

SCRIPTURE AS DIVINE REVELATION (GENERAL VS. SPECIAL) & THE NECESSITY OF SCRIPTURE

REVELATION

- * Divine Revelation: A remarkable & gracious gift of God given to us through →
 - * General Revelation: Freely given to everyone everywhere, is broad (though far from empty) in what it says about God.
 - * What primary issue does General Revelation not communicate?
 - * What does it reveal about God?
 - * Special Revelation is specific in its content and all powerful (Omnipotent) in its effect.
 - * God communicates the mysteries of the faith & in varied ways imparts personal knowledge of Christ to his people.
 - * How do we get Special Revelation?
- * **Special Revelation can only be fully embraced by those who are enabled in their understanding by the Holy Spirit.**

Divine Revelation is Extraordinary

- * If we think about who God is, it's nothing short of remarkable that he has spoken. Why?
 - * God is absolutely immeasurable in His essence and being – **Incomprehensible**
 - * What does that mean to you?
 - * What is Idolatry?
 - * *I Cor 2:6-12 ⁶ However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. ⁷ But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, ⁸ which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. ⁹ But as it is written:*
 - “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard,
Nor have entered into the heart of man
The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”*
 - ¹⁰ But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. ¹¹ For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of*

*the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.
¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.*

- * **John Calvin:** “*This Mighty and Supernatural, Almighty God of the universe, not only created us, but chose to make us in His own image.*”
- * What other reasons can you think of to understand why His divine revelation is extraordinary?
- * What did God do following Adam & Eve’s rebellion in sin?
 - * He spoke – He spoke a blessed redeeming **word** of promise
 - * Gen 3:15 ¹⁵ *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.*
 - * Eventually that **Word** became made flesh
 - * John 1:1, 14 ¹ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God ... ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*
- * What was that **Word**?

The Heavens Declare the Glory of God: General Revelation

- * Ps 29:4 ⁴ *The voice of the Lord is powerful, the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.*
- * Ps 104:24 ²⁴ *O Lord, how manifold are Your works ! In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions --*
- * Acts 14:15–17 ¹⁵ *and saying, “Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea, and all things that are in them, ¹⁶ who in bygone generations allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. ¹⁷ Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.*
- * Rom. 1:20, 32 ²⁰ *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse*
- * What two ways does scripture say man receives this General Revelation?
 - 1)
 - 2)
- * In who’s image is Man created ?
 - * Calvin - in his *Institutes* (1.3.2) says
 - * Within man lie the “seeds of religion,” so much so that man is characterized by a *sensus divinitatis* - a sense of the divine.

- * Man cannot escape, no matter how hard he tries, the morality embedded within his very makeup as a creature made to reflect his Creator
 - * *Rom 1:32*³² *who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things (Paul had just outlined a list of characteristics displayed by those who reject the truth) are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.*
 - * *Rom 2:15-16*¹⁵ *who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)*¹⁶ *in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.*
- * Creation bears witness that there is a Creator. Listen to David
 - * *Psalms 19:1-2*¹ *The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.*² *Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.*
- * What do these passages tell us about those who suppress General Revelation?
- * But what must we remember about General Revelation with respect to salvation?
- * So what does mankind need?

From Creator to Savior: Special Revelation

- * What are a few ways God has provided Special Revelation throughout history?
 - * *Heb. 1:1-2*¹ *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets;*² *has in these last days spoken to us by His Son*
 - * *John 1:1*¹ *In the beginning was the Word, & the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*
- * Scripture then is the permanent form of special revelation from God
 - * Through it He intends his people to live by faith and practice.

Further / Ongoing Revelation

- * Have you ever listened to “present day prophets?”
- * What messages do you hear from them?
- * God’s word is complete,
 - * *Deut 18:20-22*²⁰ *But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in My name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.’*²¹ *And if you say in your heart, ‘How shall we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?’—*²² *when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him.*

* *Jer 28:9*⁹ *As for the prophet who prophesies of peace, when the word of the prophet comes to pass, the prophet will be known as one whom the LORD has truly sent.*

* Here in *Jer 28*, the false prophet Hananiah stood up and declared that Israel would be victorious within 2 years.

* Jeremiah didn't argue, but instead confirms that a true prophet will have their words come true exactly as they declare them.

* *Jer 28:15-17*¹⁵ *Then Jeremiah the prophet said to Hananiah the prophet, "Listen now, Hananiah, the Lord has not sent you, and you have made this people trust in a lie."¹⁶ Therefore thus says the Lord, (Jeremiah is going to proclaim a prophecy himself) 'Behold, I am about to remove you from the face of the earth. This year you are going to die, because you have counseled rebellion against the Lord.'¹⁷ So Hananiah the prophet died in the same year in the seventh month.*

* *2 Pet 1:20-21*²⁰ *But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*

* If someone claims to have a present-day prophesy that has no bases in scripture –

* How do you know it's from God?

* Questions?

THE NECESSITY OF SCRIPTURE

NECESSITY:

- * What comes to mind when you think of the “Necessity” of Scripture?

- * How has He chosen to give his Revelation?

- * Whys is it vital that we know and understand the various attributes of God’s character?

- * Why do we need a Savior?

- * Where else, other than Scripture do we find these essential truths we MUST believe?

- * *Rom 10:17*¹⁷ *Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.*
- * *Duet 8:3*³ *... man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*

The Human Situation

- * We’ve already covered the fact that God created all things and we are responsible to reason that He exists possessing various divine attributes such as knowledge, power and love.
 - * Why is that?

- * In Adam and Eve, the human race fell into sin - *I Cor 15:22*²² *For as in Adam all men die ...*

- * Without scripture, man would never know what sin is, the penalty or consequences for their offence or the remedy for their situation.
 - * *Rom 3:20*²⁰ *Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.*

The Provision of Special Revelation

- * What are some things we glean from Special Revelation alone?

* What about _____?

* What does Scripture ultimately give us?

* John 14:1¹ *Let not your heart be troubled ...*

Questions?