
Week 2 — God Has Spoken

1. Opening Questions

2. The Need for Revelation

3. How Has God Revealed Himself?

- John Frame: word of God as “his powerful, authoritative self-expression.”¹

¹ John M. Frame, *Salvation Belongs to the Lord: An Introduction to Systematic Theology* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2006), 43.

Powerful

- John Frame: *Never take the Word of God for granted. Never treat it as just another academic text...If you hear it as young Samuel, responding, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant hears,' then that powerful Word will use its great power on your behalf.*²

Authoritative

Self-Expression

- C.S. Lewis: *The story of Christ is the true myth: a myth working on us in the same way as the others, but with this tremendous difference that it really happened.*³

General Revelation

² John M. Frame, *Salvation Belongs to the Lord: An Introduction to Systematic Theology* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2006), 45.

³ C. S. Lewis to Arthur Greeves, October 18, 1931, in *The Collected Letters of C. S. Lewis, Volume I: Family Letters, 1905–1931*, ed. Walter Hooper (San Francisco: HarperSanFrancisco, 2004), 977.

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- Bavinck: *No creature can see or understand God as he is and as he speaks in himself. Revelation therefore is always an act of grace; in it God condescends to meet his creature, a creature made in his image. All revelation is anthropomorphic, a kind of humanization of God.*⁴
 - John Calvin: *There is within the human mind, and indeed by natural instinct, an awareness of divinity (sensus divinitatis).*⁵

Special Revelation

4. The Characteristics of Scripture

Necessity

Authority

Sufficiency

⁴ Herman Bavinck, John Bolt, and John Vriend, *Reformed Dogmatics: Prolegomena, vol. 1* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2003), 310.

⁵ John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, ed. John T. McNeill, trans. Ford Lewis Battles, vol. 1 & 2, The Library of Christian Classics (Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2011), 43.

Clarity

- Grudem: *Everything you need to believe in Christ, live as a disciple of Christ, and grow as a disciple of Christ is clear and understandable in Scripture.*⁶

5. The Benefits of Scripture

- John Frame, commenting on John 1: *So the word is God, and God is the word. Where God is, the word is, and vice versa. God's word is not only powerful and authoritative; it is the very presence of God in our midst.*⁷
- John Frame: *Don't seek to know God apart from his Word or read the Word without realizing that you are in the presence of God.*⁸

⁶ Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Biblical Doctrine, Second Edition* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Academic, 2020), 109.

⁷ John M. Frame, *Salvation Belongs to the Lord: An Introduction to Systematic Theology* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2006), 49.

⁸ John M. Frame, *Salvation Belongs to the Lord: An Introduction to Systematic Theology* (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2006), 49.
