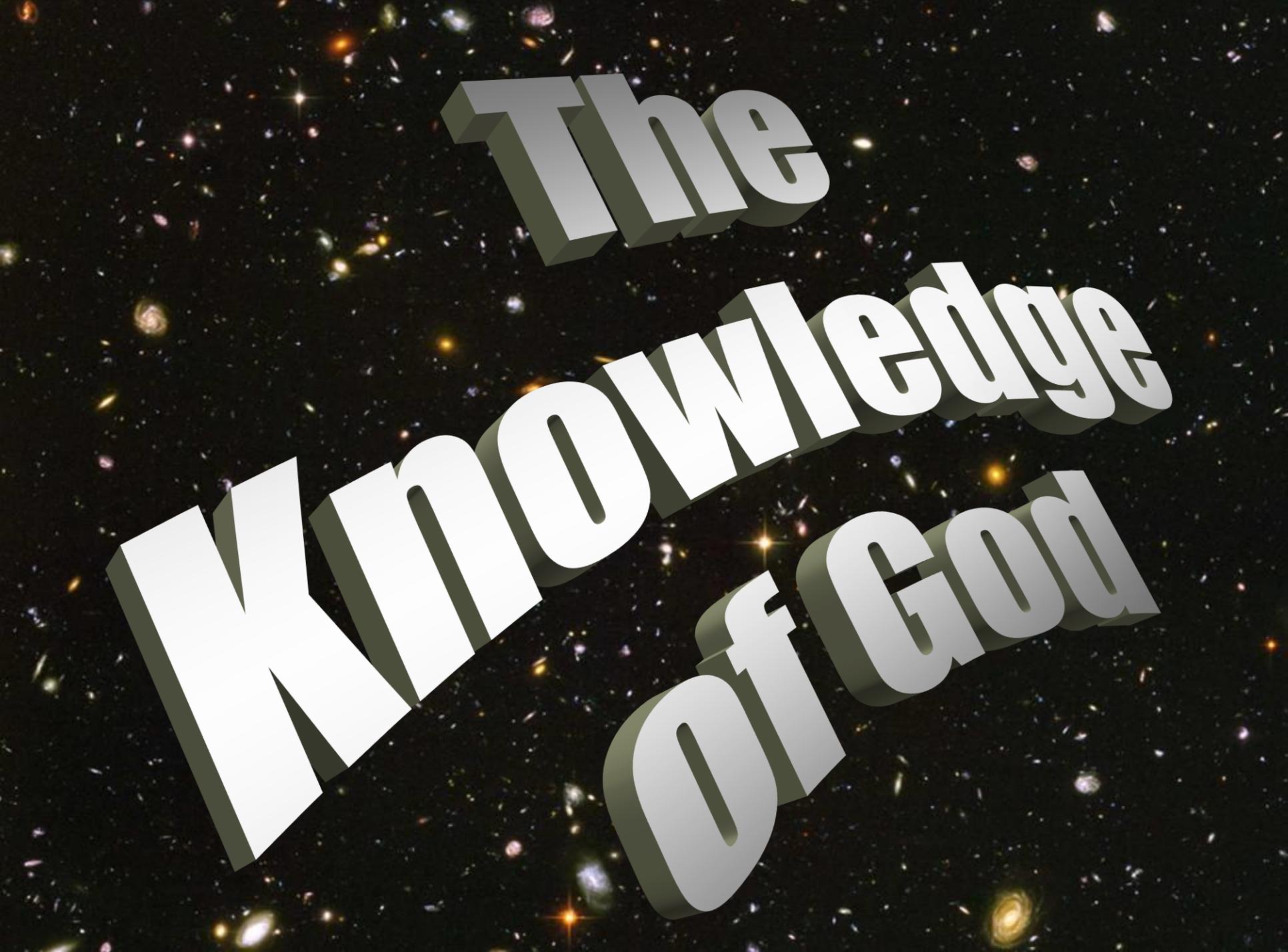


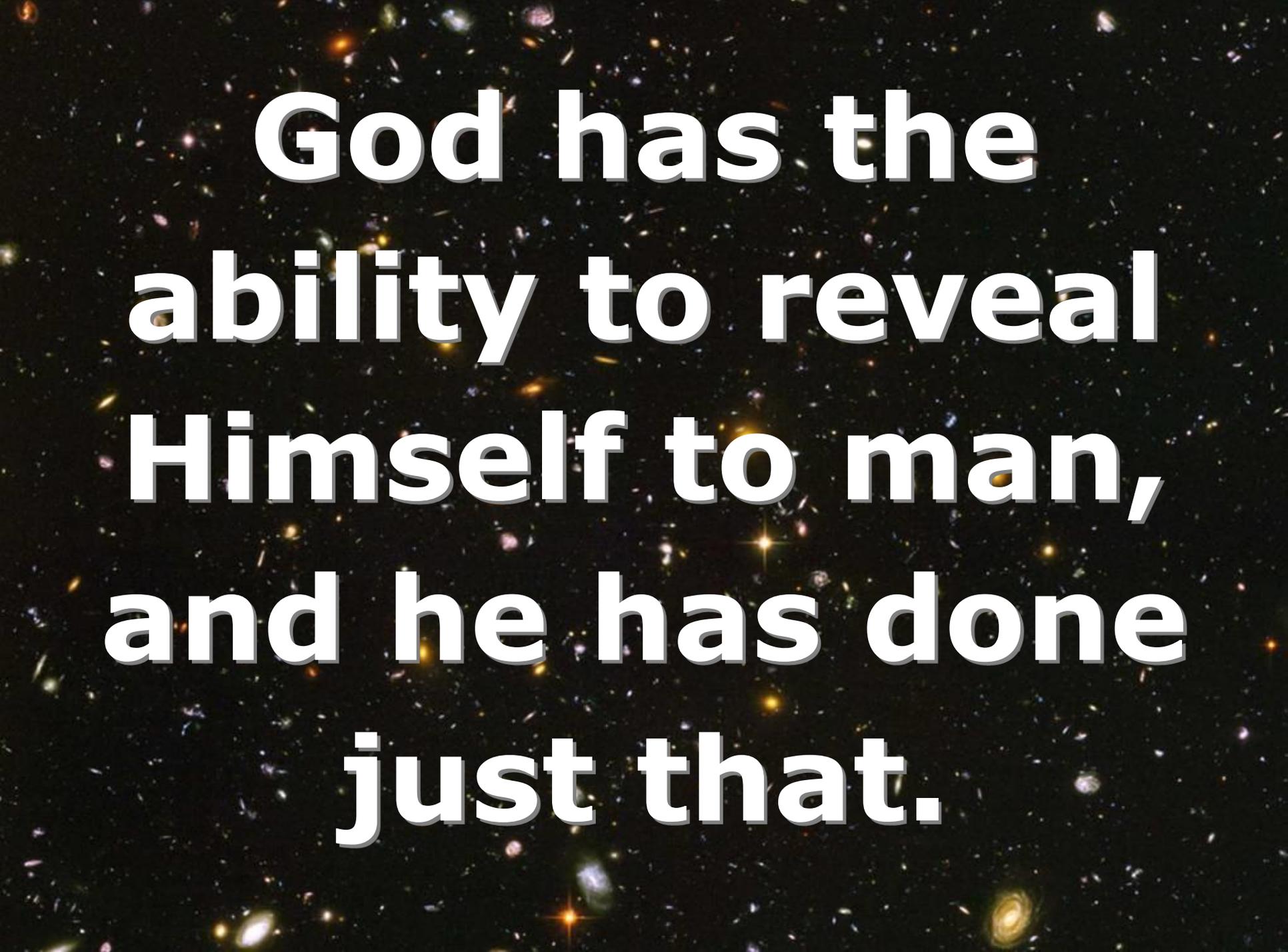
Think about the following questions for a moment:

- ~ Do you wish to be a whole person: someone who knows himself, why you're here & where you're going?**
- ~ Do you wish to be a good person?**
- ~ Do you wish for your Creator to accept your worship? And...**
- ~ Do you wish to live forever? Well...**

If the answer to all these questions is "Yes," then let me share with you how we can all achieve these things simply through...



**The
Knowledge
of God**



**God has the
ability to reveal
Himself to man,
and he has done
just that.**

He revealed Himself in nature.

God revealed much about Himself through His creation: Romans 1:19-20 say, What may be known of God is manifest..., for God has shown it.... 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 [we are] without excuse. So...

This passage teaches that...

- ~ **God has revealed His divine nature which includes His self-existence, infinity, immutability, and immortality.**
- ~ **God has revealed His eternal power which includes omniscience, omnipresence, and omnipotence. And...**
- ~ **God has revealed His invisible attributes which include the aspects of His moral character that are manifested in His words and works, such as His holiness, love, mercy, truthfulness, faithfulness, goodness, patience, & justice. Read **Psa. 19:1-6.****

God revealed Himself in Jesus.

Jesus was the Word who was with God and was God from eternity (John 1:1 & 14).

He was the Word because His purpose in becoming flesh and living among men was to communicate who God is.

Words are revelations of thoughts; they express ideas, and the idea that Jesus came to express was **God**: in **Hebrews 1:3** Paul said that Jesus was **the brightness of [God's] glory and the express image of His person.** **So...**

As Jesus Himself affirmed, to see Him is to see the Father (John 14:9).

The term Son of God means that He's of the same nature and essence as the Father (something the offended Jews obviously understood); so the Son of God is perfectly qualified to give us clear insight into the Father.

In First John 5:20 John wrote, We know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding that we may know [God] who is true.

God revealed Himself in His Word.

He gave His message to men before the cross through prophets, but since Jesus came, He has spoken to us through Him: Hebrews 1:1-2 tell us that God, who ... spoke in time past ... by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son.

According to Jesus Himself, He spoke nothing by His own initiative:

In John 12:49-50 Jesus said, I have not spoken on My own authority, but the Father who sent Me gave Me a command what I should say and what I should speak. ... Therefore, whatever I speak, just as the Father has told Me, so I speak.

After ascending to Heaven, Jesus continued to teach the apostles through the agency of the Spirit.

In John 16:12-15 He told them, I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak. Then...

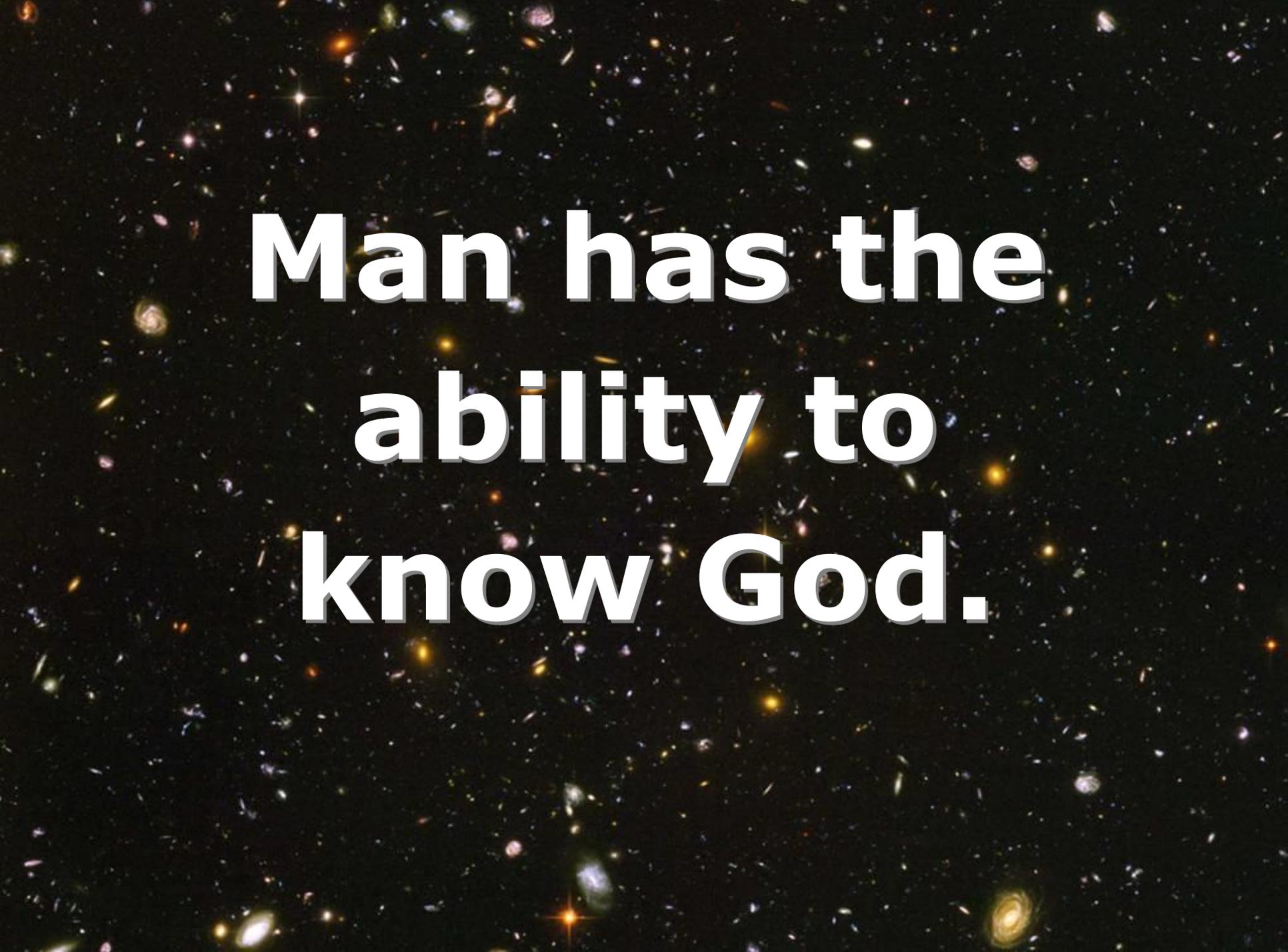
In John 17:8 He said to His Father, I have given them the words which You have given Me, and they have received them.

Since the apostles were inspired men, the words they taught and recorded are the revelation of God; natural or uninspired man can know the revelation of God only by reading it or hearing it read and preached.

Let's get our New Testaments out and read **First Corinthians 2:6-16.**

In Ephesians 3:3-5 Paul wrote, that by revelation [God] made known to me the mystery (as I wrote before in a few words by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets.

So God does indeed have the ability to reveal Himself to man, and He has done so in at least three ways: in **nature, in **His Son** Jesus, and in **His Word**—the Bible.**

The background of the image is a deep space photograph, likely from the Hubble Space Telescope, showing a vast field of galaxies. The galaxies are scattered across the dark, black void of space, appearing in various colors including yellow, orange, red, and blue. Some galaxies are bright and clear, while others are faint and distant. The overall effect is a sense of cosmic scale and depth.

**Man has the
ability to
know God.**

We were made in the image of God, a concept which in itself reveals the fact that man is more than a mere animal: in Genesis 1:26-27 Moses wrote that...

God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth." So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created them: male and female He created them.

Man is superior to all other creatures, for he has been endowed with intelligence, emotion, and will-power. So...

1. Man Possesses Intellect.

Unlike the unreasoning beast who lives by instinct only, man possesses not only the capacity to reason, but to do so with his Creator: in **Isaiah 1:18 God said to His people, **Come ... let us reason together.****

Just as idolatry was degrading to man's intelligence in the first century, the theory of evolution is belittling to his reason and intellect today: in **Acts 17:28-29 Paul said, **In [God] we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, "For we are also His offspring."** Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising.**

Man is superior to the monkey, because the monkey was given instinct only, while man was blessed with intelligence such as in the power to create.

2. Man Possesses Emotion.

This emotion can never be satisfied until it rests in God: in **Psalm 42:1-3 David wrote, **As the deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I ... appear before God?****

This emotional hunger provokes man to search for greater knowledge of God; it incites him to become like God in manner of life; and it fills him with the hope of eternal joy in the presence of his Creator.

3. Man Possesses Free Agency.

He differs in nature from the determination of the beast: beasts are moved purely by natural impulse from without, but man has the power of self-determination.

Man reasons, reaches a conclusion, and acts according to it—he can choose to know God or not to know Him; as Joshua said, **Choose this day whom you will serve (24:15)**. Related, the Spirit & Bride say...

Come! ... Whosoever will, let him take of the water of life freely (22:17).

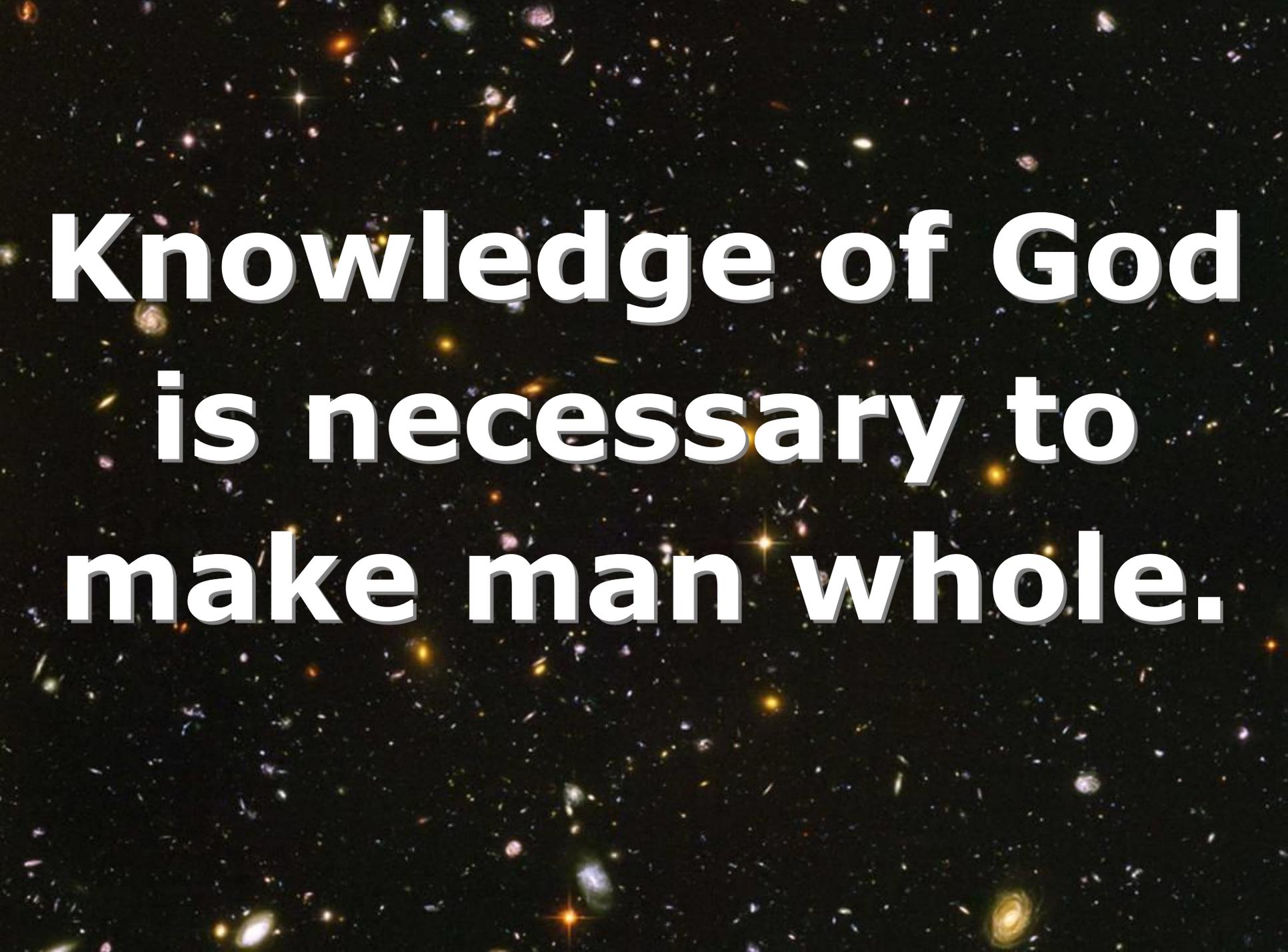
4. Man Possesses a Moral Sense.

This sense the beast does not possess.

No heathen tribe has ever been found which didn't have a moral standard and which didn't mete out justice to those who failed to conform to that standard.

No tribe of humans has been found which was entirely void of conscience: in **Romans 2:14-15 Paul wrote, **When Gentiles, who do not have the Law, by nature do the things contained in the Law, these ... [become] a law to themselves.... So...****

Man does indeed have the ability to know God, because He so created him.



**Knowledge of God
is necessary to
make man whole.**

Knowledge of God is essential for a knowledge of oneself.

In order to understand himself, man must have a knowledge of his origin, and the Bible is the only source of this information.

1. Why Are We Here?

Without a knowledge of God, there's no explanation for existence, nor is there a great, overriding purpose for which to live.

Man was made in God's image that he might praise, honor, magnify, and glorify his Creator: in **First Corinthians 6:19-20** Paul wrote of how man, after his fall into sin, can fulfill that very purpose: **Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price, therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit which are God's.** So without a knowledge of God, man cannot know his origin, his value, or his purpose.

2. Where Are We Going from Here?

The destiny of man—his destination after death—can only be known by a knowledge of God.

Since no man can see beyond the grave, he must acquire his knowledge of the afterlife from the revelation of the only One Who can see beyond the grave—the omniscient and omnipresent One.

The person who rejects this revelation doesn't know where he's going—his life is purposeless!

Knowledge of God is essential to acceptable worship.

Like the Athenians, all men hunger to give God worship, but ignorance of Him hinders them from worshipping Him in a way that pleases Him.

The Samaritans' worship was vain, because they didn't know what or who they worshipped. So...

A specific knowledge of God, that He's a spirit being (for example), is necessary to proper worship.

This knowledge, once acquired, will make men true worshippers: in [John 4:22-24](#) Jesus said to a Samaritan, **You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth, for the Father is seeking (requires) such to worship Him. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth.**

Knowledge of God is essential to godliness.

Godliness is to do what pleases God; so it follows that no one can live a godly life without a knowledge of God.

We must know His attitudes toward sin and righteousness before we can build these attitudes in ourselves. So...

To teach us how to live godly lives, God came in the flesh, in the person of Jesus; so as we gain knowledge of Jesus, we come to know God.

Refusing the knowledge of God is paramount to destroying oneself, because a life without godliness terminates in a life of sin, pain, & destruction.

Because the Jews refused to know God, they were destroyed morally; their lives were filled with sin and misery: in **Hosea 4:6 God said, **My people are destroyed for the lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you.****

God made us to live happily by conforming to His Will; so when His Will is rejected, man becomes very deviant & depraved in his mind and therefore in life.

Knowledge of God is essential to life eternal.

The key to eternal life is knowledge, knowledge of God, that is; but the knowledge of God that we receive through nature isn't sufficient to attain eternal life: we must also know Jesus, the One Whom He sent (**John 17:3**).

John wrote his Gospel account so that we might believe in Jesus and thereby have life through Him (**John 20:30-31**).

He also wrote **First John so that we might know that we have eternal life through faith in Jesus (**5:13**). Conversely...**

Those who don't know God and who don't obey His Gospel will suffer eternal destruction.

So In Conclusion...

The knowledge of God is this world's most valuable treasure. None of man's intelligence or energy could have acquired this knowledge—God alone is its source and revealer. By His grace and initiative, we have the privilege to know Him through His Word and His Son. Our lives can only be happy, therefore, through the knowledge of God.