

The Revelation of God

- I. The Bible is the only book written by God to reveal Himself
 - A. The Bible is the only source of revelation from God with regard to man, his origin, his dilemma, his salvation, and his destiny.
 - B. It is the single measuring standard for man regarding his moral and spiritual values.
 - C. It is true in every detail (even to the very words in the original manuscripts).
 - D. It is believable, authoritative, and absolutely reliable

Note: Unfortunately, this is nit the view of all who claim to be Christian

 - E. God is the creator. Man is the creature. God never gives to the creature the right to evaluate the Creator. All the proof in the world has no effect apart from the convicting work of the Holy Spirit.

II. Something to Think About

- A. Instead of saying (1) prophecy has been fulfilled, the Bible is scientifically accurate, miracles occurred, the Bible produces revolutionary changes in lives, (2) therefore, it is the Word of God. Reverse it and say, (1) the Bible is the Word of God, (2) therefore, these things are true, prophecy, science, miracles, changed lives – these aren't proofs, they are products.
- B. Important Definitions
 1. Revelation – the act of God by which He has made known what was otherwise unknowable. (From the Greek “apokalupto” to unveil something previously hidden). God Himself:
 - a. Removed the obstacles to understanding
 - b. Disclosed who He was, progressively, until the total revelation of God was finally completed at the end of the New Testament.
 - c. Revelation is “what is communicated.”
 - d. Christianity is the unveiling of God (Heb.1:1-2)

2. Inspiration – How it was communicate
3. Illumination – why it was communicate
4. Interpretation – Discovering what was communicated

III. Revelation

A. Natural Revelation

1. How was it revealed?
 - a. Creation (external)
 - b. Conscience (internal)

B. What was revealed about God?

1. His Attributes - 28
 - a. His power
 - b. His Wrath
 - c. His Godhead
 - d. His Glory (Psalm 19)

C. Manner of revelation

1. Comes through man – all men have a God consciousness
2. Revelation made clear in creation

D. Special Revelation: The Holy Scriptures (progressive)

1. God spoke through:
 - a. Theophanies – Visible appearances of God in time
 - 1). Angels (Exodus 16:11-13)
 - 2). A bush (Exodus 3:2)
 - 3). Shekinah Glory (Exodus 3:3)
 - b. Prophecy – God used the mouths of prophets
 - 1). Urim and Thummin (Isaiah 28:6)
 - 2). Casting of lots (Proverbs 16:33)
 - 3) Dreams and Joseph
 - 4) Visions (Ezekiel, Daniel)

- 5) Speaking Directly
- 6) Face-to-face (Deut. 18:18)

c. Miracles

- 1). Revelatory: Communicated that God was speaking.
- 2). Redemptive: Attesting to the faithfulness of God's Word

E. Living Revelation – Jesus Christ (He completes the pattern of God's revelation.

A. Natural Revelation – gives consciousness of God which leads to:

B. Special Revelation – The Word of God which gives intellectual knowledge of God which leads to:

C. Living Revelation – Jesus Christ, then person of God

1. John 5:39. When a person comes to Jesus Christ, it isn't just the consciousness of God, it isn't just the intellectual knowledge of God, it is the spiritual knowledge of God that equals salvation, and that brings the person right back to God.
2. Jesus Christ is not the bringer of revelation; He is the full and living revelation (John 1:18)

IV. Inspiration – The manner in which God revealed Himself

A. Inspiration – (2 Timothy 3:16). The Greek word "theopneustos" means, "God breathed." (Theo = God; pneustos = breath). All Scripture is "breathed out" of God, not breathed in. Therefore, there are no degrees of inspiration – God's Word is absolute.

B. Inspiration is not:

1. A high level of human achievement - Natural
2. God's thoughts given to man – Thought
3. Includes only spiritual and moral teachings – Partial
4. An act of God on the reader – Existential
5. Mechanically dictated – Mechanical

C. Inspiration is:

1. All Scripture is God breathed (2 Timothy 3:16; Galatians 3:8; Psalm 33:6)
2. God is the author of what Scripture says – The Scripture is the oracles of God (Romans 3:2)
3. Prophets were the mouthpieces of God
 - a. Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:4-9; 15:16)
 - b. Isaiah (Isaiah 6:7)
 - c. Ezekiel (Ezekiel 2:10; 3:22)
 - d. Paul (Acts 22:14; 24:14)
 - e. John (John 10:35; Rev. 1:1)
4. No prophecy came from any man but from the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20-21).

D. The Bible is:

1. Infallible (Psalm 19:7)
2. Inerrant (Proverbs 30:5-6)
3. Complete (Revelation 22:18-19)
 - a. No more Apostles
 - b. No more inspired writings
4. Important Note: The writers of the Bible were not inspired but the writings were inspired. Yet, the authors were not secretaries.

E. The Defense of Inspiration.

1. The Bible contains 66 books, with 40 writers, written over a span of 1,600 years.
 - a. There was little chance of collaboration of the writers
 - b. Most writers were simple, unlearned people
 - c. They wrote with absolute confidence
 - d. All claimed they were writing God's Word
2. Old Testament writers

- a. "Thus says the Lord" – 3,808 times (Deut.4:2, 6:1,2, 6-9; 12:32; Amos 3:7)
3. New Testament writers
- a. Verified inspiration of the Old Testament writers 1,000 times (James 4:5; Romans 7:12, 15:4; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Acts 28:25)
 - b. New Testament writers called Old Testament writers "Scripture." (1 Timothy 5:18; Deut. 25:4)
 - c. Peter verified Paul's writings as Scripture (2 Peter 3:15-16)
 - d. Jude quotes Peter as Scripture (Jude 17-18)
 - e. Paul's references to inspiration (Gal.1: 11-12,15,16; Eph. 3:3,4; 1 Cor.11: 23; 15:3; Col.1: 25-26)
4. Testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ (Objective)
- a. Acknowledged the He was the theme of all Scripture (John 5:20; Rev.19: 10; Luke 24:44)
 - b. Christ came to fulfill Scripture (Matt. 5:17; 26:24)
 - 1). Claims Scripture cannot be broken (John 1:35)
 - 2). Bases interpretation on a simple word (Matt.24: 35; Isa.51: 6; 1 Peter 1:23)
 - 3). Acknowledges power of the Word (Matt.4:4-10)
 - 4) Confirmed accounts of the Old Testament
 - a). Creation of Adam and eve (Matt. 19:4-5)
 - b). Murder of Abel (Luke 11:51)
 - c). Noah and the flood (Matt. 24:37)
 - d). Circumcision (John 7:22-23)
 - e). Destruction of Sodom and Lot's wife (Luke 17:20.32)
 - f). The call of Moses and the Law (Mark 12:26)
 - g). Manna (John 6:31-51)
 - h). Brazen serpent (John 3:14)
 - c. Jesus quoted the Old Testament 180 times
 - d. Thus – this presents a three-fold possibility
 - 1). There are no errors in Scripture

- 2). There are, but Christ didn't know it – ignorant, therefore not God
- 3). There are, and He knew it, but covered it up – lied, therefore not God

5. The Testimony of the Holy Spirit – Subjective

- a. Belief that Scripture is PRODUCED by the Holy Spirit
 - 1). Not intellectual or reason (1 Cor. 2:7-14)
 - 2). One believes the Bible through faith (inside) not reason (outside)
- b. Sin of man causes HOSTILITY, not stupidity toward God: RESULT: Man does not want to accept truth (Romans 1:18-21)
- c. Hearing the Word comes before BELIEVING (Romans 10:17)

6. The Bible can testify to its own authority

- a. It is unique
 - 1). Only book that gives the ACT OF SPECIAL CREATION
 - 2). Only book that gives a continuous record of the FIRST MAN, to the PRESENT ERA, to the FUTURE
 - 3). Only book of ancient history that gives A PURPOSE
 - 4). Only book which is the PUREST RELIGIOUS LITERATURE with the HIGHEST MORAL STANDARDS
 - 5). Only book of antiquity containing DETAILED PROPHECY OF EVENTS TO COME ACCURATELY
 - 6). Only book that CONVICTS MEN OF SIN and LEADS THEM TO SALVATION
- b. It has unity (2 Tim. 3:16) – Based on one single author – God
 - 1). Harmony in different writers

- a). 66 different books
 - b). 40 human writers
 - c). 1600 years (Moses to John)
 - d). Different location of writers
 - e). 3 different languages
 - f). Different lifestyles
 - g). Different occupations
 - h). Different events
 - i). Variety of literature: Poetry, History, Theology, Proverbs, Parables, Allegory, etc.
- 2). Harmony in format
- a). Revelation (OT) Pentateuch (NT) Gospels
 - b). History: Joshua through Ester; (NT) Acts
 - c). Devotion: (OT) Job through Song of Solomon; (NT) Epistles
 - d). Prophecy (OT) Isaiah through Malachi; (NT) Revelation
- 3). Harmony in plan – Perfect historical continuity and final accomplishment
- a). In the OT: Salvation prepared
 - b). In the Gospels: Salvation effected
 - c). In Acts: Salvation preached
 - d). In the Epistles: Salvation explained
 - e). In Revelation: Salvation fulfilled
- c. In its indestructibility – God’s Word partakes of God’s nature. God is eternal, so His Word is eternal (Psalm 119:89)

***The grass withers, the flowers fade; but the word of God abides forever
Isaiah 40:8***

V. Tests to verify authenticity of the 66 books of the Bible

A. How they were the books chosen?

1. Was it inspired by God and written by a prophet or someone who had the gift of prophecy? (Prophecy = proclaiming truth not foretelling the future)

2. Was it accepted, preserved, and read by God's people at the time – the Israelites
3. Was the book authored by an Apostle or someone closely associated with an Apostle?
4. Did the content agree with the Apostle's doctrine?
5. Was the book read and used in the churches? Did the people of God read it during worship and make it part of their daily lives?
6. Was the book used by the next generation of believers after the early church?