

The Unknown God

John 1:10 [NIV] *“He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him.”*

This is a very sad statement because it applies to so many people, for we live in a godless world.

Even though Jesus Christ has come into the world, the vast number of inhabitants cannot feel His all-pervading Presence, cannot see the true Light and cannot hear His Voice of love and entreaty.

Humanity has become a “*profane*” society, absorbed and intent with nothing more than material and physical aspects of this earthly life.

In this eagerness to forget there is a Creator God and the strange believe that materialism and humanism constitute the “*good life*,” humanity has placed itself under a curse.

Before we progress further in this study we need to know the true definition of the English word “*world*.”

The Greek word translated “*world*” is “*kōsmōs*” and can refer to both the created physical earth and also to its inhabitants, humans.

We always must check the context to learn which meaning is intended.

This word “*kōsmōs*” comes from a root word meaning to tend and take care of and provide for. It also means an orderly arrangement plus a decoration.

Anyone who has studied the character of the Creator God would expect Him to make an orderly world because He is Himself the essence of order. [1 Corinthians 14:33]

This physical world is a mathematical creation and the very essence of mathematics is order, it has to be that way.

Genesis 1:26-27 [NIV] *“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.’ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”*

When God created the first human beings He made them in His image, part of that image was mental and aesthetic so that the original sinless mind was like God’s mind.

When we study the account of the creation of the earth’s surface we see it was a thing of order and beauty, and that God found it pleasing to His mind. [Genesis 1:25]

The simple fact is that God created all things to please Himself.

Colossians 1:15-16 [NIV] *“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and **for him**.”*

Note the last two words “*for him*.”

I believe God first made things orderly for utility.

Whenever God made something in this universe it was because He had a purpose for it.

I do **not** believe there is anything in the universe that just got here by accident, everything in the universe has a meaning.

[If you are still deluded by the man-made theory of evolution, please download the articles under sub-heading 'Evolution' on this website and study them before you proceed your study of this article.]

I do **not** know why God created some things but I am convinced that nothing is accidental in His universe. The creation of the mosquito is **not** a blunder – it's just a pest, perhaps to test our patience?

I have mentioned utility because we find that usefulness was God's first plan.

For example, God said "let there be light" and He saw that it was good and that it had a purpose. So He divided the light from the darkness and called the light day and the darkness night.

Throughout the whole creation week there is the exercise of utility, God making an orderly world for a purpose with everything having a reason for existence.

God's usefulness was first and so it is with human beings.

In second place, God added decoration to what was utility.

As we have seen the root of the Greek word for "world" that is "kōsmōs" includes decoration and beauty.

The mind of God desires to be pleased as well as satisfied.

God could have made all rivers to go roaring down to the sea in a plain, straight, rather ugly-looking channel.

Such a river would have done its job satisfactorily.

Yet God created a river to meander around rocks and under the branches of trees, catching their reflection as well as the blue of the sky.

People are intrigued by the meandering stream and comment, "isn't it beautiful."

God replies, "thank you for seeing it as beautiful, I made it for you to see it that way."

We find this same beauty added to utility throughout God's creation.

The other use of this word "world" is that which means all of humanity, the organised society of men and women.

This is the "world" that God is saying He sent His Son Jesus Christ into and they knew Him not.

John 1:1-11 [NIV] *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him."*

The apostle John testified that God's Word, His only begotten Son, became flesh and dwelt among us.

John 1:14 [NIV] *“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*

What was the Word doing in our kind of world, before the incarnation, when He also became the Son of Man?

When the Word became man, God incarnate in a human body, He did not cease to be the all-permeating Word of God.

To this day, the all-permeating Word still fills the universe and moves among us human beings.

Yet how few humans realise His Presence and that they have to deal with this Presence?

Colossians 1:15-17 [NIV] *“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”*

The all-permeating Word who is still in the universe even after His ascension from Olivet’s mountain.

He is the adhesive quality of the universe that holds it together.

The Word of God is upholding all things by the power of His Word.

When a young child looks up into the starry sky at night and asks, *“why don’t the stars fall down out of the sky?”*

We may laugh but we don’t need to apologise for such a question, for it is **not** as dumb as we might think.

The only reason all the stars and planets are not tearing apart and flying off into chaos, is because of the Presence of the One who is holding all things by the power of His Word.

This is basically a spiritual explanation, for this universe can **only** be explained by spiritual and eternal laws.

This is why the scientists can never manage to get to the root of all things and never will.

For scientists deal only with things that can be seen, touched, tasted and mixed in experimental test tubes and specimen plates.

The scientist does not know how to deal with this mysterious presence and force that holds all things together.

A scientist is **only** able to come up with dependable and consistent formulas because of God’s faithfulness and power in holding all things together.

The scientist may announce that a certain star will be in a definite place in the universe after another 3,000 years and twenty minutes, but this is only because of the faithfulness and power of the Creator God continues to hold in its appointed course.

Isaiah 40:25-26 [NIV] *“To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One. Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name. Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.”*

There is a parallel in this scripture to **Psalm 23**, which speaks of God’s care for human beings as a shepherd cares for sheep, the phrase *“not one of them is missing”* is the key to this link.

The English translation of the Hebrew does not bring out the care that is involved in the stars we see in the heavens.

Just as a shepherd knows each of the sheep in his flock, so God knows the names of every star and planet. [Psalms 147:4]

What a lofty, brain-stretching illustration of what God is doing in His universe.

This is the kind of Creator God that humanity is trying to avoid or scoffs at in their ignorance, even being completely unaware of His existence.

The presence of the Word is in this world and we can come to know Him and develop a personal relationship with Him.

Many unthinking, secular-minded people reply to such an invitation, “I’m willing to take the chances He does not exist!”

What foolish talk this is from a mortal human being.

We do not have the luxury of taking a chance, either you are saved or lost, receive the gift of eternal life or end up eternally dead.

People today are so wrapped up in this godless world that they refuse the Light that shines, the Voice that speaks and the Presence that pervades.

Money and profits, fame and fortune, and an addiction to pleasure and sensuous delights, or anything that keeps humans from serious thought, anything to keep humans from sensing that there is a Presence, Way, Truth and Light.

Romans 1:14-20 [NIV] *“I am bound both to Greeks and Non-greeks, both to the wise and the foolish. That is why I am so eager to preach the gospel also to you who are at Rome. I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith.’ The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”*

It is possible for any human being to come to a position of experiencing the Presence of the merciful Creator God, and **God is very angry with all leaders in politics and in commerce, as well as in education, who are hiding from the people, all that could reveal God’s Presence among us.**

Romans 1:21-25 [NIV] *“For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles. Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshipped and served created things rather than the Creator, who is for ever praised. Amen.”*

God has allowed all who have been seduced by what the world has to offer to sink into impurities of both mind and body.

Romans 1:26-32 [NIV] *“Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with*

other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion. Furthermore, since they did not think it worth while to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be done. They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents; they are senseless, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Although they know God's righteous decree that those who do such things deserve death, they not only continue to do these very things but also approve of those who practise them."

This is the squalid and evil condition that is the end product of a world that leaves the Creator God and Saviour out of their lives.

1 John 2:15-17 [NIV] *"Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world, the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does, comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives for ever."*

We don't have to follow this world into this pit of depravity, we can turn to the Light, Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 5:1-18 [NIV] *"Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person, such a man is an idolater, has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no-one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be partners with them. **For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord.** Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: 'Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.' Be very careful, then, how you live, not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."*

Do not delay to make the journey from darkness to light, deception to truth, a godless world to the Kingdom of God.