

The Doctrine of Revelation: A Teaching Guide

What Does the Bible Say?

Genesis 1-2

God creates the heavens and the earth in six days, resting on the seventh. All of creation comes into existence by His spoken word, culminating in humanity as the pinnacle of His creation.

Psalms 19

God reveals Himself through His creation, His Law, and in the human heart through meditation. "The heavens declare the glory of God."

Romans 1-2

God's righteousness is revealed through faith, and His wrath through ungodliness. Creation testifies to His eternal power and divine nature, leaving humanity without excuse. His law is also written on human hearts through conscience.

Hebrews 1:1-3

In the past, God spoke through the prophets; now He speaks through His Son, the exact representation of His being. All things were created through the Son.

John 1:1-18

Jesus is the eternal Word. He is God, existing before time, and through Him all things were created. In Him is life and the full revelation of God.

2 Timothy 3:10-17

The Scriptures are God-breathed, profitable for teaching, correction, and training in righteousness, equipping believers for every good work.

2 Peter 1:16-21

The prophetic word is confirmed in Christ. Scripture is not from human will or interpretation but produced by the Holy Spirit.

What Has the Church Said?

The Baptist Faith & Message 2000

"The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of Himself to man... It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter." Scripture is totally true, trustworthy, and the supreme standard for faith and practice.

The Westminster Shorter Catechism

"The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty God requires of man."

John Calvin

True wisdom consists of the knowledge of God and of ourselves. While general revelation offers glimpses of God, only Scripture clearly reveals the true God through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Augustine & Theodore Beza

Both acknowledge that nature reveals God in part. Beza affirms that knowledge of God's existence is imprinted on human minds and confirmed through observing creation.

The Limitation of General Revelation

While nature points to God, full knowledge of Him requires Scripture. Calvin emphasizes that Scripture dispels confusion and darkness, making God clearly known.

How Does It All Fit Together?

God reveals Himself in two distinct ways:

1. General Revelation

God makes Himself known universally through creation and conscience. The beauty and order of the universe testify to His existence and divine nature (Psalm 19, Romans 1). Yet, this knowledge is insufficient for salvation.

2. Special Revelation

God's specific communication to humanity, ultimately through Scripture and supremely through Jesus Christ. The Old and New Testaments record God's redemptive work, revealing who He is and His plan of salvation.

Scripture must be held as God's inerrant, infallible, and inspired Word—incapable of error, perfectly trustworthy, and divinely given. To compromise these truths risks falling into false doctrine.

Ministry Application

1. Preach the Word

Expository, exegetical preaching ensures that we draw meaning from Scripture itself. Topical sermons should be rooted firmly in Scripture to avoid eisegesis.

2. Value Personal Testimony

While Scripture is our ultimate authority, personal experiences of God are valuable testimonies that can draw others to Christ.

3. Evangelism & Discipleship

Use both nature and Scripture in sharing the Gospel, with Scripture holding ultimate authority. Nature may stir curiosity; Scripture provides the full truth of salvation.