

An Open Letter

If you're familiar with *Pride and Prejudice*, you know that the story turns on the contents of a letter. Elizabeth Bennet nurtures an unjust prejudice against Mr. Darcy – the result of ignorance, misinformation, and her own willfulness – until he gives her a letter explaining his actions and defending his character, which changes everything. The same elements often cause people to misunderstand and blame God: lack of knowledge, obstinacy, and being deceived. Hmm. Maybe God should write a letter, too, to reveal the truth about Himself to the world. Oh, wait; He already has. It's the Bible.

THE HEAVENS declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. (Psalms 19:1-2)

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John 1:14)

What may be known about God is plain to them... For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made... (Romans 1:19-20)

God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets... but in these last days, He has spoken to us by his Son... through whom He made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being... (Hebrews 1:1-3)

God is not secretive. He doesn't hide who He is. On the contrary, He's gone to great lengths to make Himself known to us – through his creation, his Son Jesus, his Word (the Bible), and through the testimony of his people. With technology, God's Word is now right at our fingertips. All we need to do is open our eyes and see, open our hearts and believe. But the choice is ours. Elizabeth could have stubbornly refused to open Darcy's letter, to look at the truth he had literally placed in her hands. But then the outcome would have been permanent estrangement Instead of love and unity.

Pride and Prejudice is just a story. The real tragedy is that anybody chooses (willfully or carelessly) to ignore the evidence, so freely available, of our creator's goodness and salvation. God's letter is open and waiting for you. It's a love letter. Here's a great place to start: *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)*

S. Johnson