

some of those laws. An example is the law of cause and effect [that there is a sufficient cause behind everything that exists and happens]. The First Law of Thermodynamics says that energy may change form, but that no new energy can be made. The Second Law of Thermodynamics says that the “clock” is winding down; that usable energy is moving toward being “used up”. To these and all other “laws” of nature, both known and unknown by man, there are no exceptions. God’s creation runs according to His design, according to laws that do not change.

The law of gravity is not understood by scientists, but the belief is that it is the gravitational pull of the bodies of matter against each other that causes the planets, moons, and stars to remain as they are in relation to each other. What would happen if God removed His power behind the law of gravity? Would everything fly apart into the endlessness of space? Or would everything fall in on everything else? Regardless, the effect would be total destruction of our world and the universe. In a very real sense, it is the power of God that holds all of Creation in its proper place, so that things can go on in a *normal* way. Hebrews 1:1-3 declares that God, through His Son, created all things, and that He is “*upholding all things by the word of His power.*”

God spoke, and all that exists came into being. He revealed in His word, centuries before it was known by man, that “*He hangs the earth on nothing*” (Job 26:7). It is this God, this Being of intelligence and power, Who is revealed *in His creation and in the pages of the Bible.*

Reading the books of religions practiced today, we see myths and statements that are contrary to the laws by which nature operates. The God of the Bible is not explained by mythological stories or by statements that are in conflict with the known scientific laws. He says of Himself, “*The Mighty One, God the Lord, has spoken and called the earth from the rising of the sun to its going down ... Let the heavens declare His righteousness, for God Himself is Judge... Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me*” (Psalm 50).

“*I am the Lord your God*” (Exodus 20:1-7).

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Who Is God?

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“*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth...*” (Genesis 1:1). “*And God said, ‘Let us make man in our own image.’ In the image of God created He him, male and female created He them...*” (Genesis 1:26).

Humans were created to be the object of God’s love. We were given immortal souls, so that our relationship with God could be never-ending. We were made with the ability to think, to choose, to love, and to respond to love.

From the creation, humans were perfect. They had no sin. Their relationship with God was personal. God walked and talked with them. In that relationship God was fully revealed, so that humans knew Him for the reality that He is.

Sin Became a Barrier

Why do we not see God today? Why does He not come and talk personally to us? Why is there a distance between humans and God? If God is real, why doesn't He simply show Himself to us, or speak to us in an overwhelming voice from heaven, so that we **know** who He is? Wouldn't it be better if we **knew**, rather than to be limited to *searching* for God and then to living in *faith* that we have found Him?

Yes, we reason as humans, "There is so much confusion about God in this world. Why doesn't He just **show** Himself to us, so that we have no choice but to shout, "Yes, you are God!"

The answer lies in *the way we were made*. God wants our love, but He wants us to *choose Him*, to *obey Him* because we *want* to, rather than because we have been so overwhelmed by Him that we have no choice.

If we could see God with these human eyes, if we could hear Him with these human ears, our freedom to *choose* Him would be totally over-

whelmed. We would fall on our faces before Him, not because of our love or desire to please Him, but simply because we could not help ourselves. Romans 14:11 says "‘*As surely as I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.*’ ”

God has revealed Himself through His creation, through His image embedded in the human soul and consciousness. In ages past, He has spoken directly and through angelic beings, as well as through specially chosen men (Hebrews 1:1-3), revealing Himself and His desires to humans. God's promise is that if we seek Him, we will find Him (Deuteronomy 4:29).

But often in his history, man has not made an honest search for God. Instead, he has "created" his own gods, fashioning them after himself. Zeus, the king of the Greek gods, is typical: "*Zeus is King of the Gods of Mount Olympus, fights with his wife Hera, and drops down to earth in a variety of disguises to seduce maidens who catch his fancy.*"

What were these "gods"? Simply man magnifying humans, and giving them enlarged powers as well as super-human greeds, vengeance, and faults. Every trait that humans saw within themselves was given in super-sized measure to these gods of their imagination.

Another type of "god" has also been developed by humans. Men who were great spiritual leaders have often been raised to the status of "god" after their deaths. "Holy men", in various religions and with the passing of time, came to be revered, worshiped, the object of prayer and sacrifice – "God", in the minds of their followers.

But the true God is not the result of man's imagination. We cannot **create** Him. The vacuum is there within our souls, but it must be filled by the true God who is outside of man and greater than all else in existence. The vacuum cannot be filled by a creation of our own minds whom we have endowed with "god-hood".

So, beginning with the emptiness and the longing within us to know God, we look for God's revelation of Himself. To settle for "gods" that humans have imagined, or to raise some respected spiritual leader to the status of being god, would be disastrous for our souls.

We can see many of God's attributes revealed in His work of Creation. He has power beyond human comprehension. His knowledge and intelligence are without measure. He is a God of design and order. Everything He has made operates according to a dependable and predictable **law**. In some cases humans have studied deeply enough to discover and define