

6 – The Hiddenness of Jesus//Luke 10:21–24//Kingdom Come

Bumper: Life change story

- Easter is right around the corner...
 - Few times a year...
 - Please don't go away;
- Advance conference
- Believe?

I want to talk to you about a question that a lot of people have (came up just the other day in a conversation I was having with a college student)... People start to say, "Why didn't God make the evidence about Himself clearer?"

- For example, evolution: A lot of people—smart people, not evil people—think evolution put God out of a job. Even if you disagree with that, you say, "Why didn't God make the evidence so clear that theories about the origin of life that leave out God just look ridiculous to everybody"? Example: You are looking through the microscope at a cell and you see a little tag in it that says 'Designed by Jehovah.' At that point, there's no more questions. Where'd the cell come from: Right here: Made by God.
- Or, on another front... Why is a guy like Bart Ehrman able to ask so many good questions about the Bible? Ehrman claims that the Bible we have is corrupted, even forged... and even if you disagree with Him, you still think, "Well, why didn't God do all this in such a way that there could simply be no questions, and guys like Ehrman get no audience at all?"

Have you ever asked a question like that? Why hasn't God made the evidence for Himself clearer? More undeniable? It's kind of the question behind all the hard questions.

Famous American novelist **John Updike** said it this way: "*All this heaven-storming you want to do... If God wanted His tracks discovered, wouldn't He have made them plainer? Why tuck them into odd bits of astronomy and nuclear physics (or, I would add in an obscure story that took place 2000 years ago)? Why be so coy, if You're the Deity?*"¹ (If God can do whatever He wants, why not be more obvious?)

- Why doesn't God speak from the sky daily? Why not have a 900-foot Jesus show up whenever Bart Ehrman speaks who just says, "He's wrong!"
- And why do so many seemingly smart people come up with different conclusions than we do about the Bible? I once had a friend who was falling away from the faith ask, "If this stuff is really true, why does it seem like all my smart professors reject it?"

Some of you have asked the question from a different angle. Why isn't God more present when I need Him? No less than **C. S. Lewis** said in a really honest confession in his book **Grief Observed**, "*But go to Him when your need is desperate, when all other help is vain, and what do you find? A door slammed in your face, and a sound of bolting and double bolting on the inside. After that, silence. You may as well turn away. The longer you wait, the more emphatic the silence will become. There are no lights in the windows. It might be an empty house. Was it ever inhabited? It seemed so once... Why is God so present a commander in our time of prosperity and so very absent a help in time of trouble?*"²

¹ John Updike, *Roger's Version* cited in Ferreira, "A Kierkegaardian View of Divine Hiddenness," *Divine Hiddenness*, 164.

² C. S. Lewis, *A Grief Observed* (San Francisco, CA: Harper Collins, 1961), 17.

I would say that for many of you, this has been a question in your mind. Here's the thing: I don't hear this question ever really dealt with much in church... but this question is a running theme in Luke.

One of the things that happen repeatedly in the book of Luke is you'll see that Jesus seems to have some golden opportunity to reveal Himself, to end all the questions, but He doesn't.

For example, you may have noticed as you've studied:

- He repeatedly tells people who get a glimpse of His power not to say anything. Luke 4: He casts out a demon and says "Don't say anything." (Luke 4:40-41; 5:12-14). Luke 8: He raises a little girl from the dead and says, "Let's keep this between us." (Luke 8:56)
 - Now, if this whole thing is about everybody knowing Jesus' power, why does He do that? Have you ever asked that? If not, maybe you should read the Bible with your brain on...
- Sometimes, when Jesus is pushed to do a miracle to prove Himself, like when He's standing in front of Herod in Luke 23 (Luke 23:8), He won't do it; sometimes He even refuses to answer point blank questions about who He is (9:21; 23:8-9)
- In Luke 8:9-10 Jesus says that the reason He often spoke in parables was so that "seeing they may not see and hearing they may not understand." In other words, He spoke in a way that would deliberately keep some people confused.
- Luke 13:18 Jesus said His Kingdom was like a seed. Ultimately, it would grow up to be a tree that would cover the entire earth, but it would start out so small you'd never imagine it had that kind of power... A seed—you can crush, you can eat it; you can throw it in the trash and forget about it.

Have you seen this? This is what Christian theologians for 2000 years have called "the problem of the hiddenness of God."

Well, in our reading of Luke we're about at chapter 10 and Jesus explains in this chapter why He behaves that way... and I want to try and deal with it for you.

- (I've personally never heard a sermon on this, b/c I think a lot of us are afraid to embrace the hard questions about Christianity. The more I walk with Jesus, the less afraid I become of hard questions. There are a lot of things that blow my mind and shatter my thinking, but I become even more convinced that the God behind this mysterious, mind-boggling revelation is true. In fact, I'd say this: The hardest questions about God are never asked by the skeptics, but by the Gospels themselves!

Luke 10. The context is that Jesus had just sent out his Apostles, to announce the arrival of His Kingdom in the surrounding cities, armed with the power of miracles. Well, they get a mixed reaction. There were some people, a fairly large number, that enthusiastically believed, but a lot of people reject the message. And, a lot of the people who rejected were the "right" people: the people of influence; the political and religious leaders; the Academy; Siskel and Ebert; Rotten Tomatoes; Oprah: they all gave Jesus a thumbs down. Certified rotten.

Jesus' reaction, **Luke 10:13-16 (ESV)**

¹³ "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! (Two of the Jewish cities in Israel the Apostles had gone to that rejected Him). For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, (those are two notoriously wicked, enemy Gentile cities) they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes...

¹⁵ And you, Capernaum, (Capernaum was a Jewish city that boasted a lot of religious leaders and a lot of religious learning) will you be exalted to heaven? (with all of your impressive learning about God) You shall be brought down to Hades.

(Then Jesus says to His Apostles) ¹⁶ "The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me,

and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me.”

²¹ In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit (their rejection didn't bother Him because He knows Who He is and He has God's approval, so the approval of the crowd is only so significant) and said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have *hidden* (there it is; underline) these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children;

- Who missed it? The wise and understanding. Who got it? Children.
- Now, is there anything wrong with wisdom and understanding? No, the Bible tells you to seek both of those things. He loves us to be wise in His word; He loves us to be wise in His world. Yet, the Jewish people, who were the biblically wisest people of the day; they missed Him.
- And the worldly wisest people, the Greeks and the Roman rulers, they missed Him too.
- This passage actually says God hid Himself from them.

He continues: Yes, Father, for such was *your gracious will*.²² All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.”

- Wow. The only ones who know God are those to whom Jesus chooses to reveal Himself.

²³ Then turning to His disciples He said, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see!”

I have 2 questions I am going to ask of this text. I. *Why do the wise and understanding miss God? II. How do we find certainty in what to believe about God?*

I. Why do the wise and understanding miss God? (5 logical premises under this)

1. Our hearts are naturally blind.

- The Gospel of Luke repeatedly presents men in a natural state of blindness. We saw this when Jesus first described His ministry in Luke 4 to “open the eyes of the blind.” More than just those physically blind; it was those spiritually blind—those unable to see the glory of God.
- That heart blindness is a kind of willful blindness that grows out of our sinful hearts.
- **The Apostle Paul would explain this more in-depth in the book of Romans.** We don't have time to go through it in detail, but let me summarize it for you.
- The posture of the human heart, Paul says, since the fall, has been one of rebellion. Our hearts have rejected the authority and glory of God, so our “foolish hearts are darkened;” because they are darkened, Paul says, they are blind to His goodness and holiness and power that is really all around us.
 - What Paul means by “rejected the authority of God” is that we don't want God to be in charge, we prefer to rule ourselves. That's your natural inclination, to want to rule yourself.
 - What I mean by rejecting the glory of God is that we don't seek God's glory above all things; we seek our own glory and our own pleasure.
 - The word for “glory” in Hebrew is the word “kabod.” “Kabod” literally means “weight.” To give something glory in our lives is to give it weight. We gave to other things the weight we should give to God.
- So, as a result, our hearts are darkened, and that means in our natural state we can't even recognize the truth about God even when it is presented to us.
 - It's not that the evidence is not there, or not open to us; it's that we're not open to the evidence.
 - We can't see God because, at our core, we don't really want to see God.
- In order really to see God, Jesus says, we have to be given new hearts. Hearts that can see God's glory and that feel His majesty.
 - **Example:** insane man on top of building.
- Here's the point: Giving us that kind of sight is grace. God doesn't owe it to us...

- *I once knew a couple whose son completely rejected them. For whatever reason, really through no fault of theirs, he just walked out. He refused to visit or call. He got married, had children of his own, but refused to let his parents see them. When they sent Christmas presents to this guy's kids (their grandkids) he sent them back, unopened. When they got sick and it looked like they were going to die, he refused to visit them; he didn't even go to his parents' funeral when they died. His children sent flowers; he refused to even put his name on them. Well, in the will, this person didn't leave anything to him. Could he have said that was unfair? No. He rejected them. They don't owe him anything that belonged to them.*
- *Or say you have a friend that really wronged you. Lied about you; stole from you. And then when your kid gets married you don't invite them to the wedding. Can they say that's unfair? Of course not. You don't owe them anything.*
- *Because we have rejected God, God doesn't owe us anything... Including a revelation of Himself. The idea that if there is a God anybody should be able to find Him at any point is just not true... God's revelation to us is grace; it's a gift we don't even deserve anymore.*
- One of the things that often disturb me in our conversations about the evidence for God is that people act like they are doing God a favor if they believe in Him. As if God is like, "Oh no, please, please, believe in Me! Please. Ashton Kutcher has more Twitter followers than me and that upsets Me." Uh, no.
- From God's perspective, this is His world. Whether you believe in Him or not doesn't affect His self-esteem one way or the other. He doesn't *need* you to believe in Him at all. If you don't believe in Him, that's going to be your loss, not His.

2. **God will not be found through human achievement, because, if He could be, that would contribute to human pride**

- **If the way to find God were through mastering science**, then the really smart scientists would say, "We found God because we were smarter than everyone." We know God and truth best because we're smartest and went to the best school. They would BOAST. Listen to them talk now. I hear this tone all the time. They say, "I know the truth because I graduated from an Ivy League school and I worked harder than you."
- **If the way to find God was through piety**, then the really religious people would say, "We found God because we were morally superior than everybody else." They would BOAST that their personal goodness was what made them find God. Listen to religious people talk now. That's essentially what they say... "We have the truth about God because we are better than you."
- God says, "You will not find me through anything that would allow you to boast."
 - In this passage Jesus says, "You have hidden these things from the wise and understanding and revealed them to little children... Yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. ²²No one knows... who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him."
 - Jesus says, "People who "find you" find you only because you revealed Yourself to them. They didn't find you. You found them."
 - Paul says this in **Eph 2:8-9**, "For by grace are you saved through faith, and that not of yourself. It is the gift of God; not of works, so that no one can boast."
- You see, God reveals Himself in a way that goes to war against human pride because pride is the source of all of our other sins.
 - Pride makes us feel independent. We say, "I don't need God. I'm better off on my own, calling my own shots."
 - Pride leads to a sense of superiority. Entitlement. Pride and sin have the same middle letter, "I."
 - So at every stage God's salvation process is designed to humble us...
 - Naaman
 - God reveals Himself through the simple revelation about Jesus
 - Peter in Acts 4: they heal a guy and tell people that they healed him through the power of

Jesus. Well, the religious leaders don't like it and so they tell them to quit. One of the observations they make to them is that they are "ignorant and uneducated men." They weren't the sharpest tools in the shed. Peter says, "Look man, I am not trying to say we're smarter than you. You got more degrees on your wall than a thermometer. You guys watch the History Channel and I watch Sports Center. I get that. But we saw this guy Jesus, come back from the dead. No disrespect to your degrees, but His coming back from the dead trumps your degrees. Right? If you've got to choose whether to believe the guys with degrees on the wall or the guy who came back from the dead, always go with the guy who came back from the dead.

- Now, I know a lot of Christians are arrogant, but that just proves they don't get the Gospel.
3. **God will be found by those with a childlike heart**
- "You've revealed them to children." People with childlike hearts recognize the truth about God when it is presented to them.
 - What's a childlike heart like? Well, we've talked about it several times in Luke. It's humble; it's submissive. People with a childlike heart look at the evidence for Jesus and they see it as true.

2 examples of this: one from the Scriptures; one from my life

John 7:3-5 ³ So his brothers said to him, "Leave here and go to Judea, that your disciples also may see the works you are doing. ⁴ For no one works in secret if he seeks to be known openly. *If you do these things, show yourself to the world.*" ⁵ For not even his brothers believed in him.

- His own brothers didn't believe in Him! (These are the other sons of Mary and Joseph. Which means that if you believe Mary was a perpetual virgin, you've got a problem, b/c where'd these guys come from. Believe the Bible, not some religious teacher.)

⁷ The world... hates me because I testify about it that its works are evil... (why don't they see it? Because they have blind hearts; arrogant hearts; evil hearts). ¹⁷ If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority.

- The desire to know God and submissiveness to God precedes the knowledge of God.

Here's the example from my life: Years ago I knew a Muslim college student named from Turkey. Her American name was Caroline.

- What if He never explains Himself to you... what if He tells you to change your life... what if he contradicts what you believe about sex, morality, the afterlife... Are you willing to believe? If not, you'll never find Him.
- **Jeremiah 29:13-14**—"When you search for me, you will find me; if you seek me with all your heart, I will let you find me, says the Lord." Otherwise, God hides from you.
- **Psalms 145:18**—"The Lord is near unto all of them that call upon Him truly." You say, "God why don't you reveal yourself?" Because you have a double-minded heart, that's why. Until you're surrendered, God's not showing you anything.
- **Submission to God precedes knowledge of God...**

4. **God will be found by those who want to know Him, not use Him for something else.**

- Several times in this series I've talked to you about people who don't want to know God but want to use Him.
 - I've used the example of a piñata
 - Almost all of us know someone who comes to us only when they need something from us
- God reveals Himself in a way that the only way you'll find Him is if you want to know Him for Him, not for what He can do for you. Otherwise He obscures Himself so you'll miss Him.

II. How do we find certainty in what to believe about God?

11:23 Then turning to His disciples He said, “Blessed are the eyes that see what you see!”

You learn From the story of Jesus. In seeing what the disciples saw about Jesus, we see God. Let me take you back to the beginning of Luke.

Luke 1:1-4 ¹ Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, ² just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, ³ it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

- Theophilus was a guy that Luke was writing this Gospel for: he might have been a skeptical friend; he might have been a Roman who hired Luke to go and put together the evidence about Jesus. We don't know.
- But the point is that Luke compiled this stuff from eyewitness evidence.
 - For several years Luke just chased down details... He was like, “So, I heard that Jesus took a little boy's lunchable and fed an entire stadium? Is that true? How many people were there? About 5000. OK.” “OK, so I've heard it said that Jesus once rode a scooter over the Sea of Galilee. Is that true?” No, he walked. Are you sure about that? You are. And you saw it? Yes.”
 - Think of Luke as part crime scene investigator, part detective, part investigative reporter, part Indiana Jones.
- His goal was that we have “certainty” concerning the things you have been taught. Because if what these Gospels say about Jesus is true, then we can believe what is being revealed about God, right? Even if what they verify is mind-blowing and completely counter-intuitive, if Jesus did the miracles that He did and He rose from the dead, then what He's telling us about God is true. Fair? Again, when you rise from the dead, you get to make the rules.

Now, the charges most often made against this account is that they are forgeries or legends. I don't have time to get into this deeply (I actually have a full account; it's really good; but I looked at it and it would take about 45 minutes to get through, so I'm just going to give you a quick summary. I might come back and teach a whole message on this)³

1. **The timing of the writings is too early for gospels to be a legend**

- The books of the Bible were written around 30 years after the death of Jesus, some of the main ones being as early as 20 years. That's too early for a legend to spring up.
 - The Apostle Paul, in a letter to the Corinthians, appeals to people who are still alive in 1 Cor 15 who can verify the resurrection. He says, “If you doubt this, go ask the others.” That's not the kind of the thing you say if you're writing a legend.
- “Ah, J.D. But we only have copies, and copies of copies. We don't have the originals w/ Paul's tears on the page... Maybe someone miscopied it with their own agenda.” Or, maybe they just goofed it up. I've heard it described before like, “The telephone game”
 1. Unlike the telephone game, this person is still allowed to listen to this other person
 - Tertullian in the late 2nd century talked about going back to Galatia and checking the writings
 2. We also know that the **central claims of Jesus** (the big ones) were in existence among the earliest Christians

³ See notes in Kingdom Come folder “Bonus – Why the Gospels aren't forged”

- The earliest Christians believed Jesus died and rose again
 - Paul, in 1 Cor, which was written between 53–55 a.d. quotes a hymn the early church sang about the death and resurrection of Jesus
 - Celebrated communion
 - Worshipped on Sunday
- We know they were already worshipping him as God
 - In the book of Philippians (written about 57 a.d.), Paul quotes a hymn the early church sang which declared Jesus to be the resurrected Son of God.

You say, “Weren’t don’t we have other Gospels that teach contradictory things to what we have now?” Sure, there have been cooks in every generation. But they were all rejected by the Apostolic community. And scholars say that things like the Gospel of Peter, the Gospel of Thomas, Gospel of Judas were obviously written much later, end of the 2nd century.

2. The content is far too counterproductive to be a legend

- *There is just a love to stuff in there you wouldn’t make up if you were writing a legend.*
- For example:
 - In Luke, on nearly every page, the Apostles turn out to be buffoons.
 - There always getting stuff wrong: rejecting little children, always arguing about who is the greatest.
 - The Gospels record a story in which Jesus calls Peter—Peter, who would become the leader of the church, Satan. Is that the kind of story you include if you’re telling a legend? How would that make you feel about me?
 - Peter denies Jesus in the face of a teenage girl. If you’re making up a story, is that how you want your leader to be presented
 - The Gospels record that Jesus’ family (his brothers and sisters) don’t believe in Him and actually accuse Him of losing His mind. “We’re sorry. Our brother thinks He’s God.” Would you record that if it weren’t true?
 - Luke records that women are the first ones to see Jesus after His resurrection. In those days, the testimony of women was not regarded as authoritative. If you were making up stuff to get people to believe, that’s not the kind of detail you’d make up, because it’s counterproductive. The reason that’s recorded is that it’s just what happened.

3. The literary form of gospels is too detailed to be legend

- These Gospels give every indication of being eyewitness accounts. They have details that don’t fit into the big picture...
 - Luke 1:11 “The angel stood on the right side of the altar”
 - Luke 8:44, “Immediately her flow of blood ceased.”
 - All the Gospels are like this: For example, Mark 14: In the midst of a really serious reflection on the Garden of Gethsemane... Mark records a detail about one guy fled naked. Has nothing to do with the plot... guy remembering what happened, and that’s the kind of thing you include when you’re writing from memory. If I were telling my wife about going to Wal-Mart to buy a pair of Jeans... and a guy runs through the store naked while I’m there... that probably is going to make it into the story even if it has nothing to do with the plot.
- You say, “Well, they were just making it up to sound historical.” The whole idea of “historical fiction” did not come into literature until several hundred years later. So you can’t say that... Read other myths. They don’t sound like that. Read *Beowulf* or *The Iliad*.

- “I have been reading poems, romances, vision literature, legends, and myths all of my life. I know what they are like. I know none of them are like this. Of the gospel texts there are only two possible views: either this is historical reportage or else some unknown ancient writer without known predecessors or successors suddenly anticipated the whole technique of modern novelistic realistic narrative. The reader who doesn’t see this has simply not learned how to read.” **C. S. Lewis**
- The point is: There’s no credible reason to not believe Luke was doing just what he was saying he was doing, compiling people’s eyewitness stories, unless you’re a cynic and a conspiracy theorist who likes to read tabloids.

Which brings me to the last one...

4. **The message was itself too costly to be a legend**

- The message that Jesus was Lord and had risen from the dead didn’t gain the Apostles any power or prestige. In fact, it cost them their lives. We know that from the very beginning those preaching the Gospel were a highly persecuted group; church history tells us all of the Apostles died an unnatural death, except John
 - James, who was the half-brother of Jesus... the secular Jewish historian Josephus says that James became the leader of the church and was stoned for his belief that Jesus was Lord and died and rose again. Which is pretty remarkable when you consider that James started out not believing Jesus was God, but ended up believing that... You have a brother. What would it take to convince you that your brother was the Lord from Heaven?
 - To say that they just “made up” the stories about Jesus means that they were sitting around one day after Jesus had died fishing and Peter jumps up and says, “I know! Let’s tell everyone that He resurrected! And we’ll get to be the leaders of this new religion. Except, let’s teach everyone that Jesus’ Kingdom is not one that gives you power and riches on this earth, and so when other people try to kill us we won’t fight back. And we’ll give away most of our money to the poor. And, then, maybe, if we’re lucky, we can all get martyred through painful, humiliating deaths.” And all the disciples are like, “That’s a GREAT idea. ME FIRST!”
- ~~You say, “Well, lots of people die for a lie.” David Koresh. Yes, people die for a lie, but people don’t die for something they know to be a lie.~~
 - ~~The DF cult...~~
 - ~~**Peter, who denied the living Jesus, have died for a dead one?**~~
 - ~~One of the reasons it spread so much... *Imagine if you were there.* Hearing their impassioned testimony and watching them die.~~
 - ~~**Pascal, “I believe in witnesses who have their throats cut.”**~~

The point: there is really no reason to doubt that the Bible is what it claims to be, eyewitness testimony. Luke says, “I’m a skeptic. I researched this, I tested it, I picked it apart and verified it. Eventually I’ll let my life be taken from me in defense of it.”

But still, you ask... why isn’t it clearer? Why don’t we have the originals? Why don’t we have a DVD? Why are New Testament skeptics able to ask questions and raise doubts? Why not have the originals that Paul wrote with a little angel over top that says, “This is it! This is the message.”

- The answer: Hiddenness.

- God has preserved His revelation in such a way that those with proud, rebellious hearts miss it and those with childlike hearts get it.
- **The Bible gives enough evidence for those whose hearts want to know God.**
 - Luke 16: They wouldn't believe...
 - The whole point is this: **The Bible is sufficiently clear so that those with the right hearts will believe, and those without the right hearts will not.** If you have a childlike, submissive heart you will figure it out, if you don't you won't.

So here are my questions:

Do you have that kind of heart? Are you seeking God with all your heart?

You that are believers... have you lost your childlike heart? A childlike heart toward God is something you're supposed to never lose. It's not just relevant at the beginning.

- We think growing up we grow up into adulthood; we are not on a trajectory of adulthood... I'm always a child.
- I don't mean you don't ruthlessly question. But faith is accepting the inexplicable because of the undeniable. Faith is accepting what you can't understand because of what you can understand.
- Are you willing to believe what Jesus says even if it challenges your morality and way of living and offends your thinking? I know people who reject God because they don't want to submit to what He says about sexuality. Or their offense at what He says about Him being the only way or about hell. Their rejection of Jesus has little to do with the actual evidence for Jesus and more to do with their personal offense at what He teaches that contradicts their preferences.

Finally, to you that are sharing Christ... does this doctrine of the hiddenness of Jesus explain to you why some people don't believe, no matter how clear you seem to make the Gospel to them? This shows you why prayer is so important. Pray that other people will have a childlike heart.

- Witness to them... tell them about God. God often uses our preaching and teaching and sharing to open their heart. But never forget that there is something only God can do in the process, and that's why you've got to pray constantly for people. Yes, talk to them about God. But also talk to God about them.
- The most eloquent sermon; the most extravagant display of the Gospel can't change someone's heart without the gracious softening of the Holy Spirit that comes in answer to prayer.

BULLPEN:

Let's go back to Luke 10: ²³ Then turning to the disciples he said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see!"

Where do we find God? In seeing what the Apostles saw.

- Why didn't God preserve the originals?
 - No one would believe that was authentic

- He let natural processes take over, so that those who have the heart to see truth can see it