

## The God Who Is

Deep down in their hearts, everyone has an inner sense that God exists, that they have been created by him in some way or other. Paul says that even Gentile unbelievers “knew God” but did not honour him as God or give thanks to him (**Romans 1<sup>21</sup>**). He goes on to say that wicked unbelievers have “exchanged the truth of God for a lie” (**Romans 1<sup>25</sup>**) implying that they wilfully rejected some truth about God’s existence having already said that

...what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. **Romans 1<sup>19</sup>**

The bible recognises that some people will deny that inner sense that God exists.

It is the fool that says in his heart, ‘there is no God’. (**Psalm 14<sup>1</sup>, 53<sup>1</sup>**)

In addition to this inner awareness, clear evidence that God exists is seen in both the bible and in nature. The bible assumes that God exists throughout. If we believe that the bible is true, it not only tells us that God exists, but also about his nature and acts as well.

People who tell me there is no God are like a six year old boy saying there is no such thing as passionate love - they just haven’t experienced it. **William Alfred**

The world gives abundant evidence of the existence of God. Again in Romans, Paul says that God’s eternal nature and deity have been “have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made” (**Romans 1<sup>20</sup>**). In some sense, every living thing gives evidence of God’s character. It is men and women themselves though who give the clearest evidence for the existence of the God who created them. It is only an infinite all-wise creator who could have created such incredibly intricate, skilful and communicative beings. Looking at the world around us, David says that:

The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. **Psalm 19<sup>1-2</sup>**

In **Acts 14<sup>17</sup>** we are told that the “rain from heaven and crops in their seasons” and that “he provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy” which all people experience, are witnesses to the God who exists.

The remarkable thing about the way in which people talk about God, or about their relation to God, is that it seems to escape them completely that God hears what they are saying. **Soren Kierkegaard**

Traditionally, there are a number of “proofs” for the existence of God from both Christian and non-Christian philosophers. These have been put together at different points in history to persuade people to think in a rational way that God exists. Sin, of course, distorts our thinking be irrational. Most of the traditional “proofs” can be classified into four major types as follows:

The *cosmological* argument considers the fact that everything in the universe has a cause and no matter how far back the universe goes, there must have been a beginning, which can only have been a pre-existent God.

The *teleological* argument is really a sub-category of the previous argument. It focuses on the harmony, design and order of the universe and argues that the design give evidence that of an intelligent purpose (the Greek word *telos* means end or goal or purpose). Since the universe seems to have been purposefully designed, there must have been an intelligent and purposeful God who made it that way.

The *ontological* argument begins with the idea of God, who is defined as a being greater than whom, nothing else could be imagined. It then argues that the characteristics of existence must belong to such a being, since it is greater to exist than not to exist.

The *moral* argument begins with human being's sense of right and wrong and the need for justice to be done. It argues that there must be a God who is the source of right and wrong and who will, one day, bring justice to all people.

If God did not exist, it would be necessary to invent him.

**Francois M Voltaire**

It must be remembered in this sinful world, God must enable us to be persuaded that he is there or we would never believe in the first place. Our minds were so blinded by sin that it is only by his grace that we are able to begin to see the truth in the first place.

The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. **2Corinthians 4<sup>4</sup>**

In this sinful world, human wisdom is inadequate for coming to know God. Paul's preaching came

My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power. **1Corinthians 2<sup>5</sup>**