

## **Week 7: God's Revelation to Humanity (Part 1)**

Revelation is how God makes Himself known to humanity. This week, we will examine two key forms of God's revelation: general revelation, which is accessible to all people, and special revelation, through which God reveals His specific purposes and plan for salvation.

### **General Revelation**

General revelation refers to God's self-disclosure through the natural world, human conscience, and reason. It is universal, available to everyone, and testifies to God's existence and attributes.

#### **Nature as a Witness**

Biblical Basis: "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands" (Psalm 19:1).

Creation points to God's power, wisdom, and beauty, providing evidence of His existence (Romans 1:19-20).

Nature's complexity and order inspire awe and direct us to a Creator.

#### **Conscience and Moral Awareness**

Biblical Basis: "They show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness" (Romans 2:15).

The moral law within us reflects God's character and provides an innate sense of right and wrong.

#### **Human Reason and Intellect**

Humanity's capacity for reasoning, creativity, and inquiry mirrors the image of God and points to His design.

Philosophical arguments for God's existence, such as the cosmological and teleological arguments, rely on human reason to discern divine truth.

#### **Limitations of General Revelation**

While general revelation reveals God's existence and attributes, it is insufficient to lead to a full understanding of His plan for salvation. It prepares the way for special revelation.

### **Special Revelation**

Special revelation is God's specific and direct communication to humanity, primarily through Scripture and the person of Jesus Christ. It provides clarity about God's character, will, and the means of salvation.

#### **Scripture as Special Revelation**

Biblical Basis: "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16).

The Bible is God's inspired Word, revealing His redemptive plan, His commandments, and His promises. Scripture is the ultimate authority for faith and practice, guiding believers in their relationship with God.

### **The Person of Christ**

Biblical Basis: “The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son” (John 1:14).

Jesus Christ is the fullest and most personal expression of God’s revelation. In Him, God’s character, love, and purpose are made tangible.

Through His life, death, and resurrection, Christ provides the ultimate revelation of God’s plan for salvation.

### **The Role of the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit illuminates special revelation, helping believers understand and apply God’s Word.

Biblical Basis: “But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth” (John 16:13).

Practical Implications

Understanding general and special revelation deepens our faith and equips us to respond to God’s call.

### **Worship and Awe**

General revelation inspires worship as we see God’s majesty in creation. Special revelation draws us closer to God’s heart through His Word and His Son.

### **Evangelism and Discipleship**

General revelation serves as a starting point for conversations about faith, while special revelation provides the foundation for sharing the gospel.

### **Christian Living**

Special revelation in Scripture offers practical guidance for daily life, shaping our values, decisions, and relationships.

### **Conclusion**

God’s revelation to humanity is a testament to His desire for relationship and His commitment to making Himself known. Through nature and conscience, He reveals His power and majesty. Through Scripture and Christ, He reveals His love and plan for redemption.

Next week, we will continue exploring special revelation, focusing on the inspiration, authority, and interpretation of Scripture.