

HIDE AND SEEK

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Psalm 19:1-14

1. When Adam and Eve disobeyed God everything changed for them.
2. One of the things that changed immediately was their relationship with their Creator.
3. Note the following in Genesis 3:8-10.
They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" 10 He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."
4. Rather than welcoming God's approach they tried to avoid contact with Him.
5. Several days ago I read about a mother and her four year old daughter.
6. They liked to play hide and seek, but when it was the daughter's turn to hide she did not fully follow the rules.
7. While her mother counted to ten she would hide momentarily, and then, even before her mother finished counting, she would pop out of her hiding place and exclaim, "Here I am! Here I am!"
8. She wanted to be found.
9. Adam and Eve did not want to be found, but regardless of that fact God came seeking them.
10. Because of sin mankind seeks to deny or avoid God, but because of His redemptive love God is constantly seeking to restore and reestablish the lost relationship by asking, "Where are you?" and by declaring, "Here I am! Here I am!"
11. Note some of the ways God seeks us.

I. God declares, "Here I am," through the Creation and His providential care.

- A. Psalm 19:1-6 clearly reveals that the Creation glorifies God and declares the work of His hands.
- B. When they sinned Adam and Eve forfeited the presence of God, but they did not lose His providential care.
- C. Because of the Creation and God's providential care all men are responsible before God.

1. Rom 1:18-23

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. 21

For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.

2. Rom 2:1-11

Therefore you have no excuse, everyone of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things. 2 And we know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who practice such things. 3 But do you suppose this, O man, when you pass judgment on those who practice such things and do the same yourself, that you will escape the judgment of God? 4 **Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?** 5 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God, 6 who WILL RENDER TO EACH PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS: 7 to those who by perseverance in doing good seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life; 8 but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation. 9 There will be tribulation and distress for every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek, 10 but glory and honor and peace to everyone who does good, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 11 For there is no partiality with God.

D. The Creation declares that God is, and His providence declares that God cares.

II. God declares, "Here I am," though His Word.

A. Again, Psalm 19:7-11 exalts the Word of God and declares both its value and its purpose.

B. Beginning in the Garden of Eden and ending in the last verses of Revelation we see the unfolding and fulfillment of God's redemptive plan.

1. Gen 3:15

"And I will put enmity between you (the serpent) and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel."

2. Rev 22:17

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let the one who hears say, "Come." And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost."

C. We see God's desire to be found in the book of Isaiah.

1. Isa 52:3-6

For thus says the Lord, "You were sold for nothing and you will be redeemed without money." 4 For thus says the Lord God, "My people went down at the first into Egypt to reside there; then the Assyrian oppressed them without cause. 5 "Now therefore, what do I have here," declares the Lord, "seeing that

My people have been taken away without cause?" Again the Lord declares, "Those who rule over them howl, and My name is continually blasphemed all day long. 6 "Therefore My people shall know My name; therefore in that day I am the one who is speaking, '**Here I am.**'"

2. Isa 58:9

"Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry, and He will say, '**Here I am.**'"

3. Isa 65:1

"I permitted Myself to be sought by those who did not ask for Me; I permitted Myself to be found by those who did not seek Me. I said, '**Here am I, here am I,**' to a nation which did not call on My name."

D. God wants us to find Him, but we have to quit hiding. Jer 29:11-14

"For I know the plans that I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. 12 "Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. 13 "You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart."

E. Everything changes for us when our desire to find God meets His desire to find us.

III. God declares, "Here I am," through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Heb 1:1-3

God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, **2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son**, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. 3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power.

A. Jesus Christ defined His purpose in various ways, one of which is clearly stated in Luke 19:9-10 when He said to Nicodemus, "Today salvation has come to this house because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

B. I am thankful that on day in 1963 I heard God's voice calling my name, and by the grace of God was able to say to Him, "Here I am! Here I am!"

APPLICATION

1. It is sad to think of those who want nothing to do with God in this life, and, will therefore, have nothing to do with Him in eternity.
2. May God help us to be His voice to such people.
3. It is also sad to think of the many people who call themselves Christians and yet hide from and avoid God.
4. May that not be true of any of us.
5. Rather, may God's, "Here I am, Here I am!" be met with our, "Here I am, Here I am!"
6. Until that happens we will never experience the full reality of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ.