

PERCEPTION VS REALITY

What a person believes will effect the way in which they perceive the world around them, even the universe itself. How one answers certain questions -

- Where did everything come from?
- How did the universe begin?
- Is there any purpose to it, or is it all a product of chance?
- Why am I here?
- Is there anything beyond this life, and if so, what?

- will determine how an individual sees the universe, relates to the world, and interacts with other beings both animal and human (which to some are just another type of animal).

Like most issues, this is not a new thing. God's word gives us knowledge of how people thought back in ancient times. In Psalm 14, David explains poetically the contrast between the perception of some people and the reality concerning who God is.

In verse 1, we see the perception of some (and David says they are fools). They believe deep down inside that there is no Divine Being, therefore, they cannot nor will not be subject to any rules they determine to come from such a source. These people would say that they are not accountable to any "Higher Power." In contrast, the reality of the situation is stated in verse 2 - Yahweh (the LORD) sees all and takes notice of the ones seeking him.

With that contrast made, the battle between these viewpoints (or worldviews) is laid out. In verses 3-5, David shows that, with no moral standard, people become corrupted and will do "what is right in their own eyes." They don't look at the creation with true knowledge, rather they make decisions based upon their own, skewed understanding so that people become just a means to an end. They are viewed as tools to be used, or even worse, as commodities to be used up. Ultimately, these foolish and corrupt people are unaware of or don't accept the fact that the LORD will judge them.

The psalm ends with the LORD's concern for those who are put at a disadvantage. David expresses his hope that salvation, or deliverance, would come out of Zion. Well, that deliverance did come through David's own descendant, Jesus. He died for our sins and was raised from the dead in order to deliver humanity from the curse of sin and death. Now our hope is in Jesus, if we fully trust in him alone and loyally follow him.

Does your perception match up with truth about reality that is found in God's word?

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