

Revelation

Revelation is God's self-revelation about Himself, his relationship with His world, and things which could not be known any other way.

Revelation is revelation of: Who God is. - Not Info About God.

When we think about revelation the first question we need to ask ourselves is what could we know about God by forcing Him to tell us anything. The obvious answer is that we do not have any power over God and we could not force Him to tell us anything. So we must remember that revelation is God revealing Himself to us. God is revealing Himself so we can know Him. Not that we can know facts or things about God but that we can know Him.

General Revelation: Gods self-revelation which men can know by thinking about his existence, nature, history, and human life in general.

Psalms 19:1-4, John 1:1-9, Acts 14:16-17,

Acts 17:26-29, Romans 1:18-21, Romans 1:28-32, Romans 2:14-16, Matt 5:45

General revelation is the idea that you can see God's handprint in the creation of this world. He created this world to put us in it. So that we could have our lives here. He formed it. He created the plants, the animals, all things for us to see his handprint in it. If you stop to think about it, the planet runs itself very well. It's because God set it up to function perfectly. Look at the beauty of the plants. Look at the beauty of the body of animals, how they function to live. And think about your own body. It is a miracle of creation. So as we look at nature, we can see God's handprint in it. Because this is the place He made for us to live.

Special Revelation: The unique self-revelation of God through his acts in the history Israel, and above all through Jesus Christ, through the Bible.

Our reference is the entirety of Scripture.

Special revelation is very different. It is the history of God's actions as He interacts with His creation. There was a time God walked in the garden with Adam and Eve. He did this so that they could know Him. There was a time God spoke to the people through prophets. He did this so that they could know Him. There was a time God sent his Son so we would have the clearest picture of who God is. He did this so that we could know Him. The Bible is God's written record of his relationship with His creation. And it records for us the perfect picture of God. If you want to know God. Read the Bible. If you want to see God, read the Gospels. They show us Jesus, who was the clearest picture of God for us.

The Bible

1. What is the Bible?

It is God's history of His work to save men from their sins.

The Bible is God's history of his having been actively involved in trying to save men from their sins. It is God's personal history with the people of His creation. This personal involvement is relationship. So the Bible is the history of God's relationship with His creation.

2. History

- A. Genesis, the first book written 1400 years before Christ was born on earth.
Revelation of John written 100 years after Jesus was born on earth.
- B. Divided into the sections of the Old Testament(39 books) and New Testament(27 books)

3. Authority of the Bible

Bible is God-given

- 1. It is the only book given to humans by God.
 - 2. It is consistent in it's testimony for 1500 years.
 - 3. True in human history.
 - 4. True in the hearts of man.
- Deut. 4:1-2, Is. 40:8, Romans 16:25-26,
Deut. 17:18-19, Psalms 119:88-89, John 5:39,
2 Tim. 3:14-17, 2 Pet. 1:19-21

The authority of the Bible in our lives is founded on the fact that it is the only book given by God to men. It is God inspiring people to write his history of relationship. And over 1500 years He inspired different men to write different sections of his history. The more we read the Bible and the more we study, we realize how true it is in human history. As we read the Bible, God's Holy Spirit works in us to help us to understand it. So as we read it, our heart calls out that this is true.

4. Why did God give the Bible?

- A. So that men could understand the necessity and the way to be saved.
2 Tim. 3:15-17, Romans 10:17
- B. So that Christians would know how to live as God desires.
Psalms 119:103-105, 2 Tim. 3:14-17

God gave us the Bible so that we would know Him. And by knowing Him we would recognize how sinful we are. That recognition should lead us to repent for our sins. This leads us to living in a new relationship with God. The second reason God gave us

Scripture, is so we would learn how we should live in a relationship to each other. If God's love calls us to live in a peaceful, loving relationship with Him, we should also live in a good relationship with our neighbors.

5. What is the message of the Bible?

A. God Himself.

John 14:9-10, John 16:25, Matt. 11:27

B. The Way of Salvation, and for Man to know how we should live.

Inspiration: What do we mean by inspiration?

God enabled certain ones to understand and interpret Gods acts in history. This is true in both the Old & New Testaments. In the Old Testament, we are repeatedly seeing God raising up prophets to speak a word for Him. They were inspired by God to understand his actions and explain the why of what God was doing. So we say they were inspired by God.

As God moved and took action in the history of their times He gifted them to record their view (perspective) of God's Actions & Words. God's Spirit guided them & gave them remembrance and understanding of His word and actions.

This is the reason that you can find inconsistencies in scripture in the specifics of events, or historical type statements that are not consistent with each other. It is because God inspired different men to write from their perspective. These men were neither scientists nor historians. So they weren't that concerned with science or the history of different events in their time. What was important to them was that God is in relationship with His creation. So what they want to tell us is God's actions that clearly show how much He loves us and how He wants us to live with each other. So the heart of the message they are communicating runs consistent and clear throughout the 1,500 years that the scriptures were set to written form.

Summary: The Bible

Manifestation: The acts of God in history, for a redemptive purpose - as in Jesus Christ.

Inspiration: God enabled certain ones to understand and interpret Gods acts in history.

*Two words that need to be understood clearly they are **manifestation** and **inspiration**.*

*The best way to understand **Manifestation** is God's hand when God does something. It is the acts of God. It is his hand.*

*The best way to understand **Inspiration** is God God telling us why He was doing the things when He acted. When we look at the Old Testament. We see God continually raising up a prophet. That prophet was there to give an understanding to the people of God's actions. When we look at the Bible, we see God acting and explaining his actions. Or we see Him telling us what he's going to do and then Him doing it. Inspiration is God's mouth.*

It would not help us in any way if God never explained what He was doing. We would have no way of understanding his actions. It would not help us if we did not know how God wanted us to live. So his words make his actions clear. There is always a connection between the word-action or action-word.

We see this repeatedly in God raising up prophets in the Old Testament. But have you ever thought about why we do not see prophets in the New Testament? Why did God not feel the need to raise up profits in the New Testament? The answer is simple. God did not need prophets in the New Testament. This is because of what Isaiah told us. A virgin shall conceive and bring forth a son. Emmanuel, God with us. As John starts his gospel, the Word became flesh and walked among us. So we still see the connection between hand and mouth of God in the New Testament. The perfection of this connection is Jesus Christ. Jesus was God with us, Emmanuel. He was the perfection of God's hand and word. We saw Jesus doing what God wanted Him to do. And we see Jesus teaching us, so we understand the actions.

Word/Action or Action/Word = Jesus Christ

Illumination: That God acts in every age helping people understand the inspiration of manifestation leading to salvation and Christian service. II Peter 1:19-21,
II Timothy 3:14-17

Illumination is when God helps us to understand the importance of His action and His words in our personal life and our personal time. God's Holy Spirit illuminates us. He helps us to understand. And the word used illumination is because the lights come on in our mind. And suddenly in darkness, we see clearly. We are illuminated. God helps us to understand. So that we can know Him. And so that we can know how we should live.

What is the message of the Bible? God Himself.

As God reveals himself in his interactions with his people, we see these recorded for us in the Bible. In these interactions, we see who God really is. That is the purpose of the Bible. There is the old statement that actions speak louder than words. And what we have in the Bible is the history of God's interactions. And by looking at his actions, they tell us who he really is. This is the reason we say that the message of the Bible is so that you can know God himself.

The life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is The Living Action/Word...Word/Action of God. John 14:9-10.

In the Old Testament, we repeatedly see the process of God speaking to a prophet. To give the people a word from him. That word was to explain an action. Or to tell the people why God was going to do something. Or to warn the people not to do something or God's action would be the result. We always see God raising up a prophet to speak so the people can understand the meaning of his actions.

We must recognize this pattern of word - action, word - action. In the Old Testament God always used a prophet to speak his words so the people could understand his actions.

This is the reason John in his gospel in the first chapter uses the term the "Word" for Jesus. Jesus was the perfection of God's word and actions combined. This is the reason Jesus said the words that I speak are the words that my Father gives me. This is the reason Jesus said he is here doing the will of his Father. In Jesus we have the clearest picture of who God is. Because he is the perfection of God's words and God's actions. This is the reason we say if you want to see God, look at Jesus.

Do you remember when Philip said to Jesus, just show us the Father and we'll be satisfied. What was Jesus's response? He said to Philip, have I been with you so long that you haven't seen who I am? Remember who the prophet Isaiah said Jesus would be? He would be Emmanuel. God with us. Do you want to see God? Look at Jesus. Listen to his words, study his actions.

Why did God give us the Bible?

God gave us the Bible so that we would know the way of salvation and be saved, and know how we should live.

II Timothy 3:14-17, Romans 10:17, Psalm 119:103-105

The second reason God gave us the Bible is that through Jesus we could see clearly how to be saved. Through Jesus' teaching, we understand we must confess our sins.

Through Jesus' teachings, we understand we must repent of our sins. Jesus's teachings make it clear that being saved is living in a relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus made it very clear that He is the way, the truth, and the light. No one comes unto the Father except through him. God gave us the Bible so that we would know how to live in a relationship of salvation.

KEY:

God has preserved the testimony of the coming, the life, the death, the resurrection, and the completion of God's work through Jesus Christ in the Bible. John 14:9-10

The Bible is God's history of his relationship with His creation and his relationship with us. It helps us to understand God's love. It helps us to understand how God wants us to live. The Bible is God's word to us. As we read the Bible, God's Holy Spirit works in our heart and our minds to turn the lights on. So that we can see our life in relationship to God and to other people. He illuminates us so we can understand the seriousness of sin. That if we live our lives in separation from God then we live our lives destined for hell. But if we live our lives seeking to follow God's teachings then at the end of our lives, God will give us the desire of our heart, to be with Him.

This is the reason one of the most important things you can do is to read the Gospels over and over. They show you the clearest picture of God. In Jesus we see who God is. In Jesus we see how God wants us to relate to each other. In Jesus we see how God wants us to relate to Him. So if you want to see God, read the Gospels and see Jesus. Because Jesus is the perfect picture of the hand and the mouth of God.