

EVIDENCE OF GOD IN THE WORLD AROUND US

Note to the speaker:

Both creation and the Bible provide evidence of God's existence. Additionally, the lives of those who become true Christians prove God's existence because of the changes that they make with the help of the Bible. Encourage all not only to believe God exists but to act in harmony with that belief by the way they live

CREATION GIVES EVIDENCE THAT GOD LIVES, AND IT REVEALS HIS QUALITIES (22 min.)

Disbelief in God affects millions of people (*g79* 11/8 3-4)

Many are outright atheists, who say that God does not exist

Others are agnostics, who claim they are not sure whether God exists

Perhaps most people profess belief in God but belie the claim by godless conduct

Even worshiper of Jehovah must exercise caution that he is not *saying* that he believes in God but privately *acting* as if God does not exist

Many atheists and agnostics take the stand they do because 'famous' philosophers or 'smart men' of world also question God's existence (*ce* 179-83)

But are such men reasonably the ones to be guided by?

Look at the world 'smart men' have made for us, filled with crime, hunger, war

Reasoning on creation leads to the conclusion that it was made by a Personality

Such reasoning is based upon experience, what we or others have seen, heard, or observed

Using basic reasoning from effect to cause, we conclude that nothing comes into existence by itself; it has a cause (*Lmn* 8-10; *g86* 5/8 16-17)

Bible refers to such a principle: "Every house is constructed by someone" (Heb 3:4)

Did your watch come into existence by itself with all its intricate mechanisms?

Rather, is not a watch the product of an intelligent, orderly mind? (*w73* 35-6)

Similarly, look at heavenly bodies by which clocks were accurately set

Would they not likewise have an intelligent Maker?

Existence of design in human body points to an intelligent Designer (*g90* 7/22 27; *g88* 6/8 3-12)

Since we have not known intelligence to exist apart from personality, must conclude that creation indicates a Maker, an Intelligent *Person*—God!

Reasoning on creation also reveals Maker's *qualities* somewhat (Read Romans 1:20)

For example, *orderliness* and *intelligence* are manifest in design of universe (*ce* 122-5)

Outstandingly, God's qualities of *love* and *goodness* are evidenced in creation (Mt 5:45; Ac 14:16, 17)

All persons—good and bad—have had the benefit of the sun and rain

Our bodies were designed not merely to *live* but to *enjoy living* (*pe* 37-8)

Creator was not compelled to make us that way, but he did because he is good

Is not this evidence of God's existence and of his goodness?

Aside from such external evidences, even we, as part of creation, provide evidence of God's existence and of his qualities; how so?

God's quality of *justice* is revealed in the conscience he gave all of us (Read Romans 2:14, 15) (*w73* 36-7)

Wherever and whenever men have lived, there has been an inborn sense of right and wrong

Conscience consistently condemns the same basic wrongs in all societies; acts to preserve men from entirely corrupting human creation

Does this not indicate the existence of a Creator, a God of *justice*?

Yet, some reason that murderers, rapists, and sadists are an argument against this conclusion; is that so?

The perversions of godly qualities are not to be blamed on the Maker

Thousands may starve in a certain part of the earth during a famine, yet it is not because of a lack of goodness on God's part

Human economic selfishness and *man-made* national boundaries are to blame (*g86* 6/22 19)

That millions of innocent people suffered when Nazis carried on unjust purges does not prove that God of justice made men without conscience

Very fact that we react with horror to the savage brutality of the Nazis proves that theirs was a perversion of man's sense of conscience and justice

In time, Nuremberg trials convicted Nazi war criminals for disobeying "higher natural law of justice"

Reflecting on God's qualities forces us to conclude that he will remove evil

A look at creation has revealed a loving, good God with a sense of justice

Logically, the existence of evil, unjust conditions *must* come to an end someday

A *good* and *just* God could not forever tolerate their existence

Reasonably, would not such a good Person also inform us as to why evil exists, why people die, and how and when it will end? (Am 3:7; 1Co 2:8-10)

Yes, and he does so through the Bible; a study of it can answer those questions

But for you to believe that, let us see how the Bible itself gives us further evidence of God's existence and manifests his admirable qualities

THE BIBLE TOO GIVES EVIDENCE OF GOD (13 min.)

Close study of the Bible proves God exists, that it is his Word

Prophecies found in Bible could have come only from a source higher than man (*gm* 117)

Hundreds of years in advance, accurate Biblical prophecies were recorded about the birth, life, and death of Jesus as Messiah (*g88* 8/8 26-7; *ce* 221)

Could Jesus have controlled these factors, or do the prophecies rather give evidence of a divine Being?

From your experience, do you know of any man who could foretell *scores* of things of this nature, *hundreds* of years in advance, and have them *all* come true?

Biblical prophecies thus prove God exists; show too that Bible is his means of relaying his purpose to man, answering their questions about life (2Ti 3:16)

Bible principles when actually applied prove God exists and that Bible is his Word

Tobacco is not mentioned in the Bible, but principles show why should not be used (*gm* 165-74)

It is a pollution of one's body and clothes and the air (2Co 7:1)

Misusing tobacco causes more than a million persons to die prematurely each year

It is an addiction; if a person cannot stop tobacco habit, he is 'under its authority' (1Co 6:12)

Biblical counsel is linked to our physical and emotional well-being

The Bible says that one should not tell lies (Pr 6:19; Re 21:8)

"The U.S. is experiencing the worst outbreak of fraud, deception and related abuses in its history" (*Changing Times*, July 1986, p. 26)

Scriptures say: "You must love your neighbor as yourself" (Mt 22:39)

"It appears, then, that caring about others is as much a part of human nature as caring about ourselves" (*Psychology Today*, October 1988, pp. 38-9)

The Bible's standards on marriage and morality are strict (Mt 19:4-7; 1Co 7:12-15)

Today, loose moral practices are in contrast to the Bible's instructions

This has brought unhappiness, not happiness; results in broken homes, disease, prostitution, and unwanted babies

The Bible gives the best counsel to married people as to solving marital problems

It counsels faithfulness to one's mate

Also counsels both wife and husband to recognize each other's relative position (1Co 11:3; Eph 5:28, 29, 33; 1Ti 2:11-14)

The Bible's counsel helps to cope with poverty (Pr 6:6-11; 23:19-21)

Its warnings help one not to resort to crime or gambling (Ps 37:1)

Truly, the Bible is practical; its counsel works, and this proves that it derives from a Source far superior to human capabilities

SHOW EVIDENCE IN YOUR LIFE THAT GOD EXISTS (8 min.)

Not all individuals willingly demonstrate in their lives that God exists

Many say they believe God exists, that only atheists and agnostics would question it

Yet, they may steal, carry on loose conduct, or lie, proving to be "senseless" (Read Psalm 14:1)

Hebrew word rendered "senseless one" indicates *moral*, not mental, deficiency (*w73* 451)

On an individual basis, many who are now Christians have given proof of God's existence by the changes they have made in their lives

This occurred with people in first century C.E. (1Co 6:9-11)

Today too, people have made these major changes; possibly even you have (May want to give an example) (*w89* 8/1 30-1; *gm* 177-8)

This gives evidence to observers that God truly does exist and helps people who really believe in him and seek his aid

If you know of the need for such changes in your life—ending bad or immoral habits, dispelling racial prejudices—you can gain confidence from the example of others

As ones who believe God is responsible for the Bible's exalted principles, we will deal with others accordingly

We will apply Scriptural principles regarding race in our *individual* lives

Also, we will obey Caesar's laws and show respect for governmental officials

Family members will act lovingly toward one another, knowing this is the will of God

There is not only an intellectual acceptance of God's reality and an acknowledgment of his fine qualities but *personal* evidence that others can see that we know God exists (*w89* 8/1 28)

EVERY LIVING THING WILL SOON KNOW OF GOD'S REALITY (2 min.)

Soon all reproach heaped on God and his name by men and demons will be gone

His tender concern for every part of creation will then be even more obvious

God's purpose will be carried out to completion and appreciated by all intelligent creation

We wisely now study God's Word, reflect on his existence and goodness to us, and put ourselves in line for lasting blessings with his people

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need to be read)