

Christ in the Psalms

Elements of a World View

Psalms 19

The Substance of Truth

A Spiritual Battleground – Freeing Captives of a Lie

*“Jesus said to him, ‘**I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**’” John 14:6*

*“...Attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, **both of the Father and of Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge** ... For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily ...”
Colossians 2:2,3,9*

*“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a **sword.**” Matthew 10:34*

*A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility **correcting those who are in opposition**, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, **so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.**
2 Timothy 2:24-26*

What is meant by ‘Knowing God’?

Jeremiah 31:31-34 God’s perspective is...

*“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are **they which testify of Me.**” John 5:39*

*“You say that I am a king. For this reason, I was born, and **for this reason I came into the world – to testify to the truth.** Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.” v. 37, John 18:24-38*

*“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. **And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**” John 8:31*

*“**Let this mind be in you** which was also in Christ Jesus...” Phil. 2:5-11*

*“**For who has known the mind of the LORD** that he may instruct Him? **But we have the mind of Christ.**” 1 Corinthians 2:16*

*“And this is eternal life, **that they may know You**, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.” John 17:3*

The Predicament of Mankind

“The wrath of God is revealed...” “...For all have sinned...”

Romans 1 : The “Natural Man”

Romans 2 : The “Moral Man”

Romans 3 : The “Religious Man”

The Natural Man

“...who suppress the truth...”

*“For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, **who suppress the truth in unrighteousness**, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.*

*For **since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen**, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that **they are without excuse**, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

***Professing to be wise, they became fools**, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man – and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things.”*

*Romans 1:18-23
(Isaiah 44:14-20)*

His Invisible Attributes

Are Clearly Seen

*“The heavens **declare** the glory of God;
And the firmament **shows His handiwork.**
Day unto day **utters speech,**
And night unto night **reveals knowledge.**
There is no **speech** nor **language**
Where their **voice** is not heard.
Their **line** has gone out through all the earth,
And their **words** to the end of the world.”*

Psalms 19:1-4

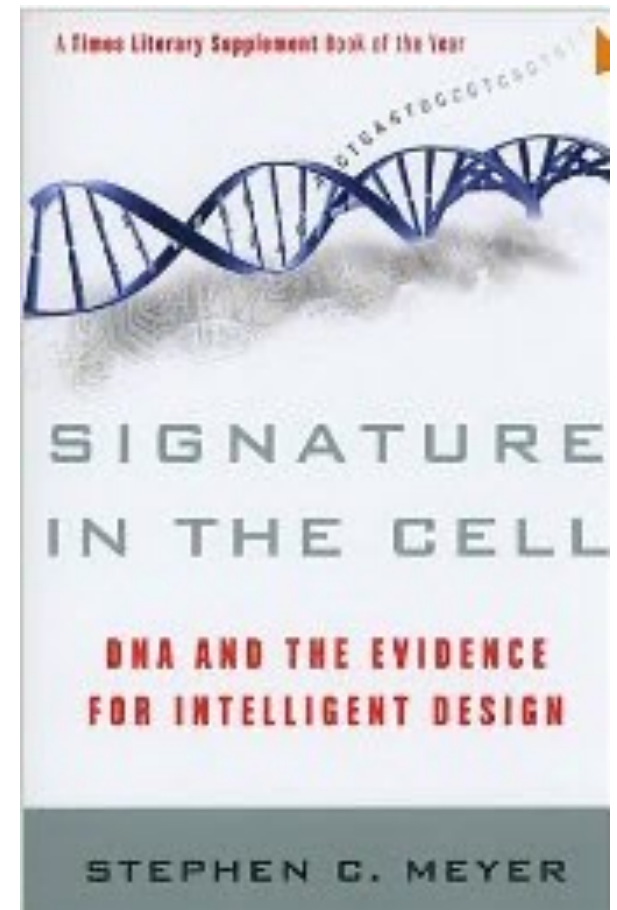
What would you accept as evidence?

Evidence of His Handiwork

Creative Design – Complex Information Systems

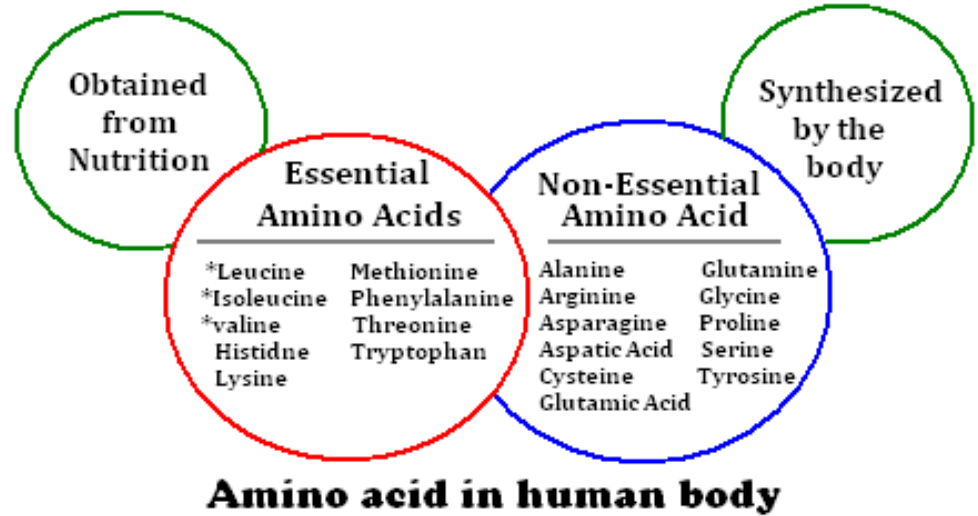
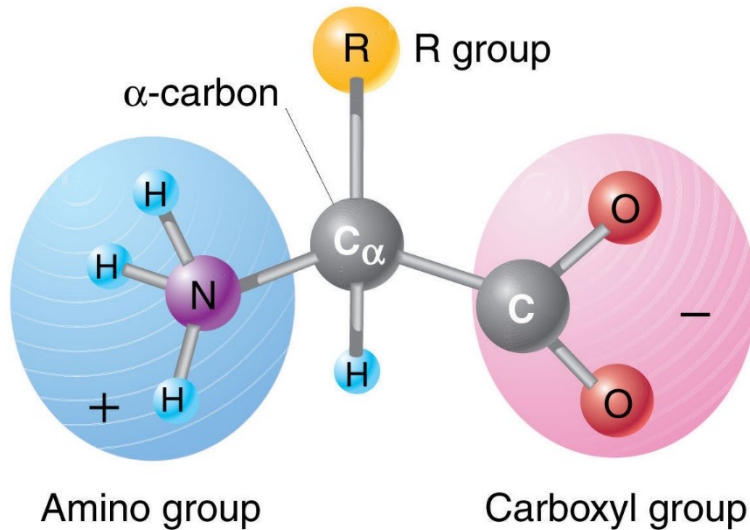
Intelligent Systems

- *Self-Modifying*
- *Self-Programming*
- *Self-Diagnosing*
- *Self-Repairing*
- *Self-Reproducing*

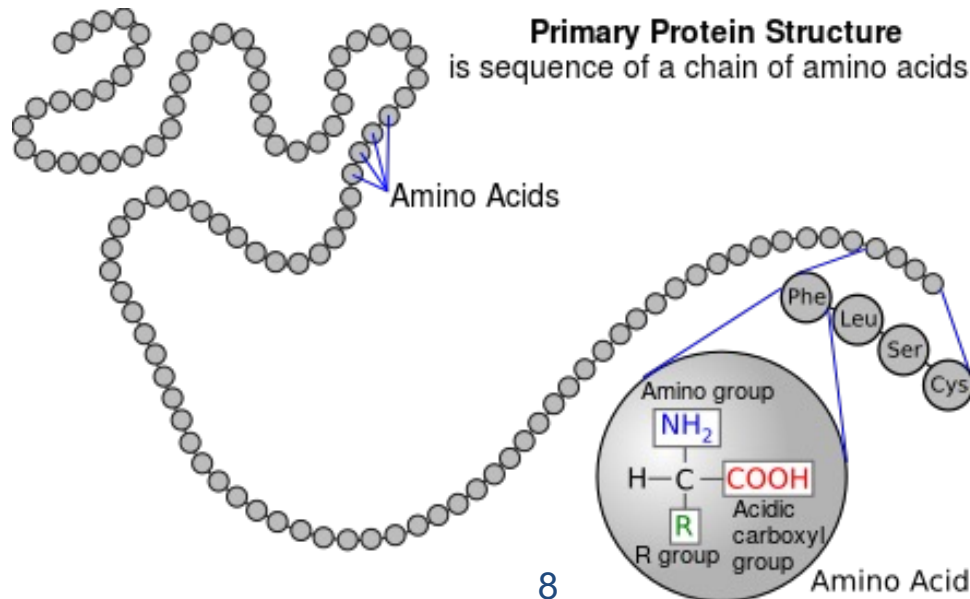


Evidence of His Handiwork

Probability Reveals Knowledge

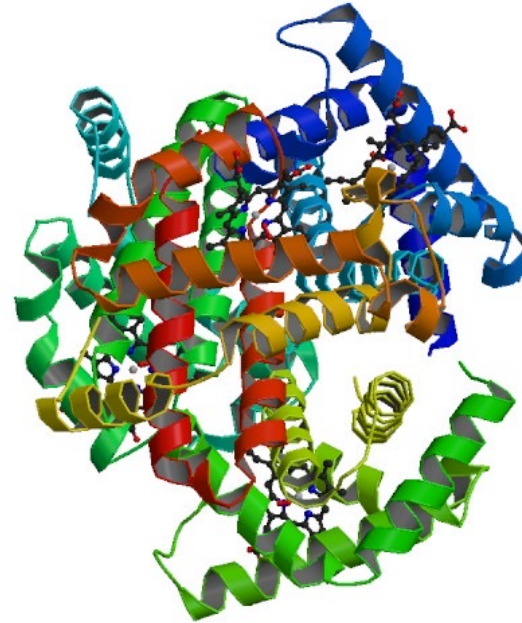
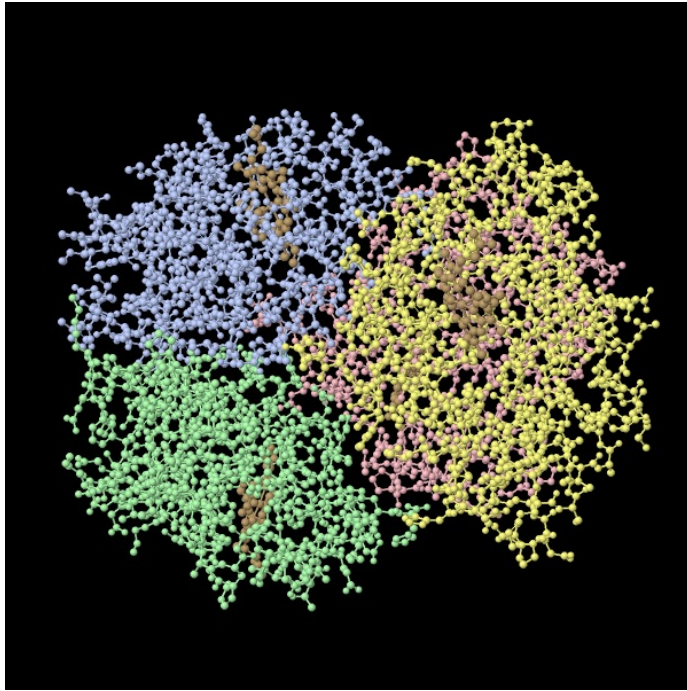


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Evidence of His Handiwork

Probability Reveals Knowledge



*What is the probability that a random sequence of molecules spells-out the protein **Hemoglobin** using the 20 symbols of amino acids code?*

547 molecules, 20 Symbols (amino acids)

$$P = 20^{-547} = \text{approximately } 10^{-650}$$

Judgment with Cause

Three basis for His judgment of the Natural Man...

For Suppressing God's Truth (v.18)

For Ignoring God's Revelation (v.19-20)

For Perverting God's Glory (v.21-23)

The Predicament of Mankind

“The wrath of God is revealed...” “...For all have sinned...”

Romans 1 : The “Natural Man”

Romans 2 : The “Moral Man”

Romans 3 : The “Religious Man”

The Moral Man

Are you a good person? How do you know?

*“It may be that the **deity** can **forgive sins**, but **I do not see how.**”*

- **Socrates**, to Plato, 469-399 BC

*“They will say that the **just man who is thought unjust** will be scourged, racked, bound, will have his eyes burnt out, and, at last, after suffering every kind of evil, he will be impaled; and thus, men will learn that not to be, but to seem, just is what we ought to desire.”*

- **Plato**, Republic, Book II

*“Blessed is he whose transgression is **forgiven**,
whose sin is **covered**,
Blessed is the man to whom
the **LORD** does **not impute iniquity**,
And in whose spirit, there is **no deceit.**”*

- **Psalms 32:1-2; Romans 4:7-8**

The Moral Man

Seven Principles of God's Righteous Judgment

(1) According to Truth

“But we know that the judgment of God is according to truth against those who practice such things.” v.2

- *Self-righteousness*
- *Condemnation before investigation*
- *The only barrier to receiving the Truth is the assumption that you already have it. (pride vs. “ask, seek, knock” humility)*

(2) According to Accumulated Guilt

“...treasuring up for yourself wrath...” v.5

- *Not until the last evil result of a life of sin can the final condemnation of the sinner be known.*
- ***Unless...*** John 5:24; Romans 8:1; *(The Good News!)*

The Moral Man

Seven Principles of God's Righteous Judgment

(3) According to Works

“Who will render to each one according to his deeds:” v.6

- *Revelation 20:13-15*
- *Not a revelation of the way of salvation, but a general description of the character of the saved.*
- *“Doing good” demonstrates a heart that is right with God.*

(4) Without Respect of Persons

“For there is no respect of persons with God.” v.11

- *Just recompense by God is without regard to:*
 - *Ethnic background or any other consideration,*
 - *Except what each person has done.*
- *Law – specific and general (according to the Light given)*

The Moral Man

Seven Principles of God's Righteous Judgment

(5) According to Obedience

“...for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified;...” v.13

- *Addresses the false comfort or false peace (i.e. false teaching) of justification by merely “knowing God’s Truth”.*
- *Gospel speaks of the “obedience of faith”.*
- *Habitual conduct reveals one’s heart.*

(6) According to Secrets of the Heart

“In the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.” v.16

- *In accord with theme of verses 2:5-13*
- *Judgment will deal with men’s secrets. 1 Cor. 4:5*

The Moral Man

Seven Principles of God's Judgment

(7) *According to Reality*

Romans 2:17-29

- *Specifically addressing the Jew; exemplar of the religious person; who is proud of the law, but not keeping it.*
- *Religion – man's attempt to cover himself.*
- *Basis of Jewish Pride*
 - *Being called a Jew*
 - *Relied on the Law*
 - *Boasting of God*
 - *Knowing God's Will*
 - *Being instructed of the Law*
- ***“For ‘the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you’...” Isaiah 52:5; Ezekiel 36:22***
- *Reality counts with God... the true “Jew” exemplar is one who is circumcised in heart; one who seeks to walk in accordance with the revealed will of God.*

The Moral Man

Conscience, v. 14-15

Conscience is an important part of human nature...

- *But, not an absolutely trustworthy indicator of what is right.*
- *Romans 2:14,15 are an explanation of verses 2:12,13*

One's conscience can be...

- *“good” - Acts 23:1; 1 Timothy 1:5,19*
- *“clear” - Acts 24:16; 1 Timothy 3:9; 2 Timothy 1:3; Hebrews 13:18*

But, it can also be...

- *“guilty” - Hebrews 10:22*
- *“corrupted” - Titus 1:15*
- *“weak” - 1 Corinthians 8:7,10,12*
- *“seared” - 1 Timothy 4:2*

By way of the blood of Jesus Christ, our conscience may be...

- *“cleansed” - Hebrews 9:14*

The Moral Man

Are you a good person? How do you know?

"The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgements of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

*More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold;
Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.*

Moreover, by them Your servant is warned, And in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can understand his errors? Cleanse me from secret faults."

Psalm 19:7-12

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Romans 3 : The “Religious Man”

The Spiritual/Religious Man

Man's Attempt to Cover Himself

Romans 2:17-29; 3:1-8

- Specifically addressing the **Jew; exemplar of the religious person; who is proud of the law, but not keeping it.**

Basis of Jewish Pride

- *Being called a Jew (v. 17)*
- *Relied on the Law, “rest” (v. 17)*
- *Boasting of God (superior attitude, v.19)*
- *Knowing God's Will (v. 20)*
- *Being instructors of the Law (v. 21)*

But, all men could see their self-righteous hypocrisy

- **“For ‘the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you’...”** Isaiah 52:5; Ezekiel 36:22

Reality counts with God....!

“...but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter...” (v. 2:29) (Deut. 10:16-17)

The Spiritual/Religious Man

The Law Reveals our Condition

“Would you indeed annul My judgment? Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?” Job 40:8

*“There is **none righteous**, no, not one;
There is **none** who understands;
There is **none** who seeks after God.” Romans 3:10-11*

*“Hear my prayer, O LORD, Give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness answer me. And **in Your righteousness. Do not enter into judgment with Your servant, For in Your sight no one living is righteous.**” Psalm 143:1-2*

*“Now we know that whatever **the law says**, it says to those who are under the law, **that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.** Therefore, by the deeds of the law **no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.**”*

Romans 3:19-20

The Spiritual/Religious Man

How can a sinful man find favor with a righteous God?

"Keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins; Let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, And I shall be innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer."

Psalm 19:13-14

The Predicament of Mankind

“The wrath of God is revealed...” “...For all have sinned...”

Romans 1 : The “Natural Man”

- For **Suppressing** God’s Truth (v.18)
- For **Ignoring** God’s Revelation (v.19-20)
- For **Perverting** God’s Glory (v.21-23)

Romans 2 : The “Moral Man”

- According to **Truth** (v. 2)
- According to **Accumulated Guilt** (v. 5)
- According to **Works** (v. 6)
- Without **Respect of Persons** (v. 11)
- According to **Obedience** (v. 13)
- According to **Secrets of the Heart** (v. 16)
- According to **Reality** (v. 17-29)

Romans 3 : The “Religious Man”

- Our **Conscience** is an **Indicator** of a **Need for Righteousness** and a basis for **Religion** (v. 2:14-15)
- God recognizes **Obedience** from the **Heart** (v. 2:29)

The Righteousness of God Revealed

How the LORD delights in keeping his promises...!

*“Behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, ‘That **I will raise** to David a **Branch of righteousness**; A King shall reign and prosper, And **execute judgment and righteousness** in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved. And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is **His name** by which He will be called: **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**. ”*
Jeremiah 23:5-6

*“He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge **My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.**”* Isaiah 53:11

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” 2 Corinthians 5:21

*“...that **He might be just and the justifier** of the one who has faith in Jesus.”* Romans 3:26

What difference should that make...?

How now ought we live?

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.” Matt. 22:37-39

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”
Matt. 28:18-20