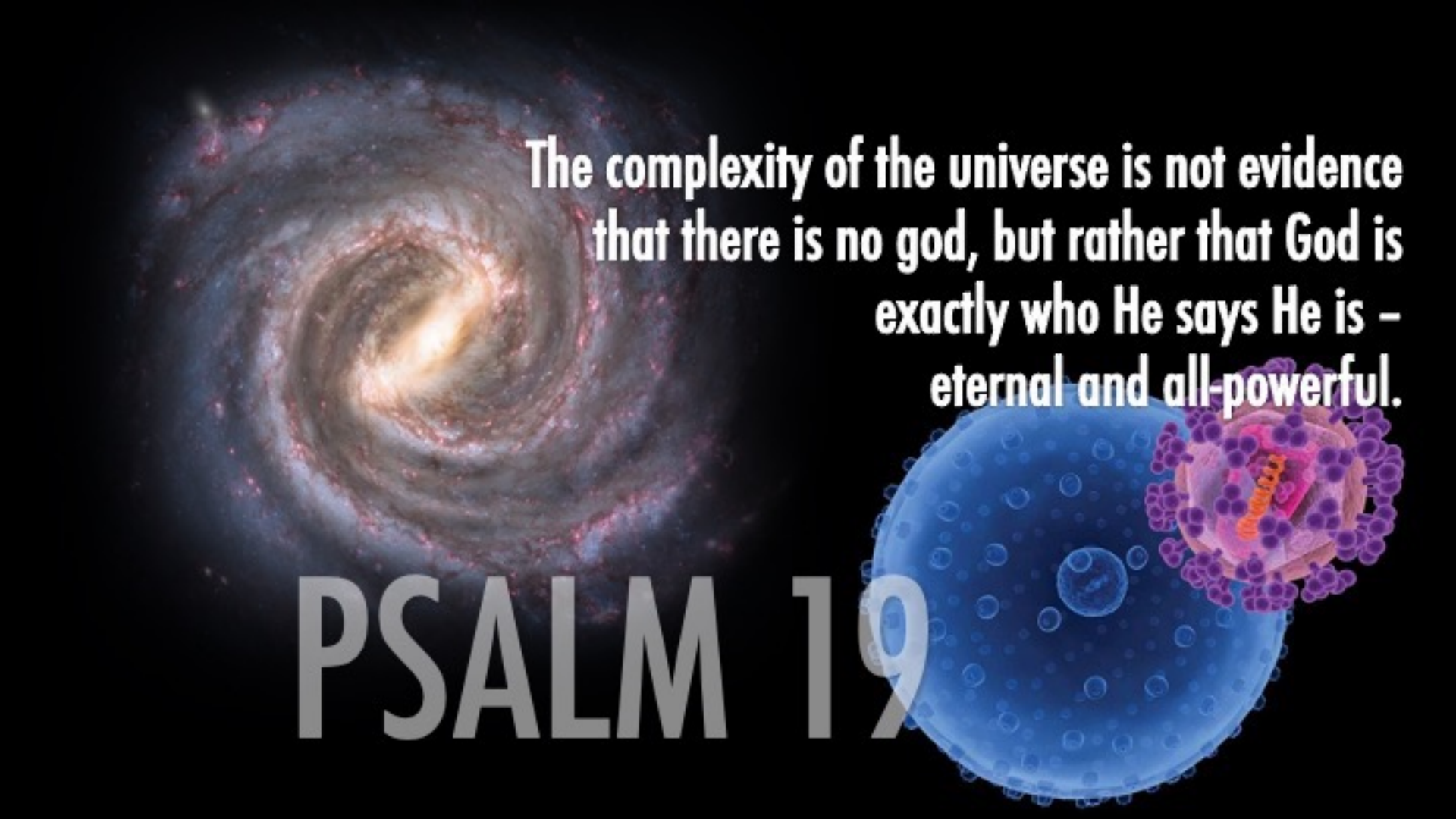


A night sky with the Milky Way galaxy visible, arching over a dark beach with several large, dark rocks. The text "THE HEAVENS DECLARE" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

**THE HEAVENS DECLARE**



**The complexity of the universe is not evidence  
that there is no god, but rather that God is  
exactly who He says He is –  
eternal and all-powerful.**

**PSALM 19**

# WHAT HAS GOD REVEALED?

- **General revelation is what God has revealed about Himself to all through the creation. It presents Him as the Creator, and is the most reasonable explanation for existence. Everybody *can* know about His eternality and deity based on the order, scope, and complexity of the creation.**
- **Special revelation is specific information that God reveals outside of nature. It is transmitted in exceptional ways (prophets, inspired literature, etc.). Special revelation presents God as a Law-giver, Judge, and Redeemer. It is how people know Him (Exodus 3).**
- **Hebrews 11:6**



**IF I CAN LEARN ABOUT GOD THROUGH  
GENERAL REVELATION, DO I REALLY  
NEED SPECIAL REVELATION?**

**18 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.**

## **ROMANS 1:18-20**

# LIMITS OF GENERAL REVELATION

- Just because God's invisible attributes can be known does not mean everybody will know them. It is like walking into a building without taking special notice of its features – many of which are clues to the character of its architect.
- But even if we do take notice of details, that still does not give us anything upon which to act. Knowing that there is a Creator-God is not the same thing as knowing if He wants us to obey Him.
- Basic knowledge of the Creator is seen as incomplete and unsatisfactory to Paul in Athens (Acts 17:22-31).

# MOVING TOWARD GOD

- **General revelation neither saves nor condemns. It is simply the knowledge that there is a Creator who is infinitely complex and powerful. It is a first principle upon which greater knowledge is built.**
- **Many scriptures affirm that those who desire God will find Him. If you seek Him, He will be accessible (Romans 10:12-15, Matthew 7:7-8). Cornelius (Acts 10) and Lydia (Acts 16:11ff) sought after God and He made the way for their salvation. The One with omniscience has the ability to know who is seeking after Him (2 Timothy 2:19).**

**WHAT ABOUT THOSE  
WHO NEVER HAVE  
ACCESS TO MORE  
THAN GENERAL  
REVELATION?**





# NOT WITHOUT WITNESS

- Will people who never have a chance to hear about Christ be saved? It is a question that is not meant for us to answer. We know that salvation comes through Christ alone (John 14:6), so He will save who He saves. What about Old Testament saints who knew nothing about Jesus but received His grace retroactively (Hebrews 10:10-14)? They were judged based on what they could know, not on what they couldn't.
- Acts 14:15-17 – Turning to Christ is required of those who have the opportunity, but in the absence of it there is general revelation. One does not need the Bible to acknowledge what can be known about God through His creation.

# GOD IS JUST

- Remember that we have all sinned (Romans 3:23), and that includes those living in the darkness of ignorance. That salvation would come to ANY of us is remarkable enough as it is.
- If God chooses to save those who live in absolute ignorance of His special revelation, then that is His choice – not ours. We cannot “philosophize” or “rationalize” them into or out of salvation.
- God wants people saved, and is patient toward all (2 Pet. 3:9), but offers that salvation based on learning the truth, not willfully retaining ignorance (1 Tim. 2:4). The issue is less about the ignorant, and more about us!