

The God Of The Old Testament – Part 2

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There are a number of things revealed about God in the Old Testament. For one, those 39 books reveal that God exists. The Old Testament doesn't offer any debate on whether God exists or not. Rather, the very first verse of the Old Testament says, "In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." (Gen. 1:1.) There are no philosophical arguments for the existence of God. Faith in Him is required from the very first verse. In fact, the first and primary evidence for God's existence is creation.

In the early history of man, the divine record says that God spoke directly to him. These communications were passed down from generation to generation. By the time of Job, people had a pretty comprehensive knowledge of God. But the picture got muddled. Paul said, "*For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools, and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.*" (Rom. 1:20-23.)

Note that creation is held up as evidence that God exists. The things made help us to perceive something of God's power, wisdom, majesty, beauty, morality, and so much more, so that there is no excuse for not realizing the reality that God exists. If nothing else, people can look at nature and see that something doesn't come from nothing. Not only is the universe here but it shows design. Thus the reality of God can be seen.

But Paul said they knew God but forgot Him. Their knowledge of Him faded and they stopped honoring Him or giving Him thanks. That is why they were without excuse. The human race departed from a belief in one God and started serving many gods. These so-called gods were embodied in various idols or physical representations. The result was that the whole human race, except for eight souls, departed from God and had to be wiped out in a flood. It is not surprising that today we have many religions contradicting one another and what is needed is a return to the knowledge of God as seen in creation and the inspired word the Creator left for us.

It is only natural that man, being a reasoning creature, should ask questions about the world in which he lived. In some ancient religions people worshiped the sun and the moon and the stars, imagining that they were representations of God. Or it could have been a lion or some other great beast. Perhaps a man-made created god like Zeus. Whatever the case, Paul said failure to recognize God in creation is good enough to bring judgment upon such a one. That's because, "The fool says in his heart, "There is no God." (Psalm 14:1.) Didn't Isaiah say something about the foolishness of making a god out of wood, "*No one considers, nor is there knowledge or discernment to say, "Half of it I burned in the fire; I also baked bread on its coals; I roasted meat and have eaten. And shall I make the rest of it an abomination? Shall I fall down before a block of wood?"*" (Isaiah 44:19.) Man takes a block of wood and with half he builds a fire to cook his food and with the other half, he builds a god to worship. That's as foolish as it gets. No wonder God will bring judgment on those who reject the evidence of His existence.