

Overview of the Bible

The Revelation of God

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Lesson 2

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- I. The necessity of revelation
- II. God reveals Himself
- III. God reveals Jesus Christ's true identity
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The Revelation of God

God makes Himself known to humanity.

People cannot discover Him on their own.

God accomplishes this in many ways, but mainly through his Son Jesus Christ.

1. What separates God from man? Isaiah 59:2

I. The necessity of revelation

A. God is hidden from human view
because of sin

Isaiah 59:2

2 But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God,
And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

2. Why does God hide His face from man? Micah 3:4

Micah 3:4

4 Then they will cry out to the LORD, But He will not answer them. Instead, He will hide His face from them at that time Because they have practiced evil deeds.

Because they have practiced evil deeds.

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B. People are ignorant of God

Acts 17:23

23 “For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, ‘TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.’ Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you.

3. Why should Christians examine themselves to see if they are “in the faith”? 2 Cor. 13:5

2 Cor. 13: 5

5 Test yourselves *to see* if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?

a. Christian beliefs and practices must be "in the faith", meaning according to God's will.

b. The written Word of God is inspired and is the complete revelation of God. The Word of God is accurate, authoritative and sufficient to give us the information required for salvation.

c. Christians believe everything they need to know in order to be saved is contained within the written record of God's Word.

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C. People cannot know God without His Word

Matthew 11:25–27

25 At that time Jesus said, “I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that **You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent and have revealed them to infants.**

26 “Yes, Father, for this way was well-pleasing in Your sight.

27 “All things have been handed over to Me by My Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father; nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and **anyone to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.**

4. What can we learn from 2 Peter 1: 2-3?

2 Peter 1: 2-3

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord;

3 seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.

A. The Bible teaches what all Christians need to know in order to live a godly life.

B. God's will has been fully revealed, is forever valid and does not need to be revealed again.

5. How does the Psalmist describe Scriptures? Ps. 119: 105

II. God reveals Himself

A. In the Scriptures

Psalm 119:105

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

a. God's Word is a lamp to my feet

b. God's Word is a light to my path

6. How does God communicate His will to us? Pro. 6: 23; 2 Tim. 3: 16

Proverbs 6:23

23 For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; And reproofs for discipline are the way of life

2 Timothy 3:16

16 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

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A.1 All scripture is inspired, sufficient, accurate, authoritative and trustworthy.

2 Peter 1:19–21

19 So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts.

20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation,

21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

7. Who does God send to assist the Apostles with teaching? Luke 12: 12; Jn. 14:26

B. By the Holy Spirit

Luke 12:12

12 for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.

John 14:26

26 “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”

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1 Corinthians 2:10

10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.

Ephesians 1:17

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him.

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C. In Jesus Christ

John 12:49

49 “For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak.

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Hebrews 1:1–2

1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,

2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.

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D. In creation

Psalm 19:1

1 The heavens are telling of the glory of God;
And their expanse is declaring the work of
His hands.

Psalm 97:6

6 The heavens declare His righteousness,
And all the peoples have seen His glory. 17

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E. Through the prophets

Amos 3:7

7 Surely the Lord GOD does nothing Unless
He reveals His secret counsel To His
servants the prophets.

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1 Peter 1: 10-12

10 As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries,

11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.

12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.

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E. In visions and dreams

Daniel 1:17

17 As for these four youths, God gave them knowledge and intelligence in every branch of literature and wisdom;

Daniel even understood all kinds of visions and dreams.

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Acts 9:10

10 Now there was a disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” And he said, “Here I am, Lord.”

Acts 16:9

9 A vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.”

8. How does Peter identify Jesus in Matt. 16: 16-17?

III. God reveals Jesus Christ's true identity

Matthew 16: 16-17

16 Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

17 And Jesus said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.

“You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

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IV. Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God

Colossians 1:15

**15 He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation.**

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2 Peter 1:17–18

17 For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased”—

18 and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

9. How does the Hebrew writer identify Jesus? Heb. 1: 3

Hebrews 1:3

3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

- a. He is the radiance of His glory
- b. The exact representation of His nature
- c. Upholds all things by the word of His power
- d. He had made purification of sins
- e. He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

10. What does God reveal in His Word to us? Dan. 2:22; Rom.1: 16-17; 3: 21;1: 18; 2: 5; Ps. 98: 2;
Titus 2: 11; Is. 40:5; Eph. 3: 2-3; 2 Tim. 2: 10

V. God reveals in His Word:

A. Hidden mysteries

Daniel 2:22

22 “It is He who reveals the profound and hidden things; He knows what is in the darkness, And the light dwells with Him.”

10. What does God reveal in His Word to us? Dan. 2:22; Rom.1: 16-17; 3: 21;1: 18; 2: 5; Ps. 98: 2;
Titus 2: 11; Is. 40:5; Eph. 3: 2-3; 2 Tim. 2: 10

B. His righteousness

Romans 1:16-17

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “But the righteous *man* shall live by faith.”

10. What does God reveal in His Word to us? Dan. 2:22; Rom.1: 16-17; 3: 21;1: 18; 2: 5; Ps. 98: 2; Titus 2: 11; Is. 40:5; Eph. 3: 2-3; 2 Tim. 2: 10

Romans 3:21

21 But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

2a. The righteousness of God had been manifested

2b. Witnessed by the Law and the Prophets

10. What does God reveal in His Word to us? Dan. 2:22; Rom.1: 16-17; 3: 21;1: 18; 2: 5; Ps. 98: 2;
Titus 2: 11; Is. 40:5; Eph. 3: 2-3; 2 Tim. 2: 10

C. His wrath

Romans 1:18

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,

Romans 2:5

5 But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,

10. What does God reveal in His Word to us? Dan. 2:22; Rom.1: 16-17; 3: 21;1: 18; 2: 5; Ps. 98: 2;
Titus 2: 11; Is. 40:5; Eph. 3: 2-3; 2 Tim. 2: 10

D. His salvation

Psalm 98:2

**2 The LORD has made known His salvation;
He has revealed His righteousness in the
sight of the nations.**

Titus 2:11

**11 For the grace of God has appeared,
bringing salvation to all men,**

10. What does God reveal in His Word to us? Dan. 2:22; Rom.1: 16-17; 3: 21;1: 18; 2: 5; Ps. 98: 2;
Titus 2: 11; Is. 40:5; Eph. 3: 2-3; 2 Tim. 2: 10

E. His glory

Isaiah 40:5

5 Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, And all flesh will see it together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

10. What does God reveal in His Word to us? Dan. 2:22; Rom.1: 16-17; 3: 21;1: 18; 2: 5; Ps. 98: 2; Titus 2: 11; Is. 40:5; Eph. 3: 2-3; 2 Tim. 2: 10

F. The mystery of the gospel

Ephesians 3:2–3

2 if indeed you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace which was given to me for you;

3 that by revelation **there was made known to me the mystery**, as I wrote before in brief.

2 Timothy 1:10

10 but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light **through the gospel**,