

What is The Bible?

Authority

Inspiration

Revelation

Part III

Revelation

Overview

The Bible is not straightforward or simple; misunderstanding the nature of revelation many have made the Bible say what they like. The good news is, with the Spirit of wisdom and revelation (Ephesians 1:17) it becomes the AIR we breathe! This session helps a small group leader facilitate a discussion about the nature of revelation, exploring the importance of context and progression (building layer on layer).

Objectives

The aims of this session are to

- Understand that revelation is spoken into a specific context.
- Realise the progressive nature of revelation and how that affects the way we read the OT.
- Appreciate how the Bible helps our own journey into greater revelation.

Question Led Discussion

Why did God take around 2000 years (Abraham to Jesus) to reveal Himself fully?

- Our ability to receive revelation is limited. We need to understand one precept before hearing another. Is 28:9-10
- God compares His people to a child He is bringing up to maturity. We explain things about the world very differently to 5 year olds than 15 year olds.
- God is prepared to go at our pace, He's patient.

Why did God choose to communicate to their context, their circumstances, rather than just go straight to eternal truth?

- We may not realise the significance of eternal truth if we can't apply it. It would likely not have been passed down!
- We're not devaluing the OT scriptures by saying this. We're just recognizing that their power is only really appreciated in context.

Would the cross have made sense in Eden or Egypt?

- Adam & Eve knew so little, a man dying for them would have been incomprehensible! They needed to learn their choices had consequences.
- Describing God as love, as humble, as being prepared to die, would probably have come across very weak in the ancient world. The Israelites needed a powerful God to rescue them from Egypt.
- No! God's people needed to learn that God wasn't interested in their sacrifices. Rather, He wants a humble heart (Psalm 51:16-17, Micah 6:8) and that He would be our sacrifice to free us from the controlling fear of death (Heb 2:14-15).
- We need an appreciation of our weakness to appreciate God's sacrifice for us.

Materials

These books and blogs may prove helpful

- 📖 Legend by David Rohl, history from Eden to Egypt
- 📖 Surprised by Scripture by Tom Wright
- 📖 www.therebelgod.com by Derek Flood

Application

The Bible is packed full of revelation about God and the meaning of life, but that revelation is given little by little culminating in Jesus as God's exact likeness and the outpouring of the Spirit as the power to help us become like Him and live as we were created to.

Take a few minutes to describe your personal revelation story. What were the key moments of revelation for you?

- 📖 Key moments might include acceptance, forgiveness, working for Him, He loves me, appreciating the authority He's given me as heaven's representative, etc.
- 📖 Appreciating our journey will help us understand others at all points of their journey! We'll not judge them for not being where we are.

Are there areas of revelation you still hunger for?

- 📖 To know God better?
- 📖 Your son-ship?
- 📖 Your authority to mend brokenness?
- 📖 Pray for one another!