightest most dominating witness of creation it is there for days and seasons and months and years and yes even for signs it signifies something God will refer to the sun over and over in scripture Jesus will refer to the sun and the moon and the stars talking about the future revelations all God all kinds of sun moons and stars in it signs signification more messages not just days and seasons and this sun sustains life as

I said astronomers will tell you it's exactly the right distance from our earth it's exactly the right size it's exactly the right brightness it's exactly the right stability for life it gives us food it gives us energy

it gives us warmth it gives us oxygen everything essential for life this big massive fiery gaseous creation it does have solar flares and every once in a while people worry about the solar flares but it's not like the solar flares that are on other stars that would you know one flare you're gone and it's a relatively small star by the way compared to other stars there are stars that are so gigantic the sun our sun pales looks like a little dot compared to

I mean God's just you know I'm going to put a big giant one right over there and in 1995 they'll see it you know what so here's the point if creation clearly reveals God's glory why do not all believe why do not all hear its proclamation why do not all reflect on this implication well it's like people that go to church every week hear the proclamation you hear the declaration and you can kind of get you know used to it it's like okay tune it out I'm speaking of me when I was a kid you hear the preaching you hear the truth every week and get used to it

Paul explains Romans 1 and this passage Paul's explanation here's why I don't believe there are any true atheists I think people convince themselves they're an atheist because that's a position to take but according to Paul in Revelation here there is no atheist Paul says I'm not ashamed of the gospel for it the gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes to the Jew first and also to the Greek for in that gospel the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith the righteousness in other words that is a gift that God gives as it is written the not about tasks it's about trusting for the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men well what does ungodliness and unrighteousness look like well he's going to explain it who by their unrighteousness!

[23 : 57] do what? they suppress the truth that's unrighteous that's false to take the truth and suppress it that's unrighteous he's not talking about a deed he's talking about a blindness or a willing blindness they suppress the truth for what truth for what can be known about God is plain to them or literally plain in them and because God has shown it to them for his invisible attributes namely his eternal power and his divine nature have been clearly perceived ever since the creation of the world in the things that have been made creation clearly reveals God's power and nature so if they suppress this what happens well now they're without excuse Carl

Sagan when he meets God is going to say what's your excuse you didn't give me any evidence wrong again of all people I gave you more evidence than anyone they are without excuse for although they knew God they knew God they're not atheist or agnostics they knew God they made a choice they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him but they became futile in their thinking and their foolish hearts were darkened so they had light and they suppressed the light and they ignore God and their foolish hearts were darkened claiming to be wise they became fools a fool has nothing to do about with intelligence they can be the most brilliant genius people around fool is about the application of knowledge or lack of application of the knowledge a wise person doesn't have to be a genius wise person's about application so they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal

God that the Kevins proclaim the glory of the immortal God they exchanged for the images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things eventually they exchanged the truth for a lie they bought the lie so can we know that God is real yeah look for yourself look honestly just look for yourself see the vastness see the intricacy see the beauty and the order and the purpose ask your eye doctor someday tell me about the eye is it unusual in any way and you'll get about a 45 minute lecture because he'll get all excited and I said man it is so cool see the absolute glory and power of God in his creation so

God reveals himself through creation but secondly he also reveals himself through scripture which is now what David turns to in verses seven and following now he's going to talk about scripture and scripture fully reveals not just God's existence but now scripture gives us more detail it gives us God reveals his purpose and his will what he desires he is a creator that doesn't just kind of wind up the clock and let it go he wants us to know how he wants us to live because we were made for him we were made by him and for him we exist for him so obviously he cares about how we use the life and the gift that he's given so he has communicated that he did that from day one with Adam very simple terms you can do all this just one thing I ask you not to do just one thing I ask you not to do and what does he do he does the one

I gotta do that I gotta be God I gotta be me well I mean we'll get into Genesis three two Abraham he gives more revelation and then to Isaac and Jacob and then to Moses he gives a whole lot more information about how you relate to him and what his standards are but then the prophets

would tell us oh there's more there's more to come there's a whole nother covenant coming there's a whole nother way God's going to work there's there's a future hope that though we cannot keep the law God has actually planned for that knowing we cannot keep his perfect holy standards so scripture fully reveals God's purpose and will notice here in verses seven to nine the purpose of his will the ability of his word look at the power of his word he uses six different terms for the word of [29 : 33] God for scripture he uses the word law testimony precepts commandment fear and rules or statutes so there's different synonyms all referring to the word of God all having a different nuance about what the word does I'm not going to get into all the detail of that but six terms and then each term has a quality so the law of the Lord is perfect the testimony of the Lord is sure the precepts of the Lord are right right so they each have a quality that's kind of expanding how powerful and how great the word of God is and then there's a benefit to each one so the law of the Lord is perfect what does it do what's its benefit revives the soul wow it gives life it brings life back to the soul remember the soul remember the part of us that dies sometimes the part of us that gets so depressed the part of us that gets super elated and super down or you know it's the part of us that's our life sometimes it's our identity the soul don't follow your soul you gotta talk to your soul right you gotta talk to your soul so so so there then the testimony of the

Lord is sure what does it do what does the testimony of the it makes wise the simple the simple not the genius one translation says the simple is the open minded okay that fits with proverbs you know the wisdom comes to the one who listens it's teachable precepts!

are right! they rejoice the heart it pierces inside this the word of God has power to bring joy back to our heart commandment of the Lord is pure enlightening the eyes gives us light the thy word is a what did we just sing thy word is a lamp unto my feet shows me where to go it gives me guidance it gives me light it enlightens fear the Lord is clean enduring forever the fear of the Lord keeps us clean you know we look at those night skies we go yep it ain't about me it's not about me it's all about him and the rules of the Lord are true righteous so he gives these terms the benefits and notice kind of put those things together what do we have in scripture we have something that's complete we have something that's sure it's right it's pure it's clean it's true

God gives us the truth he gives us what's pure okay then notice it's the impact verses 10 and 11 what's the impact or the effect how does it affect us not the effects but how does it affect us how does it change us well he says first of all verse 10 they're more more to be desired are they than gold in other words the more I'm in the word the more I desire it the more I value it the more I want it it has greater worth than me you know I first go it's like okay that's okay okay but the more I begin to be what revived by it I begin to rejoice in it I am enlightened the more I experience the word of God it becomes more desirable than riches I mean this is treasure right and then he says also it's sweeter!

sweetness I mean sweet what's sweet like the honeycomb oh yeah that's sweet you ever tasted the honeycomb yeah it's okay mmm well this gets sweeter than that you like sweets mmm that was kind of weird verse 11 let's move on 11 also it gives us warning okay it tells me where the dangers are where the deceptions are you know watch out for that right and then also but not just that but it's also reward it's reward it rewards when I follow this I experience the revival I experience the joy I experience knowledge and understanding I experience truth and guidance and blessing joy perhaps the most striking part of this psalm is the last three verses the application because suddenly so he's talking about how

[34 : 25] God's glory is proclaimed in the heavens and the sky and then he takes some time to look at the specific word of God the law the precepts testimonies and their beauty right so he's just talking about how great that stuff is how God shows us himself then he says then he asks a question verse 12 it seems like out of the blue who can discern his errors what where did that come from what is the impact what is the application of the word of God how does it cause me to respond and for David it's okay see the beauty of God I see the truth of God and then I look at me I don't match that's glory this is truth purity cleanness and then

I look at me do I see purity do I see cleanness do I see beauty I mean pure beauty I'm not saying we beat ourselves up I'm not talking about that but when I look at comparison it's kind of like that soulmate you know when I look at your heavens I think who am I to you yeah that's the right starting point the beginning of knowledge is the fear of the Lord the recognition of how awesome he is and yet he thinks and cares for me so his application is that God's truth when it has its real effect begins to reflect on me it begins to be a mirror James talks about how the word of God is a mirror and we

see ourselves our true condition not the one that I stir up and think I'm really okay when I look at those guys I'm!

not as bad as those guys so I'm okay I'm a good person really and then I look at Jesus and go okay well I'm not that good you know we favor ourselves our heart as Jeremiah says our heart is deceitful oh he's got a good heart yes and no he's actually got a sick heart know what you mean he has a good heart he has good things he's still in the image of God he's not totally you know but compared to Jesus compared to the word it's like no yeah I'm not there God gives us the law and he says keep the law and if you keep my law if you keep my commandment I will bless you I will protect you I will make you rich I'll make you wealthy I'll make you healthy this is old testament old covenant I'll talk about the new covenant doesn't say anything about that if you keep my law

I will protect you bless you yeah how long did they go before they broke the law not even 40 days Moses up on the mountain what'd they do while he's up on the mountain let's make a calf don't know what happened to Moses he ain't coming back we're gonna make a calf this is the! We It's on my shelf. The whole Old Testament proves we can't keep God's law.

[38 : 11] We can't keep his standard. And then Paul tells us the whole purpose of the law was to show us our sin, to show us ourselves. Of course you can't keep it. You've got sin.

Thank Eve, Adam. I mean, Adam, not Eve. Adam. And by the way, you would have done the same thing. Amen. So he sees this condition.

And what does he do? He says, declare me innocent from hidden faults. So wash me, cleanse me, forgive me. And then he goes a little further, verse 13. Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins, from the intentional sins.

I know I have proneness. I have potential for that. Let them not have dominion over me. He recognizes his vulnerability. So seeing the truth of God impacts him to one-to-one, find forgiveness. Two, find protection and guidance for the next day. And then notice verse 14. He wants to worship too. This is a glorious God. He wants his words and his meditation to be acceptable.

[39 : 28] I think this is a song. And then we've sung that song, let the words of your mouth and meditation of my heart be acceptable. How come we not sing the whole song? I mean, it's a beautiful song, but...

Never mind. I'm not going to pick on the songwriters. That's at the end of this song.

That's where he ends. Having been impacted by the glory of God revealed in creation and by the truth of God being impacted on him.

Now he wants one to be clean. Then he wants to stay clean. And then he wants to give God worship that's acceptable. That God would like.

That God would accept. So he talks about his words and his meditations. So it's not just what I say. It's what I think.

[40 : 27] Just like Jesus said, right? Everything comes out of the mouth. It comes from the heart. All of that I want to be acceptable unto you. And who are you?

You are my rock and you are my redeemer. He's been applying the truth of the word. So how valuable is scripture?

What advantage is it to the believer? Well, Paul has his own version of Psalm 19 in a way. In 2 Timothy 3 as he's writing to Timothy.

He's encouraging Timothy, young Timothy. He's a little bit timid, a little bit doesn't have all the courage and boldness that Paul has. He's a whole different personality. But Paul's just taking him under his wing, just wanting to encourage him.

You know, don't be a different personality, but do be courageous, Timothy. And he says to him, as for you, Timothy, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you have learned it.

[41 : 26] And how from childhood, your dear mother and grandmother, how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, the scriptures. And by the way, he's talking about the Old Testament scriptures at this point.

Okay? He's not talking about the gospels and Paul's writing. He's saying, what you were raised on, Timothy, was Genesis through Deuteronomy, Joshua through Judges, the prophets, the Psalms. So, how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are what? What is the Old Testament capable of doing? Which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Do you know the Old Testament leads you to salvation? Not by works, but by faith. In who? In Jesus Christ.

The Old Testament. That's where Paul got it. It's been there all along. Jesus has been there all along. And all scripture is breathed out by God.

[42 : 39] It's God's breath to us and is profitable for what? For teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness. So that the man of God may be complete, adequate.

Feel inadequate? Here comes your adequacy. Here comes your, feel incomplete? Here comes your completeness. Equipped for every good work.

I don't know how to do that. Equipped for every good work. Beautiful. It becomes sweeter. It becomes more desirable. So note the great purpose of scripture.

Paul says that it's to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ. That's the gospel. Has been in all of the scripture. The scriptures talk about God who reveals himself.

He is a glorious one. He is a creator. He is a holy God. He is a forgiving God. And then as David says, when I see God, I see myself.

[43 : 40] And I see myself in my true condition as falling short and needing forgiveness. But how does a holy God bring forgiveness? The scriptures say that God is forgiving and gracious and loving and kind.

But he's also holy and righteous and just. And he will not let the guilty escape. So how does he bring his justice to kiss his mercy?

He sends his son into the world to bear the holy, just punishment. So that he might pour out his forgiveness and mercy and grace on us.

That's the gospel. That's the gospel. And that's in the scriptures. How do we respond? Believe. Believe what God said about his son.

Call upon him. Ask him to come and change you, to accept you, to. Scripture says all who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved.

[44 : 42] Keep calling until he answers that prayer. Let me close with this from Isaiah. Isaiah. I like Isaiah.

He's kind of bold. Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

It is he who sits above the circle of the earth. And its inhabitants are like grasshoppers. He who stretches out the heavens like a curtain.

And spreads them like a tent to dwell in. Who brings princes to nothing. And makes rulers of the earth as emptiness.

Scarcely are they planted. Scarcely sown. Scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth. When he blows on them. And they wither.

[45 : 52] And the tempest carries them off like stubble. Are you worried about men? Are you worried about evil men? Are you worried about crooked rulers? They do not last.

To whom then will you compare me? That I should be like him. Says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high. And see.

Who created these? Who brings out their host by number. Calling them all by name. How many is that by the way?

100 billion galaxies. 200 million stars just in our galaxy. He names them all. Our scientists name them. Yeah. One. Two. Three. Every once in a while they get an Alpha Centauri.

He calls them all by name. By the greatness of his might. And because he is strong in power.

[46 : 54] Not one is missing. My help comes from the Lord. Who made heaven and earth.

That's pretty good help. Let's pray. Father we thank you for your word. We thank you for David's. Insight that you have given to him.

The way to put the words down. That communicate to us. That encourage us. That awaken us. That revive us.

Bring joy to us. Help us Father the next time we look at the sky. During the day or during the night. To just see more of your glory.

Help us Father the next time we open your word. And we begin to read. Give us life from that. Give us joy from that. Give us truth.

[47 : 55] These things we pray in Christ's name. Amen. Amen.