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A GOD WHO SPEAKS.

IS THERE A GOD?

THE word God denotes the supreme Power behind all phenomena, an intelligent and purposeful Power. In the heart and inmost thought of every person there is the assurance of the existence of such a supreme Power, of which all the operations of nature are but manifestations. Some people, few in number, who make loud talk but little else, try to prove that this Power is unintelligent, purposeless, and that the universe is ruled by chance. Atheists, so-called, are mainly quibblers over man-made definitions of God; they are seldom deniers of God. Were the question, "Is there a God?" put to the world, the answer, "Yes," would be almost unanimous.

THREE EVIDENCES FOR GOD.

The first evidence for the existence of an intelligent, purposeful God, is the inborn certainty of all humanity, that there is such an over-ruling power. Whatever receives such universal faith is rooted in truth. That is the teaching of the ages.

The ever present operation of the law of cause and effect is another such convincing evidence. As far as man knows there is no effect without cause; and the same cause in the realm of daily life, always produces the same effect. That is the very cornerstone of sound thinking. Were it not so, burning coal might make water boil to-day and freeze to-morrow; witches and magicians would be the heroes of the age; and this would be an unsafe world. Behind every effect there is a cause; and every cause is but the effect of a greater cause. Therefore, there must be a cause behind all the causes and effects in the universe. This is the First cause, whom we call God.

The orderliness of the universe is an equally convincing evidence of the existence of an intelligent power behind all things. The heavenly bodies and the electrons are alike in obeying law. The infinitely great and the infinitely small move in obedience to law. We live under "a reign of law," surpassing the laws made by governments. Law and order are always expressions of

intelligence. No exception to this statement has been found or can be conceived of by the mind of man. Whatever is left to chance moves in disorder and produces chaos. Since, therefore, all nature is orderly, obeying law, there must be back of it, directing it, a supreme intelligence. This is God.

TWO OTHER EVIDENCES FOR GOD.

The sober testimonies of numerous men, throughout the ages, that God has spoken to them, is another powerful testimony of the existence of an intelligent God. The prophets did not speak untruthfully, nor with clouded mentality; for they were sane, intelligent, honest men, and that which they did under divine guidance was beyond the power of unaided man. The works of the prophets are proofs of their inspiration. God did reveal Himself to the prophets of the ages.

Then there is the daily evidence of answers to man's spiritual outreachings. In sorrow and joy, in poverty and wealth, God-fearing men approach the Lord in earnest appeal, and they are answered, comforted, directed. Prayer has been justified as never before, in this day of radio, when a whispered word, carried by ether waves, may be heard anywhere and everywhere, providing only a suitable receiving instrument is found. The untold millions who have journeyed on earth have thus learned, through the operations of what has been called the Holy Spirit, of the reality of an intelligent ruler of the universe. They have said "Closer is He than breathing, nearer than hands or feet." "The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God."

THE PERSONALITY OF GOD.

Our God, proved to exist by unanswerable evidence, cannot be fully understood by finite man, yet He must be comprehensible to man, to the extent of man's powers of understanding.

He must be conceived of as a person. He is not merely a force, a source of energy, like a waterfall, steam, electricity or sunshine which may have measureless power, but does not possess intelligence. Forces need intelligent direction to become of use. Intelligent man cannot with self-respect worship the north wind. God is a person; infinitely beyond and above man, but nevertheless a person. He is of limited personal extent; though of unlimited personal power. The testimony of revelation confirms this view, for men have testified to having seen the Lord. It would be a sorry God, indeed, who, able to control the forces of the universe, were incapable of being seen or of showing Himself. Man would feel no nearness to such a Being.

THE NATURE OF GOD.

"Intelligence is the glory of God." Intelligence is compounded of knowledge and love, the latter sometimes called wisdom. The infinite knowledge of God enables Him to use the eternal forces and materials of the universe as He desires; His all-encompassing love directs His acts for the good of all living creatures.

Order, virtue, goodness proceed from the Lord. Their manifestations through the intricate maze of human wills, can not always be understood, but their end-products, peace, happiness and joy, never fail the man who clings to that which he believes to be God-like. Intelligence is the glory of man also.

THE FATHERHOOD OF GOD.

God is the Creator of man, that is, He is the cause of man's existence on earth. But He is something more. He is the Father of the human race—a literal, not courtesy Father. That sheds light on the secret of existence. Man is of the same race as God—a miniature God, if he will conduct himself properly! If that be so, of course he can dimly comprehend his Father; he can become measurably like Him; and grow increasingly towards His stature. The meaning of life then becomes more apparent.

THE PURPOSE OF EXISTENCE.

Man is eternal and has always been eternal. He lived as a personal being, before he came upon earth. In the life before this, he was begotten the spiritual child of God. Thus is established the close relationship between God and man.

Man, the spiritual child of God, was sent upon earth, in accordance with his acceptance of God's plan, in forgetfulness of the past and subject to diverse earthly difficulties, to gain experience, for which he was ready, preparatory to his further progression along the road of intelligence. Indeed, man had earned the right to come upon earth. There was no chance, however involved human society seems, in man's coming to earth.

CONTINUOUS REVELATION.

God would not forget His children, so placed. He has not forgotten them. From the days of the first man, He has taught humanity the truths necessary for advancing joyous happiness. He hears the prayers of His children. By the whisperings of the

spirit, by special divine messengers to the prophets, by Personal appearance to chosen ones, He has taught, counselled and directed His children on earth.

Time and again He has restored His truth, the Gospel, the divine plan for human happiness, physical and spiritual, when the race of men have departed from it. He has led mankind, without interfering with the right of their free agency, and has urged them to follow.

He has spoken to men ; He speaks to-day. It is an offense to the mind, trained in the glories of modern knowledge, to be told that God, the director of the universe, can not make His voice heard, cannot speak. It is absurd in this day of straight thinking to believe that the casual words written by the Apostle John at the end of the Book of Revelation, before the present Bible was compiled, would forever silence God, the Father of mankind. Who would worship a deaf or a dumb God or one who could not show Himself? Such worship is idolatry.

GOD HAS SPOKEN IN THIS AGE.

In 1820, on an early spring day, God, the Father, with His Son Jesus Christ, appeared and spoke to a fourteen-year old boy, Joseph Smith, who in search of truth was calling upon his Heavenly Father for aid. Other revelations and marvelous developments followed. The doctrines of Jesus Christ, crumpled beyond recognition through two thousand years of man's philosophizing, were restored in their purity ; the authority of the Holy Priesthood, lost by misuse and apostasy, was conferred again upon man ; the Church of Christ, with all its gifts to man, was re-established under the name of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

These events form the most notable episode of the nineteenth century ; and their results are those that, accepted and used, will save the twentieth century from its sad misery.

The results of these events, and the nature of the work established, furnish ample proof of the truth of these events.

Upon this remarkable vision a system of truth has been built for human good, the like of which is not found.

Will you investigate it?

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