



## Five Bible facts

*Psalm 19.1 "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge."*

- There are various ways you can know things in life.
- We find ourselves here, and we find we have certain tools and facilities with which we can find out things.
- We've got our senses
- We've got our minds

With these we can be aware of the world around us.

-We can work things out with geometry and maths and deductive logic.

-We can experiment and measure and use inductive reasoning to do science.

- But it turns out these 'tools' we have, fall short of giving us all the knowledge we need.
- For example - have you ever thought whether these things can be trusted?  
Are our senses, and minds, reliable?
- I mean, if we just rely on them alone, we can't be sure that the conclusions we arrive at are reliable.
- Where did these things come from?
- Another problem is that they fall short of telling us anything about deeper questions of life like:
- Am I more than just my physical body- do I have a soul?

- What is right and wrong, and why do I seem to sense that it exists?
- What is the meaning and purpose of life?
- Why do bad things happen?
- What happens after death?
- Is there a God?
- None of these questions can be fully answered with these tools (except that God exists, there's no excuse for willfully disbelieving that from these things).

They are simply inadequate to deal with them fully.

- So, how can we know?
- The short answer is that we can be told.
  - But, how can we trust it?
  - Only if it comes from a trustworthy source.
  - Who would that be?

Only God Himself can provide that sort of knowledge.

- We call it revelation. All knowledge is from God revealing it.
  - There are two types.

1) The first is what I mentioned earlier.

-Our senses and minds can understand something about the universe around us.

-Even sensing right and wrong with our conscience.

-This is enough to explain that innate knowledge of God's existence we seem to all have.

- We call it natural revelation

2) But unless we grasp the second type of revelation we can't fully understand it.

*Psalm 19.7 "the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple."*

- This second type we call special revelation.
  - And for us it is fully contained in the scriptures.
- So understanding that, the question is:- What facts does it give us?
- Well, so much more than I can cover in one talk, but I'll give you the most important ones.
- Let me make this clear-

You cannot know anything about these things from anywhere else.

- So, **fact one**
- There is a God, a pure Spirit of infinite perfections, and He made all Creation and it was Good.

*John 4.24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."*

- Crucially He made only us 'in His image'. - with a spirit, as moral creatures, with reason, creativity, personhood etc.

*Gen 2.7 "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."*

- The Bible just declares it.

- From the first verse. *"In the beginning God"*
- He declares His name to be:  
the One Who Exists
  - The *"I Am"* Yahweh
- The Bible is given by Him. That's why we can trust it
  - Who else can know these things but God?
- It is the most ancient serious book in the world, with many imitators but no rivals.
- Many attempts have been made to discredit it (because people don't like what it says about them),
  - but the Bible is like a stone that breaks all the hammers that strike it.
  - It is like a lion, it defends itself.
- It's been vindicated over and over in multiple ways.
  - It is like the ark of the covenant when it was stolen by the Philistines.
  - After a while it was sent back because their fake god had to fall down before it.
  - It fought and defended itself when the Israelites failed to.
- **Fact two**
- Evil entered into God's creation by Satan.

And through his temptation Mankind fell from perfection and creation was cursed by God.

*Ezek 28.15 "Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee."*

*Gen 3. "And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife (who hearkened unto the serpent), and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake;...thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return."*

- Death came into creation.
  - And after death the ultimate judgement of God.

That's why we have knowledge of good, but also know evils in life.

- That's why there's a great unease within us naturally.
  - We feel there's something wrong,
  - Something missing.
  - We desire to worship and praise things but nothing seems to really measure up in the end.

Everything lets us down:

- People, possessions, football teams, pop stars, ideologies, false religions.
- Because we've been designed to worship God, to serve Him and find our meaning and purpose and satisfaction in Him.
- But we don't worship Him.
- We've fallen from Him, rebelled against His moral laws.
  - These reflect His very character.
  - God doesn't just give us arbitrary rules.

- They come from who He is.
- Firstly He is perfectly holy.
- That's why, when those first representative humans did wrong, it was so serious.
- Think about it.
- If you disrespect a boy at school, it's not as serious as if you disrespect a teacher.
- If you disrespect a criminal, it's not as serious as if you disrespect a Judge.
- Imagine the ultimate Judge.
- The One who owns the law.
- The One who actually created you.
- The One who has to Judge perfectly- He's eternal.
- So if you sin against Him, and it's not dealt with, then it's not only very serious, it's everlasting.
- This brings me to **fact three**.
- There is a consequence to our state and condition of unrighteousness, unholiness and sin before God.

*Rom 1.18 "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men,"*

*Rom 1.28- "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind,...Who knowing the judgement of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them."*

- God, because He is perfectly Holy, righteous and just, must punish sin (which is the transgression and lack of conformity to His law).
- And He is not only rightly sad about this, He is angry at Mankind's sin.
- It's called wrath.
- The place of eternal wrath is called Hell.
- It's not a place where you can enjoy all your sins.
- That's a lie, not a fact.
- There's no pleasure there
- There is pain.
- There's no satisfaction
- There is remorse and regret eating away at you like worms a dead body
- The Bible says "their worm never dies"
- The burning torments that never ease
- "The fire is never quenched"
- God is justly angry
- When God sees war, He's angry.
- When He sees abuse, He's angry.
- When He sees theft and lies He's angry.
- When He sees people kick against authorities and their families.
- When He sees unclean behaviour and language.
- When He sees people worship everything except Him who deserves it.
- No prayer, no care for His word or ways.
- He is furious.

*"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God".*

- We men are wretched things.
- It's a funny thing- no matter how low you sink there's still a right and a wrong, and you always end up choosing.
- You go one way just to try to live with yourself, you go the other, and you're still walking around but you're dead and you don't really know it.
- What are you going to do about this?
- The truth is you can't do anything.
- You're at the mercy of God.

A God who is justly angry.

- This is God responding in a perfectly just way, because He is God.
- The question is often asked, "How can a God of love send anyone to Hell?"
- The real question should be "How can a perfectly Holy God allow anyone into heaven".

- This brings me to **fact four**:

God is not only a God of perfect Holiness and justice, but a God of love and mercy.

*Jer 3.12 "Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the LORD; and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the LORD, and I will not keep anger for ever."*

- There is still a paradise.
- And there's a way to get there.
- God even promises a new heaven and earth, a place of heavenly bliss for His people.
- And we can be counted amongst them.
- Isn't that the most incredible good piece of special revelation.
  - Why reject that!?
- How can this be for us?
- How can God be both just and merciful?
- We deserve His punishment not His forgiveness.
- Surely if He forgives us
- Justice would cry out "Unfair! Undeserved!"
- But what if God deserves it for us?
- What if God takes the punishment for us, as our representative?
- Yes, but He would have to be a man like us.
- But a man could not survive such a punishment, even if he somehow was perfect.
- Could God unite His nature with a human nature?
- Could He still be one person?

*Rom3.26 "To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus".*

- **Fact five**
- God is three persons in one Godhead,  
and salvation is from God.

*1 John 5.7 "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one."*

*Psalm 37.39 "But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD"*

- The second person is referred to as the Son because he eternally proceeds from the first person who is called the Father.
- There is one more that proceeds from them both. He is called the Spirit.
- All three are equal, eternal, and One.

- It was the person of the Son who took upon Him a human soul and body to become the Lord Jesus Christ.
- There was no change to His divinity.
- He was fully Man, but also fully God.
- Not two persons, but 1 person with 2 natures.
- This explains His life, death and resurrection revealed to us in the Bible.

- It is the Father's love that sent Him,
- It is the Holy Spirit that opens our eyes to the truth of it when we read it.
  - This is how we can recognise God's truth.
  - I once was looking for my dad in a large dark carpark.

-I couldn't see him, but he saw me.

-Then I heard an unmistakable sound.

- Dad's whistle.

-He had a specific way of whistling, and I recognised it immediately.

- That's how you'll know.
  - God the Spirit will make you recognise it by faith.
  - He'll give you eyes to see, and ears to hear.

-It is He that applies the riches of Christ's work on earth to us if we call upon God in repentance and faith.

- The Bible reveals all this.
  - I haven't time to give you all the proof texts, but go and read it for yourself. I can only briefly explain it.
- Some men scoff and reject this revealed truth, preferring to believe that they don't need it and are really good at heart.
- This is self denial of the worst sort.
  - Gross rebellion against their Creator God.
  - This is wilful blindfolding oneself to what our conscience and the Bible tells us to be true.

- Don't let that be you.
- Don't wander any more towards a certain everlasting punishment after your death.
- There is nothing more certain if you choose to live without seeking His pardon.
- You cannot earn it, but you can be given it freely.
- God desires to do this for you.

- This is the wonderful special revelation of God.
- You can know it.

- You may correctly realise God is perfectly just in doing all this but:
- You may be asking yourself why God would allow all this in the first place.

- Here's an answer.
- Is it right to put a beautiful flower under a bucket?
- Is it right to take a wonderful eagle and tie up his wings?
- Is it right to never let a child see the stars, the moon or the sun?
- Is it right for an artist to never create anything?
- Is it right for a king to never win a battle or display his crown?

- God is far greater than any of these.
- Is it right that God should not be glorified?

- We praise people who don't deserve it, but God is worthy to be glorified.
- To display His glorious attributes.
- Not only His goodness, but His mercy.
- Not only His holiness but His kindness.
- Not only His wrath but His love.

- All these things must be displayed.
- That's why He did it.
- Don't remain in the darkness of ignorance,
- come into the light of understanding.

- Accept these five facts.

1. God is
2. We're fallen
3. There's consequences to this fall
4. God is not only holy but merciful
5. So there is a hope of salvation in the person of Christ alone.

- Glorify God today.

-Come to Him for mercy, and receive eternal life.

