

e. In Him we live and move, and have our being - Acts 17:28

God is likewise revealed in the care, which He exercises in the preservation of each individual, especially those who trust Him (Matt. 6:31-33; Phil 4:19).

Thus it is seen that God is revealed through His preservation of all things in general, and His people in particular.

## Special Revelation:

### Special Revelation defined:

Those acts of God whereby He makes Himself and His truth known at special times to specific people.

- ♦ The term “revelation” in Hebrew *galah* means, “to uncover.”
- ♦ The term “revelation” in the Greek *apocalypso* means, “to unveil”

### Its method:

(Miracles; Prophecy; Jesus Christ; Scripture; Providential Dealings)

### 1. Through Miracles:

#### a. Genuine miracles defined:

A miracle is an unusual event, accomplishing some useful work, and revealing the presence and power of God.

- 1) Moses’ rod turns into a snake — Ex. 4:2-5
- 2) Elijah calling down fire from heaven — 1 Kings 18:24-ff
- 3) Jesus’ miracles — John 5:36

#### b. Two kinds of miracles:

- 1) When natural laws are intensified. (i.e. The flood; plagues; Samson)
- 2) When all participation of nature is absence or excluded. (i.e. Aaron’s rod budding; Water from a rock; Multiplication of loaves and fishes; Healing of the sick, etc.)

**c. Spurious miracles defined:**

If they are not a mere deception, it is a freak exhibition of power worked for show. It may be accomplished by Satanic or demonic powers. (Ex. 7:11f; Matt. 24:24; Acts 8:9-11; 13:6-8; 2 Thess. 2:9; Rev. 13:13).

**d. Those who reject miracles:**

Naturalists, pantheistic and deistic systems all reject miracles. They claim they are impossible. To them, the universe is self-sustaining.

**In Refutation To Their Claim:**

- 1) They assume natural laws are self-sufficient and are without outside influence and direction. However, nature is not self-sustaining.
- 2) They declare miracles are incredible because they contradict human experience. Yet, just because one person has not experienced some event, does not make the event untrue.
- 3) Miracles rest on testimonies. Many miracles are well testified of — (i.e. the physical resurrection of Jesus).
- 4) Miracles still happen — prayer, regeneration, etc.

**2. Through Prophecy: (Or direct communications)**

**a. Prophecy defined:**

Prophecy is the foretelling of events, not through mere human insights but through direct communication from God.

**b. Distinctive between valid and spurious prophecy:**

- 1) True prophecy is based on Scripture and the prophet's life is consistently godly. (See Deut. 13:1-3)
- 2) False prophecy is based on something other than a proper use of Scripture. False prophets (and teachers) are often featured as drunkards, liars and adulterers. Usually their character manifests some blatant flaw (see Deut. 18:9-14 & 20-22).

- 3) The prophecy must be a far away event so human insight cannot foresee it. (i.e. Cyrus was predicted 150 years before he came to power — Is. 43:28 to 45:7 (45:1) also see Psalm 22 about the cross, or Micah 5:1-2 on the birth of Christ).
- 4) The language must not be ambiguous, rather it should be clear in meaning.

**c. A few valid predictions and their fulfillment**

- 1) Isaiah 7:14 & Matt. 1:23
- 2) Gen. 12:3 & Gal. 3:8
- 3) Micah 5:2 & Matt. 2:6
- 4) Zech. 9:9 & Matt. 21:5
- 5) Zech. 11:12f & Matt. 26:15; 27:9

**3. Through Scripture (See II Timothy 3:16 — To be discussed under inspiration)**

**4. Through Jesus Christ**

a. The Purpose:

General revelation did not lead the Gentiles to God, furthermore human philosophy failed to give men a right concept of God, and as a result the Gentiles became vain in their imaginations and their foolish darkened hearts were darkened.

Special revelation did not turn the Jewish nation to God; instead of believing it they twisted it. Therefore, a unique kind of special revelation was necessary.

b. The threefold revelation in Jesus:

- 1) His Existence — He lived among us as a sinless man (John 8:46)
- 2) His Nature — He revealed God's holiness (John 5:36; 17:11, 25)
- 3) The Will of God is revealed through Jesus.

## **5. Through Providential Dealings: (Revealed In Personal Experience)**

Men of all ages have professed to have direct fellowship with God. They declare that they know him, not simply by means of nature, history, and conscience, not only by way of miracle and prophecy, but also by direct personally experience. This experience of communion with God had a transforming power in the lives of those who had it (Psalm 34:5; cf. Exodus 34:29-35). They became more and more like the Lord with whom they had communion (Acts 6:15; c. 2 Corinthians 3:18) (Thiessen, p. 16).

- a. Enoch — Gen. 5:24
- b. Noah — Gen. 6:9
- c. Abraham — Gen. 12:1
- d. Isaac — Gen. 26:24
- e. Jacob — Gen. 28:13 & 35:1
- f. Moses — Ex. 3:4
- g. Joshua — Joshua 1:1
- h. Gideon – Judges 6:25
- i. David – 1 Samuel 23:9-12
- j. Peter, James, John – Mark 9:7
- k. Philip – Acts 8:29
- l. Paul – Acts 9:4-6