

LESSON 2

EXISTENCE OF GOD

II. Evidences

Reading : *Isa. 40:12-31*

Memory Verse : *Isa. 40: 28-29*

Theme : *To make the student be convinced of the evidences for the existence of God and to enable him to convince others*

Introduction: We learnt about some popular concepts about God in the previous lesson. Have you heard about a group called 'the rationalists'? In the last two decades people like A.T. Kovoov, M.C. Joseph and Idamarug tried to spread atheism in Kerala. In the fourteenth century Madhavachariar and his disciples spread materialism in India. Last 200 years saw atheists like Feaurabach, Karl Marx, Ingersol and Voltaire in the west. "Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm" (2 Tim. 2:19). The existence of God is not to be proved by logic. It is a reality to be experienced. Even then, it is necessary for us to understand that belief in God is not contrary to science and logic and be able to convince others who seek our opinion. Hence let us examine some evidences for the existence of God:

1. THE ORDER IN THE UNIVERSE

- a) "The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim

the work of His hands" (Psa. 19:1). The universe stands as a testimony to the existence of God. The order, beauty and perfection that we observe in the universe declare the intelligence and power working behind all that. Greek philosophers gave the name 'Cosmos' to the universe, meaning arrangement of perfect order. Imagine that we find a working watch lying in an open space. The watch shows seconds, minutes, hours and date perfectly well. Can you believe that the watch formed by itself quite accidentally? Will you accept the statement of a person if he says that the watch came into being by an accidental union of some metal pieces one fine morning? Who can deny the fact that the watch was made by an intelligent person? The universe is designed in a much more wonderful way than a simple watch. Consider the solar system which is only a small part of this universe. The planets, including the earth, and satellites are moving in space at fixed speeds in their own orbits, held together by gravitational forces. (See Job 9:7-9, 38:31-33). Earth rotates on its own axis at an angle of 23.5 degrees and orbits the sun in a regular fashion giving rise to days and nights, seasons and years. Any slight change in the system will result in terrible consequences.

- b) Consider the structure of our body. We are able to see, hear, think, speak, etc. by the coordinated functioning of millions of cells in our brain. Our eyes are wonderful cameras. Their lenses adjust themselves automatically, distinguish colours and work long hours.
- c) The earth is wonderfully protected by the atmosphere. The atmosphere covers the earth like a 500 mile thick blanket. It protects the earth from millions of meteorites which bombard it from outer space, it moderates the climatic conditions, holds water vapour for producing rains, holds gases in the right proportion for the sustenance of life and thus declares the mighty handiwork of God.
- d) The size of the earth, its distance from the sun, its orbiting around the sun, the special nature of water and other wonderful arrangements which can be seen in the system are definitely evidences of the mind of a creator.

2. THE CONSCIENCE OF MAN:

Inside every person dwells an awareness of an eternal, almighty and benevolent God. The moral nature of man is the result of this awareness. When a person believes in God, moral conscience also receives satisfaction.

3. THE FIRST CAUSE :

"Every occurrence has a cause behind it" is an accepted scientific principle. Whatever we see now has been caused something else. Thus when we go back in time further we come to the "first cause" it is not logical to think that the universe has no cause or origin. Dr. Opparin, a Russian evolutionist, has written a book entitled, "Origin of life". By talking about origin, he automatically concedes that there is a beginning to life. Similarly, atheists try to give their own theories about how the earth and other planets have come into being, thereby, admitting that there is a beginning to planets. If there is a beginning, then there must be a cause which is beyond this universe. This first cause must be a person can be none other than God.

4. THE FIRST MOVEMENT :

Atom is the smallest particle of matter. Inside the atom, there is a nucleus with electrons moving around it. From the electrons inside the atom to the planets in the solar system there is the on-going process of movements. An outside force is required to make an object move. As we go back in the process of movements we reach the point where we come to the first force which operated to start the movement. The person who operated that first force to begin the first movement is God.

5. THE GRADATION ARGUMENT:

We see a gradual gradation in matters of the universe. We know about the gradings like good, better and best. We see grades in knowledge, goodness, strength, process of law, etc. Then there must be some one who is the most knowledgeable, filled with all goodness, strongest, etc. above whom nothing can be better. God is the one who will surpass in all the attributes.

6. UNUSUAL OCCURRENCES AND EXPERIENCES:

Incidents which happened as answers to prayers and experience which changed lives of individuals totally are evidences of the work of God. Examples of man-eating tribes becoming lovers of people, miraculous healings from incurable diseases and radical solutions to complex problems of life are clear evidences of the work of God.

7. ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION:

Evolution is quoted as proof against belief in God. But the theory is based purely on assumptions. The theory has never been proved. We shall be dealing with this theory in the next lesson.

God cannot be understood with the wisdom of man. It needs revelation from God. Even then, a person can get the realization of the existence of God if he thinks about it in an impartial and sincere attitude. Some of the thoughts about God may appear beyond logic, but they are not contrary to logic. Logic is not the way to God, but it shows the way to God. Let us therefore commit ourselves for a life based on faith in the almighty and eternal God.

QUESTIONS

1. Prove that the order in the Universe is an evidence for the existence of God.
2. Explain the principle of the 'first cause'.
3. Explain the principle of the 'first movement'
4. Explain the 'Gradation argument'
5. How does the conscience of man establish the existence of God?

