

# The BIBLE (Part 3)

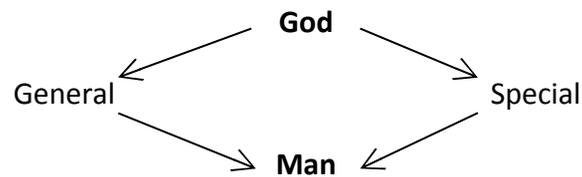
## Lesson 14- Spiritual Discipleship and Growth

**Intro:** The word “revelation” simply means a \_\_\_\_\_, and in theology is applied to God’s \_\_\_\_\_ of Himself to mankind. Without revelation, we wouldn’t know anything about God, or that there even is a God. Therefore we begin this study with the idea that God desires to make Himself \_\_\_\_\_ to man, and has in fact \_\_\_\_\_ Himself.

**1. Revelation Defined:** Revelation is the unveiling of something previously hidden so that it may be seen for what it is.

All revelation is supernatural in that it has God for its source and truth as its end. (Deuteronomy 29:29)

**2. Revelation Explained:** The revelation of God to man falls into two basic categories.



**3. General Revelation:** General (or natural) revelation is the knowledge of God that is derived from the light of natural things.

General revelation is accessible to all men and is addressed to all intelligent creatures. It is the revelation of God to man in:

\_\_\_\_\_ - Psalm 19:1-6

\_\_\_\_\_ - Psalm 9:16

\_\_\_\_\_ - Romans 2:15

General revelation bears witness to the existence of God, the power of God, and the need for God. It does not testify to the personality of God or the plan of salvation.

**4. Special Revelation:** Special revelation is the direct intervention of God in the affairs of this world. It is God revealing Himself through special acts done by God Himself.

This kind of revelation has come to man in various means and at various times.

Through \_\_\_\_\_ - Genesis 37:5-10

Through \_\_\_\_\_ - Daniel 8:1

Through \_\_\_\_\_ - 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Through \_\_\_\_\_ - Numbers 22:28

Through \_\_\_\_\_ - Luke 1:26-37

The crown of God’s special revelation of Himself to man was in the coming to earth of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Living Word. John 1:14

The completion of God’s special revelation of Himself to man is the BIBLE, the written Word.

Special revelation is necessary because of:

The effects of \_\_\_\_\_

The fact that God is SEPARATED and holy that man could not find Him.

Without special revelation, general revelation would be for sinful men incomplete and ineffective.

Without general revelation, special revelation would lack that basis in the fundamental knowledge of God as the mighty and wise, righteous and good, Maker and Ruler of all things.

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**5. 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.

### A. Revelation vs. Inspiration

a. Revelation makes \_\_\_\_\_ known, whereas inspiration provides for its inerrant recording.

b. The Bible contains revelation, whereas the entire Bible is given by inspiration.

The writers of the Bible drew from two different kinds of sources for their narrative.

Special revelation- i.e. things that only God could make known. (Creation, the fall of Satan, etc.)

Personal observation- i.e. known facts resulting from what they writer saw. (The crossing of the Red Sea)

Both kinds of narrative are recorded for us in the Bible. Inspiration ensures both are recorded \_\_\_\_\_!

### c. Revelation is progressive

God did not reveal all the truth at the beginning. Much of it was revealed progressively over the centuries. 1 Peter 1:9-12. An example of progressive revelation may be seen in:

The lineage of the 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.

There is no such thing as \_\_\_\_\_.

All parts of the Bible are inspired of God and equally inspired.

**B. Revelation vs. Illumination:** Illumination is the Holy Spirit given understanding of revelation or revealed truth. The believer enjoys this blessing today as he studies the Word of God.

John 14:26 *“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”*

The presence or absence of illumination with the writers of the Word of God had no bearing on the inspiration of the Bible.

a. Sometimes the words of the Biblical writers were the result of careful research. Luke 1:1-4 In this case, Luke had full understanding of what he was writing.

b. Sometimes the Biblical writers both understood what they were writing and recognized the words they were penning as coming directly from God. 2 Samuel 23:2. In this case, the writer had full illumination as to what was being written.

c. Sometimes the Biblical writers did not know the importance of the words they penned, recognizing them as divine, but not understanding

Whether the writer had illumination or not, inspiration provided that God’s exact message was truthfully recorded.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10 – \_\_\_\_\_ – “Disclosure”

1 Corinthians 2:12 – \_\_\_\_\_ – “Discovery”

1 Corinthians 2:13 – \_\_\_\_\_ – “Documenting”