



Is there a God?

LOOKING AT MOUNT RUSHMORE, COULD WE EVER believe that it came about by chance? Even given infinite time, wind and rain, could those carvings *ever* be randomly formed on the side of a mountain?

But what about the men themselves—Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt, Lincoln? If the figures on Mount Rushmore are too complex to come about by chance, wouldn't the actual men be too complex to come about by chance? Indeed, they were *much more* complex than their mountainside counterparts.

And what about you? Could a carving of your likeness just appear on a mountain? If not, then you have been designed with a purpose. The complexity around us and within us points to a Designer who not only made us, but also sustains us today. But why would a God create us in the first place? The consistent message of the Bible is that God created us to be in relationship with him, that our lives would take on meaning by knowing him.

However, it's not that simple for "all of us like sheep have gone astray; each of us has turned to his own way" (Isaiah 53:6). We've all tried to make our lives work without God, to live independently from him. We often choose to do things our way, even when we know it's probably contrary to his way. The result? We are guilty and separated from God. And we even feel that sometimes.

What many of us don't know is that the Bible says the penalty for our sin is death. Seems harsh? There's more.

Out of his love for us, God chose to provide a way out—not by overlooking our sin, but by having his own Son die for it. Jesus Christ was crucified to death, buried, and then rose from the dead three days later. He died for the forgiveness of our sins—all the mistakes we've made, including our willful estrangement from God. "But God shows his own love for us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:8)

He is the Son of God who died in our place so we could be fully forgiven, fully accepted by God, and genuinely loved by him. That is why Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me" (John 14:6). He is the way to God, not just for people alive today, but for people throughout history, because from the beginning of time, God promised to be our Savior.

Would you like to be forgiven of all your sins and begin an intimate relationship with God? You can ask Jesus Christ to come into your life right now, through prayer. If you are sincere, he will hear you and enter your life.

To learn more about this kind of relationship with God, read the section of the Bible called "John" or visit EveryStudent.com. To see more evidence for the existence of God, read the feature article "Is There a God?" at www.EveryStudent.com.

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