

God Creator of Heaven and Earth

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God Creator of Heaven and Earth

I have made the earth, and created man upon it; I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their hosts have I commanded...For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited; I am the Lord, and there is none else.

Isaiah 45:12 and 18

The debate between God and science is one that has raged for centuries, and is the epicenter of belief for both Christians and atheists. At the heart of the matter comes the ultimate question is there a God? Unfortunately, it appears that today more and more people do not believe in God. In the nineteenth century, the German philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche, announced that God was dead as he witnessed the people moving farther away from faith in God and towards the rationalistic idea of science. However, what Nietzsche and many others fail to realize is that God and science are not separate entities fighting against each other, but are actually in harmony with one another. The knowledge that comes from science is a gift from God which allows mankind to better understand His universe, and thereby, we can better understand Him.

Today, many people have lost the concept of what faith is, which the eleventh chapter of Hebrews defines as “the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”¹ Faith is not the perfect knowledge of something, but is the assurance and evidence of things that are not seen, such as God as the Creator of heaven and earth. The Book of Mormon helps us to understand faith even further. “Faith, is not to have perfect knowledge of things; therefore if ye have faith, ye hope for things which are not seen, which are true.”² Nonetheless, as our faith grows in a thing, it begins to increase until we come to a perfect knowledge. “And now behold, is your knowledge perfect? Yea, your knowledge is perfect in that thing, and your faith is dormant; and this because you know.”³ [Read more on faith in **Chapter Five**]

Instead of trusting in God and relying on faith, the world today seems more occupied with what they can see or touch. Everything must be explained rationally and logically, and with such thinking, humankind believes that they have advanced themselves in knowledge and as a civilization. Some people might believe that human civilization has progressed and developed to become more sophisticated as the years have gone by, believing that we have become better and more evolved than the generations that have gone on before us.

However, we would ask the reader, what is the goal for human civilization? What is human civilization striving for? Is it world peace, a functioning government, or perhaps inhabiting other planets, and if by

¹ Hebrews 11:1

² Alma 16:143

³ Alma 16:160-161

some chance mankind is actually able to accomplish these things, then what? If we are being honest with ourselves, then we can say that there is no goal or destination for human civilization, and if there is no goal then we can truthfully say that human civilization is lost.

Human civilization without God is lost. As we read the Scriptures, and come to know God, we see that His purpose and desire is to bring about the immortality and eternal life of man. Eternal life is the goal and end purpose, but in order for us to receive and value it, we must know, believe, and follow after our Heavenly Father. God had this thought in mind when He created His universe. In Genesis, chapter six, we read God tell Enoch, “All things are created and made to bear record of me; both things which are temporal, and things which are spiritual; things which are in the heavens above, and things which are on the earth, and things which are in the earth, and things which are under the earth, both above and beneath, all things bear record of me.”⁴ God created both the Heavens and the earth to bear record of Himself that we might know Him better, and that our faith might grow into the perfect knowledge that God is.

God the Creator of Heaven and Earth

If there is no God, how was the universe formed? For those who do not believe in God, the popular answer today is what is known as the Big Bang Theory. According to the theory, the universe began 13.7 billion years ago with a massive expansion of heating and cooling neutrons, protons, electrons, anti-electrons, photons, and neutrinos. The Big Bang Theory suggests that the universe was not formed by a giant explosion, but with a cosmic inflation, which caused the universe to grow exponentially in a short period of time.

Atheists surmise that God did not create the universe, but that a violent event just happened to occur to form the universe, and thereby, humans eventually came into existence billions of years later through the process of evolution. Ironically however, the term theory is defined in the 1828 Webster’s Dictionary as “speculation; a doctrine or scheme of things, which terminates in speculation or contemplation, without a view to practice,” or in other words, theories are not proven to be actual facts, which is why they are called theories. Therefore, similar to how individuals utilize faith in their belief in God, atheists also utilize faith in their belief of the Big Bang Theory. Please read the following testimony from teacher Jim Negaard:

Faith is often mocked. The world seems to mock it, they only want what they can see. When Ether was trying to talk with the people, they wouldn’t believe him. [They thought] God won’t do that for me, I can’t see that happening, and that is often what you hear today. If I can’t see it I’m not going to believe it. But I want you to consider for a moment that everything we know is by faith, everything the world knows is by faith. Here are a couple examples that I was thinking of. History, we believe Christopher Columbus sailed and discovered this area. People believe that the Mayflower sailed and brought the pilgrims, the founders to our land. How do you know that? Did you see it? Do you know anybody that saw it? We are taking it but by authority, we

⁴ Genesis 6:66

are taking by those who have reason to believe it, they give their testimony that they think it's true, and we are taught it and so we believe it. It's by faith.

What about geography? I have not been to New Zealand, but I have reason to believe that it is there. I don't know if anyone here has been there. People say it's there, I guess I believe it's there. It's drawn on the map, somebody drew it and said it was there. But we take it by faith, we believe that they know what they are talking about. What about geology? They tell me that the center of the earth is a hot molten iron. Has anybody seen that? No, we can't even drill anywhere close, not even down very far in our crust, but we have reason to believe don't we? We see some evidences of it, we have a compass that we take out and it works. We don't see what's making it work, but we got these theories that seem to work, that it's because of this center of iron.

Sir Isaac Newton was a wonderful fellow, and he wrote down what people call today the law of gravity, and that law is not anything that says why gravity works or anything, it just says what it does. He said the information that you need to know is the mass of one object and the mass of the object that it is working with and take the distance between them and then you times that number by the universal gravitational constant. It is called universal because it works everywhere, and science bases their calculations that it works everywhere. Have we been everywhere? No. Is it really universal? Well, we have reason to believe that it is for the things that we see that it does here [on earth], that we will believe that it is constant wherever it is. So we have reason to believe in that, but we have faith in that. We have faith in that so much that science uses that. People have spent time in science that amazes me. They measured the weight of galaxies that are seen, all the stars, everything that they can see in there and come up with a weight for how much that is. Then they say what it does, doesn't add up to what is there. Gravity bends light, which is an amazing concept to me. But they can see that the bend of light going around galaxies, that there is not enough weight there to make the light do that. They can see that the spiral of the galaxies, the speed of the stars on the outside of the galaxies they should not be there. There is not enough weight to hold them in place, and not just like a black hole at the center but there is weight distributed throughout this spiral arm that hold them there, and they say what's going on. There is something amiss.

And so science has come up with this thing called dark matter, which is something that doesn't interact with any radiation or light waves or those kind of things. It doesn't interact with anything that we see, but yet because of the law of gravity they say it must be there. They have faith that it is there, and a matter of fact, they say if you added up all the gravitational stuff in the universe only five percent of it is the ordinary matter. In other words, ninety-five percent of the universe is made up of something we don't know, we don't see, we don't know what it is, and that is the faith of science. We don't see it, we can't react with it, we are trying different experiments to see if we can have some reaction with it to find out something about it, but we don't know what it is. That is the faith of science that is what they believe. In something they can't see, they can't touch, they can't feel, but because of the experiences we have had we think that it's there. And I'm not mocking science, I think that it's wonderful, but it is not different

from religion that religion should be mocked. For in religion we believe in the things we can't see because of the evidences that we have now. This is faith, we have assurance that these things are true.

Interestingly, the Big Bang Theory can also be argued by utilizing logic. C.S. Lewis, a famous author of the twentieth century and a converted atheist gave a logical argument to refute the belief that there is no God and that any theory which does not denote a supreme Creator, is irrational.

Suppose there were no intelligence behind the universe, no creative mind. In that case nobody designed my brain for thinking. It is merely that when the atoms arranged inside my skull, happened to arrange themselves in a certain way, I had the sensation or the by-product which we call thought. But if so, how can I trust my own thinking to be true? It's like upsetting a milk jug and hoping that the way the splash arranges itself will give us an accurate map of New York. But if I can't trust my own thinking, of course, I can't trust the arguments leading to atheism, and therefore have no reason to be an atheist or anything else. Unless I believe in God I cannot believe in thought, and so I can never use thought to disbelieve in God.⁵

Debating the Existence of God

As the reader assuredly knows, doubting or not believing in the existence of God is not a new argument or phenomenon. However, does the reader know that this argument has not only been debated in recent times, but has been recorded in the Scriptures as well? By turning to the Book of Mormon, we can read and gain spiritual insight into assurance of God and His creation. If any worry or question the Book of Mormon, we pray that the reader will take their concerns to God, and ask Him if these things are true in faith believing that you will receive, as James 1:5-7 informs us to do. [Read more on the Book of Mormon in **Chapter Nineteen** and **Chapter Twenty**]

In the sixteenth chapter of Alma, a man named Korihor, who was a denier of God and Jesus Christ, went among the members of the Church and preached to them that there should be no Christ and that there was no God. Moreover, he said that each person prospered according to their intelligence and strength, and questioned the belief of the Christians, asking, "How do ye know of their surety? Behold, ye can not know of things which ye do not see; therefore ye can not know that there shall be a Christ. Ye look forward and say, that ye see a remission of your sins. But behold, it is the effect of a frenzied mind."⁶

Likewise, Korihor preached that there was no life after death, and that the Church members were in bondage to the foolish traditions of their fathers, which he believed were created by ancient priests to usurp power and authority over the people in order to keep them in ignorance. Korihor also believed that the priests used the traditions of their fathers to gluten themselves with the labors of the people.

Korihor said, "Yea, they durst not make use of that which is their own, lest they should offend their priests, who do yoke them according to their desires, and have brought them to believe by their traditions, and their dreams, and their whims, and their visions, and their pretended mysteries, that

⁵ Arthur A. Oakman, *He Who Is*, Herald Publishing House (1963), 12

⁶ Alma 16:15-17

they should , if they did not do according to their words, offend some unknown being, who they say is God; a being who never has been seen nor known, who never was nor ever will be.⁷”

The reader will notice that many of Korihor’s statements are similar to arguments that we hear today against the existence of God. In essence, Korihor is asking the people where is the physical evidence, what proof do you have that God exists.

Eventually, Korihor came before Alma, who was a man of God and the chief judge in all the land, and again began to preach in a like manner. However, Alma, who had spent years laboring among the people, said to him, “Thou knowest that we do not glut ourselves upon the labors of this people. And notwithstanding the many labors which I have performed in the church, I have never received so much as even one senine⁸ for my labor; neither has any of my brethren.⁹”

Alma challenged Korihor, saying, “If we do not receive anything for our labors in the church, what doth it profit us to labor in the church, save it were to declare the truth, that we may have rejoicings in the joy of our brethren?¹⁰” Please read the following excerpt from the debate between Alma and Korihor:

16:46 And then Alma said unto him [Korihor], Believest thou that there is a God? And he answered, Nay. **16:47** Now Alma said unto him, Will ye deny again that there is a God, and also deny the Christ? for behold, I say unto you, I know there is a God, and also that Christ shall come. **16:48** And now, what evidence have ye that there is no God, or that Christ cometh not? I say unto you that ye have none, save it be your word only. **16:49** But behold, I have all things as a testimony that these things are true; and ye also have all things as a testimony unto you that they are true; and will ye deny them? **16:50** Believest thou that these things are true?

Alma, who had literally seen angels and had even talked with the Lord from time to time, countered Korihor’s demand for evidence of God’s existence by asking him what physical evidence do you have to disprove that God exists? Having none, Korihor was confounded by Alma’s words, and eventually resorted to what many people do in these situations and asked Alma to show him a sign that would convince him of the existence of God. In response, Alma asked Korihor have you not had enough signs already, will you tempt God after you have witnessed the testimonies of so many people, including the holy prophets and the Holy Scriptures?

Alma reflected God’s words in Genesis and told Korihor, “The scriptures are laid before thee, yea, and all things denote there is a God; yea, even the earth, and all things that are upon the face of it, yea, and its motion; Yea, and also all the planets which move in their regular form, doth witness that there is a Supreme Creator: and yet do ye go about, leading away the hearts of this people,

⁷ Alma 16:35

⁸ Senine is a form of currency

⁹ Alma 16:40-41

¹⁰ Alma 16:42

testifying unto them there is no God? And yet will ye deny against all these witnesses?¹¹ Please read the following passage from Alma 16:56-62:

16:56 And he [Korihor] said, Yea, I will deny, except ye shall shew me a sign. **16:57** And now it came to pass that Alma said unto him, Behold, I am grieved because of the hardness of your heart; yea, that ye will still **resist the spirit of the truth**, that thy soul may be destroyed. **16:58** But behold, it is better that thy soul should be lost, than **that thou shouldst be the means of bringing many souls down to destruction**, by thy lying, and by thy flattering words; **16:59** Therefore if thou shalt deny again, behold, God shall smite thee, that thou shalt become dumb, that thou shalt never open thy mouth any more, that thou shalt not deceive this people any more.

16:60 Now Korihor said unto him, I do not deny the existence of a God, but I do not believe that there is a God; and I say also, that ye do not know that there is a God; and except ye shew me a sign, I will not believe. **16:61** Now Alma said unto him, This will I give unto thee for a sign, that thou shalt be struck dumb, according to my words; and I say, that in the name of God, ye shall be struck dumb, that ye shall no more have utterance. **16:62** Now when Alma had said these words, Korihor was struck dumb, that he could not have utterance according to the words of Alma.

From the debate between Alma and Korihor, we read a familiar story of a person who does not believe in something that he cannot see or touch, despite the many witnesses of faith that we find every day in the Scriptures, and in the hearts of so many people who believe and follow after Jesus Christ. In fact, the very universe testifies that there is a God. As Alma said, the earth and the motions of the planets give witness of a Supreme Creator.

Furthermore, to address Korihor's demand for a sign, which many people ask for, Alma said if we were given a sign that we might to know God, then how would we have faith in order to nourish it into a perfect knowledge? From Alma 16:139-141:

16:139 Yea, there are many who do say, If thou wilt shew unto us a sign from heaven, then we shall know of a surety; then we shall believe. **16:140** Now I ask, Is this faith? Behold, I say unto you, **Nay**; for if a man knoweth a thing, he hath no cause to believe, for he knoweth it. **16:141** And now how much **more cursed is he** that knoweth the will of God and **doeth it not**, than he that only believeth, or only hath cause to believe, and falleth into transgression? Now of this thing, ye must judge.

All Things Bear Record of God

Returning to the sixth chapter of Genesis, we read that all men everywhere must repent because of the fall of Adam for no unclean thing can dwell in the Kingdom of God. Therefore, God sent His Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise again in order for the world to have atonement for our sins. God said, "This is the plan of salvation unto all men, through the blood of mine Only Begotten, who shall

¹¹ Alma 16:54-55

come in the meridian of time. And, behold, all things have their likeness; and all things are created and made to bear record of me.¹²” In other words, God said that all things have a likeness in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and all things bear record of God. For an example of this likeness, we direct the reader to look at the center of our solar system, the sun.

In 1946, at a reunion in Lamoni, Iowa, Dr. Gustav A. Platz, a professor at Graceland College, shared a testimony of God’s creation. Please read an account of his testimony through Arthur Oakman, an apostle in the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, who attended the reunion:

He arose to his feet and gave us a dissertation on the nature of sunlight which was sublime. He began by telling us that the sun was 360 million tons lighter today than it was twenty-four hours ago; twenty-four hours from now it would be 360 million tons lighter than it was now. He reminded us that our solar system was once part of the sun, that we could still see through our telescopes the way in which solar systems came into being. He said that this 360 million tons of the sun’s substance, by some inner power within it, was transformed into radiation which streamed through space at 186,000 miles a second. In its white rays it contained all the other forms of radiation we know, the Hertzian rays we use in broadcasting, the Alpha rays, the Beta rays, the Gamma rays, the X rays. This radiation which was really literally burning our sun up bombarded our earth. The seed in the soil was quickened by it. He pointed out how the surroundings of our life were dependent upon the energy and the power which the sun expended.

He said, “You know, ages pass and the flora and the fauna are buried; we go down into the earth, we pipe up our oil, and we dig up our coal, and we drive our engines; we warm our hearts and our homes. Can you imagine what it would be like if the sun refused to shine for one day?” He went on to point out that one day our sun would burn out, that the universe was full of cinders of suns that had burned out. Of course this gave point and illustration to the statement in the Doctrine and Covenants that “As one earth shall pass away and the heavens thereof even so shall another come.” This sun, which was the light of the day, rules the physical universe that we know by the power of its continued persistent sacrifice. And then he said simply, “As the sun is the light of day, so Christ is the light of my soul.” He sat down and for five minutes there was complete silence.¹³

Dr. Platz’s statement is a testimony of the likeness found between the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who is the light and life of the world,¹⁴ and the nature of our sun. It also demonstrates the harmony between God and science. Science informs us that life on earth is sustained by the continual and perpetual sacrifice of the sun, just as God tells us that our eternal life is sustained through the sacrifice and atonement of Jesus Christ.

¹² Genesis 6:65-66

¹³ *He Who Is*, 64-65

¹⁴ John 1:4

Laws and the Kingdom

The record of God can be witnessed in all things if we have the faith to believe in Him. Moreover, God has blessed us abundantly that we may see these records, or evidences, by granting us knowledge, such as science, that we may better understand Him and His universe. Thus, all things bear record of God because He is the Framer of Heaven and earth as we read in Genesis, chapter one, "I am the Beginning and the End; the Almighty God. By mine Only Begotten I created these things. Yea, in the beginning I created the heaven, and the earth upon which thou standest."¹⁵

In Genesis, chapter six, we read "The heavens he made; the earth is his footstool, and the foundation thereof is his; behold, he laid it, and hosts of men hath he brought in upon the face thereof."¹⁶ Again, from Isaiah we read, "Thus saith God the Lord, he that created the heavens, and stretched them out, he that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein."¹⁷ God is the Supreme Creator of all things and we see this through subjects such as science, mathematics, and even language. Mankind did not invent these subjects, but gained truth and understanding through enlightenment and discovery. Johannes Kepler, the father of Physical Astronomy, said it best, "O God, I am thinking Thy thoughts after Thee." Kepler believed also that the universe testified of the truth and existence of God.

In order to witness this testimony, we only need to look toward the laws of science. The laws of science were not invented by man but instead were merely discovered. For instance, how long has water consisted of two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen? Argel Reynolds, an elder in Church of Jesus Christ, asked, "Did water become composed of those two elements only at that point in time when man made the discovery, or had this always been true and man only discovered it? How long will water still consist of two parts hydrogen and one part oxygen?"¹⁸ Please read the following Scripture passage from the Doctrine and Covenants, Section 85:8-12:

85:8a And again, verily I say unto you, that which is governed by law, is also preserved by law, and perfected and sanctified by the same. **85:8b** That which breaketh a law, and abideth not by law, but seeketh to become a law unto itself, and willeth to abide in sin, and altogether abideth in sin, can not be sanctified by law, neither by mercy, justice, or judgment; therefore, they must remain filthy still. **85:9a All kingdoms have a law given:** and there are many kingdoms; for there is **no space in the which there is no kingdom;** and there is no kingdom in which there is no space, either a greater or lesser kingdom. **85:9b** And unto every kingdom is given a law; and unto every law there are ***certain bounds also, and conditions.***

85:10a All beings who abide not in those conditions, are not justified; for intelligence cleaveth unto intelligence; wisdom receiveth wisdom; truth embraceth truth; virtue loveth virtue; light cleaveth unto light; **85:10b** mercy hath compassion on mercy, and claimeth her own; justice continueth its course, and claimeth its own; judgment goeth before the face of him who sitteth

¹⁵ Genesis 1:2-3

¹⁶ Genesis 6:46

¹⁷ Isaiah 42:5

¹⁸ Argil Reynolds, *Laws and the Kingdom*, 1-2

upon the throne, and governeth and executeth all things: **85:10c** he comprehendeth all things, and all things are before him, and all things are round about him; and he is above all things, and in all things, and is through all things, and is round about all things: and all things are by him, and of him; even God, for ever and ever.

85:11a And again, verily I say unto you, **He hath given a law unto all things** by which they move in their times, and their seasons; and their courses are fixed; even the courses of the heavens, and the earth; which comprehend the earth and all the planets; **85:11b** and they give light to each other in their times, and in their seasons, in their minutes, in their hours, in their days, in their weeks, in their months, in their years: all these are one year with God, but not with man.

85:12a The earth rolls upon her wings; and the sun giveth his light by day, and the moon giveth her light by night; and the stars also giveth their light, as they roll upon their wings, in their glory, in the midst of the power of God. **85:12b** Unto what shall I liken these kingdoms, that ye may understand? **85:12c** Behold, all these are kingdoms, and any man who hath seen any or the least of these, ***hath seen God moving in his majesty and power***. **85:12d** I say unto you, He hath seen him: nevertheless, he who came unto his own was not comprehended. **85:12e** The light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehendeth it not; nevertheless, the day shall come when you shall comprehend even God; being quickened in him, and by him. **85:12f** Then shall ye know that ye have seen me [Jesus Christ], that I am, and that I am the true light that is in you, and that you are in me, otherwise ye could not abound.

In short, there are literally kingdoms without number that God has created, and there are certain bounds and conditions which have to be obeyed in each kingdom. For an example, there are bounds and conditions that must be obeyed in the kingdom of water. A person cannot exist under water without a breathing device for an extended period of time. Once a person runs out of air, they die, and this works the same if you are Catholic, Jew, Black, White, tall, or short. The water does not say, "Well, this fellow has a good personality," or "This lady has helped a lot of needy people," or "This person fell in by accident and cannot swim; so because of these conditions I will change my laws and spare their lives." No matter who the person is, or what the circumstances may be, the law is the same.¹⁹

For another example of the kingdom of water, if water is heated to 212 degrees Fahrenheit, it can be used in a number of ways, such as sterilizing surgical tools or cooking, but you would not take a bath in it or drink it. Likewise, when water is at 70 degrees, a person could take a bath in it, but it would not sterilize anything or keep anything cold. At 37 degrees, water would not freeze, even if we take it down another 4 more degrees, the water still would not freeze. However, if we took the temperature down just one more degree, the water will freeze. Thus, water can serve us, or harm us, depending on whether we abide by its laws or break them.²⁰

Equally, the same can be said of other kingdoms, or laws of science, such as gravity and electricity. Was gravity invented when man was able to define it, or had gravity always been true? A person would not

¹⁹ Ibid, 2

²⁰ Ibid, 2

willingly jump from an airplane at twenty thousand feet without a parachute, unless they were willing to face a sudden stop at the end of their fall. What if the person jumped and changed his mind mid way through, or if they fell out by accident? Would that matter to gravity? No, and this is because the law of gravity is unchangeable.²¹

Concerning electricity, if a child who naturally has no understanding of how electricity works, and an adult who does, both grab a live wire while they are grounded, they will both have the same shocking experience. Therefore, it does not matter if we understand the laws or not, if we abide by them they will serve us, if we break them they will harm and condemn us.²²

Conclusion

The world today appears more and more to be drifting away from faith in God, and toward the logical and rational reasoning of science. Nonetheless, we have faith, which is the assurance of things not seen that are true, that God is the Creator of both Heaven and Earth. We believe that all things testify and bear record of the existence of a Supreme Creator, and we even used logic to refute the belief that there is no God.

We would ask the reader to look around them from the plants and animals to the motions of the planets, and ask yourself if you believe that these things and laws could have simply happened to exist without a Creator. Through Korihor, we learned that we cannot look for signs and physical proof, but through our faith, we can obtain a perfect knowledge. In the mean time, we can utilize science to better understand God's universe and to better understand Him.

We would like to finish with one last Scripture from the Doctrine and Covenants, "By these things we know that there is a God in heaven who is infinite and eternal, from everlasting to everlasting the same unchangeable God, the framer of heaven and earth and all things which are in them, and that he created male and female; after his own image and in his own likeness created he them, and gave unto them commandments that they should love and serve him the only living and true God, and that he should be the only being whom they should worship."²³

²¹ Ibid, 2-3

²² Ibid, 3

²³ DC 17:4a-b