

Bible Doctrines I
Fundamental Bible Baptist Institute
Class Nine

The Doctrine of God
Part II: The Revelation of God

Introduction: In this lesson, we will study the Revelation of God. We know that the entire scriptures are a progressive revelation of God to man. We learn from God's Word that: 1). there is a God; 2). Who that God is; 3). and what His Attributes are.

There are two types of revelation that we shall study today:

1. **General Revelation**
2. **Special Revelation**

*“Revelation is God’s disclosing to man things about Himself that man could not know otherwise. The revelation of God to mankind is divided into two sections: **general revelation** and **special revelation**. General revelation is God’s revelation of Himself in creation, through history, and in man’s conscience. Special revelation is God’s revelation in His Word, through His Son Jesus Christ, and through the transformed lives of Christians. Without revelation we would know nothing of God.” – Bible Doctrines for Today Book 1*

I. General Revelation

A. The Definition of General Revelation from the Scriptures:

1. Acts 14:14-17 *“Which when the apostles, Barnabas and Paul, heard of, they rent their clothes, and ran in among the people, crying out, And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein: Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. **Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.**”*
2. Romans 1:19-20 *“Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. **For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.**”*
3. Psalms 19:1-3 *“**The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge. There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.**”*
4. Psalms 8:3-4 *“**When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?**”*

B. The Teachings of General Revelation:

1. General Revelation teaches all men everywhere that there is a Creator-God. Romans 1:19 *“**Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.**”*
2. General Revelation teaches all men everywhere that they are condemned by their Creator-God. Romans 1:18 *“**For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness.**”*
3. General Revelation leaves all men everywhere with no excuse for why they did not search diligently to find out Who their Creator-God is. Romans 1:20 *“**For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the***

things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.”

C. The Conclusion of General Revelation:

1. While God uses nature’s revelation of Himself to declare that there is a God before Whom creation will stand one day and be condemned as guilty sinners with no excuse, **GENERAL REVELATION CANNOT SAVE!**
2. General Revelation can point men in the direction of salvation, but it cannot show men the way of salvation. **It teaches man to seek after God but it cannot reveal WHO GOD IS!**
3. *“The glories of God’s creation are constant reminders of a Supreme Being. The design of this universe demands that reasoning man recognize a Designer. The wonders of the human body cannot be explained apart from God. We would expect that a God that is powerful and wonderful enough to create all things would communicate with His creation; therefore general revelation encourages man to seek special revelation.” - Bible Doctrines for Today Book 1*

II. Special Revelation

A. The Definition of Special Revelation from Scripture:

1. Romans 10:8-17 says *“But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. **How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report? **So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*****
2. I Corinthians 2:13-14 *“Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. **But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”***
3. Acts 8:30-31 *“And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, **How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.”***

B. The Teachings of Special Revelation:

- A. God reveals Who He is to sinners through His Word: *“Special Revelation is the act of God whereby He reveals Himself and His truth to specific people at specific times and places.” - Bible Doctrines for Today Book 1*
- B. Special Revelation teaches that man cannot learn Who God is without His Word. I Corinthians 2:14
- C. Special Revelation has to be understood and accepted by faith: Romans 10:9-17
- D. While General Revelation reveals God as the Creator, Special Revelation reveals God as Jesus Christ, the Saviour!
- E. Special Revelation involves a man taking the scriptures and preaching the gospel to the world. The world cannot accept a Saviour of Whom they have never heard.

- F. Special Revelation places the burden of responsibility of reaching the world with the gospel on the shoulders of the Church and Christians. Special Revelation mandates the Missions Program of the Church!!!
1. Matthew 28:18-20 *“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*
 2. Mark 16:15 *“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”*
 3. Luke 24:46-48 *“And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things.”*
 4. Acts 1:8 *“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”*

Conclusion: In conclusion, let me illustrate general and special revelation with the following quotation taken from the book “Bible Doctrines for Today Book 1”: *“General revelation and special revelation are like God’s two ‘books’, His outdoor book (creation) and His indoor Book (the Bible). His outdoor book can be read by all; if it does not lead people to Him, they are without excuse (Romans 1:20). Sometimes God’s outdoor book leads men to seek after God. God promises to reward the one who diligently seeks Him (Hebrews 11:6). He will see to it that true seekers are given the truth revealed in His indoor Book, the Bible. If a man is willing to accept the truth of God’s outdoor book, God will see to it that he finds the truth of God’s indoor Book, the Bible.”*