

## **Revelation, Inspiration, and Illumination**

**(1 Corinthians 2:9-13** But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. **10** But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. **11** For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even, so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. **12** Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. **13** Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.) So, we see revelation in verse 10, illumination in verse 12, and inspiration in verse 13.

**(1 Corinthians 2:9** But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. **Isaiah 64:4** For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.) Man can't naturally see, hear, or be influenced by the effect of the things God has prepared for them that love Him, so God had to take three supernatural actions so that we could understand God's things pertaining unto us— revelation, inspiration and illumination.

### **Revelation**

**(1 Corinthians 2:10** But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.) Revealed *apokalúpto*; “Literally, to remove a veil or to cover exposed to open view what was before hidden. To make manifest or reveal a thing previously secret or unknown.” (*Lewis Sperry Chafer Systematic Theology* Vol. 1 and 2, “When Speaking about Bibliology,” p. 48). “In its theological usage, the term revelation is restricted to the divine act of communicating to man what otherwise man wouldn't know.” **(Genesis 3:1** Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye, shall not eat of every tree of the garden?) Revelation is distinguished from reason. “As here considered, [reason] indicates man's intellectual and moral faculties in pursuing truth apart from supernatural aid.”

### **Inspiration**

A supernatural interposition into the affairs of men. This implies two divine operations, mainly *revelation*, which is the direct divine influence which communicates truth from God to man; and *inspiration*, which is the direct divine influence which secures an accurate transference of truth into a language which others may understand. An example of revelation is when God told Joseph to flee with Mary and the infant to Egypt; however, the exact words from the dream were not given to us (which would have been inspiration). Inspiration, at times, also doesn't need revelation in the strictest sense because many times, they wrote what they saw.

### **Illumination**

Christ opens the understanding of the Scripture **(Luke 24:45** Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the Scriptures.), as does the Spirit **(1 Corinthians 2:12** Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. **1 John 2:27** But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.) These verses describe “illumination, being the divine unfolding of Scriptures;” illumination does not mean inspiration. It does not “contemplate an inspired and infallible transmission into the language of the Spirit's teaching.”

### **The Nature of Revelation**

1. God revealed through nature **(Psalm 19:1-6** The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork. **2** Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. **3** There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. **4** Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them hath he set a tabernacle for the sun, **5** Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race. **6** His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof. **Romans 1:19-23** Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. **20** For the invisible

Wednesday, July 13, 2022

things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: **21** Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. **22** Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, **23** And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.)

2. God revealed through providence. “Providence is the execution in all its detail of the divine program of the ages; that such a program exists is not only reasonable to the last degree but is abundantly outlined in Scripture (Deuteronomy 30:1-10; Daniel 2:31-45; 7:1-28; 9:24-27; Hosea 3:4-5; Matthew 23:37-25, 46; Acts 15:13-18; Romans 11:13-29; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12; Revelation 2:1-22:21). The far-flung purposes of God which sweep the ages from eternity past to eternity to come are also perfect in their minutest details, even the embracing of the falling sparrow and the numbering of the hairs of the head.” (p. 55) (**Romans 8:28** And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.)

“The doctrine of divine providence is not without its problems. It cannot be otherwise so long as sin and suffering are in the world. Nevertheless, a greater understanding of the divine purposes and the necessary means God employs to meet those ends offers much in the direction of solutions to these difficulties. God’s revelation of Himself through providence is limitless. History is His story, and on the pages of Scripture He has so related Himself to future events both by covenants and predictions that assurances are given that there will be a perfect consummation of all things and the end will justify the means used to secure it.” (p. 56)

3. God revealed through preservation. The second person of the Trinity, The Son of God, or Christ, preserves first: creation (**Colossians 1:16-17** For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: **17** And he is before all things, and by him, all things consist. **Hebrews 11:3** Through faith, we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. **Hebrews 1:10** And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning, hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: **Hebrews 1:3** Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.)

Second, Christ is the Bestower and Sustainer of life (**John 1:4** In him was life, and the life was the light of men. **5:26** For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; **Acts 17:25** Neither is worshiped with men’s hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; **1 Corinthians 15:45** And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.) Christ gives us eternal life (**John 10:10** The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly. **10:28** And I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.) Christ is the life which He gives (**Colossians 1:27** To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: **1 John 5:12** He that hath the Son hath life: and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.)

“In the Old Testament, the title Almighty God (*El Shaddai*) conveys the truth that God sustains His people. The term indicates more than that God is a God of strength. That He is, but the title includes imparting His strength as a child draws succour from the mother’s breast. The word *shad*, combined in *El Shaddai*, means breast and supports the conception of a mother’s nourishment imparted to her child.” (p. 56)

4. God revealed through miracles (**Matthew 11:2-6** Now when John had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, **3** And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? **4** Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and show John again those things which ye do hear and see: **5** The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. **6** And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.) Satan is also revealed through supernatural works (**2 Corinthians 11:14** And no marvel, for Satan himself, is transformed into an angel of light.)

5. God revealed through direct communication (**Deuteronomy 34:10** And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face.)
6. God revealed through the incarnation (John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him. **Colossians 2:9** For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. **Hebrews 1:2-3** Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; **3** Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high).
7. God revealed in the Scriptures (**1 John 5:9-12** If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. **10** He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. **11** And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. **12** He that hath the Son hath life: and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.)

### Seven Features of Revelation

1. Divine revelation is varied in its themes.
2. Divine revelation is partial (**Deuteronomy 29:29** The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.)
3. Concerning the facts revealed, Divine revelation is complete. As to the Son, He is the fullness of the Godhead bodily (**Colossians 2:9** For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.), and as to the final salvation of all who believe, they are complete. (**Colossians 2:10** And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power.) Though complete in Him now, they are yet to be conformed to His image (**Romans 8:29** For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. **1 John 3:2** Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.)
4. Divine revelation is progressive. "Its plan of procedure is expressed by words (**Mark 4:28** For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.). Each book of the Bible avails itself of the accumulated truth that has gone before. The last book is like a vast union station into which all highways of revelation and prediction converge and terminate. No complete understanding of revealed truth can be gained apart from its consummation in the book, and the book, in turn, cannot be understood apart from the apprehension of all that has gone before. The last book of the Bible is the revelation supreme." (p. 60)
5. Divine revelation is primarily unto redemption (**2 Timothy 3:15** And that from a child thou hast known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.)
6. Divine revelation is final (**Jude 1:3** Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.)
7. Divine revelation is accurate to the point of infinite (**2 Timothy 3:16** All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:)