

Introduction to Biblical Revelation

General Overview

1. **Defined:**

Revelation is that act of God whereby He discloses Himself or communicates truth to the mind, whereby he makes manifest to His creatures that which cannot be known in any other way.

Or

Revelation is restricted to the divine act of communicating to man what otherwise man would not know.

2. **Two aspects of revelation:**

a. **General Revelation**

- 1) Through Nature
- 2) Through Providence
- 3) Through Conscience
- 4) Through Preservation of the Universe

b. **Special Revelation**

- 1) Through Miracles
- 2) Through Direct Communications (Prophecy)
- 3) Through Scripture
- 4) Through Jesus Christ
- 5) Through Providential Dealings

3. **The occurrence of revelation:**

It maybe a single event, instantaneous, an aspect of creation that depicts God's nature or something that is progressively revealed over a long period of time.

4. Man's capacity to receive God's revelation

Unlike the rest of creation, man was made in the image of God. Because of this, man was designed with unique abilities to receive God's revelation. Though this capacity was marred in "The Fall" scripture plainly states that even the unredeemed retain enough discernment to be considered without excuse before God.

"¹⁹ Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. 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."-
Romans 1:19-20

- a. Man's mental endowments make us capable to receive God's revelation
 - 1) By reason — we can know, even though we do not understand all things.
 - 2) By discernment — we can distinguish between the credible and the incredible.
 - 3) By logic — we can organize facts into a system.
- b) Man's spiritual endowments enable us to receive God's revelation
 - 1) Man has an intuitive knowledge of God — Romans 1:19ff
 - 2) God illuminates the mind of men to receive His revelation — John 16:8-9; 1 Cor. 2:12