

The Silent Voice of God

Immediate and mediate general revelation

Psalms 19:1-4a HCSB For the choir director. A Davidic psalm. The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims the work of His hands. (2) Day after day they pour out speech; night after night they communicate knowledge. (3) There is no speech; there are no words; their voice is not heard. (4) Their message has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the inhabited world.



King David taught that every human is continuously surrounded with evidence of God's existence. The universe itself is a billboard proclaiming God's sovereignty. Though there is no audible speech, no spoken words; the medium is all the more potent for it. If the message had come in any one language a particular race or culture could have proclaimed ignorance of that message. Had the information been localized rather than universal, some forgotten tribe in the jungles of Borneo might have been accidentally overlooked.

- **Acts 14:15-17 HCSB** "Men! Why are you doing these things? We are men also, with the same nature as you, and we are proclaiming good news to you, that you should turn from these worthless things to the living God, **who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and everything in them.** (16) In past generations He allowed all the nations to go their own way, (17) although He did not leave Himself without a witness, since He did good: giving you rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, and satisfying your hearts with food and happiness."

Paul and Barnabas pled with the Lystrans, urging them to turn to the one true God. They argued that though God had been patient in times past, He had not left Himself without a witness.

His many blessings, spread lavishly on both the righteous and the unrighteous, testifies to His innate goodness and beneficence.

- **Job 9:22 HCSB** It is all the same. Therefore I say, "He destroys both the blameless and the wicked."
- **Matthew 5:45 HCSB** so that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. For He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

When God reveals Himself thus in nature, demonstrating His power in creation, and His beneficence in nature's blessings, we call this "mediate general revelation". All men are capable of perceiving Hashem's divine characteristics in nature.

- **Psalms 19:2-4 HCSB** Day after day they pour out speech; night after night they communicate knowledge. (3) There is no speech; there are no words; their voice is not heard. (4) Their message has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the inhabited world. In the heavens He has pitched a tent for the sun.
- **Romans 1:18 HCSB** For God's wrath is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth,
- **Romans 1:25 HCSB** They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served something created instead of the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.
- **Romans 1:28 HCSB** And because they did not think it worthwhile to have God in their knowledge, God delivered them over to a worthless mind to do what is morally wrong.

- **Romans 1:32 HCSB** Although they know full well God's just sentence--that those who practice such things deserve to die--they not only do them, but even applaud others who practice them.
- **Romans 2:14-15 HCSB** So, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, instinctively do what the law demands, they are a law to themselves even though they do not have the law. (15) They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts. Their consciences testify in support of this, and their competing thoughts either accuse or excuse them

However, God also uses “immediate general revelation”, implanting an innate sense of Himself deep within our spirits. This is why God is justifiably angry when humans deliberately suppress both the natural evidence and this implanted enlightenment.

- **Romans 1:18-21 HCSB** For God's wrath is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth, (19) since what can be known about God is evident among them, because God has shown it to them. (20) From the creation of the world His invisible attributes, that is, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what He has made. As a result, people are without excuse. (21) For though they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God or show gratitude. Instead, their thinking became nonsense, and their senseless minds were darkened.

When humans resist this deep-seated urge toward d'vekut,¹ choosing their own ideas of God rather than taking Him as He presents Himself, they begin sliding down a terrible slippery slope. Rejecting God's enlightenment, they darken their own souls and gradually subside into a moral quagmire.

- **Romans 1:28-32 HCSB** And because they did not think it worthwhile to have God in their knowledge, God delivered them over to a worthless mind to do what is morally wrong. (29) They are filled with all unrighteousness, evil, greed, and wickedness. They are full of envy, murder, disputes, deceit, and malice. They are gossips, (30) slanderers, God-haters, arrogant, proud, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, (31) undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, and unmerciful. (32) Although they know full well God's just sentence--that those who practice such things deserve to die--they not only do them, but even applaud others who practice them.

If there is anything to be learned from general revelation it is that there is no favoritism with God.

- **Romans 2:11-15 HCSB** There is no favoritism with God. (12) All those who sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all those who sinned under the law will be judged by the law. (13) For the hearers of the law are not righteous before God, but the doers of the law will be declared righteous. (14) So, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, instinctively do what the law demands, they are a law to themselves even though they do not have the law. (15) They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts. Their consciences testify in support of this, and their competing thoughts either accuse or excuse them

All those who sinned without special revelation (i.e. knowing the Scriptures) will be judged accordingly. However, even these people reveal their innate knowledge of the holiness of God because the moral law written on their hearts and their own consciences either condemn or excuse them, depending on their obedience.

¹ A deep, passionate and intimate spiritual relationship with Yahweh

All this work, all this careful attention to building information in an accessible format for all humans of every culture and language into the very fabric of our natural existence was done so that we might seek God, and perhaps reach out and find Him. It is a testament that no one is far from Hashem, for in Him we live and move and exist.

- [Acts 17:27-28 HCSB](#) so that they might seek God, and perhaps they might reach out and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us. (28) For in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'

Hashem is readily available for anyone who will acknowledge their need, repent of their sins and turn to Him for help.