

Why is God Invisible?

“Verily thou art a God that hidest thyself, O God of Israel, the Saviour.” (Isaiah 45:15)



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Why is God Invisible?

Many skeptics say, “If your God really exists why doesn’t He show Himself? If He openly made Himself known to all mankind, nobody could question.” Why is God invisible? Is there a reason for it? Is it because of God or is it because Man wants it that way?

Can you answer this obnoxious argument? God tells us that we should be able to convict (not convince) the gainsayers. We should be ready with an answer to any who ask a reason for the hope that is within us (1Peter 3:15). Don’t be satisfied with being “just simple folk” who aimlessly idle about under the protective shelter of blind faith like others.

You CAN have that answer. This article will give it to you. This article is written for you — to back up and prove your faith!

You don’t need to fear the lofty proclamations of “educated” skeptics and “lettered” philosophers. You won’t have to make feeble excuses for God’s so called “absence.” You can know — and know that you know — exactly why God is invisible or hides himself!

We are not going to feed you some wishy-washy, pseudo-spiritual, halfhearted “possibility.” We are going to answer the question once and for all. And it’s going to be easy. You won’t have to learn Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek or Latin. You won’t have to take courses in symbolic logic. You won’t have to struggle through verbose “statements and propositions.” You won’t even need an unabridged dictionary by your side.

We are going to discover the remarkably straightforward answer to the basic agnostic question, “Why does God hide Himself,” from the pages of your bible!

How it all began

We needn’t be in doubt; we can definitely know why God cannot be seen. God has *chosen* to be invisible for a *reason*.

Adam was the first human being, and God dealt very *intimately* with Adam: forming him (Gen. 2:7), moving him (2:15), bringing animals to him (2:19), teaching him (2:19, 20), giving him a wife (2:22), etc... Adam *knew* God as we know our parents — *God literally walked in the Garden of Eden* (3:8).

After God had created them and placed them in a splendid garden setting, the Creator God talked with them in *person*. *He was right there*, giving them instructions on how to live happy and successful lives. He taught them about an eternal law.

Humans were not just created and then left to fend for themselves, to determine for themselves what is right and what is wrong. Instead, the Creator God *personally* gave to them complete information about the right way to live. Living God’s way produces happiness, peace, health, prosperity and eventually leads to eternal life.

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But rejecting God's way, doing what seems right to the natural reasoning, brings misery, sickness, war and everything evil (Prov. 14:12). It is God who defines what is right and what is wrong-To place confidence in human reason alone is folly.

Adam and Eve had to make a choice between two ways of life, symbolized by two trees described in Genesis 2 and 3. They relied on their human reason. Even if you have had little interest in religion, you probably are familiar enough with the often — referred — to account to be aware that Adam and Eve *chose the wrong tree*. They sinned — transgressed God's spiritual law.

Notice a significant point, though, that most overlook. Adam and Eve immediately knew they had disobeyed. Guilt and shame welled up within them. The next time the Creator came in *person* to talk to them, our Parents sinned and they knew they sinned, "And the eyes of them both were opened, and *they knew that they were naked*;" (Gen 3:7). This does not mean they were ashamed of their bodies. It means they realized that they were being disobedient to God, they knew they sinned (see Ex 32:25; Ezekiel 16:22; Rev 3:17). Then, "...they sewed fig leaves together to make something to cover themselves." (CEV Translation). Why were they covering themselves? Not because they were physically naked, but to hide from God.

When God came, "...Adam and his wife *hid themselves from the presence of the LORD* God amongst the trees of the garden." (Gen 3:8).

Adam also said to God, "And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, *because I was naked; and I hid myself*." (Gen 3:10). They reacted in typical human fashion, they "hid" themselves from God *not* vice versa. *They were sinning and they did not want God to see what they were doing*.

Originally God did reveal himself to the first man and his wife. It was they who first began to play the game of "hide-and-go-seek." They began a pattern that was to last throughout history. Their firstborn son — Cain — was the first to follow the pattern. After brutally murdering his brother, Abel, he began by denying the crime as if God had no power to know about it one way or the other. (See Gen. 4:9.) Following his arrest, conviction, and sentencing, the Bible simply records: "And Cain *went out from the presence of the Lord*, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden" (verse 16). Instead of staying in the presence of God, Cain left. So who was the first to hide? Not the Creator God! It was the humans he had created *who first hid from him*. It was they who wanted to establish and maintain a distance — a separation — between themselves and God.

That's the crucial point! *Man hid from God* — God didn't hide from man.

This is the crux of the whole question, "Why does God hide Himself?" God did reveal Himself, but it was *man who hid*. Man was the first to play "hide-and-go-seek" and man was the first to run and hide. As a matter of fact, man has always hidden from God. Throughout history — in every time and generation, no matter what the circumstance and situation — *whenever God has revealed Himself to help men or nations*, that man or nation has crudely told God: "Keep Your

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(unprintable) Nose out of our (unprintable) business” — and more often than not backed up that blasphemous insult by murdering God’s contemporary human representative (Matt. 23:37).

And God allowed it! He said, in effect: “All right, you won’t listen to what I say. You want to do things as you see fit. You want to hide from me? Then I WILL HIDE FROM YOU SINCE THAT IS THE WAY YOU WANT IT. Go ahead, then. Build your civilizations, form your societies your way. I will step into the background and give you the chance to ‘do your thing.’ Only I warn you, you are going to regret the results. With every cry of anguish and pain, with every tear and heartache, with every act of greed, cruelty and injustice you and your descendants inflict upon each other, you are going to regret the results of the direction you have chosen.”

Notice the scriptures about why God chooses to hide himself, and it is *not* because of him, but because of man, because man *wants it this way*, “Because I have called, and *ye refused*; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

“But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and *would none of my reproof*;

“I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

“When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

“Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

“For that *they hated knowledge, and did not choose* the fear of the LORD:

“They *would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof*.

“Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.”

(Proverbs 1:24-31). Notice the language? They “despised” and “refused” and “hated” God ways and knowledge and so God *withdrew* from them, why? They wanted God out of their lives; and God gave them what *they wanted*. Yet in verse 23 God simply told them, “Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, *I will make known my words unto you*.” God wanted to reveal himself, but man wanted none of it!

Why is there anguish and suffering on earth? Why is there so much heartache and pain? Humans have been eating the fruit of their own ways and they insist on continuing to do so.

Though men have formed their own religions and though many have professed to seek God, they have not found him, because they are too often like those prophesied of in Hosea 5:6, with their religious accoutrements “they shall go to seek the Lord, but they will not find Him; He has withdrawn Himself from them.” Why? Listen to the prophet Micah: “Then they will cry to the Lord, but He will not hear them; He will even *hide His face* from them at that time, [and here is the reason] because they have been *evil in their deeds*” (Mic. 3:4). They want God to help, they cry but they will not change their ways. They still want God to go away after he fixes their problems, and so God will not hear them.

“When you spread out your hands [in prayer],” God says, “I will *hide My eyes from you*; even though you make many prayers, I will not hear” (Isa. 1:15).

Isaiah put it this way: “Behold, the Lord’s hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear.

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“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have *hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear*” (Isa. 59:1-2). Our sins, our ways which say “we want to do it our way, God leave us alone and go away,” *therefore* God hides because that is what *man wants*.

God hides his face because of sin (see also John 9:31; Deuteronomy 31:17-18; 32:20).

This then is the purpose of this article: *to irrefutably demonstrate that man has always hidden from God — and that God to mankind as a whole has hidden from man because that is what man wants. But God has revealed himself to man, and continues to do so today.*

From Adam down through all history to the present day and even on into the future, we are going to watch man resist God’s every revelation of Himself, and *that man has consciously and continuously hidden himself from God.*

Pre-flood World

Back to the story of Cain, one notices this statement, “And Cain went out from the *presence* of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden.” (Gen 4:16). God was still present among Adam, Eve, Abel and Cain. Enoch “walked with God.” (Gen 5:22). But eventually God said because man continually turned his back on Him, “And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth...” (Gen 6:1), “And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also *is* flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.” (Gen 6:3). This is when God completely took away his presence from the earth. Why? God said because man, “he is also flesh.” This mean man is continually following the things of the flesh and not the spirit, which is the law of God (see Romans 8:1-9). At that time it says, “And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was only evil continually.*” (Gen 6:5). So the fleshly mind became dominant and no one sought to obey God. Many of the commentaries also recognize this as its meaning.

Notice God says, “My spirit shall not always strive with man” God’s Spirit is his “presence” (Psalm 51:11). God said it will no longer “strive” with man. This means “Shall not dwell (LXX; οὐ μὴ καταμειμνη; Vulgate, non permanebit; Syriac, Onkelos).” (Pulpit Commentary). It was at this time that God completely “hid” himself, and the presence of God was gone on the earth, not that God wanted it so, *but because man wants it that way!* Even after the fall in the garden, God stoved with man, *revealing himself*, teaching and instructing him, but man continually disobeyed and so God left man eventually to his own devices.

But in this pre-flood world, the world *knew* God, he strove with them until finally he hid himself, but that world *knew* God!

It was only ten generations from Adam to Noah — and human beings had a nine-generation lifespan! Furthermore, Noah was the eighth preacher of righteousness (2 Peter 2:5). For the 120 years during which his servants built the Ark, Noah himself proclaimed God’s warning witness. The world heard Noah and the world knew God — but the world despised Noah and the world rejected God. The entire human race at that time “had [knowingly] corrupted His Way upon the earth” (Gen. 6:12). But through Noah God revealed himself and his message.

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After the Flood

Little more than 100 years later after the flood, man once more renounced God's revelation and leadership. Man didn't want to be distributed around the world as God directed Noah (Gen. 11:4) — so man built for himself a huge tower as a rallying point to thwart God. There was no excuse — everyone knew God — all had heard the heinous firsthand accounts of the monstrous pre-Flood world and all could see the still fresh evidence of God's wrath. All knew God's servant Noah — and all flouted him.

Over the first two thousand years of human history probably less than a dozen individuals had any personal contact with God, according to the Bible. Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Lot are all numbered among these few persons to have walked and talked with God. Later God actually got down in the dust of the earth and wrestled with the patriarch Jacob. Why? These people were close to God. They wanted to obey and have a relationship with God, and so God revealed himself to them, but mankind as a whole, God was hidden, his presence was not there, invisible and withdrawn from all of mankind, *because man wanted it that way!*

Moses came on the scene about 1500 B.C. He had an extremely unusual and unique relationship with God. "And he [God] said. Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the Lord *will make myself known unto him in a vision*, and will speak unto him in a dream. My servant Moses is not so.... With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the Lord shall he behold..." (Num. 12:6-8). God would reveal himself to a prophet by dreams and visions, but with Moses it was different, Moses was extremely close to God, and so God's very presence was shown to Moses.

Back in the 33rd chapter of Exodus, there is a very interesting account of how Moses was overcome with curiosity about God. He wanted to see God. I think you can understand it. Moses was practically dwelling with this personality — camping out on Mount Sinai with him and continually hearing this great voice, yet he was only able to see a heavy, thick, misty cloud that his eyes simply couldn't penetrate. Pick up the account in verse 9: "And it came to pass, as Moses entered into the tabernacle, the cloudy pillar descended, and stood at the door of the tabernacle, and the Lord talked with Moses.... *And the Lord spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend.*" (verse 11). Like Abraham, Moses was a "friend of God" (Isaiah 41:8). The Bible says God "appeared" to Abraham (Gen 12:7; 17:1).

The next time Moses talked with God, he made a bold request: "And he said. I beseech thee, shew me thy glory" (verse 18).

God's reply: "I will make all my goodness pass before thee.... [But] thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me and live. And it shall come to pass. while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in the cleft [crevice] of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by: And I will take away mine hand, and thou shalt see my back parts; but my face shall not be seen" (verses 19-23).

What Did Moses See?

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The Exodus account leaves it at that. But elsewhere the Bible reveals that man was formed in the likeness of God (Gen. 1:26). So man must look like God — and vice versa. Dozens of scriptures show that God has hands (Ex. 9:3; Job 1:11: etc.). He has fingers (Ex. 31:18). It is plainly stated in the Bible that God has arms, a torso, legs, feet, two eyes, a nose, a mouth, a voice, two ears: in a word, God is formed and shaped like a human being even though composed of spirit (John 4:24).

Probably the best description of what Moses saw and heard was seen by the apostle John in vision — not in the flesh, of course. Moses saw this same scene from the back — not the front. “And in the midst of the seven candlesticks [was] one like unto the Son of man. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire: and his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace: and his voice as the sound of many waters.... and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength [which explains why no human being can see God's face and live]” (Rev. 1:13-16).

Moses was not unaffected, even physically, by this incredible experience. Notice, in the 34th chapter of Exodus, another previously unheard of phenomenon. “And it came to pass, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tables or testimony in Moses’ hand [the Ten Commandments]... that Moses wist [knew] not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him [God]. And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold the skin or his face shone: *and they were afraid to come nigh him*” (verses 29-30). Moses face was glowing with an incandescent kind of radiance. The people were so frightened that he was forced to put a veil over his face in order to conduct daily business, *again man hides from God*.

Israel Habitually Rejected God

We think of ancient Israel as God’s “Chosen People.” Yet God’s every revelation of Himself to Israel was met with rebuff and rebellion.

Israel cursed Moses for trying to free them (Ex. 5:21). They told Moses to “Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians” (Ex. 14:12). Israel didn’t want to leave Egypt and serve God — they loved the idols and abominations of Egypt too much (Ezek. 20:8) — so God had to pry Israel loose by pouring out His devastating plagues. Even after witnessing the supernatural ferocity of these plagues, God’s “Chosen People” wanted to return to Egypt (Ex. 14:10-12).

With the victory celebration of God’s spectacular destruction of Pharaoh’s army still ringing in their ears, “The people murmured against Moses” because the waters of Marah were bitter (Ex. 15:23-24). Even after God had made these waters sweet, Israel again murmured, incredibly preferring to have died in Egypt with bellies full of meat and bread than to have obeyed God (Ex. 16:3). After receiving all the meat they could eat, Israel broke the Sabbath in an effort to get more (Ex. 16:27-28). Once more Israel got thirsty and this time they were ready to stone Moses (Ex. 17:4).

And, as unbelievable as it sounds, after all they had seen with their own eyes, they asked “Is the Lord among us or not?” (Ex. 17:7) — or, in other words, “Why is God hiding?”

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God answered that question in His glory on Mt. Sinai. “And all the people saw the thunders, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking” (Ex. 20:18). Here was God “coming out of hiding” — here was God “finally” revealing Himself.

But what happened? “And when the people saw it, they removed, *and stood afar off*. And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear; BUT LET NOT GOD SPEAK WITH US, lest we die” (Ex. 20:18, 19). Here was man plainly asking God to cut off all personal communication with them. Here was man telling God to get lost! And we have the audacity to ask — why does God hide Himself!

Notice the difference between Israel and Moses, “And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God *was*.” (Ex 20:21). Israel moved away from God, Moses drew toward God. This is why only Moses could talk to God face to face.

A short time later Israel reasoned that “Moses THE MAN” (Ex. 32:1) had brought them out of Egypt — and since he was missing, the Egyptian gods had better be reactivated to supervise their orgy (Ex. 32:1-6). After once more receiving God’s stern correction, and with the full knowledge of God’s continuous revelation and awesome Power filling their minds, Israel mutinied on the threshold of the Promised Land: “And they said one to another, Let us make a captain and let us return into Egypt” (Num. 14:4).

Why does God hide Himself? What can we say? Ancient Israel has said it all! That’s exactly what *we* want!

In the Promised Land

When Israel was finally allowed to enter the land promised to Abraham’s seed, she continually rebelled. (That’s not particularly surprising) The cycle went round and round: Israel forsook God and was conquered (Judges 2:11-15), then she cried out to God and was delivered (Judges 2:16) — but a very short time later she forsook God again (Judges 2:17-19). The entire book of Judges tells this amazing story (Judges 3:7-9; 3:12-15; 4:1-4; 6:1-8; etc).

Soon thereafter, Israel completely rejected God’s reign over them — demanding a human king “like all the other nations” (1 Sam. 8:5-7). Notice what God said, “And the LORD said unto Samuel, *Hearken unto the voice of the people* in all that they say unto thee: *for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.*” (v.7). They wanted to be like all the rest, and therefore God again *hid himself because that’s what Israel wanted*. By the time of Samuel, God was pretty well totally complying with mankind’s wishes. Prior to his revelation to the young child Samuel, it is mentioned that “...the word of the LORD was *precious* in those days; *there was no open vision.* (1 Sam. 3:1).

Some 120 years later, Israel’s northern ten tribes rebelled against the house of David. Jeroboam, their servant-king, resurrected again the old Egyptian gods, instituted a new priesthood, and changed God’s annual festivals — all to protect his own reign, willfully ignoring the True God (1 Kings 12:26-33).

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The House of Israel rejected those they knew to be prophets of God. Isaiah was such a man. He told Hezekiah that God would stop the besieging armies of Assyria from even touching Jerusalem (2 Kings 19) — and that night God killed 185,000 armed men (verse 35). Later, after Isaiah prayed to God, the sun went backwards ten degrees (2 Kings 20:11). There was NO DOUBT who Isaiah's boss was! Yet some years later, tradition tells us that Isaiah was sawed in two by his own people (Heb. 11:37).

Likewise the House of Judah rejected the men of God (and she was worse than her sister Israel — Ezek. 23:11). Jeremiah was ordained a prophet from his mother's womb (Jer. 1:5). He was always in the public eye — revealing God's will, way and prophecies. All Judah knew that Jeremiah was God's representative — yet he was held in derision daily, everyone mocked him (Jer. 20:7), and all the priests, prophets and people conspired to kill him (Jer. 26:8).

The House of Israel was taken captive beginning in 734 B.C. by Assyria. Israel had long since forgotten God's Sabbath — and so even their identity had been lost. The House of Judah was taken captive by Babylonia in 585 B.C. They retained the Sabbath and kept their identity. But they mongrelized God's Truth so badly, by adding many pagan ideas, (for example, the immortality of the soul), that a new-found religion was born.

The facts speak plainly — at every step in their history Israel and Judah *hid from and rejected their God*.

Finally the writing of the Old Testament books was completed. In the three-hundred-year inter-testamental period, mankind as a whole (including God's own nation in Judaea) strayed further and further from God, going to every weird religious extreme. God himself was keeping hands off while his truth was almost hopelessly mongrelized out of all recognition. Then came God's full *revelation* to humankind in the flesh, JESUS CHRIST!

The Full Revelation of God to Man

“Whereas in the past God spoke through many forms, fashions and figures, and communicated by various means, methods and manners, He was now ready to pour out the whole story through a Son” (Heb. 1:1-2, Phillips). It was exactly 483 years after Artaxerxes' decree allowing the repatriated Jews to rebuild Jerusalem — just as Daniel had prophesied (Dan. 9:25) — when Jesus Christ of Nazareth began His ministry in 27 A.D. It was God Almighty's time to completely reveal Himself. He had become a human being!

As strange as it sounds, Jesus Christ was the very God of the Old Testament — the Ever living One called YHWH, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He was the One who had created the universe (John 1:3; Eph. 3:9). He had walked with Adam, dined with Abraham, wrestled with Jacob, spoken with Moses, and watched over Israel (1 Cor. 10:4).

In the book of Hebrews, Jesus is called “... the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image [Greek. karakter] of his person, (Heb. 1:3). Jesus and the Father, though two separate spirit beings are one in perfect character, outlook, purpose, love toward mankind, etc... because Jesus said “he that hath seen me hath seen the Father;” (John 14:9).

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But Jesus is the member of the Godhead that has always dealt with mankind. Jesus Christ said of the Father: “No man hath seen God at any time...” (John 1:18). “And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape.” (John 5:37). Yet Moses saw the one that talked with him and who called himself the self-existent (YHWH), ever living God. The only way to square these scriptures is to conclude that Jesus — not the Father — was the God of the Old Testament.

But this was vastly different — He had now emptied Himself of eternal spirit life and became human flesh, subject to death! (Phil. 2:7). God no longer held anything back — here was His full revelation to man. But how did man react to Jesus Christ?

The Rejection Syndrome

Humankind continued to play “hide-and-go-seek” with the presence of God — even in the flesh.

The rejection of God’s own son by his own people (John 1:11) is nowhere better illustrated than in a parable Jesus gave in Matthew 21: “There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country:

“And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants [prophets of God in this analogy] to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it.

“And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another.

“Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise.

“But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son.

“But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, *This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance.*

“And they caught him, and cast *him* out of the vineyard, and slew *him*.” (vv.33-39).

Jesus went on to explain in verse 42, “Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders *rejected*, the same is become the head of the corner...” A mob of faces flushed with frenzy insisted on the Roman execution of Jesus. The religious establishment set it all up in advance. They feared for their own position; they didn’t want to lose their followers; they were used to the adulation of the people, so they rejected the very son of God for their own personal gain.

Here was God, having come to earth on the human level. He came as a mortal, flesh-and-blood man — God in the flesh — capable of being seen, talked to, even touched. And what happened? Was he accepted with open arms? Was he welcomed and given due respect? No! Jesus was despised and rejected of men (Isaiah 53:3)! He was beaten so badly that His face emerged more disfigured and His body more mutilated than any man in all history (Isaiah 52:14). That’s what happened when God “came out of hiding.”

Who called for Christ’s blood? Many of the same multitudes whom He had taught and fed for weeks and months and years. They knew He was from God (John 3:2), they knew He could give Eternal Life (Mark 10:17) — they worshipped Him (Mark 7:7). But they also expected that He would drive out the Romans and set up an independent Jewish kingdom immediately. No, they

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didn't "expect" it, they DEMANDED it. That's why many thousands lined His route into Jerusalem, garnished His path, and shouted praises to "the kingdom of our father David" (Mark 11:8-10). Their hearts were still filled with their *own* ways and could not see the whole revelation of God.

The disciples told Jesus, "Why speakest thou unto them in parables?" (Matthew 13:10).

Jesus "... answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given." (v.11). Why was it given to the disciples?

Jesus explained "Therefore speak I to them in parables: because *they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not*, neither do they understand.

"And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, *By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:*

"For this people's *heart* is waxed gross, and *their* ears are dull of hearing, and *their eyes they have closed*; lest at any time they should see with *their* eyes, and hear with *their* ears, and should understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

"But blessed *are* your eyes, *for they see*: and your ears, for they hear.

"For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous *men* have desired to see *those things* which ye see, and have not seen *them*; and to hear *those things* which ye hear, and have not heard *them*." (vv.13-17). Jesus said "they" have closed their eyes, and their hearts are "waxed gross" with their own ideas, the spiritual fat that blocks the pure word of God to penetrate their minds. They don't want to see God, but the disciples did, so God was hid from them, but not the disciples.

These people wanted God on their own terms how they envisioned how God would do things. And when Jesus wouldn't agree, they shouted, "String Him up! Kill Him!"

The Judean multitudes were stunned when Christ was captured. He was supposed to expel the Romans! The people felt cheated and "taken" — they looked like fools, tricked by the carpenter from Nazareth. Their religious leaders were quick to take advantage by turning the fickle and indignant crowds against their former hero (Mark 15:10-11).

Those same quiet people, who had sat patiently on the hillsides listening to Jesus for hours on end, had now been transformed into a bloodthirsty howling horde. Simple "loss of face" had galvanized individual human beings into a viciously rabid mob!

Faces flushed with waves of frenzy when Pilate stated: " 'He has done nothing, you see, that calls for death...' But they all yelled as one man, 'Away with him!...' Again Pilate addressed them, for he wanted to release Jesus; but they roared, 'To the cross, to the cross with him...' [Pilate] spoke to them the third time... But they shouted him down, yelling their demand that he should be crucified, and their shouts carried the day" (Luke 23:15-23, Moffatt and Phillips).

And so with the awesome majesty of God's greatest revelations that Jesus taught them still coursing through their craniums, humanity butchered the body of Jesus Christ. The human race as a whole willfully murdered the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who had sacrificed so much

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to share His Eternal Life with all men! The mangled mass of flesh and muscle which hung there limply on the stake was all that remained after God had “finally” given mankind the full revelation of Himself.

Here was the complete presentation of YHWH — the God of the Patriarchs and Prophets; and here also was the first manifestation of YHWH’S Almighty Father — the Most High God; Yet man mutilated Jesus Christ their Savior, killed YHWH their Creator, rejected God their Father.

AND, INCREDIBLY, MAN CONTINUES TO ASK, “WHY DOES GOD HIDE HIMSELF?” How shallow are the taunts of those who jeer, “Why doesn’t God show himself?” He did. He appeared on our level, came out of hiding, so to speak. *And we murdered him, nailed him to the cross. Think that one over!*

The New Testament Church

After Pentecost when the church was born, and the Apostles began to preach Jesus and the resurrection and by the enormous power which passed through them to perform miraculous healings (Acts 3:1-9; 5:12-16), how were they received? The religious establishment never doubted the authenticity of these signs and wonders. But did they accept the presence of God? No sir! They feared for their own position — they didn’t want to lose their own followers, their own adulators, and they beat the apostles (Acts 4:16-18; 5:17-18, 40-41).

The Stoning of Stephen is another example of man hating God when he reveals himself. Stephen said, “And said, Behold, *I see* the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.” (Acts 7:56). He saw God! How did the crowd react?

“Then they cried out with a loud voice, and *stopped their ears*, and ran upon him with one accord... And cast *him* out of the city, and *stoned him*.” (Acts 7:57-58). They hated the revelation to the point that they were willing to kill anyone who has seen God!

Before conversion, the Apostle Paul, then called Saul made war with the church of God, to stamp them out (Acts 8:1-4; 9:1-2). Jesus then *revealed* himself to Paul, Paul saw God, and was converted. Paul chose to obey God when he saw him, unlike Israel who chose the world after God made himself known to them.

Throughout the middle Ages, the true church of God was persecuted by the world, because the world hated the truth of God in the Bible. The Bible revealed to them that all their traditions and ways were wrong in God’s sight, and many of the church of God were put to death.

Many today are also persecuted for believing in the Bible, and keeping the ways of God. Since Christ’s death and resurrection, mankind has had access to Him through the Bible. (The Bible is the Word of God — and so is Christ, John 1:14) But what has man done with it?

He has “interpreted” it — in a myriad of councils, conclaves, conferences and consistories. How? For his own convenience! No more laws, Sabbaths, Holy Days, tithing, prophecy, correction. Now even morality is “out of date.” So called Bible scholars look for excuses, and

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conjure up false ideas and statements to try and prove that the Bible is not true and we do not have to trust in it for salvation. What's the purpose of these "Bible interpretations"? Very simple — muzzle the Bible and HIDE its God!

For centuries, the True Church of God was a small persecuted group of outcasts who met in private houses and hired halls (Rom. 16:5; Col. 4:15; Acts 28:30). It was not a "respected" religio-political system, like "Organized Churchianity" today which is really baptized paganism!

The Coming Revelation of God

Christ is soon going to return — and the world won't like it one bit. Because Christ will not return as a pleading preacher-boy. He will NOT make speeches at the United Nations, He will not appear on televised press conferences, and He will surely not lead protest marches. He won't "prove Himself" to scientists. He won't explain His behavior to psychologists. And He surely won't quibble and quarrel with theologians. No, Christ is going to rule this world with a rod of iron! (Rev. 2:27). How will the world react when he comes?

The Book of Revelation tells the story. Curiously enough, the world looks on this book as a deliberate effort by God to "hide His mysteries." Nothing could be further from the truth. Read the name — Revelation! These 22 chapters spell out, in excruciating detail, the history of the world — before it happens. Here God reveals all — yet man claims it is "hidden in symbol." (Read our free booklet, *Inside the Book of Revelation!*)

God will soon open Himself for all to see (Matt. 24:27). But humanity will respond just as it has always responded. Man will once again *hide* from his Creator. "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, *hid themselves* in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; "And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, *and hide us* from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: "For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" (Rev. 6:15-17).

But don't we read that all mankind will rejoice, make merry and even send gifts to one another at this time? Sure — that'll be when God's two witnesses are murdered! (Rev. 11:3; 7-10) And soon thereafter, when Christ takes over "the kingdoms of this world" (Rev. 11:15), the nations will be angry (verse 18) and men will blaspheme God (16:21).

Do you catch the ironic drama of the situation? Many who had pompously proclaimed that they would "surely obey God if only He would stop hiding and "show himself" will themselves hide under rocks and blaspheme Him when He actually does appear!

God shall save human beings from themselves and reestablish his government on earth. An awesome lesson shall have been written. Those who are still alive amid what will then be the rubble and ruin of man's civilization will finally come to real repentance, forced by the evidence of thousands of years of suffering and woe — to acknowledge the futility and error of being cut off from God.

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No longer will the Creator God keep himself in the background then. He will be plainly visible here on this planet, dwelling among human beings in a peaceful and happy new world order. Of that splendid age, God declares: “I will *not hide My face* from them anymore” (Ezek. 39:29).

Because of rejecting the rule and the laws of God, evils are multiplying at a dizzying speed, fast bringing mankind to what would be self-annihilation — except that the Creator God is once again going to appear. This time it will be in power and majesty, “and every eye will SEE Him” (Rev. 1:7).

God Can Be Found Today!

It is important to understand that while God has throughout history maintained an overall hands-off policy, he has intervened when necessary to work out his plan. He has dealt directly with select individuals, even appeared and spoken to some of them, giving his Holy Spirit as needed. But to mankind as a whole, he has personally remained “hidden.”

Those who have ears to hear are told to seek God and to keep looking until they find him (Isa. 55:6-7; Jer. 29:13). It is God’s will that people of every nation “should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us” (Acts 17:27). He can be found, as Jesus said, “Seek and ye shall find” (Mat 7:7) But one needs to call out to him in obedient earnestness. Few seem willing to do that, however.

Even to those who do, seek and find him God has chosen *at this time* to remain invisible.

The reason God now remains invisible even to those who follow his ways is for the simple reason that the Bible is now complete. The revelation of the Bible is now sealed, and if you want to know everything about God and his will it is in the Bible as Isaiah says, “Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read:” (34:16).

The Bible also challenges us to “prove all things” (1 Thess 5:21). God challenges us to prove the Bible. God knows the proofs are there, all one has to do is “seek” and you shall find. (Read our Booklet Proof of the Bible for more details).

Creation itself is also absolute proof that God exists! Paul wrote, “Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them. “*For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:”* (Rom 1:19-20).

God is known by his handiwork! His nature, character, and personality are indelibly etched into this earth and discernibly in scribed across the length and breadth of his creation. Everything you see about you reflects tremendous complexity, careful planning, meticulous detail, great beauty and harmony and follows definite, unchangeable, unshakable, immutable laws!

One could write whole volumes about the wonders of design in nature, but the point is that God has indeed revealed himself through the intricate tapestry of his physical creation.

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Great scientists and statesmen have recognized this fact to one degree or the other. Dr. Wernher von Braun, world renowned German scientist, once said: “Anything as well ordered and perfectly created as is our earth and universe must have a Maker, a Master Designer. Anything so orderly, so perfect, so precisely balanced, so majestic as this creation can only be the product of a Divine idea.... There must be a Maker; there can be no other way.”

Dr. Warren Weaver adds: “Every new discovery or science is a further ‘revelation’ or the order which God has built into this universe.”

But even with these great men and others like them, the term “God” is often used to symbolize something other than the Creator revealed in the pages of your Bible. True, “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handiwork” (Psalm 19:1). However, there are certain limits to what man can find out about God strictly through the knowledge of the creation. For instance, the creation itself would never tell you exactly why the Creator God hides himself from his human creatures. *Only the acceptance of the biblical account can answer critical questions about God, his nature, and how and why he deals with man.* So creation, and the Bible is how God has revealed himself to man, he is not hidden, only to those who do not seek him, mainly the vast majority of the human race—those that do seek him truly are called the “little flock” (Luke 12:32).

God has also provided a way so He can reveal Himself—that is through *you!* He can literally dwell in you (1 John 4:12) — Jesus Christ, the Creator of this universe, can come into your mind and flesh! (1 John 4:2) How? By the implantation of His Holy Spirit (John 14:17) — which is God’s Power to express Himself through you.

How do we know that God can reveal Himself through individual men? What’s our evidence?

We have an absolute two-fold proof: First, the person can keep God’s Law for the first time. This is the evidence of the Holy Spirit inside someone, by keeping the law of God. When one receives the spirit of God the law is carved on ones heart (Rom 5:5; 2 Corinth 3:3).

Second, the person can develop progressively more God like character. Peter said, “...ye might be partakers of the divine nature...” (2 Peter 1:4). God’s nature as opposed to human nature.

The phenomenally incomprehensible result of this development occurs at the resurrection — when, in truth and in fact, the person himself is changed into the same kind as the Father and the Son! As wildly incredible as it surely sounds to our brainwashed ears, God Almighty is reproducing Himself. He is making man eligible for full-fledged Son-ship in His God-plane Family. That seems like sacrilegious blasphemy to worldly religions — but it happens to be the reason why God created the entire universe! (Read our booklet, *What is the Purpose for Human Life* for the full explanation).

The world teaches that man can’t keep God’s Ten Commandments. True. Man alone can’t. But, when God impregnates and augments man’s spirit by His Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:16), then man can fully obey God’s Law because Christ Himself will help. The world hates obeying God and the

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world ridicules the idea of God reproducing Himself. As a result the world rejects God's revelation through man.

And by rejecting God's revelation, the world blasphemes God's Holy Spirit. Religionists tell you "just believe on the name of the Lord Jesus and you shall be saved." They also make the equally ludicrous claim that the Holy Spirit is a distinct person! This is a flagrant attempt to both close off the Godhead in an unexpandable "Trinity" and deny God's power to keep His own Law through human beings.

How do you get God's Holy Spirit? There are just two requirements: 1) A wholly repentant attitude of mind and 2) baptism. That's it (Acts 2:38). (Read out booklet on Baptism for details).

Of all God's revelations to man, the clearest and most dramatic for you will occur when you personally sense the remarkably thrilling change in your own mind brought about by God's Holy Spirit — a steady perfection of your character, a new power in your understanding, a sudden zest in your life, and a fantastically happy outlook for your future. You will never again have to rehearse the many times, places and ways of God's revelations to mankind. When you want to see God revealing Himself, you'll just look at God's Power in your own life!

Why Does God Hide Himself?

"Verily thou art a God that hidest thyself..." wrote the prophet Isaiah millennia ago (Isa. 45:15). For the world as a whole, that statement is just as true today as it ever was. This world couldn't be more unaware of the presence of the true God.

To the world if God appeared right now, how would the world react? Just like everyone else in the past, they would want God to go away and stay hidden. God is invisible, God is hidden *because he is giving man exactly what they want*, as he told Samuel, "*Hearken unto the voice of the people* in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them." (1 Sam 8:7). God is giving man what he wants, to stay out of their business, so God makes himself invisible! But!

Is God truly hidden?

We cannot see him yes but he has left absolute proof that he does exist and that the Bible is his very world and you can prove it. God can reveal himself to anyone who seeks him.

Has God *really* hidden himself? To the world Yes! To those that seek him,
He hasn't.
He isn't.
He won't.

God HAS revealed Himself — by His creation, by His patriarchs and prophets, and by the ministry of Jesus Christ. God IS revealing Himself — to scientists by their discoveries, and to the world by this Work. God WILL reveal Himself — to you personally by His Spirit now, and to all mankind by His soon-coming conquering return.