

Theology 1
Particular (Special) Revelation
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1/25/23

*People need **a more personal understanding of God** than is available through nature and general history. God has provided **particular revelation** of himself that provides us the opportunity to know Him and His saving work through His Son Jesus Christ.*

The Definition and Necessity of Special Revelation

- Special revelation: God's manifestation of Himself to particular persons at definite times and places, enabling them to enter into a redemptive relationship with Him.
- Humans lost the relationship of favor they enjoyed with God when **Adam and Eve fell into sin**. It was necessary for them to come to know God in a fuller way if the conditions of fellowship were once again to be met.
- The objective of special revelation has always been **relationship** – information was given for the purpose of transformation, resulting in a relationship with Him.
- The **insufficiency** of general revelation required the special revelation. Special revelation doesn't replace general revelation, rather **it builds on it**.

The Nature of Special Revelation

- Special revelation is personal, anthropic, and analogical
 - Personal – a personal God reveals himself to persons made in His image
 - Anthropic – A transcendent God reveals Himself in human language and human categories of thought and action. In other words, He speaks our language.
 - Analogical – God uses concepts that are familiar to us. We may not know everything about God, but the things He has revealed of Himself are true.

The Modes of Special Revelation – History, Divine Speech, and the Incarnation

- History – events by which God has made Himself known to human kind
 - The call of Abraham, the divine covenants, the Exodus, etc.
- Divine Speech – God speaking to and through His people
 - Can be audible, inaudible, through dreams, etc. – revelation and inspiration merged into one event (giving of Scripture to men)
- The Incarnation – God became a man, the most complete form of revelation
 - When the prophets spoke, they were bearers of a message from God and about God. When Jesus spoke, it was God Himself speaking.

Special Revelation – Propositional, Personal, and Progressive

- Orthodox Christianity – God's propositional truths (in Scripture) are revelation
- Neoorthodoxy – my personal encounter with God through the propositions of Scripture
- Progressive – Later revelation builds on earlier revelation – complementary, not contradictory