

Where is God?

Isaiah 45:15 states, "*You are a God that hides Himself*"

You would think that God would come to earth in a chariot of fire, a bolt of lightening or, maybe, something like a laser beam. You would think that He would come to earth showing forth His power and might and, thereby, set up His kingdom. But He didn't! The Christmas manger scene shows how God treats the world. Who would ever expect God to come as a little baby?

God doesn't advertise Himself. He doesn't put a sign on flowers saying, "*Brought to you by the courtesy of the Almighty!*" He doesn't put a label on a summer shower, like some detergent advertisement, saying, "*Whiter than white!*" In the words of our text, "*You are a God that hides Himself.*"

God is the invisible behind the visible. He's the Mover behind the motion. All nature around us is constantly moving, but the Mover remains unseen. Everything seems to be operating under its own steam. Seasons come and go, without our help. The earth turns every 24 hours. The heat of the sun lifts water from the sea and clouds carry the droplets inland, it chills and falls back to the earth as rain. Vegetation grows and manufactures food, keeping all living things alive. It all seems so simple, self-regulating and automatic that man begins to think of nature as something consistent and regular. He's attitude has become "*Who needs God,*" since everything seems to be running itself?

GOD NEVER SHOWS UP

David the psalmist said, "*God, You hide Yourself*" (Psalm 10:1). Job said, "*God works, but I cannot see Him.*" (Job 23:9).

Scientists tell us that, "*Everything is living organism. Every individual cell has a bit of intelligence in it and knows within itself what it is supposed to do, or be. For example, there is something in an apple seed that pushes it to become an apple tree. It never makes a mistake and grows into a pumpkin, or anything else. From the moment the apple seed touches the soil, it knows within itself what its needs are and how to meet those needs. An apple tree lifts a hundred tons of sap every season into its branches to produce its blossoms, and into an apple. Which, then, produces more seeds to keep the apple trees coming on.*"

Every seed has a built in intelligence to its creative end. *But, where is the Mind behind that intelligence?* We can never see the Power that is doing the pushing.

David asks God, in Psalm 13:1, "*How long will You hid Your face from me?*"

We are told that there is an amazing chemistry in **everything**. But you never see the **Chemist**? We are told that, "*There is mathematical order in everything. There's order in the movement of the stars that is so accurate that we set our clocks by it.*" But where is the One Who engineered it all? He never comes out to take a bow. We are also told that, "*The whole universe is a single living process, a web of life in which all things are linked together with a maze of laws so intricate and interwoven, so far reaching and complex, that no human mind can hold it*"

in its totality."

My point is simply this: The Organizer, the Architect, of this great design, never makes a speech to tell how its done.

"You God hide Your self"

The laws of nature are so hidden that it takes a genius just to discover them!

Considering the beauty in creation all around us, where's the Artist?

Not only is this amazing concealment in creation "*way out there in the universe*" but also in the microscopic world . . . "*the astronomy of the invisible*" and the "*sub-atomic galaxies of energy*." Just think of the glory of a single blade of grass . . . the chemistry of the eyeball . . . the fluttering throat of a mocking bird . . . or . . . the beat of a baby's tiny heart.

We marvel at man's ability to make a "*plastic heart*," but, what about the heart of a new born baby? Think about the delicate balance of this "*chemical-pump*" that goes on working day and night, automatically for 70 years, or more!

Until recently, it was thought that the "*Adam*" was the smallest thing imaginable. In fact, it's very name means, "*uncuttable*." But, man has cut it . . . split it . . . again and again.

It was also thought that everything was made of just three elementary constituents: electrons, neutrons and protons, however, now there is a whole array of particles being discovered.

Also, it was discovered that "*things*" are not only made of matter, but also, what is called, "anti-matter."

Three doctors won a Nobel Prize because they were able to measure the "*nearest things to NOTHING*." At the very innermost chamber of this maze of matter and anti-matter, one finds that there is "*no thing*." We are told now that, "*We can not know for certain anymore whether something is **matter** or whether it is **energy**!*"

Beneath all this, there is an invisible world called *DNA*. Now we are told, "*DNA holds within its memory enough information to fill a set of encyclopedias*." It is beyond our capacity to grasp all this organization, however, Someone is employing this chemistry. Some one is in charge of this mathematics that would paralyze any computer.

Who presides over all this organization?

Look for God, and you'll see nothing but space. Listen, and you'll hear nothing but silence. He is unseen and out of sight.

"You are a God that hides Your self."

Why should we be so surprised? Do we expect God to be intelligible to us? Could we ever expect God to fit into our little brain? Could we ever think that man could comprehend an

infinite God? "*The magnitude of God*" is beyond the limits of our mind. We can't get our minds around God! God just won't fit into our skull! Our mind simply was not made for that dimension! Paul said, "*We know in part...and we see through a glass darkly.*"

It is because of God's mercy that He hides Himself from our senses, in all areas except, "*spiritual.*" Our physical and emotional senses must be guarded and protected just like our eyes must be shielded from the bright noon-day sun.

Man is finding out that, "*he can't take too much of the universe around him.*" He is beginning to understand how **frail** he is against the elements. He is learning how fortunate he has been to be so carefully guarded from the universe. He is finding "*veils of atmosphere,*" protecting him from radiation. A thousand unseen curtains protect him, keeping the universe from breaking in on him.

An Old Testament prophet said to God, "*Oh, that Thou would rend the heavens and come down.*" What if God had done that? Man could never stand the fullness of God's presence. Man could never bear that much reality. If God had come into the world with all His overwhelming power, if He had stepped down from the stars in all His glory, and said, "*I am the Lord your God!*" it would have blown man's mind, because man was not able to stand that kind of revelation. He would have just shriveled up and died.

That is the reason God came as "*a little baby in a manger*" that first Christmas. He was just "*opening the door*" of His revelation. Jesus was born to reveal the Father. God is part of a world that we cannot bear so Jesus came into the world that we live in, as baby, born in a stable. Later, we see him on a Cross, dying for the sins of mankind. The "***hidden-ness of God***" comes into focus in this mighty event of human history.

John 1:18 states, "*No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, He hath declared Him.*" Christ came to declare God. Jesus was God, "*dwelling in flesh.*"

The reason men look for God, and can't find Him, is because they are looking in the wrong places. God comes in the most ***unlikely*** places and in the most ***unexpected*** ways.

Many people missed God that first Christmas, because they were looking for some big event, something more colorful and impressive. They failed to recognize Him because He was so common. Who would ever look for God in a stable? Hanging on a cross? You would have expected Him to come robed in glory, possessing great power. That first Christmas was so ho-hum. Everything seemed so common! However, God was coming to identify with man, not with trumpet blast, but in a baby's cry.

Does God seem to be hidden to you? He wants to reveal Himself to you. He wants to give you eternal life, forgiveness, purpose and meaning to your life, and peace.