

Theology

General and Special Revelation



WEST SOUND COMMUNITY CHURCH

Summer 2021

Knowing God at all requires something on the part of God and something on the part of humanity. God's part is his desire to communicate with us. Without him revealing himself there would be no knowledge of him. Our part is our ability to receive what God reveals. Some aspects of what God reveals we can receive because of our mental faculties. Yet other aspects of what God reveals can only be received through the spirit. When this all comes together we call it revelation...God makes himself known to us.

There are two types of revelation: general and special...

1. General Revelation in Nature

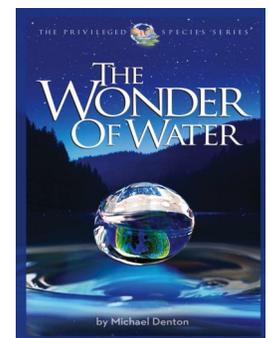
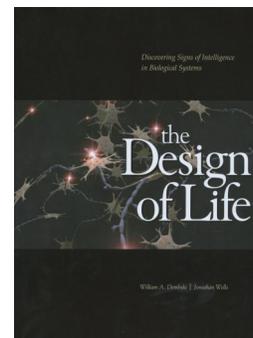
Definition: the truth about God found in nature, history, and conscience

Psalm 119:1,2 *"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge."*

Acts 14:15-17 *"Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness."*

Romans 1:19 *"For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse."*

Example: Ecclesiastes: 1:4-7 *"A generation goes, and a generation comes, but the earth remains forever. The sun rises, and the sun goes down, and hastens to the place where it rises. The wind blows to the south and goes around to the north; around and around goes the wind, and on its circuits the wind returns. All streams run to the sea, but the sea is not full; to the place where the streams flow, there they flow again."*



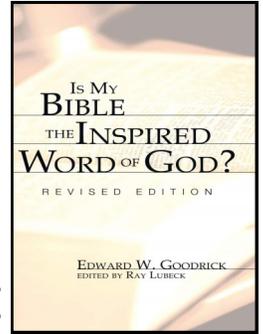
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Theology: General and Special Revelation

2. Special Revelation through the Bible

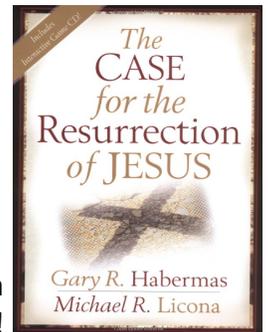
Definition: specific, eternal truth delivered through miracles and inspiration

2 Timothy 3:16, 17 *“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”*



Can you honestly and truthfully claim that your Bible translation is the inspired Word of God?

Hebrews 2:1-4 *“Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it. For since the message declared by angels proved to be reliable, and every transgression or disobedience received a just retribution, how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and it was attested to us by those who heard, while God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.”*



If you're interested in knowing the evidence for the resurrection and sharing it with others, then you must read this book!

2. Special Revelation through the Son of God, Jesus Christ

Definition: eternal truth and reality of God demonstrated in the incarnation

John 1:1-4, 14 *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men.”*

“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

Hebrews 1:1-3 *“Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.”*

Application:

What is one take away you can arrive at right now?

If you are not convinced, what are you going to do about it?

