

## The Living God speaking in His own Defense of Scripture: God Speaking of God—as Revealed in the Bible and Through Christ

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The vehicles or *modes* (methods, manners) through which and by which God reveals Himself tell us something crucial about our own language and speech. How does God reveal Himself? He reveals Himself both by way of creation and by way of language. These two are inextricably linked. It was God's speech, His language, that first created—He *spoke* and the universe was created, and then it was that very creation which, from the beginning, revealed just Who this God is (Psalm 19:1-6; Romans 1:19-20). Language itself is a creation of God.

Man is connected to the world by virtue of creation (Genesis 2:7, 19). Language was employed by God, initially, (Genesis 1:28-30; 2:16-17) and then by humans “created in God's image,” as a way of expressing the connection with God and with the world that was given to human beings in creation.

Second, God revealed Himself by and through (created) words and the rest of creation. Words tell us something about God, but words cannot express the essence of God. God's essence is, *as He exists* [in light unapproachable; He is altogether beyond man's finiteness].<sup>1</sup> (See also Psalm 145:3; Isa. 55:8-9).

The existence of language is evidence of the fact that we are connected, first to God, and then to mankind. This means that **reality, including language**, is essentially created, and that mankind expresses its created-ness, and its meaning, by way of language.

The apostle Paul asserts in Romans, chapter 1, that the knowledge of God that is revealed is not obscure, and that this knowledge can be detected and understood. The knowledge of God can be **known** because it has been made plain by the Creator (Romans 1:19-20). This knowledge of God is not hidden, or concealed, but it is manifested to mankind. The knowledge of God has been made **clear** and **transparent** for anyone to see in creation. Paul goes on to say that the reason why knowledge of God is plain, is because God **shows** it in creation.<sup>2</sup>

The things that are clearly seen are seen in the created things, namely nature. The cumulative effect of this knowledge, that is clearly seen, is to leave men “without excuse” for believing in God (Romans 1:20; see also 2:14-15). The problem then, is with man and his inability (his natural moral deficiency) to accept the **objective** evidences of the living God that are before him. Therefore, the living God could not hold man responsible for not believing in God if man did not know and understand this knowledge.

There is no real explanation for the fact that the world not only exists, but that this world has specific **form** and **order**. All that we see before us has form and order. There is also another important aspect to this universe; and that is, how do you explain **personality** in this universe? In a very real sense, the question of questions for all generations, more so, for modern man, is – “Who am I?” When I look at myself and all the faces around me, I see they are also men, and I observe language, and man's personality, nobility, and cruelty. You find man—not only in the faces of men who live today; but also, in the **artifacts of history**.

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<sup>1</sup> Oliphint, p. 119-121.

<sup>2</sup> Sproul, *If There Is A God, Why Are There Atheists?* p. 60-62.

Here are **four** basic facts: (i) The knowledge of God (His revelation of Himself – in Scripture, and in creation, and in the flow of history) can be *known*, because they have been made plain for everyone to see. (ii) This knowledge is clear and transparent. (iii) The universe has form, balance, beauty, and order, and (iv) Man has personality (the conscience of man) with language to communicate and worship.

### **Summary:**

The Bible declares:

*“Because that which is known of God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse” (Romans 1:19-20).*

[New American Standard Bible, NASB].

There can be no position of neutrality when it comes to believing in the existence of God. Either Man believes in the existence of God, or Man denies the existence of God. The reality of the existence of God, as claimed, and pointed out in the Christian Faith, is a point of contact between the Christian message, and the non-Christian world; and it is a “head-on collision.”