

Theology 1
Universal (General) Revelation
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*General revelation refers to God's self-manifestation through nature, history, and the inner being of the human person. It is general in two aspects: its **universal availability** (it is accessible to all persons at all times) and **the content of the message** (it is less particularized and detailed than special revelation).*

The Modes of General Revelation

- The traditional modes of general revelation are three: nature, history, and the constitution of the human being (aka. – human consciousness).
 - Nature – a knowledge of God available through the created physical order
 - Key passages: Psalm 19:1-6, Romans 1:18-20, Acts 14:17
 - History – a knowledge of God available through the events of history
 - God has revealed Himself to mankind throughout the human story
 - The weakest of the modes because it is the most subjective
 - Human Beings – a knowledge of God that comes through the human conscious
 - Key passages: Romans 2:14-15, Acts 17:22ff

Natural Theology

- Natural theology has historically been summarized in **four main arguments**:
 - Cosmological argument – everything we know is caused by something else, there has to be an Uncaused Causer (an Unmoved Mover)
 - Teleological argument – the intricate design of the created order points to a Designer (just as a watch points to the existence of a watchmaker)
 - Anthropological argument – the moral impulse of human beings points to the existence of a Creator (C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*)
 - Ontological argument – the argument of the greatest of all conceivable beings
 - By far, this is the weakest of all the natural theology arguments

General Revelation and Human Responsibility

- The knowledge of God which all humans have (Rom. 1:18-20), if they do not suppress it, should bring them to the conclusion that they are guilty in relationship to God.
- God's general revelation of Himself serves to make us aware of **His existence & our guilt** before Him – not to make us righteous. Righteousness comes through faith alone.
- General revelation places each human in a position where he is *"without excuse"* (Rom. 1:20) as he stands in judgment before a holy God.

The Implications of General Revelation – pp. 49-50