

Church of God

Sunday School

IS THERE A GOD?



DAILY READINGS:

- ❑ **Monday:** God is an unseen God (Exodus 33:20; John 1:18; 1 Timothy 6:16; 1 John 4:12, 20).
- ❑ **Tuesday:** Coming to God requires faith (Hebrews 11:6; Romans 10:17).
- ❑ **Wednesday:** The Universe was created by a powerful and wise God (Jeremiah 10:10-13; Jeremiah 51:14-16).
- ❑ **Thursday:** God promises those who search for Him will find Him (Deuteronomy 4:29; Proverbs 8:17).
- ❑ **Friday:** Search for God through Bible reading (John 20:31; Romans 15:4).
- ❑ **Saturday:** Search for God through prayer (Psalm 145:18; Psalm 55:16-17).

MEMORY VERSE: *"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."*

—Jeremiah 29:13



The Unseen God

Have you ever wondered if God is real? Have you ever seen God? Is there evidence that He actually exists? How do you know if there truly is a God or not? Perhaps the children of Israel thought these very same questions. The other nations around them had gods that were visible. Baal, Ashtoreth, and Molech were some of the gods of the heathen nations, and the people had statues of those gods. Yet, the God of Israel was an *invisible* God (Colossians 1:15). When the Israelites were tempted to worship other gods (gods that could be seen), the true God reminded them that those gods were "the work of men's hands, wood and stone" (2 Kings 19:18). They could not "see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell" (Deuteronomy 4:28).

Like the Israelites hundreds of years ago, many people today still struggle with believing there is one true God. They are not convinced that He is real. They refuse to put their trust in something they cannot see or touch. That would require *faith*. Hebrews 11:6 tells us, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." When you search for Him "with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13), you will find evidence of an unseen God.

Unseen Elements Are Real

Have you ever seen the wind? Do you have any doubts that the wind is real? How do you know the wind is blowing if you cannot see it? When the trees are moving back and forth and the leaves are blowing around and someone asks, "What is causing all that?" you answer, "It's the wind!" How do you know that? You can feel the wind, you can see the effects of the wind, and you can hear the wind. The Bible compares the wind to the way God's Spirit works in the Christian's life (John 3:8).

Can you see the air around you? Take a deep breath. Did you see it or taste it or hear it? How do you know you breathed in air (oxygen)? What would happen if all the air was removed? How long could you survive without air? Air cannot be seen, but we must have it to live. Have you ever for some reason felt like you could not breathe? When that happened, you were more aware of your need for air. Often, the reality of something unseen is proved by its removal!

The Earth and the Human Body Prove God's Existence

Psalm 19:1 tells us, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork." Everywhere we look, nature declares to us, "There is a God!" Did you know that Earth's atmosphere is just right to sustain life? Other planets have atmospheres without the right amount of oxygen, gravity, water, and other elements needed for plants, animals, and people to live. Earth's atmosphere is perfectly designed! It is also exactly the right distance from the Sun—not too close (too hot) or too far away (too cold). God knew exactly where to place our planet when He created the Universe.

If you were to study the human body, you might discover there are at least 60,000 miles of blood vessels in your body, you have more than 600 muscles that all work perfectly together, and your ear is so sensitive that it can pick up hundreds of thousands of different sounds. The human ear and eye are so complex that they must have been created by a Master Designer. Proverbs 20:12 tells us who that is: "The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them." It is no wonder that the psalmist wrote, "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well" (Psalm 139:14).

Doubters

With so much "proof" all around us, why do so many people doubt the very existence of God? God wants to have a personal relationship with you, but for that to happen you must first believe that God exists (Hebrews 11:6). To prevent this special relationship from happening, the devil uses one of his most successful tools—doubt. He has "blinded their eyes" so that they cannot see, understand, and be saved (John 12:40). What does the Bible call people who have allowed the devil to deceive them into saying, "There is no God"? (Read Psalm 14:1a.)

Another reason the devil has for wanting you to doubt is he does not want you to obey God's laws. Just as God knew the Universe needs laws to operate correctly (such as, laws of gravity, planetary motion, and cause and effect), God also knew that men and women would need moral laws to live right. These laws are found in God's Word. God did not give these laws to make your life restrictive and difficult. He has wonderful plans for you (Jeremiah 29:11). He wants to see you live a blessed life, but that only comes through obedience to His Word (Luke 11:28).

Consider this: what if you did not believe in the law of gravity? What would happen if you jumped off of a cliff? Would your not believing in the law of gravity prevent you from falling and being hurt? What should you have done about your doubts concerning gravity? These same questions could be asked about not believing or doubting the existence of God.



Believers

As you learn more about the solar system, the human body, plants, and animals, ask yourself questions, such as: "Do such complexly designed systems require a Master Designer? Who could have the wisdom and power to create and maintain the Universe?" In Psalm 8:3-4a the psalmist wrote, "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him?" If we realize that all "the things that are made" were created by God, then we can begin to understand "the invisible things of him" (Romans 1:20). If something was created, then there must have been a Creator. God's handiwork can be seen all around us.

How can you find out if God is real? You must search and find the answer for yourself. God promised that He will be found "when ye shall search for me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13). How do you search? Read what God has to say (the Bible). Listen for His voice speaking to you. Sometimes He speaks through your parents and spiritual leaders, and other times He speaks directly to you in a "still small voice" (1 Kings 19:11-12). Talk to God. Ask Him to help you with any questions or doubts you might be having (Mark 9:24). As you begin this journey of discovery, you will find that Jesus is the key to knowing more about God (John 14:6). Jesus said, "I and my Father are one" (John 10:30); "he that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9). Do you have doubts and questions about God? You can KNOW that He is real. It is up to you. What are you going to do about it?



1.) Wind and air are two examples of unseen elements that we know are real. Can you think of any others? (Hint: what keeps you from floating away?) _____

2.) How would you answer someone who says that God is not real and the Bible is just a book of made-up stories? _____

3.) Many young people have accepted God's existence because they have been told He is real. Is that enough? Why or why not? How can you KNOW God is real? _____

4.) What does putting your trust in something you cannot see require? _____

5.) On what are the laws of government based when leaders do not believe in God? _____

6.) If oxygen were removed from the atmosphere, the human body would die. If God is removed from our spiritual atmosphere, what will happen? _____

7.) In 1963 the United States Supreme Court ruled that school-led prayer and Bible reading are unconstitutional. Can you think of other areas in our society where God and the Bible are being removed?

8.) Why is it so important that you KNOW God is real? _____

The Barbershop

A man went to a barbershop to have his hair cut and his beard trimmed.

As the barber began to work, they began to have a good conversation. They talked about so many things and various subjects.

When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the barber said, "I don't believe that God exists."

"Why do you say that?" asked the customer.

"Well, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God doesn't exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't imagine a loving God who would allow all of these things."

The customer thought for a moment but did not respond because he did not want to start an argument.

The barber finished his job, and the customer left the shop. Just after he left the barbershop, he saw a man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and an untrimmed beard. He looked dirty and unkempt.

The customer turned back and entered the barber shop again and he said to the barber: "You know what? Barbers do not exist." "How can you say that?" asked the surprised barber. "I am here, and I am a barber. And I just worked on you!"

"No!" the customer exclaimed. "Barbers don't exist because if they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside." "Ah, but barbers DO exist!" answered the barber. "What happens is, people do not come to me. "

"Exactly!" affirmed the customer. "That's the point! God, too, DOES exist! What happens is, people don't go to Him and do not look for Him. That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world."