

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY – BIBLIOLOGY REVELATION

Revelation is the act of God whereby He discloses to mankind what would otherwise not be known. There are two categories of revelation: natural revelation and special revelation.

Natural Revelation

Natural revelation, also called general revelation is God revealing Himself through creation and conscience.

Natural revelation through creation:

- Psalm 19:1 “The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.
- Romans 1:18-20

Natural revelation through conscience:

- Romans 2:14-15

General revelation in scripture:

- Only condemns – Rom. 1:18-20
- Harmonizes with scripture but produces no new material
- In its perceived message needs to be confirmed by scripture
- Must be interpreted in light of special revelation
- It is never equated with scripture by scripture

Special Revelation

Hebrews 1:1-2 “God after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many ways, in these last days has spoken to in *His* Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom He made the world.”

- Many portions = i.e. many portions or parts. The 39 Books in the Old Testament are composed of Law, History, Wisdom, and Prophets.
- In many ways = a variety of communication methods. For example: direct communication, visions and dreams, prophecy, types and symbols, parables, historical narrative, etc.

Special revelation through direct communication:

- Adam and Eve – Gen. 3:9-19
- Cain – Gen. 4:6-15
- Noah – Gen. 6:13
- Abraham – Gen. 12:1 ff
- Saul (Paul) – Acts 9:3-6

Special revelation through dreams and visions:

- Acts 9:10-16
- Acts 16:9-10
- Gen. 15:1-21
- Daniel 7:1-28, 8:1-26
- Amos 1:1
- Obadiah 1:1

Special revelations through Theophanies:

Theophany is a theological term referring to an appearance of God in some tangible form. It comes from the Greek Theos, meaning God and phainein, meaning to appear.

- Gen. 17:1-22, 18:1-33
- Exodus 3:1-9ff

Special revelation through Angels:

- Daniel 9:20-27
- Luke 1:11-19, 1:26-37, 2:8-15
- Luke 24:4-7

Special revelation through the Prophets:

- Samuel, the first prophet – 1Sam. 3:19-20
- Nathan – 2Sam. 7:2-17
- David – Acts 2:29-31
- Jeremiah 1:4-5 & 9

Warnings concerning false prophets: Dt. 13:1-5, Mat. 7:15, 2Pet. 2:1, 1John 4:1

Revelation through the Apostles:

- John 16:13-15

Revelation through Jesus Christ: Heb. 1:1-2

- Jesus is the Living Word = John 1:1 & 14, Rev. 19:11-13
 - Compare John 1:3 with Gen. 1:1-3

Progressive revelation: later revelation that is built on earlier revelation, thus it contains truths that were not previously known.

- Example:
 - The seed of the woman- Gen. 3:15
 - A virgin will bear a son – Isaiah 7:14
 - The virgin's name is Mary, the Son will be named Jesus, and He will be called Immanuel – Matthew 1:20-23