

*“Three Books!”*

## 1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **Read & Master 3 books:** *the book of Nature, the Bible, the book of Humanity.*<sup>1</sup>
  - 1.1.1. A **scientist** studies the *book of nature*, & a **psychologist** studies the *book of human nature*, but if they ignore **God’s Book**, their conclusions will be wrong. **Keep balanced!**
  - 1.1.2. **Illus: Learning to Fly-fish.** You can study how **to cast**; & how to present the fly in the **right spot**; **but** you also must know **the hatch!**
- 1.2. **God’s revelation is a Self-Disclosure!**

We don’t *find Him* per se, He removes the veil to reveal Himself. [Revelation=to unveil]

  - 1.2.1. **How has He chosen to do this? - 2 ways through...**
  - 1.2.2. **General Revelation**(or *Natural*) (see here in vs. 1–6);
  - 1.2.3. **Specific Revelation**(or *Supernatural*) (see here in vs. 7–14).
    - 1.2.3.1. **General** – Through **Creation**; & in our **Conscience**(Rom.2:14,15).
      - 1.2.3.1.1. Rom.1:20 **“For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.”**
      - 1.2.3.1.2. Rom.2:14,15 **“for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their thoughts accusing* or else *excusing them.*”**
    - 1.2.3.2. **Specific** – Through **Christ & the Scriptures** (also, Theophanies; Dreams & Visions; Direct Communication (i.e.) *“thus saith the Lord”*; Angels; Miracles)
      - 1.2.3.2.1. **Christ & the Scriptures** = OT, then Christ, then NT.
  - 1.2.4. Judgment is based on the revelation you have been exposed to:
    - 1.2.4.1. **“But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you(Capernaum).”** Mt.11:24

## 2. **THE BOOK OF NATURE! (1-6)**

- 2.1. (1) **The heavens declare the glory of God – How?**
  - 2.1.1. By openly bearing testimony that they have **not** been put together **by chance**, but were **wonderfully made** by **the Supreme Architect**.
  - 2.1.2. **Show** - Times 10.

<sup>1</sup> Warren Wiersbe; *With The Word*; pg.319

2.1.3. **The stars** arranged in such a beautiful order, yet despite their immense number there is *no confusion*.

2.1.3.1. (Wiersbe) “**If the stars** came out only once every thousand years, we’d stay up all night & look at them in awe & wonder”

2.2. (3) **Different nations** vary from each other as to **language**; **but** the heavens have a **common language** to teach all men w/o distinction.<sup>2</sup>

2.2.1. The heavenly anthem is **unheard** by the **outer ear**, **but** what **marvelous harmony** it brings to the **inner ear**!

2.2.2. Sometimes were impressed by a certain wonder of a **landscape scene**, sometimes by a **night-scape**.

2.2.3. The Psalmist draws special attention to **the sun**, the most prominent member of the daytime choir.

2.3. (5,6) The sun & moon perform their daily revolutions flawlessly.

2.3.1. **The sun** wakes in the morning **like** an excited bridegroom leaving his home in the morning on his wedding day.

2.3.2. And **like** a **champion marathoner** running his course & finishing well.

2.4. The Babylonian & Egyptian’s had hymns to **the sun**, because to them it was **deity**.

2.4.1. To the psalmist it is **a creation of God**, set in the heavens to reveal **HIS Glory**!

2.5. Maybe this is also 2 keys to face each day:

2.5.1. **Bridegroom** – w/wonderful **hope & love & joy**.

2.5.2. **A strong man running a race** – Start each day with **glory & grace & a goal** to be reached.

### 3. **“THE” BIBLE! (7-10)**

3.1. We’ve been **outdoors** looking at God’s world...he now leads us **inside** & picks up a scroll.

3.1.1. Note the shift from “**God**”(1-6) to “**Lord**”(7-14).

3.1.1.1. **God** – El denoting power.

3.1.1.2. **Lord** – Yahweh(I am) used in connection of the giving of the Law.

3.2. Here’s what the Bible can do for you **IF** you will read it, meditate on it, & obey it.

3.2.1. And the better we understand **the bible** the more we’ll appreciate **God’s creation**, & the better we’ll understand **ourselves & others**.

#### 3.3. **David Describes God’s Word!**

3.4. **The Law**: virtually synonyms, yet shades of distinction.

3.4.1. **Law**/instruction; **testimony**/a witness to God’s will & man’s duty; **statutes** or **precepts**/a collection of specific injunctions; **commandment**/that which

<sup>2</sup> John Calvin; Heart Aflame; Psalms; pg.58

expresses the will of a personal God; **fear/** that which brings reverence for God; **judgments/** it is also a group of judgments.

- 3.5. **What it is:** It is perfect, sure/trustworthy, right, pure, clean/clear, true & righteous.
- 3.6. **What it does:** It **refreshes** the inner man; makes the simple **wise**; brings **joy** to the heart, & sheds **light** on the way of life.
- 3.7. **The story** is told of a **college professor** who **visited the Fiji Islands**. Being **agnostic**, he **critically remarked to an elderly chief**, "You're a great leader, but it's a pity you've been taken in by those foreign missionaries. They only want to get rich through you. No one believes the Bible anymore. People are tired of the threadbare story of Christ dying on a cross for the sins of mankind. They know better now. I'm sorry you've been so foolish as to accept their story." **The old chief's eyes flashed as he answered**, "See that great rock over there? On it we smashed the heads of our victims. Notice the furnace next to it? In that oven we formerly roasted the bodies of our enemies. If it hadn't been for those good missionaries and the love of Jesus that changed us from cannibals into Christians, you'd never leave this place alive! You'd better thank the Lord for the Gospel; otherwise we'd already be feasting on you. If it weren't for the Bible, you'd now be our supper!"
- 3.8. (10) David considers God's word more precious than **gold** and **sweeter than honey**.
- 3.8.1. **Better than all the things money can buy.**
- 3.8.2. **The Bible is flawless – We can trust it, test it, & taste it!**
- 3.9. **Magi** – saw **Star** – read **Scriptures** (to figure out place of messiah birth) – met **Jesus!**
- 3.10. **A man was out walking in the desert when a voice said to him, "Pick up some pebbles and put them in your pocket, and tomorrow you will be both sorry and glad." The man obeyed. He stooped down and picked up a handful of pebbles and put them in his pocket. The next morning he reached into his pocket and found diamonds and rubies and emeralds. And he was both glad and sorry. Glad that he had taken some -- sorry that he hadn't taken more. And so it is with God's word!**
- 3.11. All of this leads to **self-examination & Prayer!** (11-14)
4. **THE BOOK OF HUMAN NATURE! (11-14)**
- 4.1. The **goal** of all study should be to **know God, & know yourself.**
- 4.2. Don't worship only the **God of creation**, or the **God of revelation**. Let Him be the **God of Salvation** in your heart!!!
- 4.2.1. **Or we can say...Don't simply worship the God of nature. Get into the Word of God & let God into you!**
- 4.3. (11) **Warned** by His Laws & **Rewarded** in keeping them!
- 4.3.1. David knows that God's word can keep him from sin.

- 4.4. (12,13) **Secret faults**(accidental/unintentional sins) & **presumptuous sins**(willful sins, defiantly, lit. w/a high hand).
- 4.4.1. For **sins of carelessness** the Law provided an atonement(Lev.4&5)
- 4.4.2. For **willful sins** no animal sacrifice was provided(Num.15:30,31)
- 4.4.2.1. In such case a man could cast himself directly on the mercy of God.
- 4.5. **Secret faults** - don't even remember them!
- 4.5.1. **Show long Night exposure** of Romulo, in Mexico, with pin-light: In such a way, **our sin** presents itself before the eyes of God. **Where we see only isolated or individual acts, God sees the overall web of our sinning.** What may seem insignificant—even sporadic—to us and passes with hardly a notice creates a much more dramatic display from God's panoramic viewpoint. The psalmist was right when he wrote, **"Who can discern his errors?"**
- 4.6. (13) **Keep back...** - Acknowledge your need for a **bridle!**
- 4.6.1. (i.e.) Something that acts as a control or restraint.
- 4.7. (14) If we **open each day**(2) *beholding God's Glory*: in **Nature** & in His **Word**; **And** if we **live each day** w/the devotion of a **bridegroom** & the determination of an athlete(5); **Then** at the **end of each day** we'll have done what **pleases Him!**(14)
- 4.8. Remember when Enoch was walking with God one day when God said, **"hey we're closer to My house, let's go there!"** (Taken from Ravi Zacharias Podcast)