

# REVELATION: *How God Has Spoken to Us*

**Central Truth: Without God revealing Himself, we cannot know the truth about Him, His will, or salvation.**

## I. GENERAL REVELATION — WHAT NATURE TELLS US

---

- Definition: God revealing Himself through the physical world and human nature (Rom. 1:19–20)
- **A. Revealed through Creation:**
  - The heavens declare God's glory (Psa. 19:1; 97:6)
  - Stars, oceans, seasons, and weather testify of a Creator (Isa. 40:26; Psa. 18:12–14)
  - Job 12:7–9 — even animals point to the Creator
  - Nature shows God is orderly → implies moral and spiritual laws
- **B. Revealed through Human Conscience:**
  - Man made in God's image (Gen. 1:27–28; Psa. 8)
  - Every person has an innate sense of right and wrong (Rom. 2:14–15)
  - Universal moral standards across all cultures confirm this
- **C. Limitations of General Revelation:**
  - Can reveal there is a God and expose sin — but cannot save (Rom. 1:20; 2:12)
  - Cannot teach salvation, the cross, or the resurrection

## II. SPECIAL REVELATION — WHAT SCRIPTURE TELLS US

---

- Definition: God telling us things that cannot be learned from nature alone — the plan of salvation, the cross, the resurrection
- **A. How God Spoke in the Old Testament:**
  - Through the prophets — agents of divine revelation (Heb. 1:1–2)
  - Through dreams and visions (Daniel 2; Acts 10)
  - Through theophanies — direct appearances of God (e.g., burning bush, Ex. 3:14)
  - "Thus says the Lord" appears 415 times in the OT
- **B. How God Speaks in the New Testament:**
  - Through His Son — the exact imprint of His nature (Heb. 1:3; John 1:14)
  - Through the apostles — NT counterparts to the prophets (Eph. 2:20)
  - Only through special revelation can man find salvation (Acts 4:12; Rom. 10:14–17)

## III. INTERPRETING GENERAL & SPECIAL REVELATION

---

- General and special revelation never truly contradict — God is consistent (Num. 23:19; Titus 1:2)
- When conflicts appear, the problem is in our interpretation, not in God's revelation
- Two key principles:
  - God's revelation is always right; our interpretation may not be
  - When a conflict arises, give priority to the interpretation that is more certain

#### **IV. FALSE PROPHETS OF GOD'S REVELATION**

---

- All false religion distorts or ignores God's revelation (Jer. 5:30–31; 14:14)
- God's litmus test for a true prophet (Deut. 18):
  - The office was a gift from God — not self-appointed (2 Pet. 1:20–21)
  - Spoke only what God authorized — nothing added (Deut. 18:18–20)
  - Possessed superhuman knowledge — 100% accuracy, never failed (Deut. 18:22)
  - Validated by miracles (Ex. 7:9–10; 2 Cor. 12:12)
  - Words harmonized with past revelation — no contradictions (Deut. 13:4–5)
- Modern false teachers: claims of new prophecy, healing, personal words from God must be tested (1 John 4:1)

#### **CONCLUSION**

---

- Without revelation, we are spiritually blind (Matt. 11:5)
- Revelation is the lifeblood of our relationship with God
- We must diligently test preachers and teachers against Scripture (1 John 4:1; Acts 17:11)