



**How God Reveals Himself
What is General versus Special Revelation?
Psalm 19**

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C. S. Lewis reflected the following this Psalm 19. “But, once again, the best image is in a Psalm, the 19th. I take this to be the greatest poem in the Psalter and one of the greatest lyrics in the world.” (Lewis 2017, 73)

In this psalm, we learn three ways God reveals Himself to us. How, exactly, does God reveal Himself to us?



God has revealed Himself since creation. Francis Schaeffer also reflected on the truth of God's revelation of Himself to us in the Word.

The biblical Christian answer takes us back first to the very beginning of everything and states that personality is intrinsic in what is; not in the pantheistic sense of the universe being the extension of the essence of God (or what is), but that a God who is personal on the high order of Trinity created all else. Within the Trinity, before the creation of anything, there was real love and real communication. Following on from this statement, the Bible states that this God who is personal created man in His own image. A personal God created all things freely in a nondeterminate fashion, and man is created in a special situation—what I would call a special circle of creation. He is the image of this kind of God, and so personality is intrinsic to his makeup. God is personal, and man is also personal. (Schaeffer 1982, 93-94)

David reflects, in this psalm, the ways that this personal God has indeed revealed Himself to us and how the God of the universe has communicated and continues to communicate, personally, with His imagers, human beings.

First, God speaks to us through His creation of the universe. Everything we see around us, that which we call nature, He made. It is not a thing to be worshipped, as many have done and continue to do today. It reflects who He is to us (Psalm 19:1-6). We call that General Revelation.

Secondly in this psalm, David reflects how God has revealed Himself through His word (Acts 19:7-11). This is called Special Revelation.

And finally, we see God revealed in the heart of the believer, David. We see the heart of a sinner, who looks at both forms of God's revelation to us and is in awe and repentance (Acts 19:12-14). First, general revelation.

Psalm 19:title-6

"For the music director. A Psalm of David. **The heavens tell of the glory of God; And their expanse declares the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out into all the earth, And their words to the end of the world.** In them He has placed a tent for the sun, Which is like a groom coming out of his chamber; It rejoices like a strong person to run his course. Its rising is from one end of the heavens, And its circuit to the other end of them; And there is nothing hidden from its heat." (NASB 2020)

As we begin in this psalm, David begins describing the creator God and uses the Hebrew word El to describe Him. "El in biblical tradition is often used simply as an alternate name of Yahweh. The distribution of the use of El as a proper name equivalent to Yahweh is highly irregular and hence significant. In Israel's earliest poetry this usage is frequent." (Cross 1977, 258-259) David does indeed use this term.

"The heavens tell of the glory of God." And there are those who take note.

Since we are talking about General Revelation here in these first 6 verses, we will be talking a but about astronomy and physics. General revelation is God revealing Himself through the natural order.

I am going to do my best to make this understandable but suffice it to say that through observations of the universe today, we can indeed see creation and clearly discern the hand of God.



First there is the problem we see of rejection of General Revelation, described for us by Paul in Romans. Dr. Frank Tipler sees that rejection of God as an issue and why many physicists are still looking for a Theory of Everything.

“Contrary to what many physicists have claimed in the popular press, we have had a Theory of Everything for about thirty years. Most physicists dislike this Theory of Everything because it requires the universe to begin in a singularity. That is, they dislike it because the theory is consistent only if God exists, and most contemporary scientists are atheists. They don’t want God to exist, and if keeping God out of science requires rejecting physical laws, well, so be it. My approach to reality is different. I believe that we have to accept the implications of physical law, whatever these implications are. If they imply the existence of God, well then, God exists.” (Tipler 2007, Kindle Location 51)

What Doctor Tipler is referring to is a view of General Revelation, one which, as he related, is ignored by many today and it is because to realize that God made it all means there is also an accountability that we have to the one who made it.

Psalms 19:1

“The heavens tell of the glory of God; And their expanse declares the work of His hands.” (NASB 2020)

Paul discussed this topic of General Revelation in Romans 1. And Paul’s explanation is consistent with the reason for rejecting that God made it all, that Dr. Tipler relates; a refusal to acknowledge God, or to recognize He is the one who made it all. They intentionally suppress the truth.

Romans 1:18–25

“But God shows his anger from heaven against all sinful, wicked people who suppress the truth by their wickedness. They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn’t worship him as God or even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused. **Claiming to be wise, they instead became utter fools. And instead of worshiping the glorious, ever-living God, they worshiped idols made to look like mere people and birds and animals and reptiles.** So God abandoned them to do whatever shameful things their hearts desired. As a result, they did vile and degrading things with each other’s bodies. They traded the truth about God for a lie. So they worshiped and served the things God created instead of the Creator himself, who is worthy of eternal praise! Amen.” (NLT)

What is it that some of the “smart” men of today have proposed?

Hold onto your hats as this reveals the extent people go to suppress the truth. It is called directed panspermia.

“In the beginning—or so the story goes—nearly four billion years ago, an alien intelligence purposefully planted the seeds of life on planet Earth. Who that intelligence was, how he delivered those seeds, and why remain open questions...This concept is not new. Nobel laureate Francis Crick and origin-of-life researcher Leslie Orgel first proposed the concept of directed panspermia in 1973. Later, Crick expanded upon the hypothesis in his book *Life Itself*. Specifically, he suggested that a highly advanced alien species sent one or more spacecrafts to Earth with the intent of peppering it with the necessary life forms (or components of life) to generate a zoo of diverse species.” (Fazale and Ross 2004, 205)



Of course, if that is too far out there for you, many today have also rejected the General Revelation of God in His creation by instead, turning towards evolution as the solution. This tends to ignore the facts connected with DNA as well as evidence science continues to present.

Twentieth-century physics has discovered that the gross properties of stars, planets, and even people are neither random nor the result of any progressive evolutionary process. They are a consequence of the relative and absolute strengths of the different forces of nature and the masses of the most basic particles of matter. The spectrum of objects that can exist is determined by the values of the fixed constants in nature. (Barrow 1987, Kindle Location 87)

“God’s general revelation is presupposed not only because the revelation of Scripture declares it to be the basis of man’s moral and spiritual responsibility to God. In an even deeper sense it is mankind’s revolt against this general revelation, both in Adam and on each one’s individual account, that constitutes human beings sinners. The universal revelation in creation makes all humans responsible and frames their guilt. Rejection of God’s general revelation is what makes men and women heathen.” (Henry 1999, 85-86) Just consider the need for an anthropic universe, one which supports life and declares the work of God.

“In order to produce a universe resembling the one in which we live, the Creator would have to aim for an absurdly tiny volume of the phase space of possible universes—about $\frac{1}{10^{10^{123}}}$ of the entire volume, for the situation under consideration. The odds of our anthropic universe arising amidst the total phase-space volume of possible universes for a creation event is so exceedingly, exceedingly, exceedingly remote that its notation...is so large that if we were to write it out in ordinary notation (with every zero being, say, ten point type), it would fill up a large portion of the universe! In the absence of natural explanation for this highly improbable occurrence, many physicists have concluded that our universe was influenced by a supernatural designing intelligence.” (Spitzer 2010, 58) We call him God.

Psalm 19:2–3

“Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard.” (NASB 2020)

For the astronomer, or for those of us who like to watch the stars, we learn something new every time we look up. But what is this about speech. Welcome to radio astronomy.

Karl Jansky, in 1931, was investigating for Bell Telephone Laboratories, causes of “interference with long-distance radio-wave communication, he discovered that some radio interference came from celestial objects. This led to further research by astronomers that developed into the important field of radio astronomy.” (Jansky, Karl Guthe 2015)

The speech has always been there, but when we developed technology for other things, we began to “hear” this speech. “Grote Reber, an American electronics engineer, showed that the source of this cosmic radio radiation was the centre of the Milky Way Galaxy, the galactic system in which the Earth is located. In 1942 a group of British army radar operators detected for the first time bursts of radio energy from the Sun, and by the end of the decade astronomers had discovered about half a dozen discrete celestial radio sources. Within 40 years, about 100,000 such radio sources had been cataloged.” (Encyclopaedia Britannica 2016)

How would David know this? Why would he turn this phrase this way? He is writing under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. For this observant shepherd, he “heard” and learned every time he looked to the sky. But now we do indeed know, that not only is there “speech” but there is also evidence, knowledge, everywhere, of creation. We call it cosmic background radiation.



It is also called blackbody radiation. “The biblical declarations of fixed laws of physics and continual cosmic expansion imply yet another important feature that can be tested. A universe that continuously expands under constant laws of physics must get colder and colder as it gets older and older.

The radiation left over from the cosmic creation event (aka the cosmic background radiation), when studied at great distances, and, thus, farther back in time, measures hotter than such radiation seen up close. In fact, the cosmic background radiation temperature measures hotter in direct proportion to the distance at which the radiation is measured.” (Ross 2006, 100)

One of the constants, at least there are those who hold it to be a constant, is the speed of light.

As we observe objects within 100 light years of earth, that means that it would take you 100 years traveling at the speed of light, 186,282 miles per second. As we observe those near by objects, we can also measure the heat of those objects based on their spectra, or light information to include heat. That is called astronomical spectroscopy and examining the light spectra shows us the chemical composition, temperature, mass, distance and whether the object is moving towards earth or away from earth. Those closer stars show us a cooler temperature.

If we examine a star 100,000 light years away, it shows to be hotter.

The further out we go, the hotter the stars are since the light has been traveling a very long time to get to us. It is like digging up a time capsule of the past as we look at the temperature ripples.

There is fascinating research that has been done that further gives us insight and knowledge, like David said would be there for us but I am not going to get much deeper into this.

Suffice it to say, when David tells us the heavens tell of the glory of God, and he alludes to speech, knowledge. But he also tells us this speech is wordless and is not a voice. That is indeed true but we can “hear” it with the right equipment turned to the right location.

COBE, the Cosmic Background Explorer satellite confirmed these temperature ripples. “The ripples show that the explosion and expansion of the universe was precisely tweaked to cause just enough matter to congregate to allow galaxy formation, but not enough to cause the universe to collapse back on itself. Any slight variation one way or the other, and none of us would be here to tell about it. In fact, the ripples are so exact (down to one part in one hundred thousand) that Smoot called them the “machining marks from the creation of the universe” and the “fingerprints of the maker.”” (Geisler and Turek 2004, 83)

“This wordless “word” appears visibly to every hemisphere, every continent, every nation, every people. The message is for all. No one is excluded.” (Smith and Akin 2022, 138) It also appears spectrally to everyone and as radio waves as well.

Psalm 19:4a

“Their line has gone out into all the earth, And their words to the end of the world.” (NASB 2020)

We see a new idea in the second half of verse 4.

Psalm 19:4b–6

“In them He has placed a tent for the sun, Which is like a groom coming out of his chamber; It rejoices like a strong person to run his course. Its rising is from one end of the heavens, And its circuit to the other end of them; And there is nothing hidden from its heat.” (NASB 2020)



Many of the nations around Israel would worship the sun. David clearly says here that the sun was created by God to give glory to Him. It is part of creation.

As David begins with General Revelation, he varies from the surrounding nations who worshipped nature. David points out nature points us to the one who made it all.

The Babylonian hymns to Shamash, the Egyptian hymns to various sun-gods, even the glorious hymn to Aten, differ in one remarkable respect from Ps 19. In those psalms, nature itself is deified; the gods are praised in nature. Yet in Ps 19, nature is personified, not deified, and personified nature raises the chorus of praise to the only Creator and only deity, the one true God. (Craigie 2004, 181)

David then moves to how God has revealed Himself through His word. This is referred to as Special Revelation.

Whereas General Revelation is revelation embodied in things, Special Revelation is revelation embodied in words. In Special Revelation, God makes Himself known at specific times, through specific people, and in specific ways. (Fruchtenbaum 1983, 8)

We are moving from General Revelation, which as we have seen is evidence for the existence of God. Now with Special Revelation, we discover what kind of a God He is. The biblical definition of Special Revelation is in Hebrews 1:1 & 2.

Hebrews 1:1–2

“After God spoke long ago in various portions and in various ways to our ancestors through the prophets, in these last days he has spoken to us in a son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he created the world.” (NET 2nd ed.)

God appeared to Noah, Abraham, Moses, and the other Old Testament prophets to make His will known to them. He revealed His power and purpose in the crucial events in Israel’s history, and finally, in the fullness of time, He sent His Son, who manifested God in the context of human life. (Pfandl 2017, 88)

Psalms 19:7–11

“The Law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much pure gold; Sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, Your servant is warned by them; In keeping them there is great reward.” (NASB 2020)

Creation shows us a lot about God; His word reveals Him to us, and we learn who He is.

Big shift between verse 1 and David using El as the name for God, now he uses the covenant name, YAHWEH. “The Law of the Lord (YAHWEH) is perfect.”

For us as New Testament followers of Jesus Christ, we read that and recall what Paul said in Romans

Romans 4:14–15

“If God’s promise is only for those who obey the law, then faith is not necessary and the promise is pointless. For the law always brings punishment on those who try to obey it. (The only way to avoid breaking the law is to have no law to break!)” (NLT)



2 Corinthians 3:4–6

“We are confident of all this because of our great trust in God through Christ. It is not that we think we are qualified to do anything on our own. Our qualification comes from God. He has enabled us to be ministers of his new covenant. **This is a covenant not of written laws, but of the Spirit. The old written covenant ends in death; but under the new covenant, the Spirit gives life.**” (NLT)

But we need to grasp that here in the Old Testament ‘law’ is a wonderfully comprehensive word, meaning all that God wants us to know about himself. There is no life for the soul without that. Statutes are the firm principles to whose validity the Lord testifies. On them simple people like us can build their lives. Precepts are precise rules for living: a new thought for some, perhaps, that detailed obedience is the right way to joy. (Wilcock 2001, 71-72)

As David continues here, he will talk of God’s Law, God’s testimony, God’s precepts, God’s commandments and finally how all of that should produce the fear of the law because we will indeed understand all of His judgments are true.

The Torah, the special revelation of YAHWEH to His people, is perfect. The word translated as perfect in the NASB is תָּמִים (tamim). The word means “complete, unscathed, intact; blameless, without fault, free of blemish; impeccable; honest, devout; honesty, integrity, blamelessness, completeness.” (Brannan 2020)

Just as David related the dominance of the light of the sun over the planet, the revealed word of God, His Torah, also has the same dominant influence over the planet as well.

The Sun removes physical darkness; God’s word removes spiritual darkness. I love how Charles Spurgeon covers this.

“The doctrine revealed by God he declares to be perfect, and yet David had but a very small part of the Scriptures, and if a fragment, and that the darkest and most historical portion, be perfect, what must the entire volume be? How more than perfect is the book which contains the clearest possible display of divine love, and gives us an open vision of redeeming grace. The gospel is a complete scheme or law of gracious salvation, presenting to the needy sinner everything that his terrible necessities can possibly demand. There are no redundancies and no omissions in the Word of God, and in the plan of grace; why then do men try to paint this lily and gild this refined gold? The gospel is perfect in all its parts, and perfect as a whole: it is a crime to add to it, treason to alter it, and felony to take from it.” (Spurgeon n.d., 272)

The Law of the Lord is perfect, it is complete, literally God’s word is all we need to see who God is and what His plan of redemption is. His word is all we need to know who Jesus Christ is and what He achieved for us on the cross and His word is all we need to know what our future is.

The purpose of the Word of God, in all of its perfection is to restore our soul. His word “does this perfectly, without the slightest defect, never lacking what is needed to address our circumstances. Its function is to revive our souls, to refresh and renew and to remind us that the pleasures of obedience to God’s law are delightfully superior to all rival claims that would lead us in another direction.” (Storms 2016, Ps 19:7-14)

Why should we follow the instructions in the Word, the commands in the word, the guidance in the word? Because it is perfect.

Allowing the Word to so permeate our being is far superior to following guidance or instruction from anyone or anything else. He created us, we know that thanks to General Revelation, and now we know that in His revealed word to us, we have everything we will ever need.



Why do we study God's word chapter by chapter and verse by verse? Because His Law, His Word is perfect. It is complete. We lack for nothing by relying on His word.

Psalms 19:7

"The Law of the LORD is perfect, restoring the soul; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple." (NASB 2020)

In the Word of God, we have His own testimony to us of who He is and what He has provided for us through the redemption achieved for us on the cross by Jesus Christ. Not only is this testimony part of the perfect word of God, but it is sure, it is true. The word David uses is נֶאֱמָנָה (neemanah). The testimony of the Lord is to "be trustworthy, faithful, reliable... declared reliable...prove trustworthy, be fulfilled...trustworthy, faithful, reliable..." (מק (I) 2009, 23-24) Sure.

When we come to Christ, we know nothing, at least most of us, about the Bible. We are totally clueless, simple is what the text says, and have been living for self. Then we follow Jesus, become believers and the Holy Spirit comes in. As we study the Bible, God's word begins to change us, to make us more like Jesus. We are even invited to ask for wisdom as we need it.

James 1:5

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him." (ESV)

As we allow His word to change us, we cease being someone who is easily persuaded and enticed to run after the enemy.

Instead, we become equipped by the Holy Spirit to begin to make wise decisions even in those circumstances where there is no clear Biblical guidance, leaning on the Holy Spirit and asking for wisdom, we can then indeed be wise.

Psalms 19:8

"The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes." (, NASB 2020)

As we read God's word, we come across His rules for life, His precepts. God's rules are never wrong, as we follow them, we can completely rely on them to provide and point to truth.

That is what precept means, it is a rule or principle for action, a guide or rule for morals. (Collins English Dictionary 2006)

God's rules for living are never wrong. We can always count on them. As we follow His rules and apply them in our life, we are told here then we experience joy. But I like bending the truth every now and then. You have to, to get by these days. But the Lord tells us "You shall not steal; you shall not deal falsely; **you shall not lie to one another**. You shall not swear by my name falsely, and so profane the name of your God: I am the LORD." (Leviticus 19:11–12, ESV)

Just because you are at odds with some of His rules for life, they are His rules, and He has them there for a reason. He made us, and He knows what is in our best interests...always. And here is the thing, God does not change.

Don't bank on God changing to the "new" morality. God is not reading some of the new views of psychology, and He is not listening to the decisions that some judges are handing down. God is going to punish sin—He says that is what He is going to do. (McGee 1997, 701)



If you decide that you don't want to follow His precepts, His rules, that is indeed your choice. But when everything falls apart around you, it is because you decided not to follow His rules. He determines what is right and wrong, He made the world, and it is His prerogative.

Psalm 19:8

"The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; **The commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes.**" (NASB 2020)

When Jesus tells us in John 13:34 that He has a new commandment for us, "that you love one another;" That is a pure command. It is not intended to hurt you or me the intent of the command is to enable and lift up.

When we follow that command and love one another, we are lifting each other up, we bring joy to our Lord and to ourselves at the same time. We are also testifying to the world that followers of Jesus Christ are all in the same family, no matter what our background, nationality or race is and we do indeed love one another.

As we learn, meditate and follow His commands, we are filled with His joy and we know for certain He is guiding us.

What is God's will for me today, that is what we are outlining here in psalm 19.

Because God's word comes from a God who is Himself pure and holy, it itself is pure. A pure God can communicate no other way. We never have to worry about the word of God leading people into sin or impurity; if it seems to have happened, it is evidence that the scriptures have been twisted (2 Peter 3:16). (Guzik 2013, Ps 19:7-9)

Psalm 19:9–10

"The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much pure gold; Sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb." (NASB 2020)

As we read and study the Bible, we learn who it is who made us, what He has done to achieve our redemption, and the depth of His love for us. We begin to understand just what His attributes are and as we contemplate His holiness, we realize that without the righteousness of Jesus applied to us, we are doomed. We begin to have an ever-deepening awe of who He is.

The Hebrew word translated as fear in the NASB is the word יִרָא (yirah). "The phrase yir'at YHWH in the Psalms constitutes an independent development, both grammatically and semantically, of the fear of Yahweh concept. It is typified by the exclusive use of the plural as well as the divine name "Yahweh" or the appropriate suffix...The construct phrase uses the verbal adjective to modify Yahweh as subject; yir'et YHWH does not mean "those who worship Yahweh" but "the worshippers who belong to Yahweh." In other words, this idiom expresses possession. "Yahweh-fearers" always refers to the community that worships Yahweh." (Fuhs 1990, 308)

God's word creates this awe, this fear in us. Not only are part of the community now that worships the Lord, we also know that our awe of who He is will last forever. Speaking to our future.

Then we come to the judgments of the Lord. The Hebrew word מִשְׁפָּט (mispōt). "The noun mišpāt can also denote the right or authority that emanates from the power of a ruler." (Johnson 1998, 92)



The word carries the meaning of “a verdict (favorable or unfavorable) pronounced judicially, especially a sentence or formal decree (human or divine law, individual or collective), including the act, the place, the suit, the crime, and the penalty. (Strong 2009, 74)

How important are these various aspects of God’s revelation of Himself through His word to us and to David? Priceless.

Psalms 19:10–11

“They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much pure gold; Sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, Your servant is warned by them; In keeping them there is great reward.” (NASB 2020)

Whatever this world has to offer is nothing when compared to the word of God. From an economic perspective, the knowledge of and having His word is more valuable than gold or any other form of money.

The best this world can offer pales next to what God’s word has in it and what He has to offer to those who follow His word. Nothing can compare at all. This is probably why many of us become upset when we see folks twist the scriptures to satisfy their own greed. Let God’s word speak for itself. We don’t need to read in our own interpretation, let the word speak to us.

If we don’t let the word speak to us, then we read into the word what we want it to say and since we all have sin natures, that doesn’t always end well. There are indeed those out there who pander to the sin nature and do so by reading into the word. “God directs our steps and works all things for good (see Prov. 16: 9; Rom. 8: 28–30). When you start thinking that God exists in order to serve you and grant your desires, you usurp His place. When you start thinking that you control your own future, then you demote God. Such ideas are at the heart of the prosperity gospel. Within prosperity theology, people are the focal point rather than God.” (Jones and Woodbridge 2011, 163) God was clear with how we are to handle His word and we hold to what Moses taught in Deuteronomy.

Deuteronomy 4:2

“You shall not add to the word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God that I command you.” (ESV)

We have been told by Jesus that deception would be a problem at the end of the age, which is the time we live in. Seeing the instructions of David about God’s word tells us that we do not need to add to or subtract anything from God’s word.

His word is all sufficient and provides for a full revelation of who He is. His word warns and instructs and in His word we see great reward, we find the redemption of man through Jesus Christ.

We do not need any “new” revelations that seem to be in vogue in some circles these days.

1 Peter 2:1–3

“So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander. **Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.**” (ESV)

Hebrews 1:1–2

“**Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 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.**” (ESV)



"There are several problems with the idea that God is giving new revelation today. First, such a view undermines the all-sufficiency of Scripture. The Bible is all that is needed to make us wise unto salvation and equip us "for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:17). Second, the idea of new revelation is a teaching not supported by Scripture. While it is true that God has the ability to speak to anyone anytime He chooses, it is not biblically supported by Scripture that He does. In fact, **the consistent testimony of Scripture is that God speaks to the people of God by the Word of God through the prophets and apostles of God.** This pattern continues until we get to Hebrews 1:1, where we read that "God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets." Third, the idea of new revelation confuses revelation with illumination. Many people claim that after reading the Word of God they receive some new truth or revelation that they had never seen or known before. This, they might say, proves that God is giving new revelation today. However, this confuses the Holy Spirit's work of illuminating truth with new revelation. The Holy Spirit aids the believer in receiving clarity and understanding of the Word of God (1 Corinthians 2:10,14). He is not giving new revelation. Rather, He is illuminating the written revelation that has already been given." (Hayes 2008, 424)

Psalms 19:12-14

"Who can discern his errors? Acquit me of hidden faults. Also keep Your servant back from presumptuous sins; Let them not rule over me; Then I will be innocent, And I will be blameless of great wrongdoing. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, LORD, my rock and my Redeemer." (NASB 2020)

How good are you at self-examination? No, really? We all have weaknesses and are all really good at making excuses. We tend to rationalize and then call it being practical.

Here is the thing, no matter how good you or I am in developing excuses for our behavior, when we meet with Jesus at the Bema Seat, they won't fly. You see, we are all sinners saved by grace (Ephesians 2:8) and due to that blood line problem, we have some natural skills that once we are in our new glorified bodies and free of the sin nature, we will no longer rely on. Until then, we must be accountable to others who help to keep us straight and lovingly tell us when we have blown it, or just told a whopper, fishing excluded of course or need to take a good long look at some recent behavior that needs to be confessed and repented of.

David realizes that so as he turns to revealing who the Lord is through His interaction with the Lord, we find ourselves in agreement. None of us is adequate to discern our errors, our sin. There are things we do or fail to do that we just do not see, but He does. This David, realizes just who God is, reveals this truth to us, we need to seek Him to forgive us of those things we are too dense to see or correct on our own. Then there is the more sinful sin we sin. David calls it presumptuous sin. Think, those things we know better about but do anyhow.

Numbers 15:29-30

"You shall have one law for him who sins unintentionally, for him who is native-born among the children of Israel and for the stranger who dwells among them. **'But the person who does anything presumptuously, whether he is native-born or a stranger, that one brings reproach on the LORD, and he shall be cut off from among his people.'**" (NKJV)

"Presumptuous sins are deliberate. They are committed with the full knowledge that they are sins and in full light of what God has said. Presumptuous sins are premeditated. There is intent to sin and a time of deliberation before the act. Presumptuous sins can only be committed in suppression of the conscience and in spite of its appeals." (Got Questions Ministries 2014-2021)

David's sin with Bathsheba was not presumptuous, but his murder of his loyal servant Uriah, that was. The cover up, that too.



Here is the thing we have to realize as we read this psalm, David prayed to be kept from that type of sin, but he fell into that exact type of sin. However, he did find grace from God and forgiveness.

In other words, it is a sin we know is wrong. We have taught others to avoid it, then we go and do it.

Presumptuous sins are those sins that cause the melt down of churches all around the world and have been behind that for two thousand years. It happens when a leader, a pastor decides that even though there is clear teaching about what the requirements are to qualify for ministry (1 Timothy 3:1-7), they go ahead and violate one or several of them and rationalize why they did so.

David did indeed not let them rule over him. He wanted to be innocent and blameless because he understands who he serves.

Even though he did indeed sin greatly, he repented, and it did not become a pattern of his life. I cannot say the same for many who have failed as leaders over the centuries. And there are those who we have seen fail recently and left the pulpit, who also had problems with the pattern repeating. Again, there is forgiveness in Jesus Christ, but when a presumptuous sin moves to one which has dominion and control over a person and now is a pattern, a besetting sin, a habit.

This is why many who have been forced out of service, are not qualified to return, they became masters of one or several methods of hiding what they were doing.

Hidden sin here on earth is open scandal in Heaven and God will and does indeed deal with it. The Temple leadership in Jerusalem became a problem just before the fall to Babylon. They became a very graphic example of what we see today involving word of faith teachers and Ezekiel calls them out in Ezekiel 34 and then tells them how serious he takes the misusing of the people, the abandonment of the flock, and the failure to teach and shepherd the flock.

Ezekiel 34:10

"This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I now consider these shepherds my enemies, and I will hold them responsible for what has happened to my flock. I will take away their right to feed the flock, and I will stop them from feeding themselves. I will rescue my flock from their mouths; the sheep will no longer be their prey." (NLT)

David repented of his sin. He was, because of his knowledge of the word and his relationship with God, truly not wanting to be held captive by sin, and he prayed in that regard.

As he closes out this psalm, he reflects for us what our hearts should also be in light of the revelation of who God is.

Psalms 19:14

"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, LORD, my rock and my Redeemer." (NASB 2020)

As followers of Jesus Christ, just as David here reflects, we are to hold nothing back from the Lord. We desire that all we do, everyday, be pleasing to our Lord.

The eyes of God are the only eyes that matter. Ultimately, how he sees us is all that matters. And why only his eyes? Because they are the eyes of Yahweh, the eyes of David's "rock," the eyes of his "Redeemer" (Hb goel). The Lord is our sure foundation of protection and security. The Lord is our Redeemer, Deliverer, and Savior. We have this God and his Word. What more do we need? (Smith and Akin 2022, 143)



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