

# FUNDAMENTALS OF THE FAITH

## LESSON 1

### INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE

#### Supplemental Class Notes

#### ROAD MAP

1. We will discuss revelation: both natural and special.
2. We will look at the Bible: general information, structure, and themes.
3. We will look at the Bible's claim of inspiration.

#### REVELATION

**Revelation** – *The act of God whereby He discloses to man what would otherwise be unknown.*

**Inspiration** – *A process by which God, as the instigator, moved men by the Holy Spirit to write the words of God.*

- **Natural/General Revelation**
  - Creation – Romans 1:18-20
  - Conscience – Romans 2:14-15

**How has God revealed Himself to man?**

**What does creation show us about God?**

**What is the purpose of natural/general revelation?**

**How does natural/general revelation fall short of giving people enough information to lead directly to salvation?**

- **Special Revelation** – Hebrews 1:1-2

The writer of Hebrews is in effect saying God spoke on two occasions.

He spoke once long ago; He speaks in these last days by His Son.

Now I believe that we are fair in assessing the fact that he has in mind here Old Testament revelation and New Testament revelation.

God spoke long ago to the Jewish fathers.

Those were the Old Testament prophets, those who received God's Word long ago under the old covenant.

He spoke to those fathers by means of the prophets in many portions, *polumeros*, many books, many sections.

And you know that there is the Pentateuch and there are the prophetic books and the historical books and there are the books of poetry.

And in many many portions and in many books, God spoke.

He spoke to the Jewish fathers.

He spoke by means of the prophets.

He also spoke, it says, in many ways, *polutropos*.

That means through vision and prophecy and parable and type and symbol and ceremony and theophany and sometimes audible voice.

And He even wrote with His finger on stone.

There were many ways in which God spoke many things, collected in many texts, put into many books, and He spoke to those of old by means of the prophets.

That is a statement with reference to the fact that the Old Testament is God speaking.

## **TYPES OF SPECIAL REVELATIONS**

### *Theophanies*

- To Abraham – Genesis 17:1
- To Isaac – Genesis 26:2
- To Jacob – Genesis 32:30
- To Moses – Exodus 3:2-6

### *Dreams and Visions*

- Jacob's Ladder – Genesis 28:12-16
- Daniel – Daniel 2:19, 28

### *Miracles and Signs*

- Flood – Genesis 7
- Burning Bush – Exodus 3
- Plagues in Egypt – Exodus 7-13
- Parting of the Red Sea – Exodus 14

### **Special Revelation is Sufficient - 2 Timothy 3:15-17**

*15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

Scripture does not reveal everything – Deut. 29:29; Romans 11:33

### **GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE BIBLE – Page 7**

#### **HOW DID WE GET THE BIBLE? - 2 Peter 1:21**

- God spoke through men to write His words ➡ Manuscripts
- Written over 1600 years: 1500B.C. to A.D. 100
- 40 different authors
- 66 books (Old Testament 39; New Testament 27)
- No original manuscripts exist today.

#### **TITLES OF THE BIBLE**

- Bible – meaning book or scroll; also known as *The Book*
- Canon – Greek word means *rule*; came to mean Scripture itself
- Scripture – John 7:38
- The Writings – 2 Timothy 3:15
- The Word of God – 1 Thessalonians 2:13
- The Law, Prophets, and Psalms – Luke 24:44

## **OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT** – “Testament” – Latin – “a will”

**Old Testament** – based on the Old Covenant (Exodus 19:5; Deuteronomy 28:1, 15) of obedience and blessing.

**New Testament** – based on the New Covenant

- Better than old – Hebrews 7:22; 8:6
- Old Covenant passed away – Hebrews 8:13
- New Covenant is through Christ’s blood – Luke 22:20
- New Covenant is not of the Law, but of the Spirit – 2 Cor. 3:5-6

**The Apocrypha** – means “hidden”

Contains 14 books, we do not accept them as inspired of God because:

- Never quoted in the New Testament.
- Christ never mentions them in Luke 24:44.
- Lack endorsement of ancient Jewish writers.
- Problems with their content. (2 Maccabees 12:43-46)
- They do not have prophetic power (this is a power mark of true Scripture)