A bright sun with a starburst effect is centered in the upper half of the image against a clear blue sky. Below the sun, the sky transitions into a layer of white, fluffy clouds. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunrise or a bright day.

**KNOWING
GOD**

MAN'S GREATEST QUEST throughout all the ages has been to find the God who created him. Man knows deep in his heart that in finding God he will also find the true meaning to life. Only by finding God can a person find the ultimate purpose for his human existence in this world and find peace for his troubled soul. This quest for God is how religion began - with man's search for God.

In all the efforts made by man to know God, the various religions of the world have come into being. The primitive tribes sought to know God in the form of idols that were carved out of stone or wood. Some thought they could find God by looking at the stars, the moon and the sun. Others thought they could find God by looking within themselves. Many ancient sages and philosophers thus sought to know God by spending time in rigorous exercises of self-denial, contemplation and solitary meditation. As time went on, religion became more and more elaborate. Ornate places of worship were built for people to come and seek God. Books were written to preserve what was believed about God and how man can reach Him. Special religious rites and ceremonies were used to offer up gifts and sacrifices to God. Sometimes, even human lives were offered as sacrifices.

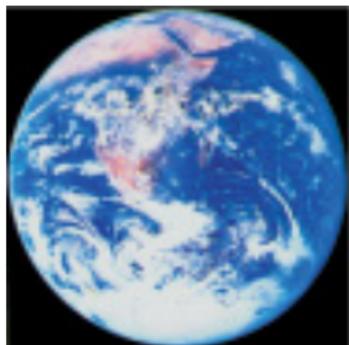
But these man-made religions have failed to provide man with the right knowledge of the Living and True

God. Instead of doing this, their teachings have caused men to make their own gods after their own image - gods that are made in the likeness of mortal men. And instead of bringing man closer to God and into harmony with God, man-made religions have only brought hatred and strife among men because of disagreements on the right knowledge of God.

“God Himself must take the initiative to reveal His being to men.”

After so many centuries of man-made religion, the question still remains: “Can God be known?” The answer to this question is positively YES, but not by our own searching. Our own efforts will lead us nowhere. God Himself must take the initiative to reveal His being to men. And He has done this in three ways: Through the wonders of Creation, through His Word which is the Bible, and through His Son who is the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us consider each of these in detail.

Knowing God through His Work of Creation



There are so many things in the world around us that remind us of the greatness of God's creation - the sunshine, the rain, the animals and birds. All nature reveals how

marvellous God's creation is! Whenever we admire the beauty of the mountains, rivers, lakes, waterfalls, and wild life, we should be impressed with the message that they proclaim to us. The Bible tells us in Psalm 19:1 - *“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handywork.”*

“...by looking at nature or creation we know something of God’s greatness and handiwork...”

In Romans 1:20 the Bible also says: *“For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power*

and Godhead.” In other words, we can arrive at certain truths about God by a careful study of the marvels of His creation: From looking at the heavens and the earth we know that there is a God. God exists. We can also know that He must be a great God. If the sun is very bright, its Creator must surely be brighter and greater than the sun. The sun gives us warmth and its energy gives life to plants and ultimately, to all living things. Hence, God must also be life-giving and good.

But God cannot be fully known by pure sight and reason alone. There are definite limits to what we can know about God through studying His creation alone. This is perhaps one reason why many scientists end up becoming agnostics - they believe that God exists, but they do not believe that He can be known.

So by looking at nature or creation we know something of God's greatness and handiwork, but as to His full character we are still in the dark. God Himself must communicate this knowledge to men. The Almighty God must convey His thoughts and intentions and purposes to men. Only then can we know God more intelligently, not just as a distant impersonal creator, but as a person. Has God actually communicated with men? Indeed He has...

Knowing God through His Written Word

God has communicated with men through selected individuals called prophets. The prophets wrote down the words of God with the authoritative declaration, "Thus saith the Lord." (i.e. This is what God has said.) And the written record of these communications which the prophets received from God is now available to all of us in a book known as the Bible.



In II Timothy 3:16, God's Word itself says, "*All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*" The Bible is the only book in the world that can give us a true and accurate account of God, of His doings, His dealings with men

in history and His purpose in creation. It also tells us of God's plan for man, and what He requires of us, for He is the Lord and the Creator who has given us this opportunity to live in His world. We should therefore read it constantly, daily, meditatively, humbly and with an open and submissive mind, in order to receive what God wants us to know about Himself.

But there is something that will enable us to know God even better than any verbal communication or book. It is a personal acquaintance and fellowship with God Himself in person. We will know a person, not just with our mind but also with our heart, only when we are able to walk and talk with him. Then our knowledge of him will have warmth, intimacy and depth. But how can we know God in person?

Knowing God through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ



When the Lord Jesus came into this world, the revelation of God became full and complete. Through Jesus, man can now know God intimately and perfectly, in the best possible way. And there can be no further revelation of God after this final one. If there is, then Jesus would no longer be perfect.

The Bible says this in Hebrews 1:1-3 - *“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time*

past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds; Who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high."

“Jesus Christ is God Himself who came into this world as a man.”

Jesus Christ is God Himself who came into this world as a man. He declared this to His disciple Philip in John 14:7-11 - *“If ye had known Me, ye should have known My Father also: and from henceforth ye know Him, and have seen Him. Philip saith unto Him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known Me, Philip? he that hath seen Me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of Myself: but the Father that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me: or else believe Me for the very works' sake.”*

In Jesus Christ, we see God taking the initiative to reveal Himself fully to men, so that men might be able to know Him. According to John 1:17,18 - *“For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by*

Jesus Christ. No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him.” Jesus reveals all the attributes of God the Father to us: His holiness, love, and mercy.

God’s revelation of Himself through Jesus was an act of great condescension. Jesus paid a tremendous price to be born into this world. To become an ordinary human being, He had to submit Himself to being limited by time and space. He chose not to exercise the full limit of His unlimited powers and unlimited knowledge that He has as God. He had to condescend to live as a humble servant in an alien environment.

If you have lived in a foreign land before, you may be able to understand what this is like. When you leave the comfort of your homeland to live with people of a different culture you have to get used to many alien customs and eat food that is alien to your tastebuds. Perhaps you may have had problems adjusting to life in a foreign land. All this may help you to appreciate what God Himself did, when He condescended to live in this world as a man. What He did involved untold sacrifice and humiliation for Himself.

To make matters worse, He had to endure living in a world that is full of sin and wickedness. This is not a simple matter to God, because He is absolutely holy and pure and cannot tolerate even the slightest sin. It is quite different for us, because we are all sinners and quite used to living in a sinful environment. We do not really feel upset to be surrounded by a world of sin, since we ourselves are sinners. But to Jesus Christ,

“What was it that moved the all-mighty, all-powerful God to come down to our level and live among us? It was His Great Love...”

every moment of life in this sinful world was utterly offensive to His holiness.

And at the end of His earthly existence, Jesus even had to submit Himself to being victimized by

man's sin. He experienced the agony of dying a most excruciating death. The Bible describes this by saying that He “... *made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men. And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*” (Philippians 2:7,8)

Dear Reader, no one has ever condescended as much as Jesus when He was born into this world. No one ever had to endure such a great degree of humiliation and suffering. He could easily have chosen to remain as He had been all along from eternity, and never become a man like us. Why then, did He do it? What was it that moved the all-mighty, all-powerful God to come down to our level and live among us? It was His Great Love for us that made Him do it. John 3:16 is the Bible verse that tells us about what God has done in His love for us - “*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*”

Dear Reader, please pause for a moment to think about this: God loved us so much that He gave His only begotten Son, Jesus, to save us. Why do we need to be saved? In the beginning, God created man to enjoy intimate fellowship with Him. But this was spoiled by the most unfortunate thing that happened: Man chose to sin and he corrupted himself, thus separating himself from God. The Bible tells us that “...*all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.*” (Romans 3:23)

Everyone who has ever lived and who lives today is a sinner in God's sight. Because of sin, all are doomed to die not only physically, but also eternally, in a place of unbearable torment called Hell. And no one is able to deliver himself or herself from facing this

terrible end. People have tried everything to deliver themselves, including good works, knowledge and wisdom. They have also tried to follow all the strict rules of religion, and to perform acts of penance and charity. But none of these things can deal with sin and bring man back to God. The problem of sin still remains. It is like a stubborn stain that cannot be removed!

So here we are - doomed to die an eternal death because of our sins, and yet totally unable to save

***“Because of sin,
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ourselves from that in any way. Is there any way at all to save us? The wonderful news is that there is. God Himself provided that way to save us. He did this by coming into this world as Jesus Christ. Then He removed our sins by one single, final act of dying on the cross for us. The Bible says, *“But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”* (Romans 5:8) After that, Jesus Christ rose from the dead and spent 40 days with His disciples before returning to His heavenly glory. This miracle of Christ's resurrection removes every doubt about His identity and His ability to save sinners to the uttermost.

Dear Reader, God wants you to know that He loves sinners so much that He sent Jesus to earth to die for their sins. And only Jesus alone can save you and bring you back to God. No one else can save you, because no one else was God Himself in the flesh. Jesus said in John 14:6 - *“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”* You cannot be saved by being born into a good home or a Christian family, or by coming to church regularly, or by doing good works, or by donating a lot of money to charity. Jesus said, *“No man cometh unto the Father, but by Me.”*

Only Jesus saves! And if you will turn to Him now for salvation, He will certainly save you. Listen to what He said: *“Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls...”* (Matthew 11:28-30)

When you come to Jesus for salvation He promises to give you this wonderful rest. You will also find peace and joy in Him - a joy that will last for ever and ever. When you receive Jesus Christ into your life, you will be restored back to fellowship with God - the fellowship that God originally created you for. That wonderful fellowship with God begins here on earth when you are saved, and it continues after you die, for at the point of death you will immediately be with God in His home in heaven!

This fellowship and joy can be yours right now if you will turn away from your sins and personally ask Jesus Christ to save you. The Bible says, "*Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.*" (Acts 16:31) Will you turn to Jesus Christ right now?

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