NO-SEE-UMS

BY JUSTIN CASE

IN FLORIDA, THERE IS THIS MICRO BUG THAT WILL MAKE YOU [redacted] ITCH AND YOU SCRATCH BUT SEE NOTHING THERE CAUSING THE ITCH. THE NATIVE INDIANS OF THE FLORIDA GLADES CALL THE INSECT NO-SEE-UMS, SIMPLY BECAUSE WITH THE EYE YOU ARE UNABLE TO SEE THIS IRRITATING LITTLE VARMINT. IT ONLY HAPPENS IN THE PEAK HOT SUMMER DAYS, AND NOT EVERY DAY.

AS I SIT IN MY CELL DAY AFTER DAY STUDYING BIBLE SCRIPTURES, I THINK ABOUT WAYS TO HELP MY FELLOW INMATES TO BELIEVE IN THE EXISTANCE OF GOD SINCE HE IS INVISIBLE AND THERE IS NO WAY MATERIAL MAN CAN EVER LOOK UPON GOD.

GOD IS A SPIRIT BEING. HE IS IN ANOTHER SPIRITUAL DIMENSION. NOT COMPOSED OF MATTER.

SO SINCE NOONE CAN SEE GOD, HOW DO YOU PROVE HE EXIST? YOU DON'T SEE NO-SEE-UMS, BUT YOU KNOW THEY EXIST BY WHAT THEY PRODUCE. ICHING AND A NEED TO SCRATCH. IN ROMANS 1:20 SAYS: " FOR HIS INVISIBLE QUALITIES ARE CLEARLY SEEN FROM THE WORLD'S CREATION ONWARD, BECAUSE THEY

ARE PERCEIVED BY THE THINGS MADE, EVEN HIS ETERNAL POWER AND GODSHIP."

WHEN YOU STOP AND THINK ABOUT YOUR HEART AND HOW ELECTRICAL ENERGY IS NEEDED TO KEEP IT BEATING, YOU MUST ACKNOLEDGE SOMETHING SUPER INTELLIGENT MUST BE KEEPING YOU ALIVE. YOU DON'T HAVE AN EVERREADY BATTERY IN OUR HEARTS. WE HAVE A BATTERY THAT NEVER GET LOW OR RUN OUT OF ENERGY. HOW IS THAT POSSIBLE?

ANOTHER NO-SEE-UMS FACT THAT CAN VERIFY THE EXISTANCE OF A MIGHTY CREATOR IS OUR BODY. IT IS ONE OF THE MOST COMPLEX STRUCTURES IN THE UNIVERSE. WE HAVE 100 TRILLION TINY CELLS THAT MAKE UP OUR BODY AND MORE THAN 200 DIFFERENT TYPES OF CELLS. BRAIN CELL, EYE CELLS, BLOOD CELLS. INSIDE EACH OF THESE CELLS YOU HAVE DNA MOLECULE. IT'S LIKE A COMPUTER PROGRAM OR CODE THAT GOVERNS HOW THE CELL IS TO FUNCTION. A CELL SPENDS A LOT OF TIME MAKING PROTEINS. IT MAKES ABOUT 20 DIFFERENT AMINO ACIDS. YOU HAVE 46 CHROMOSOMES ARRANGED IN IDENTICAL PAIRS. IF YOU WERE TO PULL THE ROPE FROM EACH OF THESE CHROMOSOMES AND LAY IT ALL OUT, FROM END TO END IT WOULD STRETCH HALFWAY

AROUND THE WORLD. ONE GRAM OF DNA, WHICH WHEN DRY WOULD OCCUPY A VOLUME OF APPROXIMATELY ONE CUBIC CENTIMETER, CAN STORE AS MUCH INFORMATION AS APPROXIMATELY ONE TRILLION CD'S. DNA CONTAINS THE GENES, THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR BUILDING A UNIQUE HUMAN BODY. IN EACH ONE OF OUR CELLS. NOW THAT'S CLEAR EVIDENCE OF THE EXISTANCE OF GOD. THE DNA HAS TO BE CODED, READ, AND PROOFREAD BY A SWARM OF COMPLEX MOLECULAR MACHINES CALLED ENZYMES, WHICH MUST WORK TOGETHER WITH PRECISION AND SPLIT-SECOND TIMING. ONLY GOD COULD HAVE CREATED THE DNA. SOMTHING YOU CAN'T SEE BUT YOU SURE SEE THE RESULTS.

THERE ARE TOO MANY "THINGS MADE" THAT POINT ONLY TO AN INVISIBLE GOD. THE CELESTIAL MECHANICS OF OUR PLANET AND IT'S UNCHANGING ROTATION IS IN ITSELF AMAZING. WE TRAVEL AT A SPEED OF 66,600 MILES PER HOUR AROUND THE SUN, AND ARRIVE AT THE SAME SPOT YEAR AFTER YEAR. IF A PINHEAD SIZE OF THE SUNS CORE WERE BROUGHT TO THE EARTH, YOU STILL COULD NOT GET 90 MILES NEAR IT. THERE ARE SUNS IN SPACE SO HUGE THEY

ARE AS LARGE AS OUR SOLAR SYSTEM.

SO WHY DOESN'T HE JUST COME OUT IN SOME POWERFUL DISPLAY IN THE SKY TO PROVE HIS EXISTANCE? SEAK THAT EVERY PERSON ON EARTH WILL HEAR HIS VOICE, AND SQUASH ALL THE DOUBTERS?

THINK ABOUT IT. EVEN IN THE HISTORY OF THE BIBLE, WHEN GOD DID SHOW POWERFUL DISPLAYS OF HIMSELF LIKE THE TEN PLAGUES UPON THE EGYPTIANS, THE OPENING WATERS OF THE RED SEA, THE MANY MIRACLES OF JESUS, AND YET MANY STILL PUT NO FAITH TO OBEY GOD.

GOD HAS SHOWN US EVIDENCE IN MANY OF THE THINGS HE HAS CREATED BUT THOSE WHO ARE BLIND WILL NO-SEE-UM. THEY REFUSE TO ACCEPT THE ICH AND SCRATCH AS COMING FROM NO-SEE-UMS. YES, GOD IS A NO-SEE-UMS

ANOTHER NO-SEE-UMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS NOT AWARE OF IS THE HIDDEN COST THAT IS NOT FACTORED IN TO THE TOTAL COST OF INCARCERATION IN THE U.S. THINGS LIKE LOST WAGES AND INCREASED CRIMINOLOGY AMONG THE CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED

PARENTS, AS WELL AS OTHER COLLATERAL EXPENSES.

MORE THAN HALF OF THOSE NO-SEE-UM COST ARE BEING SHOULDERED DIRECTLY BY PRISONERS, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR COMMUNITIES - LEAVING ALREADY POOR HOUSEHOLDS EVEN MORE IMPOVERISHED. MANY AFFECTED FAMILIES LIVE BENEATH THE FEDERAL POVERTY LINE AS IT IS, AND ARE THE SAME FAMILIES THAT STRUGGLE THE MOST BENEATH THE MASSIVE FINANCIAL BURDENS OF INCARCERATION - EVERYTHING FROM PAYING BILLS, BAIL BONDS, AND RAISING THE CHILDREN OF INCARCERATED PARENTS, TO THE COST OF PRISON AND JAIL PHONE CALLS AND FEES TO PLACE MONEY ON PRISONERS' INSTITUTIONAL ACCOUNTS.

AN ESTIMATED $923 BILLION IN INCARCERATED-RELATED COSTS ARE NOT FACTORED INTO ANNUAL GOVERNMENT BUDGETS. THOSE HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS OF "NO-SEE-UMS" DOLLARS ARE AN ENORMOUS DRAIN ON OVERALL SOCIAL WELFARE, AND ACCOUNT FOR MORE THAN 80% OF THE OVERALL COST OF INCARCERATION. SINCE LAWMAKERS FOR DECADES HAVE NOT INCLUDED THESE NO-SEE-UMS, THEY HAVE VASTLY UNDERCOUNTED THESE FINANCIAL IMPACTS

OF HARSH SENTENCING LAWS AND SOARING PRISON POPULATIONS. IT IS NOW ESTIMATED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCING JUSTICE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION TO BE $1 TRILLION PER YEAR. THAT'S ELEVEN TIMES THE $80 BILLION SPENT ANNUALLY ON CORRECTIONS ALONE, AND 6% OF THE NATION'S GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)

SO NO-SEE-IMS HURT EVERYONE IN THIS COUNTRY IN THESE HIDDEN COST OF INCARCERATION, AND THE AVERAGE PERSON HAVE NO IDEA WHAT CAUSE THE ICH AND SCRATCH OF A TRILLION DOLLARS MORE THAN REPORTED, OR THAT MUCH MORE IS BEING SPENT.

AT LEAST WE CAN BE THANKFUL THAT NO-SEEING GOD WON'T HURT US. IT'S THE FACT THAT THE NO-SEE-IM GOD AND HAVING NO FAITH OR BELIEF IN HIM THAT WILL EVENTUALLY HURT YOU, BECAUSE HE HAS A DAY TO TAKE VENGEANCE ON ANYONE WHO WILL NOT BELIEVE IN THE OBVIOUS EVIDENCE THAT HE DOES EXIST. AIR, GERMS, ELECTRICITY, GRAVITY AND ATOMS ARE ALL THINGS NO-SEE-IMS. YET BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY PRODUCE, WE BELIEVE IN THEM. YOU CAN SEE GOD'S PRODUCTS ALL OVER. EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK. NO REASON NOT TO BELIEVE IN OUR NO-SEE-IM GOD.