

## BIBLIOLOGY (38)

### (Revelatory Way #1) - General Revelation.

General revelation refers to ways God has generally revealed Himself through such things as nature and history. As Dr. Ryrie said: "General revelation is exactly that - general." (p.28)

General revelation is that which God reveals about Himself to all people. God has generally communicated various concepts of Himself to all humanity. For example, God generally reveals Himself through:

- 1) creation (Ps.19:1-2; Rom.1:19-20)
- 2) conscience (Rom.1:19; 2:14-15)
- 3) weather (Ps.147:8,16-18; Mt.5:45; Acts 14:17)

This general revelation is not to be taken lightly by any human for God has specifically said that this is enough communicated information to leave any human being "without excuse." (Rom.1:20). To state the point specifically, God's general revelation is enough revelation to eternally sentence a person to face the wrath of God (Rom. 1:18).

Dr. Charles Ryrie said that general revelation reveals at least eight things about God:(p.33)

1. God's Glory (Ps. 19:1)
2. God's Power (Ps.19:1)
3. God's Supremacy (Rom.1:20)
4. God's Divine Nature (Rom.1:20)
5. God's Providence (Acts 14:17)
6. God's Goodness (Mt.5:45)
7. God's Intelligence (Acts 17:29)
8. God's Living Existence

General revelation communicates much about God.

### (Revelatory Way #2) - Specific Revelation

Specific revelation refers to the specific, special and supernatural ways which God uses in order to reveal or to uncover for man His word and His will. All information and details we have available to us concerning this type of revelation are found in the Bible. What this practically means is that **without the Bible we would not know the revelation of God.**

Actually, it is the Bible that informs mankind of God's general revelation. When all is said and done, God reveals, discloses and uncovers things about Himself in the Bible and without the Bible, we cannot generally or specifically know God's Revelation.

Prior to God bringing His completed word into the world, there were several different ways in which God would reveal specific things to people:

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1) God revealed His specific will through Lots.

The casting of lots was something that Israel considered to be a very effective way to determine the will of God. It was viewed as a legitimate means of having God reveal or disclose His specific will to His people (Prov. 16:33) from the time of the O.T. to the beginning of the Church Age. Once the Holy Spirit comes into N.T. believers, there is no longer a need to cast lots.

The O.T. word for "lot" (לִּוְיָ, gōral) is one that refers to a little rough stone (Gesenius, p. 179). The N.T. word for "lot" (κλῆρος, klāros) is one that refers to that which is chosen or drawn by casting a lot (Smith, p.249).

From these words we may assume that a lot was some type of small stone or stones that were cast in order to ascertain God's will. Although it is not known exactly what determined the matter, we may logically assume that there was some type of mark on the lot. Perhaps a smooth versus a rough side or some type of color mark on one side of the lot which was used.

Now the casting of lots was used to determine many things:

- 1) It was used to determine which goat to sacrifice. Lev.16:7-10
- 2) It was used to determine which land went to a specific tribe. Num.26:55; Josh.18:10
- 3) It was used to determine the guilt of Jonah. Jonah 1:7
- 4) It was used to determine the first king of Israel. I Sam.10:20
- 5) It was used to determine the service in the temple. I Chron.24:5
- 6) It was used to determine who got our Lord's clothing. Mt.27:35
- 7) It was used to determine who replaced Judas as an apostle. Acts 1:25-26

Dr. Nelson Baker, in his discussion of this subject, makes an important observation when he writes concerning Acts 1:26: "The disciples used lots to decide upon Judas's successor, and the choice fell to Matthias (Acts 1:26). There is no record of any further use of lots in the N.T. Apparently after Pentecost the church relied upon the Holy Spirit to lead them through other means." (Wycliffe Bible Encyclopedia, p.1053)

Once the believer had God's Spirit living in him and once God's complete revelation was put into writing, there was no further need for any more revelation. God's word contains all necessary information for determining God's will in any decision and God's Spirit will lead one to a perfect fulfillment of that will.