

REVELATION AND THE BIBLE

- The word “revelation” simply means a r_____, and in theology is applied to God’s revealing of H_____ to mankind.
- Without revelation, we wouldn’t know anything about God.
- We begin with the premise that God desires to make Himself known to man.
- Hebrews 1:1-2; 2:1-4

I. REVELATION DEFINED

- Revelation is the unveiling of something previously hidden so that it may be seen for what it is.
- All revelation is s_____ in that it has God for its source and truth as its end.
- Deuteronomy 29:29

II. REVELATION EXPLAINED

- The revelation of God to man falls into two basic categories:

1. G_____ REVELATION

- General (or natural) revelation is the knowledge of God that is derived from the light of n_____ things.
- General revelation is accessible to all men and is addressed to a_____ intelligent creatures.
- It is the revelation of God to man in:
 - i. C_____ (Psalm 19:1-6)
 - Also Isaiah 40:12,26; Acts 14:17; Psalm 8:1; 104:24
 - ii. History (Psalm 9:16a)
 - iii. C_____ (Romans 2:15)
- General revelation bears witness:
 - i. to the existence of God
 - ii. the power of God
 - iii. the need for God
- However, it does not testify to the p_____ of God or the plan of s_____.

- According to Romans 1:18-20, the effect of general revelation is to condemn man.
- Why? See: Romans 1:21
- General revelation alone is inadequate to save man for two reasons:
 - i. C_____ has been affected by the entrance of sin
 - ii. Man himself has also been affected by sin, to the extent that he is not able to read the e_____ of God afforded in nature aright.

2. S_____ REVELATION

- Special revelation is the d_____ intervention of God in the affairs of this world.
- It is God revealing Himself through special acts done by His Person.
- This kind of revelation has come to man by various means at various times through:
 - i. d_____ (Genesis 37:5-10)
 - ii. visions (Daniel 8:1)
 - iii. the Urim and Thummin (Numbers 27:21)
 - iv. audible v_____ (1 Samuel 3:1-10)
 - v. animals (Numbers 22:28)
 - vi. a_____ (Luke 1:26-37)
- The “c_____” of God’s special revelation of Himself to man was in the coming to earth of the Lord Jesus Christ, the L_____ Word.
- John 1:14; 14:9
- The “c_____” of God’s special revelation of Himself to man is the BIBLE, the w_____ Word.
- 2 Peter 1:3-4
- According to Psalm 19:7-14, the effect of special Biblical revelation is to save man.
- Thus this kind of revelation is r_____ and r_____.
- Special revelation is necessary because of the:
 - a. deadening effects of sin (as outlined above).
 - b. transcendence of God (the fact that He is so separated and holy that man could not find Him).
 - c. personality of God (the fact that He is a God of love Who desires fellowship with man).

III. REVELATION COMPARED & CONTRASTED

- A number of terms are frequently associated with any discussion on the doctrine of the Bible.
- As an aid to understanding what is meant by “revelation,” these terms are contrasted below:
 1. REVELATION VS. I_____
 - A. Revelation makes truth known – whereas – inspiration provides for its i_____ recording.
 - B. The Bible contains revelation – whereas – the entire Bible is g_____ by inspiration.
 - The writers of the Bible drew from two different kinds of sources for their narrative:
 - i. S_____ r_____ – i.e. things that only God could make known (e.g. the account of creation, the fall of Satan, etc.).
 - ii. P_____ o_____ – i.e. known facts resulting from what the writer saw (e.g. the crossing of the Red Sea), or from existing documents (e.g. Ezra 6:1-12).
 - Both kinds of narrative are recorded for us in the Bible.
 - Inspiration ensures both are recorded without error.
 - C. Revelation is p_____ – whereas – inspiration is p_____.
 - God did not reveal all the truth at the beginning.
 - Much of it was revealed progressively over the centuries.
 - 1 Peter 1:9-12
 - Some examples of progressive revelation may be seen in:
 - i. The Names of God – from Elohim to Jehovah.
 - ii. The Lineage of Messiah – from the seed of the woman, to the seed of Abraham, to the seed of Isaac, to the seed of Jacob, to the tribe of Judah, to the family of David, God progressively gave more detailed and specific information.
 - On the contrary, there is NO SUCH THING as progressive inspiration.
 - All parts of the Bible are inspired of God, and equally inspired.

2. REVELATION VS. I_____

- Illumination is the Holy Spirit-given u_____ of revelation or revealed truth.
- The believer enjoys this blessing today as he studies the Word of God.
- 1 John 2:20-21,27
- The presence or absence of illumination with the writers of the Word of God had no b_____ on the inspiration of the Bible.
 - A. Sometimes the words of the Biblical writers were the result of careful r_____ (Luke 1:1-4)
 - Luke had full understanding of what he was writing.
 - B. Sometimes the Biblical writers both understood what they were writing and recognised the words they were penning as coming directly from God (2 Samuel 23:2).
 - In such cases, the writers had full illumination as to what was being written.
 - C. Sometimes the Biblical writers did not know the importance of the words they penned, recognising them as divine, but not understanding them (Daniel 12:8-9).
 - D. Sometimes the author neither understood the words he was writing nor recognised them as divine (John 11:49-52)
- The point is, whether the writer had i_____ or not, i_____ provided that God's exact message was truthfully recorded.

NOTE:

1 Corinthians 2:9,10 — REVELATION — “Disclosure”

1 Corinthians 2:12 — ILLUMINATION — “Discovery”

1 Corinthians 2:13 — INSPIRATION — “Documenting”