



January 6, 2008

## *Where Is God*

Periodically we hear or read about the search for God and validation of the existence of the creator. Documentaries, magazines and other media are utilized to explore the subject scientifically and sociologically to find the “answer”. Some have utilized such resources as space flight, satellites and telescopes to find the abode of God, or at least some evidence that He is there. Paranormal experts and spiritualists divine the presence of spirits and disembodied energies to prove the existence of another realm, but there is no explanation for what the realm really is and whether God is there. Turning to the scriptures we find a more practical understanding of the nature of God and a recognition that he is not bound to a physical existence. One of the criticisms made of the Bible, especially of the Old Testament scriptures, is that they reflect a lack of understanding. Characters in the Bible are considered superstitious and not unlike pagan cultures surrounding them. Some have proposed that the Hebrew culture was creatively deficated and could only create the “idea” of a single god therefore borrowing the beliefs of neighboring peoples. The Bible states otherwise and there are statements that support two facts. The first is that the Hebrews believed in one God because the one true God revealed himself to them. Secondly, the “borrowing” of pagan ideas from surrounding nations marked a digression from the purity of worship, not enhancement by cultural exchange. There are indications in the scriptures that point out that the children of Israel were more knowledgeable than we give them credit for. David was concerned about the care of the worship of God and desired to do something about it. David stated, “*See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains.*” (2 Sam 7.2). David, zealous service to serve God, desired that the Lord should not be lacking in this respect. Notice that David does not desire to build a dwelling for God. His desire is to build a place for the “*ark of God*”. This is significant since the Ark is where God communed with the high priest once a year on the day of atonement setting the sins of the

people aside for another year. David indicates he understood that God does not dwell in a physical house. Statements such as this in the scriptures refute the notion that these were uncreative superstitious people. God did not permit David to build his dwelling but allowed his son Solomon to do so. Years later, Solomon built the temple and dedicated it to the service of the Lord. In his dedication prayer Solomon recognizes that God does not dwell in physical places. (1 Kng 8.27). In the New Testament we find the same thing. As Paul speaks to the philosophers in Athens he reveals that God does not dwell in houses made with hands (Acts 17.24). This message is plain in the scriptures. From the writings of the prophets and Psalms we find there was a knowledge God’s home is separated from the realm of man, and, there is no way that we are going to discover it (Eccl 3.11). The search goes on and the ignorance of man repeats itself in an endless cycle of repetition. Ignorance is taken for fact, and conclusions reached that because we cannot detect or communicate with God he does not exist. The scriptures are filled with the failings of mankind in the face of God’s directives. The world seeks to be free of the idea of answering to an all powerful God and massive resources are spent individually, nationally and globally on the idea that we can make God go away. We might choose to think that way, but in the end we may regret our choice. Those who have lived before us, whose lives are recorded for us, knew that God cannot be seen, but that he is there. He can, however, be found if we look for him spiritually. That place to find him is in the Bible, the portal to understanding, obedience and the hope of a better life beyond this one.

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