



April 19, 2009

Evidence All Around

During a recent gospel meeting in the area one of the brethren prayed that we might be able to use the blessings that God has displayed to everyone as a reminder that the Lord is and cares for all of us. In the Psalms, David points to the works of God and the evidence that they provide for the majesty and splendor of his works. ***“O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory. The LORD hath made known his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.” (Psm 98.1-2).*** In ancient times God demonstrated his power in more physical ways, many of which were clearly seen by those on the Earth. Jonah was sent to warn the Assyrians of judgment against them with the result that they repented for which God refrained from acting against them (**Jonah 3.5-10**). Nebuchadnezzar repeatedly saw the power of God in the revelation and interpretation of his dream (**Dan 2**) and the preservation of Meshach, Shadrach and Abed-Nego from the fiery furnace (**Dan 3**). God also demonstrated his power through the blessings that he gave to his own people and which were visible to others. The queen of Sheba, hearing of the wisdom of Solomon, came to Israel to see for herself if the stories she heard were true and concluded that ***“the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard.” (1 Kng 10.7).*** God worked in more physical ways during those times but as the time came for the full revelation of his plan to save mankind, the written word replaced visions, miracles and work of the prophets who performed great deeds, discharging their tasks that were set by God. Christ, the summation of the work of God, taught and demonstrated the power of the Father proclaiming the coming kingdom. Christ stated, ***“...for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.” (Matt 5.45).*** In this Jesus declared the love and provisions that God has in place for the sustaining of the creation. The physical world speaks of great power and the forces that rule the natural realm are awe inspiring when we think of the power and

grandeur that is manifest. We see the heavens above us and see the work of creation proclaiming the power that brought it into being. ***“The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork.” (Psm 19.1).*** These are physical reminders of the power that brought them into being. More powerful still perhaps are the subtle things that remind us that God is alive and ruling over all things. We have the survival of the belief in God. It has been stated that one cannot suppress or hide the truth. The name of the Lord has been preserved in the pages of the scriptures speaking to us of the things that he would have us to know. In the pages of the Bible we learn where man originated, what our relationship to God is and how we should live. We also find that the life that exists here is nothing compared to the existence that will be ours in eternity. We may not understand all of the things that have happened or why God allows some things to occur at all but that is not necessary. The essential knowledge that we need is how to be pleasing to the Lord and to that end God has delivered the message in the form of the Bible. One thing that I mention frequently is that the scriptures and therefore the knowledge of God, has survived the ages in spite of the fact that it has been rejected, misapplied, mistaught and ignored. In spite of the attempts of some to cast doubt on the validity of the scriptures, they still possess the power to teach and convict when one listens to the voice of God speaking through the pages of inspiration. Paul tells us that the word of God is the sword of the Spirit (**Eph 6.17**) and the writer of Hebrews tells us that the word ***“is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” (Heb 4.12).*** So why is it so hard for us to convince others of these things? All one has to do is open their eyes, look around, read the word and think.

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