

A Living God --- Before the Foundation of the World
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Introduction: We need to understand the impact of the unseen upon the things that we see.

- A. The Bible tells us that the greater reality is found in the unseen. **(Heb 11:1-3)**
 - 1. Years ago a Christian professor met an expert in the origins of the universe and heard him lecture.
 - 2. Without a doubt this man in his brilliance gave several possibilities as to the origins of the universe.
 - 3. As the Christian heard the lecture he thought “this man really doesn’t know and I do!” Why? We have heard from one who was there!
- B. The Bible has much to say about things that happened before the universe even existed!
 - 1. These things have great impact over everyday life for us.
 - 2. More importantly we can understand the temporary purpose of this universe and the eternal existence each of us will experience.
 - 3. We will learn much about the character of the God we serve in this study.

I. Before the creation a triune God planned to act on our behalf

- A. There was a plan from a triune God that involved each person of the Godhead.
 - 1. God the Father was author of the plan. **(Eph 1:3-4)**
 - 2. Jesus was to be slain according to the plan.
 - 3. The Holy Spirit was to reveal the plan once for all. **(Jn 14:23-26)**
- B. The shows the incredible wisdom of God in a perfect plan.
 - 1. Satan and his forces had no chance. **(1 Cor 2:7-8)**
 - 2. This gives us great assurance that we have committed ourselves to a God who will never fail us. **(Heb 12:28)**
 - 3. We actually hold a central place in the plan of God! **(Psa 8:3-4; 144:2-3)**
 - 4. This is a plan we cannot in our right minds refuse. There will be no other way to be saved! **(Jn 14:6)**
- C. We should be both humbled and awed that God has acted and spoken.
 - 1. If you think Christians are too “radical” then look at who has spoken to them! **(Heb 1:1-3)**
 - 2. Do you realize that we have been given “the mind of Christ?” **(1 Cor 2:16)**

II. The triune God was personally involved in the execution of this plan

- A. God planned to become man! **(Jn 1:1, 14)**
 - 1. This concept is mind boggling! How can this be?
 - 2. Jesus, the Son of God, willingly limited His powers and experienced His life as a man. Words cannot describe the sacrifice involved in this. **(Phil 2:5-8)**
 - 3. How could one endure such a change? We can understand why prayer was so dear to our Lord.
- B. He was exposed to prideful, sinful men and never once acted in self-interest and pride.

1. We would have wanted to jump up and down saying “Do you know who you are talking to!”
 2. Imagine the infinite powers of God and then seeing men coming to Jesus and laughing at him and rejecting Him. **(Jn 1:10-11)**
 3. God became man to be known as a suffering servant. **(Isa 53:3-5)**
 4. He did this for his ear and his heart was dedicated to fulfilling a plan to save us. **(Isa 50:5-7; Lk 9:51; Jn 11:16)**
- C. Our Lord felt the full force of temptation and suffering. **(Heb 5:7-9)**
1. Why suffer like this? He wanted to show us the way.
 2. Salvation is free but very costly. The costs were known from the foundation of the world. **(1 Pt 1:20)**
 3. A living faith is not an aimless wander or accommodating the religions of men.
 4. We cannot stop short of a complete commitment to this plan that puts us at odds with the world! **(Heb 12:2-4)**

III. Jesus revealed a glory that awaits us by faith

- A. Ultimately we must learn that the unseen world is permanent and this world will not last. **(1 Jn 2:17)**
1. Jesus wanted us to see Him reject the advantages of this world for a future, greater glory. **(Jn 16:31-33)**
 2. He wanted them to know that God the Father had prepared a place for them. **(Jn 14:1-4)**
- B. Jesus personally used this knowledge to complete His race on earth. **(Jn 17:4-5)**
1. The knowledge of that glory gave Jesus great motivation to complete the terrible finish! This was “the joy that was set before Him.” **(Heb 12:2)**
 2. That joy was much more than being a self-centered joy.
 3. What do you do when you see something of great glory? You want to share that with those you love.
 4. The God of the universe one day wants to show us something! THINK! **(Jn 17:24)**

IV. What do we learn from the actions of a triune God?

- A. Subjection is the path of faith.
1. We put ourselves completely under the direction of Christ. **(Mt 28:18-20)**
 2. We put ourselves under others. **(1 Cor 11:3; Heb 13:17)**
 3. Our culture hates these concepts, but the Lord’s way was hated when He walked the earth.
- B. Our God understands and is patient and longsuffering. **(James 5:10-11)**
1. Our God will let us be tested and suffer.
 2. Here is where He molds us and draws us closer to Him. **(James 1:2-5)**
- C. Let us stir up our minds to see the unseen! **(1 Pt 1:13-14)**
1. Have you noticed 2 things that often go together? One who has a strong confidence in the glory of God lives a life that often experiences suffering!
 2. “If the eye would have no tears then the soul would have no rainbow.”

Conclusion: What can we do to better see the unseen?