



Reasonable Reasons An Atheist Can Believe Psalm 14

Message Notes by Dr. Mark Platt

Have you ever wondered: *"If God exists, why does He allow so many atheists?"* Perhaps it is because God gave us all minds to question and probe. So people naturally seek answers. Some find answers easily. But some struggle with doubt.

Psalm 14 gives some rationale for God's existence. This Hebrew poem set to music is written by David, former shepherd, giant killer and king of Israel. Over his lifetime, David must have seen "practical atheists." So God inspired him to write about it.

What are some of the proofs for the existence of God? What do you say to the honest skeptic? In the passage, we learn four proofs for the existence of God.

I. The Inner Witness of God's Existence (verse 1)

1. Atheism is rebellion against God.
naw-bawl = disobedient or rebellious one; cf. Psalm 19
2. Atheism is contrary to our conscience.
laab = inner self cf. Romans 1:20
3. Atheism is continued deafness to the voice of God.
aw-nar = talk to oneself/gnomonic aorist cf. Isaiah 43:8; 53:6

II. The Inner Search for God's Purposes (verse 2)

1. God is looking for people who *"understand"* cf. Hebrews 9:27
2. God is looking for people who *"seek the Lord"* cf. Jeremiah 29:13; Hebrew 11:6

III. The Inner Value of God's Moral Code (verses 3-5)

1. We are all sinners *"all have turned aside ... corrupt"*
cf. Romans 3:23
2. We need moral absolutes *"evildoers ... those who devour my people"*

IV. The Inner Happiness With God's Messiah (verse 7)

1. Jesus gives salvation. *"Oh, that salvation for... would come ..."*
yeshewah = rescue, deliverance, liberation in a moral sense.

2. Jesus gives restoration. *"When the Lord restores the fortunes"*
shoob = to turn back, to reverse; meant in a spiritual sense.

Your Response:

1. Do you believe in the existence of God?
2. Have you given God control of your life?
3. Are you living as if God doesn't exist? What are the areas of rebellion in your life? Ask God to forgive you and set a plan to repent/change.

Resources:

Philosophers Who Believe by Kelley James Clark
Exposition of Psalms by H. C. Leupold
Intellectuals Don't Need God and Other Modern Myths by Alister McGrath
Not A Chance: The Myth of Chance in Modern Science and Cosmology. by R. C. Sproul.
The Atheist Syndrome by John Koster
Who Needs God? by Harold Kushner
How to Defend Atheism by George H. Smith (available on the Internet at <http://freethought.tamu.edu/library/modern/geor>)
My Life Without God by William Murray

For Further thought/Discussion/Homework:

1. Develop your own "life story" that tells how you came to believe. Write it out in 500 words or less. Include the reasons you came to faith in Christ.
2. Try to tell your "life story" to one unchurched person this week.