

## How We Got the Bible

### Lesson 1: Revelation — God Speaks

**2 Timothy 3:16** *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness*

In this series we will seek to answer crucial questions:

- **Is the Bible truly from God?**
- **How do we know we can trust the Bible?**
- **Who decided which books belong in the Bible?**
  
- **Revelation** – God revealing His message to mankind.
- **Inspiration** – God breathing His Word through human writers.
- **Transmission** – How the Bible came from the original writers to us through careful copying.
- **Canonicity** – Recognizing which writings are truly from God.
- **Translation** – Rendering the original Hebrew and Greek into the languages of the world, using textual criticism to ensure accuracy.
- **Application** – Understanding and applying God's Word to our lives.
  
- Revelation is God making Himself known to mankind.
- God must take the initiative to reveal Himself, and He has done so in two primary ways: general revelation and special revelation.

**General Revelation:** is God's disclosure of Himself to all people, at all times, and in all places. It is available universally and makes mankind responsible for recognizing and responding to the reality of God.

#### Modes of General Revelation

##### 1. Creation

**Psalms 19:1–3** *"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge."*

**Romans 1:20–23** *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. 21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.*

##### 2. Conscience

**Romans 2:14–15** *For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. 15 They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them.*

**Romans 1:18** *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.*

**Romans 2:6-8** *He will render to each one according to his works: 7 to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; 8 but for those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury.*

**Special Revelation:** is God's direct communication of truths that could not be discovered through nature or conscience and would otherwise not be known.

## **Modes of Special Revelation**

### **1. Direct Speech and Appearances**

**Genesis 2:16-17** *And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

### **2. Dreams, Visions, and Angels**

- Joseph's dreams (Genesis 37).
- Daniel's visions (Daniel 7).
- Angelic messages to Mary and Joseph (Luke 1-2; Matthew 1-2).

### **3. Miracles and Events**

**2 Corinthians 2:12** *The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works.*

### **4. Jesus Christ — The Ultimate Revelation**

**Hebrews 1:1-2** *Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 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.*

**John 1:14** *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.*

### **5. Scripture — The Written Record**

#### **Why the Bible Stands Apart**

- **Prophetic Accuracy** – Hundreds of prophecies fulfilled precisely in history (e.g., Christ's birth, death, and resurrection).
- **Unity of Message** – Written over 1,500 years by 40+ authors, yet one unified storyline of redemption.
- **Timeless Relevance** – Speaks with authority across cultures and centuries.
- **Supernatural Endurance** – Preserved despite persecution, bans, and attempts at destruction.
- **Transforming Power** – Lives, cultures, and nations have been radically changed by its message.

#### **Applications**

- **Confidence in Scripture** – The Bible is God's revealed Word, confirmed by history, miracles, and prophecy.
- **Authority in Preaching and Teaching** – Pastors and teachers declare God's message, not human opinion.
- **Evangelism** – General revelation prepares the ground; special revelation provides the Gospel.
- **Personal Devotion** – Scripture reading is not mere study; it is listening to the voice of God.