

Chapter Fifteen: Rules Of Interpretation - Extra-biblical Revelation (Part Four)

Extra Biblical Revelation

VII. Rule of rejection of all extra-Biblical Revelation

Definition: Any form of knowledge or experience which gives us information concerning God, His Work or His Will, which is not directly quoted in scripture.

Review: Views of Scripture

1. **Cults** – *“The Word of God is understood in the light of our new religion”*
2. **Apostolic/Patriarchal Christians** – *“The Word of God is understood in light of continuing Apostolic authority and revelation.”*
3. **Evangelical Mysticism**– *The Word of God is understood by my spiritual experience*
4. **Classic Evangelical Reformation Theology** –
“The Word of God is understood and interpreted by the Word of God.”
 - a. We do not judge the Word of God, it judges us. – John 12:48; James 4:11; Hebrews 4:12
 - b. We do not manipulate the Word of God. – Mark 7:3; II Corinthians 4:2

A. Types Of Extra Biblical Revelation

1. **Intellectual Superiority** – it does not seem reasonable or make sense to us, therefore it must mean something else.
2. **Ecclesiastical Superiority** – we will decide what the Bible means in our modern age.
3. **Revelatory Gifts - MAT 7:22 & 23** *“Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, ...' I will declare to them, 'I never knew you'....”*
 - a. Tongues – as defined by the Pentecostal and Charismatic movements
 - 1.) The Pentecostal and Charismatic movements
 - a.) An angelic language
 - b.) Under the control of the Holy Spirit
 - c.) The meaning of which is unknown to the speaker
 - d.) The forming of words, duration and experience is not under the control of the speaker
 - 2.) Rejected on the basis of
 - a.) There is no Doctrinal teaching in the Word of God concerning an angelic language, there is no Historical Revelation of people speaking in an angelic language.
 - b.) To speak under the control of the Holy Spirit is the very definition of revelation
II Peter 1:21 “for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”
 - 3.) What we can live with – The ability to study and learn languages for the purpose of the ministry and the communication of God’s Word, as “teaching” is the ability to study and learn and communicate the Word of God.

- b. Prophecy – as defined by the Pentecostal and Charismatic movements
 - 1.) The Pentecostal and Charismatic movements accept the practice of proclaiming, “Thus saith the Lord” both in temporal and eternal truths.
 - 2.) This clearly violates the prohibitions set forth in Revelation 22:18 & 19

REV 22:18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God shall add to him the plagues which are written in this book;

REV 22:19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

- 3.) What we can live with – The ability to teach and proclaim prophetic statements of God’s Word, as is done with the gifts of teaching, exhortation or evangelism.
- c. Word of Knowledge and Word of Wisdom – as defined by the Pentecostal and Charismatic movements
 - 1.) The Pentecostal and Charismatic movements accept the practice of saying, “I have a Word from God for you” or “God told me to tell you”. Accepting divinely given directions for others.
 - 2.) II Timothy 3:16 gives Scripture as that which is inspired by God and profitable. Revelation 22:18 & 19 limits Scripture to the Bible.
 - 3.) What we can live with – The ability to learn, retain and apply the Word of God through a divinely increased mental capacity.
 - d. The logical conclusion of all the above “gifts”, should we interpret them as done by the Pentecostal and Charismatic movements, would be an ever increasing size to our Bible. If it is indeed from God, it should be written down and added to the Word of God.
 - 1.) Although these movements do not do this directly.
 - 2.) The dependence upon adherents to these movements of books, teachers and experiences over the Word of God has been the practical result of accepting extra-Biblical revelations.
 - a.) An acceptance of Ecclesiastical extra-Biblical revelation by protestant churches
 - b.) An acceptance of books as having spiritual authority
 - c.) An acceptance of para-spiritual events as having authority
 - d.) The introduction of the occult into our churches through what would have once been termed “seances” but are now referred to as “miracle services” and “anointed teachings”.
 - e.) The evaluation of spiritual events, not by the Word of God, but by the nature and results of the events themselves.
 - f.) The failure to differentiate between...
 - 1.) spirit and Holy Spirit
 - 2.) Angels and demons
 - 3.) Christ centered and spiritual

4. Revelatory Experiences – we reject any experience that adds to or takes away from the revelation of the Word of God. (Forms of extra-Biblical revelation which are accepted in many evangelical churches). Is God’s Word adequate?

“The lady boldly told them that she had received a message from God on the previous night – that a foreigner would visit that day and bring her some very important news” SBC Life – Vol 9 No 10 2001 SBCEC

Adequate – “Perfect”; ARTIOS (739) – occurs only once in Greek
KJV 2TI 3:17 *That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

Vines EDNTW – “Fitted, complete, from ARTOS – meaning limb or joint.
Revelation is now perfect, it is complete, “it has all come together”

II Timothy 3:17 *“that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”*

- a. Visions
 - 1.) Heaven
 - 2.) Jesus
 - 3.) Angels
 - 4.) Messages – “Second Awakening”; Uncle Tom’s Cabin; “God told me to tell you”;
 - 5.) demons
- b. After death experiences
 - 1.) Heaven
 - 2.) Hell
- c. The doctrines of demons
 - 1.) We are specifically forbidden to converse with demons and pass on this knowledge to others.
1TI 4:1 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons,
 - 2.) There is not a man born who can discern between a demonic lie and truth apart from the Word of God
JOH 8:44 "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies.
 - 3.) The fact that demons obeyed Jesus does not mean they will obey us any more than the weather, illness, trees or angles.
LUK 8:30 And Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him.
 - 4.) There is no promise in scripture that the proof of our faith is that all Christians have absolute power over the words and actions of demons. Demons fall into the same category as weather, illness, political events, animate and inanimate objects when it comes to our spiritual authority to speak into action.

5. **The Word of God** – we are left then with the Word of God as the sole revelation and authority in all spiritual matters.

- a. As adequate

2TI 3:16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

2TI 3:17 that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

b. As revelatory

REV 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must shortly take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John,

c. As judge

HEB 4:12 For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

d. As spiritual guide to the will of God

PSA 119:105 Thy word is a lamp to my feet, And a light to my path.

d. As such we reject parallel phenomenon – by this we mean events which occur alongside of salvation, seem to be determiners of spirituality, but in reality are not.

- 1.) Someone may say, “It must be from God, think of the good that occurred.” Is this how we decide what is from God, by our relative evaluation of good occurring? What about Hindu’s who feed the poor, are they from God? What about a psychic who conjures dead spirits to help locate a lost child, is she from God? What about the mystic who gives millions to charity in the name of the leadership of the spirit world, is he from God?
- 2.) Others will say, “They came to Christ, it must be from God.” What about the soldier in the fox hole who comes to Christ, will we now hold to “Carnage Evangelism”? What about the man who comes to Christ as a result of an accident with a drunk driver, will we now hold to “Drunk Driving Evangelism”? What about the man who hits rock bottom as a drug addict or criminal and then comes to Christ, are we then to engage in “Decadence Evangelism”? Absolutely not. In many instances there are parallel events taking place in the physical and spiritual world. Satan is seeking to blind and confuse, God is calling men and women to Himself.
- 3.) In each case, “If satan can convince you that because people “seem good”, if good seems to result, then they are from God, then he can convince you that Christ is not the only way.
- 4.) In each case if satan can get the person to talk about what satan was doing, be it carnage, decadence, drunkenness or a false vision, rather than Christ, then he has accomplished his purpose.
- 5.) If he can embitter the soldier because of warfare or a drunk driver, or distract a new believer with the false vision of Christ it is fine with him.
- 6.) We must however stand firm with the reality that it is the call of God, the sacrifice of Christ, the ministry of the Holy Spirit and revelation of the Word of God which brings about salvation, not supposed visions or phenomenon.

Extra Biblical Revelation

Definition: Any form of knowledge or experience which gives us information concerning God, His Work or His Will, which is not directly quoted in scripture.

Key Passages: Below each verse, write out the key thought as it pertains to the subject of Extra Biblical Revelation:

REV 22:18 I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God shall add to him the plagues which are written in this book;

REV 22:19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

DEU 4:2 "You shall not add to the word which I am commanding you, nor take away from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.

DEU 12:32 "Whatever I command you, you shall be careful to do; you shall not add to nor take away from it.

PRO 30:5 Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.

PRO 30:6 Do not add to His words Lest He reprove you, and you be proved a liar.

MAT 5:19 "Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and so teaches others, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

1CO 4:6 Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively applied to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that in us you might learn not to exceed what is written, in order that no one of you might become arrogant in behalf of one against the other.

- II. As we look at these passages, Deuteronomy, Proverbs, Matthew, I Corinthians and Revelations, each prohibit additions, yet save for Deuteronomy, each follows a similar prohibition.
- A. Explain this seeming discrepancy.

- B. If Deuteronomy forbids adding to scripture and yet most of the books of our Bible follow it. Why cannot books follow Revelation, which uses similar language? If our interpretation of the Deuteronomy passage allows for further revelation, then to be consistent, should not our interpretation of Revelation allow for further revelations as well? (Note: In answering keep in mind of our recognition of the Word of God as a complete finished work, authored by God, as opposed to an evolving collection of books written by godly men)

III. I Corinthians 4:6 speaks of exceeding what is written. How does this relate to extra-biblical revelation?

II. Extra Biblical Revelation

Read the following sceneriao through without looking up the verses.

How compelling would this event be to the average Christan? To you?

Next go through again and read the passages. Make notes to the side as they pertain to spiritual deception.

In This Column Make
Notes As Your Read The
Passages Provided

You are lying in bed sound asleep and slowly you become aware of a humming sound, so deep that it seems to vibrate your whole body. You are aware that the whole room seems to be full of the sound and as you look up the door to your room seems to be about to explode with light. From all four seams of the door, light shafts of a brilliant nature penetrate your room, and as you struggle to adjust your vision the door flies from it's hinges and the room fills with an acrid smoke (Ezekiel 28:14 & 16). Before you stands a tremendous angelic being, clothed in light of brilliance (Isaiah 14:12; Ezekiel 28:13; II Corinthians 11:14) and in his right hand a flaming sword. You try to stand but as you do so he speaks and his words (Revelation 13:11) role over you like the waves of the sea, suffocating you, you limbs become like jelly and you collapse to the ground, unable to move (Mark 9:18 & 25). When he speaks it is as if your head will explode and the words thunder and roll over you like the waves of the sea. "I am Gabriel and captain of the armies of God and I stand in the presence of the Lord (II Corinthians 11:14). You are the chosen one. In the past, men looked to the first coming of the Messiah as a warrior and He came as a child. In this age too, men look for the coming of a warrior and again He will come as a child (Acts 1:11; Hebrews 9:28). You will be the prophet who goes before to prepare the way of the Lord.. Just as I appeared to Joseph the earthly father of Jesus, to Mary, the mother of Jesus, to Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist, I now appear to you." (Galatians 1:8) You cannot believe your ears and as your struggle to speak you demand that the angelic being profess Christ. He cries (Mark 3:11) out in a voice so loud, it is as if the whole house might explode, "There is one God (James 2:19), Jesus is the Holy One of God (Mark 1:23 & 24), Jesus, the Son of God (Mark 3:11), Jesus, Son of the most high God (Mark 5:7)!!!" In addition, he freely quotes the Word of God, expositing passages such as Psalm 91:11 & 12, "For He will give His angels charge concerning you, To guard you in all your ways. They will bear you up in their hands, Lest you strike your foot against a stone" in such a dynamic and forceful way that they seem to come alive to you for the first time (Luke 4:9 – 13). As he proclaims this he trembles at the words he speaks and you can see visibly the fear of God in his eyes (James 2:19). "Could this be?" you wonder. "Could this actually be a messenger from God, Gabriel, captain of the armies of God, could I be the chosen prophet to bring this message to the world?" You gaze into his face and slowly you recognize him. You have seen him a hundred times, he is the angel guarding the child in the Christian book store you frequent. The artist claimed inspiration from God, but now you just begin to realize how inspired he was. (Deuteronomy 4:23) This is the same angel, this must indeed be Gabriel. Remembering how Gideon and Zacharias asked for a sign to test their angelic messengers, you too ask for a sign (Matthew 12:39). He gives you first the sign of Elijah, to call down fire from

heaven. You marvel as you see, at your command, fire fall upon a shrub, seen clearly from your window, consumed in the flames. (Revelation 13:11 - 13) Then he gives you the sign of Moses, to transform inanimate to animate. Just as Moses commanded the rod to become a snake (Exodus 7:10 & 11), at your words the ceramic bird on the mantle comes to life and flies around your room (Revelation 13:15). Lastly he gives you the sign of Paul, the ability to heal a fatal wound (Revelation 13:12). Yes it must be so, he proclaims Christ (John 8:44), he quotes accurately the Word of God (Luke 4:3, 9 - 11) and now you have the signs of the three greatest men in the Bible, Elijah, Moses and Paul (Mark 8:12). Then just as Zacharias was made dumb for his lack of faith and only given his speech back when he was able to obey the angel so now you are made dumb. Your speech will return, you are told, when you begin your ministry (Matthew 12:22). You listen as the revelation is unfolded (Revelation 22:18 & 19), you yield, he places his hands on your head, your body seems to fill with flames, flames fall upon you, just as you imagined they did at Pentecost, (Ephesians 6:11) and you are empowered with signs and wonders (II Thessalonians 2:9), "Do not worry" he says, "The words will be given you when you yield totally to your new ministry." The very next day you begin your ministry. Word of your power, your message and your signs and wonders fill the airwaves and newspapers. Soon the whole world is following your exploits (Revelation 12:9; 20:3 & 8). Many pastors and Christian leaders oppose you but you know what you are to do. At the appointed time you call for them to answer your challenge, altars are built. Many refuse to come, but this just adds fuel to the fire of your ridicule. For those who do appear, they find the altars prepared in the center of a giant stadium. Ringside seats are available for the media of the world, which watches with baited breath as these ministers and pastors respond to your challenge to call for fire to come down from heaven, yet nothing happens. You laugh and deride them as Elijah did, then, on your command, even as on Elijah's, fire falls from heaven and consumes the sacrifice (Revelation 13:13). Through the modern marvels of satellite, the internet and cable, the world witnesses this demonstration and flocks to your ministry. You are indeed the prophet of God. (Revelation 13:14) As you grow in your yieldedness you grow in your spiritual power. Prophetic utterances, future events, (Deuteronomy 18:10; Ezekiel 21:23; Acts 16:16) healings (Revelation 13:3 & 12), signs and wonders all follow (II Thessalonians 2:9; Revelation 13:14; 16:14; 19:20). You are able to speak as you never spoke before and people listen (II Timothy 4:3 & 4). You do not understand all that you are saying. Sometimes in your prophetic utterances you are completely given up to the control of the spirit, it takes over as you speak of great and mighty spiritual truths, predicting accurately with the spirit of prophecy as it controls your speech (I Corinthians 14:32). You are not sure where the words come from or their implications (Revelation 2:24; Deuteronomy 29:29). You are being carried along by the ministry and the gifts given to you. You only know that to doubt is to loose your position. You must not doubt, you must not question, you must obey (Acts 17:11). As a glove is filled by the hand and unquestionably does the will of the hand, so you seek to let go and let God

use you completely in this new ministry. You are dead to self, your self-control is now given up, cast aside completely, that you might be totally yielded to the spirits control (Acts 24:25; Galatians 5:23; II Timothy 3:3; II Peter 1:6). Skeptics melt away like ice before the heat of your words as they must choose between the faith that results in the healing of their loved ones or doubt which returns them to their pain and suffering (Job 2:7). Those who follow you are blessed beyond belief (Luke 4: 5 & 6) , those who oppose you are judged, some with poverty, some with calamity, some with sickness, some with death (Job 1:13 - 19; Revelation 11:7 & 8; 12:11). In your hand is blessing and judgment. All the world acknowledges that not since the days of Moses, of Elijah and of the Apostles has so much good, so many blessings been accomplished by one man and the spiritual force which you command is beyond question (Ephesians 6:12;). The Lord's name is constantly on your tongue, you pray in the name of the Lord Jesus publicly, you prophesy in the name of Jesus, you cast out demons in the name of Jesus, (did not Jesus Himself say "a house divided against itself cannot stand!", how can you not be a prophet of God if you are casting out demons?), you perform miracles in the name of Jesus, how can anyone doubt that you are His prophet and that your words are indeed the Words of God (Matthew 7:21 – 23). You are the one and great prophet and the whole world flocks to your message (Revelation 13:14).

How Would You Respond To Each Of The Following Statements
(Remember, derision and sarcasm prove nothing)

The Pope is in the apostolic line and is himself an apostle, just like Paul.

My pastor has seen Jesus and is an apostle.

My Uncle died and went to heaven and then came back. He knows a lot more about it than you will ever know from your Bible.

This man's words must be from God. He healed my daughter.

This man's words must be from God. He praises God all the time.

An angel appeared and gave me a word from God for you.

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD***JEREMIAH 15:16*****THEME: Extra – Biblical Revelation****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: II Timothy 3:16****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?
Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Revelation 22:18 & 19****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?
Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?****PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Peter 1:20 & 21****How does this passage relate to the theme?****When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?
Explain why:****How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?**

QUIET TIMES ALONE WITH GOD

JEREMIAH 15:16

THEME:

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: I Timothy 4:1 - 3

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?
Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: John 8:44

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?
Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

PASSAGE FOR MEDITATION: Revelation 1:1 - 3

How does this passage relate to the theme?

When I reflect on this passage, does it primarily convict, encourage or challenge me?
Explain why:

How will I apply this passage to my life in the coming week and is there anything I can do today to make this passage a part of my Christian life?

