



Life is full of questions. Some are trivial, some more serious — and some tremendously important.

Even as you read these words you may have questions about your health, your financial situation, your job, your family or your future.

But the greatest, the ultimate questions, are about God and your relationship to him. Nothing in life is more important than this. Good health, financial stability, secure employment, a contented family and a hopeful future are all things that people want. Yet even these are temporary and eventually pointless unless you have a living relationship with God, one that is clear and certain — and will last for ever.

In the following pages you will discover why such a relationship is so urgently needed — and how it is possible.

The questions that follow are the most serious and important that anyone could ask. The answers are those that everyone needs.

Please read these pages thoroughly and carefully — and if necessary more than once.

You cannot afford to miss their message.





Is anyone there?

This is the fundamental question. If God does not exist, searching for him is pointless: *for he who comes to God must believe that He is.*¹ While it is impossible to 'prove' God in a mathematical sense, the evidence is very convincing.

Take the existence of the universe. To call it the result of an 'accident' raises many questions — and answers none. The same is true of the 'Big Bang' theory. Where, for instance, did the raw materials come from? Not even a 'big bang' can make something out of nothing! The evolutionary idea is widespread, but just as weak; how can 'nothing' evolve into 'something', let alone earth's amazingly complex life forms?²

All other theories are equally fragile. The only satisfactory explanation is this: *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.* Our world is not the random result of a gigantic fluke involving ingredients that were 'always there'. Instead, *the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.* Creation had a beginning, and it was God who brought it into being. *For He spoke, and it was done; He commanded, and it stood fast.*





This is reinforced by the amazing order and design seen everywhere and by the universal laws which hold everything together, from the vastness of outer space to microscopic organisms. But design demands a designer and laws a law-giver — and God is both! *God ... who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth.*

But the strongest 'creation evidence' is man himself. Unlike other living creatures, man has something we call 'personality'; he makes intelligent choices, has a conscience and can distinguish between right and wrong. He is capable of love and compassion. Above all, he has an instinct to worship. Where did he get these qualities? Neither evolution nor an avalanche of accidents could have produced them. The clearest answer is this: *And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.* Man is not an accident; he is *fearfully and wonderfully made* by the Creator of the universe.

1. All words in italic type (other than book titles) are quotations from the Bible as indicated on page 32.

2. This is a major and complex issue, impossible to discuss here. If evolution is a genuine problem to you, read *From Nothing to Nature*, by Prof. E. H. Andrews (Evangelical Press).





Is God speaking?

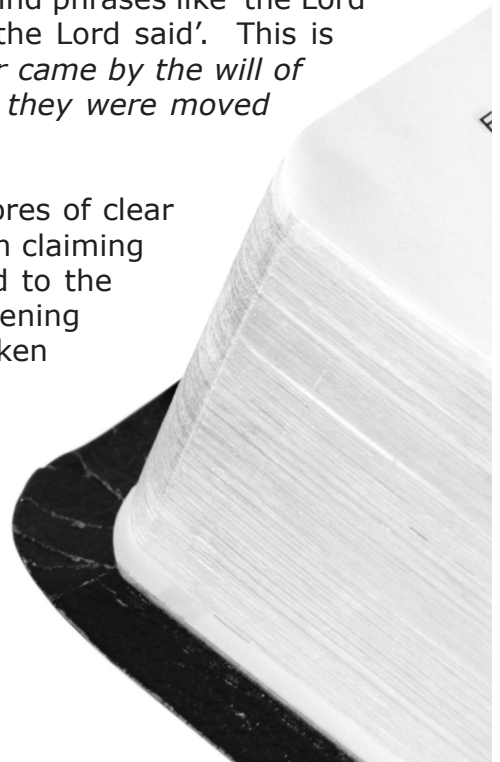
The question is vital. Left to ourselves we are totally ignorant of God. *Can you search out the deep things of God? Can you find out the limits of the Almighty?* God is beyond our understanding and we need him to reveal himself to us.

Creation is one of the main ways in which he does so. *The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork.* The sheer size of the universe and its amazing balance, variety and beauty reveal a great deal about the God who made it. In creation God shows his stupendous power, awesome intelligence and brilliant imagination. *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.*

When we communicate with one another we rely heavily on words. God also speaks to men through words — the words of the Bible. Nearly 4,000 times in the Old Testament alone (500 times in the first five books) you will find phrases like 'the Lord spoke', 'the Lord commanded', and 'the Lord said'. This is why it is claimed that Scripture *never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

In no other literature can we find scores of clear and detailed prophecies made by men claiming to speak from God, and later fulfilled to the letter. The odds against this happening by chance are too vast to be taken seriously.

Then there is the Bible's impact on people's lives. No other book has had such a life-changing power. Millions of people, over thousands of years, have proved by personal experience that

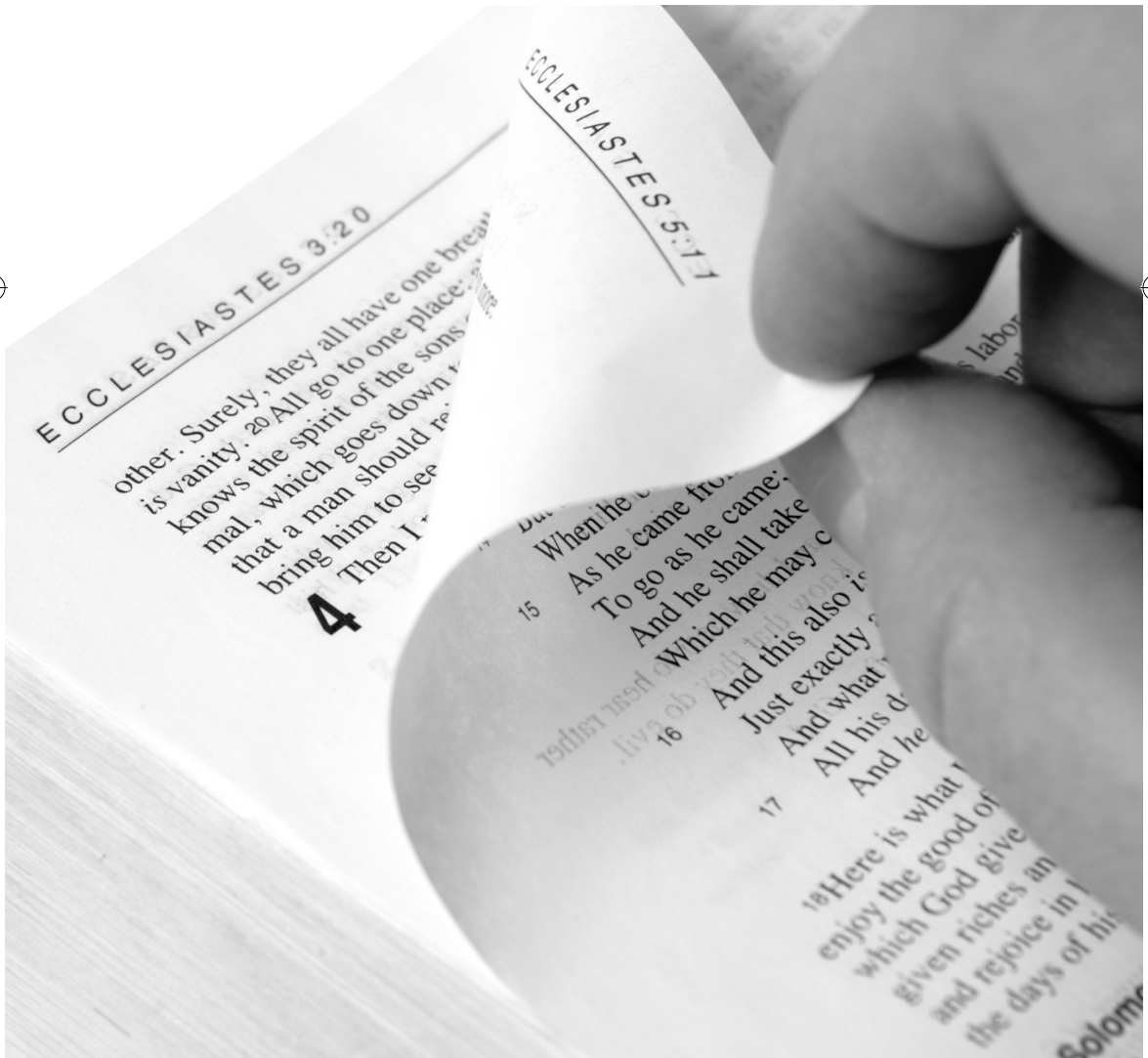




the law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple; the statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.

After 2,000 years no expert in any field has ever disproved a single statement in the Bible.³ The reason is this: *All Scripture is given by inspiration of God. We should therefore accept it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God.*

3. If you have serious questions about the Bible read *Nothing but the Truth*, by Brian Edwards (Evangelical Press).





What is God like?

This is obviously the next question to be faced. To acknowledge that God exists is one thing, and to acknowledge him in the general sense that God speaks to us in creation and through the pages of the Bible is another. But we need to know more. What is God actually like?

The Bible gives us many clear and positive answers to this tremendously important question. Here are some of them.

God is personal. God is not a 'thing', power or influence. He thinks, feels, desires and acts in ways that show him to be a living personal Being. But he is not just 'the man upstairs' or some kind of 'superman'. *But the LORD is the true God; He is the living God and the everlasting King.*

God is one. There is only one true God. He says, *I am the First and I am the Last; besides Me there is no God.* Yet God has revealed himself as a 'trinity' of three Persons — the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ) and the Holy Spirit, each of whom is truly, fully and equally God. The Bible speaks of *the glory of God the Father*; it says that *the Word* [Jesus Christ] *was God*; and it speaks of *the Spirit of the Lord*. While there is only one God, there are three Persons in the Godhead.





God is spirit. He has no physical dimensions. He does not have a body, nor does he have any characteristics that can be defined in terms of size and shape. *God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.* This means that God is invisible. *No one has seen God at any time.* It also means that he is not confined to one place at a time, but is everywhere all the time: *'Do I not fill heaven and earth?' says the LORD.* Quite apart from anything else, this means that God is fully aware of everything that happens everywhere. This includes not only everything you do and say, but every thought that passes through your mind.

God is eternal. God has no beginning. In the Bible's words, *from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.* There never was a time when God did not exist and there never will be a time when he will not exist. God describes himself as the one *who is and who was and who is to come.* And he remains eternally the same: *For I am the LORD, I do not change.* All that God ever was He still is and always will be.

God is independent. Every other living being is dependent on people or things, and ultimately on God — but God is totally independent of his creation. He can survive on his own. *Nor is He worshipped with men's hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things.*





God is holy. *Glorious in holiness, fearful in praises.* There can be no comparison with the holiness of God. *No one is holy like the LORD,* who is utterly without fault or defect. The Bible says of him, *You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on wickedness.* And this holy God demands holiness from every one of us. His command to us today is: *'Be holy, for I am holy.'*



God is just. The Bible says that *the LORD is a God of justice;* and that *righteousness and justice are the foundation of His throne.* God is not only our Creator and Sustainer; he is also our Judge, rewarding and punishing, in time and eternity, with a justice that is perfect and beyond any appeal or dispute.

God is perfect. His knowledge is perfect: *And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.* God knows everything in the past, present and future, including all our thoughts, words and deeds. His wisdom is perfect and utterly beyond our understanding. *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgements and His ways past finding out!*





God is sovereign. He is the sole and supreme ruler of the universe, and nothing whatever is outside of his control. *Whatever the LORD pleases He does, in heaven and in earth.* With God there are no accidents or surprises. He writes all the world's history and *works all things according to the counsel of His will.* God needs no advice or consent for anything he chooses to do. Nor can anyone prevent him doing what he pleases: *No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, 'What have You done?'*

God is omnipotent. He is all-powerful. In His own words, *'Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?'* This does not mean that God can do anything (he cannot lie, or change, or make mistakes, or sin, or deny himself) but that he can do anything he wishes consistent with his character.

These are just brief sketches of some of the things God has revealed in the Bible about his own nature and character. There are other truths about God in the Bible (and we will look at one of these on page 22) though there are many things about him we cannot possibly understand. *He does great things, and unsearchable, marvellous things without number.* In that sense, *we cannot find Him* and no amount of human intelligence or reasoning can change that. This should hardly surprise us. If we could understand God he would be unworthy of our worship.

