

"GOD": PERSONAL, CARING ...OR BLIND ENERGY?

YAHWEH - "I AM; WHO AM WITH YOU" - is My Name" (Exodus 3:14)

During one period of my life, all supernatural light became veiled; the very existence of God and all spiritual realities became a matter of blind faith. I believed in my will but all other props were taken from me. There almost seemed to exist no objective truth that we could fathom with certainty. As regards reason, it appeared that people could prove anything they wanted to prove. How often I had seen conclusions pass as factual; and the opposite as firmly verified by another. What assurance was there of the conformity of the intellect with reality.

And when it seemed as though I could never again possess the interior assurance that had always been mine, Providence arranged that a brilliant professor/monk should give our Community a course in philosophy and logic. He taught us to put order into our thinking, enabling us to answer problems confronting the modern world; as also to detect faulty statements of principle. All science follows rules innate in nature. No scientist makes his own laws governing the universe but seeks to fathom the tremendous laws already contained therein...and to harness these laws.

The Science of Reason also has to have order-rules or else conclusions will be faulty. If we build upon a false premise as truth, the end result will necessarily be falsehood.

OUR SEARCH FOR GOD will be divided into three main categories:

- I. Reason or Science of Thought
- II. Revelation:
 - A. Inspired word of Scripture
 - B. The Word/Revelation of God personified or "Made Flesh" in the Person of Christ
- III. Experimental knowledge of God manifested in those who love Him:

"If anyone love Me, he shall be loved of My Father: and I will love him and manifest Myself to him" - John 14:21

I. REASON or THE SCIENCE OF THOUGHT: There is of necessity, a right order in the process of reasoning. It is on the theory that there are true and false principles that computers are able to think for us. They handle complex analysis by compounding simple propositions.

Proof of the Existence of a Supreme Being:

1. There is either order or non-order innate in all nature.
2. If there is order or an innate law in the whole of nature, then there must be a power greater than nature for all life, matter, energy, even the solar system is subservient to innate laws.
3. This higher power must either be an Intelligent power or else a blind force.

Blind Force: If the supreme power is a blind force, then non-order or chaos would be the norm and order an accidental. Instead, all that exists is endowed with innate laws. Hence, blind energy is a subservient not a supreme power.

Intelligence: Only if this Supreme Power is Intelligence can there be order in all nature. And vice versa: Only if there is no order then there is no intelligence.

CONCLUSION> *THERE IS ORDER IN ALL NATURE HENCE THERE IS INTELLIGENCE GOVERNING THE LAWS OF THE UNIVERSE*

BUT IS NATURE its own innate cause, god-becoming (Pantheism) having no law outside itself? Or perhaps begun by a generating cause that has no further relationship or power over it?

If nature is its own cause, then there is no objective truth or reality outside itself. If the earth is god-becoming, of which man is a part, then man himself is the basis for his own laws. If man is a law-unto-himself, "Situation Ethics" replaces non-existent "objective morality" as the norm for the common good. Good for whom or what peoples?

Look at the justifiable consequences of such a dreadful philosophy: Hitler determined to establish an elite race and began by ridding the nation of the infirm and the handicapped. Soon he sought to exterminate the Jews as an inferior, unwanted race. With such a philosophy, what law prevents the powerful from overreaching the weak -- from "great" nations dropping an atomic bomb on weaker nations or peoples they feel should not exist; or are over-populating the earth. The poor and the

hungry drain the earth's supplies: It is easier to get rid of them than to feed them. Why not kill the unborn child..or the born child? Our parents are old and become a burden ...or now we are that burden!!

MAN IS ENDOWED WITH THE AWFUL POWER OF CHOICE: If going against right order, written in his heart, is chaos for himself and for the whole Universe, then there does exist *an objective truth, a right and a wrong* that is not of man's creation. Then he is not a law-unto-himself. Then the Universe is not god-becoming (its own supreme power). It is subject to a greater Reality.

But is this Reality, this "I AM" who is Intelligence and Life; this Being whom we call "God", is He Personal and caring? Or has he left our universe to chance! Isaias 45:9 addresses this issue, "Woe to him who speaks above his Maker saying, 'What are you making?' and 'Your work is without hands (without control)'

HAS YAHWEH-GOD LEFT SOME SIGN OR REVELATION OF HIMSELF that we might know and be able to believe in Him? If he is our Father-Creator, has he stooped to give some proof of His love; or prepared a path that his children might find the Way to Him?

(All that I write I submit wholly to the judgment of Holy Church which bears Christ's own authority)

II. REVELATION:

A. SCRIPTURE: The inspired word of God

God has put into the heart of mankind the desire to seek and to know Him. But fuller knowledge can only come by Revelation, by God revealing Himself to his children. Scripture is the revealed Word of God handed down for perpetual generations: "This is My Covenant with them, says the Lord: My spirit that is in you, and My words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, nor out of the mouth of your children, nor out of the mouth of your children's children, says the Lord, from henceforth and for ever". (Isaias 59:21). Ultimately the Word was made Flesh (Personified) and dwelt among us" in Jesus Christ.

But the understanding of this word is only possible through the enlightenment of the same Spirit that inspired each of the writers of the books of the Bible: "No prophecy of Scripture is made by private interpretation. For prophecy came not by the will of man at any time: but the holy men of God spoke, inspired by the Holy Spirit" (2 Peter 1:20-21)

Much in Scripture is written in symbolism to enfold deeper meanings than it is possible for the human tongue to utter. Also, there are things not meant to be fully understood until the appointed time: "Many other things I have to say to you but you cannot bear them now" - John 16:12; "Every scribe instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like a householder who brings out of his possessions, new things and old" - Matt 13:52. God is "Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, hence Scripture contains first things and last things - Apoc. 1:8; 22:13.

To know God, let us examine what Yahweh has written about Himself and His dwelling with mankind:

ALPHA - FIRST THINGS: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was unformed-and-void (Hebrew) = non-existent. Genesis 1:1-2:3 is an *overview description of the creation* of the entire universe. Genesis 2:4-25, in contrast, zeros-in on the single '*day(s)*' of the creation of *earth* and heaven" (inversion is intentional) to speak of the creation of man and God's preparation for his masterpiece. Chapter 2 begins the story of mankind.

Primeval Energy: "And darkness was upon the 'great agitation' (energy), the Spirit of God moving gently to turn its joinings" (adhesion-atomic) - Hebrew text.

"And God said "Be light made (sun, not yet)...And evening was. And morning came to be": Each 'day' of creation begins with a glimmer of God's previous works and ends with a dawn, an awakening, a beginning. The days of creation never set: "My Father works until now and I work..." (John 5:17).

Big Bang? *"And God: Let there be a beaten-out (usually translated 'firmament') dividing the waters above the beaten-out from those below the beaten-out" (Hebrew). This second day is the only day of creation wherein it is not said "and God saw that it was good", suggesting the divisions was a time of chaos wherein God formed the vast nebulae and separated our universe.*

Earth's Creation: "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together and let the *dry land* appear" (sun, moon, etc. is relationship, not time).

"The heavens were first, and the *earth* was formed out of water and through water consisting by the word of God" - 2 Peter 3:4-6.

"For thy Almighty Hand, which *made the world of matter without form...*" - Wisdom 1:18.

Evolution: "*Let the earth bring forth* the green herbs (3rd day); Let the waters bring forth.. creatures having life (5th day); ...Let earth bring forth the living creature in its kind (6th day)."

Creation of Adam and Eve: Man is part of the sixth day of creation, "let the earth bring forth". The narrative, however, is interrupted by a special intervention of God . Mankind is the only animal nature

that God breathed His own Spirit/Breath/Life into. "But for Adam there was not found one like to himself...And God created man to His Own image: to the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. And called their name 'man'...Fill the earth and subdue it, and rule over all living creatures that move upon earth" - Gen.1

The root word for Adam/man is 'earth'. "The Adam (earth)" is used only in the accounts of creation.

The two genealogies: From the offspring of Adam/Earth, the world is divided into two separate genealogies, man in God's image vs beastly man = the children of Seth vs the children of Cain = "the seed of the woman" vs "the seed of the beast".

"The sons of God (masculine perpetuates genealogy) seeing the daughters of men (Cain) that they were fair, took to themselves wives of all whom they chose." and the whole world became corrupted.

A close study of the genealogy of Adam through Seth and then through Cain reveal that in Hebrew the two family trees are identical. A person is not born into friendship or enmity with God. "Cain went forth from the face of God" (Gen.4:16). We become children of Cain and inherit his curse only through our own free will.

Age of Earth: The earth could be millions of years old. Is there a contradiction in Scripture's calculation of time? Truth cannot be contradictory.

Adam is the father of "Seth", meaning "Another". Seth's generations "Another... Another...etc.". Finally, Seth is the father of Enosh. Enosh simply means "man", but the root is not 'earth'

Enoch is the only name in the two genealogies in which there is confusion of placement. Or is there? Enoch who "walked with God" lines up with Enosh "this *man* began to call upon the Lord"

ADAM/EARTH		
Seth		
<i>Enoch/Enos (Man/Adam)</i>		
	Cain	Cainan
<i>Enoch</i>	Irad	Malaleel
	Maviael	Jared
		<i>Enoch</i>
	Mathusael	Mathusala
	Lamech	Lamech
 <i>Tubalcain & Jabel</i>		
	<i>Noema)</i>	Noe

Cain is the father of Enoch and Enoch is the father of Cain: The wicked generation gives birth to the just and the just generation begets children of Cain. Symbolism twines the two generations.

The symbolism Cain & Abel is recalled to mind in the account preceding the flood. The Curse to Cain is 70x 7x revenged, for the earth is defiled with blood.

THE PROBLEM OF EVIL: All that God made is good. Sin (disorder) is the misuse of God's good things.

When sin entered into the world, disorder/chaos followed affecting the whole of God's creation. Scripture says: Man knowing (experimentally) good and evil "cannot take hold of the Tree of Life and live forever" It would be the height of horror for evil to have no end...and to have no God who sees.

But man is free, as Adam to choose between good and evil. "I WILL PLACE BEFORE YOU A BLESSING AND A CURSE: *life and good*, and on the other hand *death and evil*.

LIFE AND GOOD that you may love the Lord your God and walk in His ways..and He will bless you in the land; He will take away from you all sickness and the greivous infirmities of Egypt, He will not bring upon you.

DEATH AND EVIL if your heart turn away..I foretell that you shall perish and remain but a short time in your land

Because man is free, evil is permitted to have its 'hour': "This is your hour and the power of darkness" (Lk.22:53). Evil can have a deceptive, momentary success but its end is failure as verified in the curse to Cain (and his followers): "When you till the earth, it will not produce" - Gen. 4:12. History shows that when wickedness reaches a point of no-return (no-repentance), the death of a people, nation or empire is imminent.

BUT...

"God does not will the death of the sinner but rather that he be converted and live" - (Ezekiel 33:11):

"CHOOSE LIFE that both you and your children may live..and love the Lord. He is your life and the length of your days" (Deut.7:12-15; 11:14,26-28; 30:15-20)

**B. THE WORD/REVELATION OF GOD, PERSONIFIED:
The Word was made Flesh...became man".**

"In the beginning the Word was; and the Word was with the God; and God was the Word" is the literal translation of St. John's Prologue. "And the Word was made Flesh and Tabernacled among us" (reference to the Tent-Tabernacle of God's Presence wherein was the Ark of God's Covenant).

"God loved the world so much that He gave His Only Begotten Son (idiom for natural son = Son of My Nature). God, becoming man, took to Himself the condition and form of a slave/servant. But He is Son not servant, being One Nature with the Father; also having no human father, God alone is his Father ("The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee. Therefore, also, the Holy which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God"- Luke1:35)

THE WHOLE OF SCRIPTURE is a gradual unfolding of the mystery of Salvation. "The seed of the woman" would crush the serpents head: A Redeemer, Messia or "Anointed One" is the vision of the prophets bringing all promises to fulfilment.

Who is this "Anointed One"?

"And you, Bethlehem..out of you shall He come forth for Me that is to be the Ruler in Israel; And His going-forth is from the beginning, from the days of eternity" (Micheas 5:2).

"A child is born to us, a son given to us, and the Government is upon his shoulder; and his Name shall be Wonder-Counsellor; God-the-Mighty, Father-of-Eternity; the Prince-of-Peace" (Isaias 9:6). These are all names pertaining to the Divinity.

The Suffering Servant of Isaias bears in Himself the description of this Anointed One. By taking upon Himself the curse of Adam and laying down His life, He gives birth to this final restoration:

"If He shall lay down His life for sin, He shall see a long-lived seed...Therefore will I distribute to Him very many, and He shall divide the spoils of the strong, because He has delivered His soul unto death" (Isaias 53).

"Who is this that comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bosra, this beautiful One in His robe, walking in the greatness of His strength. I, that speak justice, and am a defender to save. Why then is your apparel red, and your garments like those who tread in the winepress? I have trodden the winepress alone...trampled on them in my indignation...their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My apparel. For the day of Vengeance is in My heart, the year of My Redemption is come...I will remember the tender mercies of the Lord...The Messenger of His Presence saved them: in His love and in His mercy He redeemed them, and He carried them and lifted them up all the days of old" (Isaias 63).

Both Christ's first ("year of redemption") and second coming ("day of vengeance" / "day of the Lord") are blended into one work of Salvation in these prophecies.

(1st) "And presently the Lord, whom you seek..., shall come to His temple.

(2nd) "..the Messenger of the Covenant whom you desire..Behold He comes and who shall be able to think of the Day of His coming? and who shall stand to see Him? for He is like a refining fire, and like the fuller's herb: And he shall sit refining and cleansing the silver:...I will come to you in judgment and will be a speedy witness against...all who oppress the hireling..the widows and the fatherless..and the strangers, and have not feared Me, says the Lord of armies...And you shall return and see the difference between the just and the wicked: and between him who serves God, and him who serves Him not. For behold the Day ("Day of the Lord") shall come kindled as a fire and all that do wickedly shall be stubble..it shall not leave them branch or root (Malachias 3&4).

Historical Proof of Jesus:

That Jesus was a true historical figure and not a legendary personality, is authentically verified. He walked this earth at a particular time and place in the annals of nations. All historical events of ancient and modern history converge around His Person: A.D. and B.C. have their origin in relation to the Incarnation.

The Gospels are authenticated as having been written in the First Century A.D. by close disciples of Jesus and/or of the Apostles. The writings of the Fathers of the Church, direct successors of the Apostles, expound what they heard from the twelve; most gave their lives also in testimony. The Martyrs of Rome: The catacombs speak loudly their story. Even witnesses not sympathetic (such as Josephus) authenticate the history of Christianity. That the Church which Christ founded should have endured 2,000 years in direct succession from the Apostles despite great human frailty, is proof itself that "what is of God you cannot fight against".

The doctrine it taught then is the exact same as is taught now: Read St. Irenaeus, St. Polycarp, St. Ignatius, St. Clement, etc... Christ said "Behold I am with you all days even to the end of the world...Upon this petra (rock-Peter) I will build My Church and the powers of hell (prophecy of Eden/Genesis) shall not prevail against it" is verified. More so when one sees that chaos within and without, rather than ending in dissolution or self-destruction, becomes rather a purification destroying what is evil and making more firm all that is good.

"I AM THE FIRST AND THE LAST" (Apoc. 22:13)

The Second Coming of Christ at the Right Hand (Power) of God is identical to the "Day of the Lord"

The High Priest commanded Christ to answer: "I adjure you, by the Living God...are you the Christ, the Son of God?" Jesus answered, "It is you who have said this. Nevertheless I say to you, hereafter you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the Right Hand of the Power of God and coming in the clouds of heaven" (Matt. 26:63-64). Our Lord is quoting Daniel and applying the prophecy to Himself. The prophecy is a claim to Divinity and was so understood by the High Priest who accused Him of blasphemy:

"I beheld till thrones were placed and the Ancient of days sat: His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His Head like clean wool (see Apoc. 1:13-15): His throne was flames of fire; the wheels..burning fire (fiery chariot of Ezechiel = the fiery sword (chariot) of Eden protecting the 'tree of life'. God will not permit man to destroy his own tree/life, made in God's image.

ONE CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE NEW TESTAMENT scripture in isolation from the Old. The prophecies/promises of the Old Testament reach their fulfilment of the New, not their extinction. The Second Coming of Christ is the "Day of the Lord"

All Scripture ultimately looks forward to this triumph and reign of Yahweh over the whole earth. The Day of the Lord inaugurates a new order upon all of God's creation: "And I saw a new heaven and a

new earth"(Apoc. 21) where justice reigns and all peoples and nations serve and worship God. Christ must reign until He puts all things under His feet". All things are restored in Christ.

DAY OF THE LORD is a Divine Intervention of God on behalf of His people. The world is rushing to its ruin but the mercy of God does not will what man is doing. The "day of the Lord" is a day of darkness and gloom. Yet the "day of the Lord" is a day of dawn and rejoicing because the Covenant and Promises of the Lord are forever.

Exactly what is this "Day of the Lord"?

"Blow the trumpet, sound an alarm..the day of the Lord comes. I will gather all nations into the Valley of Josephat: There will I sit to judge all nations..and I will plead for My people, and My inheritance, Israel. Nations, nations in the valley of destruction" (Joel 2:1; 3:1-21). The "valley of Josephat" is a symbolism not a geographical place. It is a cross reference to 2 Chronicles 20: All the enemies of God's people band themselves together to fight against the children of Israel. As they give themselves to prayer and fasting, the Spirit of God falls upon a prophet who encourages the people "the battle is not yours but God's". Taking courage, Josephat with his small army goes out to meet this vast multitude, singing psalms and hymns. In the meantime, the enemy begins to fight among themselves, slaying each other. When Josephat arrives at the top of the hill he looks down at the valley below and sees the vast multitude slain before him. He and his army went down and took their spoils. And they call the place "The Valley of Blessing". The symbolism is that of another Passover, an Exodus out of Egypt.

MALACHIAS also vividly gives a description of the "*day of the Lord*", a day of hope and of fear; of judgment and of mercy; of God's faithfulness to His Covenant.

"Then they who feared the Lord, spoke everyone with his neighbor: and the Lord gave ear, and heard it: and a book of remembrance was written before him for them of those who think on his Name. And they shall be my special possession in the day that I act. And I will spare them, as a man spares his son that loves him. And you shall return and see the difference between the just and the wicked, between the one who serves God and the one who serves him not.

"For the "day" shall come, kindled as a furnace; and all the proud, and all who do wickedly shall be stubble: and the day that comes shall set them on fire, it shall not leave them root or

branch.

"But unto you who fear my Name, the sun of justice shall arise with healing in his wings...and you shall tread down the wicked when they shall be ashes under your feet in the day that I act.

"Behold I will send you the prophet Elias (a symbolism, as used by the Lord) before the coming of the great and dreadful day...lest I come and strike the earth with 'charem'= utter destruction" (Mal.3:16-4:6)

The whole of the Bible speaks of these things. Often there is a double reference between a local event and the Eschatological, between tiny Jerusalem and the universal Jerusalem of God's people. The Egyptians/Babylon/Assyrians are symbols of the oppressors of Israel.

"Behold, the days shall come and I will gather all nations to Jerusalem to bettle...then the Lord shall go forth and fight against those nations...There shall be in all the earth, says the Lord: two parts in it shall be scattered and shall perish, but the third part shall be left therein. And I will bring this third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined: and I will try them as gold is tried. They shall call on My Name, and I will hear them. I will say: You are My people: and they shall say: The Lord is my God" (Zach.13:8-9; 14)

The whole earth shall be divided into three camps when the Lord sets his feet upon his mount (14:4): One part shall ally themselves to the Lord, the other two will ally themselves against the Lord and ultimately destroy each other:

"There was a great earthquake..and the great city was divided into three parts; and the city of the Gentiles fell" (Apoc. 16:19; Zach. 13:8;14:4).

"And it shall come to pass that living waters shall go out from Jerusalem, and the Lord shall be king over all the earth. And his Name shall be one...And this shall be the plague with which the Lord shall strike all nations that have fought against Jerusalem: The flesh of everyone shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall consume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consum;e away in their mouth. And the destruction of the horse, and of the mule..and of all the beasts that shall be in those tents, shall be like this destruction (atomic)".

"I have created the smith that blows the coals in the fire, and brings forth an instrument for his work, and I have created the killer-that-kills (atom, etc). No weapon that is formed against

you shall prosper..This is the inheritance of the servants of the Lord, and their justice with Me, says the Lord" (Isaias 54:16-17); "This thing is to Me as in the days of Noah, to whom I swore...so have I sworn not to be angry with you...the mountains shall be moved..but My Mercy shall not depart from you, and the Covenant of My peace shall remain firm" (vs.9)

III. EXPERIMENTAL KNOWLEDGE OF GOD:

"He that loves Me, shall be loved by My Father: and I will love him and will manifest myself to Him" (John 14:21)

God's manifestations are many and varied. But once a person has been touched by God, he/she knows the Presence of a Personal Loving Father. The Scripture connotation of a just man is one that "walks with God" (Gen.5:22;6:9) that takes Yahwey as his Friend and constant companion in life; who knows 'God loves me' and seeks in truth to please and love Him in return.

"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home in him" (John 14:23)

Hence, there is a knowledge of God that is an experience of a Presence accompanied by peace and joy. Sometimes it is an experience of light, sometimes of love and sometimes of both. It is a constant Presence in our lives giving clarity of understanding, strength in the midst of weakness, serenity in the time of sorrow.

But God's grace is humble, always submissive, leading to mistrust of oneself. Externally, proof of God's Presence in persons, is the purity of heart that seeks to love and please God even amidst weakness and helplessness: God is their strength. Yahweh never seeks out perfect persons who don't need him (or more truly, do understand their need). God it is, who ultimately transforms us into living images of Himself. These are the living proofs of His Kingdom on earth.

Christ said: "I no longer call you servants because the servant does not know what his Master does. I call you friends because all that I have heard of the Father I have made known to you" (John 15:15).

The following writings are signs of God's living work in souls.