

What is The Bible? Part III: Revelation

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The AIR we
breathe...

Authority
Inspiration
Revelation



The Bible has authority to...

- ◆ Reveal God and His mission
- ◆ Shape us to be like Jesus
- ◆ Direct us to walk & work with Him



The Bible is God-breathed

- ◆ Not written by God or even dictated
- ◆ Inspired by man's greatest experiences and revelations
- ◆ A secure foundation to seek inspiration
- ◆ It is alive and speaks!

What is Revelation?

- ◆ Apocalypto – to reveal or uncover
- ◆ Not information
- ◆ Comes by wrestling with
 - ◆ Nature
 - ◆ Earlier revelations
 - ◆ Experience
- ◆ The Bible is God's revelation to man



Progressive or Flat Revelation?



- ◆ Flat implies all scripture carries equal weight
- ◆ Progressive implies a later revelation carries greater weight
- ◆ The Bible says the former are mere shadows! Col 2:16-17, Heb 8:5
- ◆ God seems happy to relate to people in their own culture

The Nature of Revelation



- ◆ It's not flat
- ◆ It builds
- ◆ Like climbing a mountain
- ◆ It takes time!
- ◆ Why?

The Revelation of God

- ◆ Creator – Adam & Eve
- ◆ Faithful Friend – Abraham
- ◆ Saviour – Joseph
- ◆ Redeemer – Moses
- ◆ Shepherd King – David
- ◆ Loving Father – Jesus



Revelation Is Contextual

- ◆ Not just eternal truth
- ◆ To help take the next step
- ◆ Sacrifice
- ◆ Slavery
- ◆ Hardness of hearts



Pick & Mix?

- Some will worry we have a pick and mix approach to scripture
- Driven by fear
 - We'll abuse the Bible
 - We'll get it wrong
- Why some won't even consider Creation is a story



Fear leads to defensiveness



Fear is the path to
the dark side. Fear
leads to anger,
anger leads to
hate, hate leads to
suffering.

- Yoda

Better Understanding?

- ◆ The New Testament doesn't speak of a different God, but His people have a better revelation
- ◆ Genocide
 - ◆ Outweighed by the later revelation to love our enemies
 - ◆ They didn't understand God's heart
- ◆ Elijah calling down fire, Luke 9:54-55



Living Above the Line!

- 💧 Pride - telling others what to believe
- 💧 Fear – need to prove we’re right
- 💧 Humility – accept we’re wrong (in part) but heading right
- 💧 Love – blessing others, accept and honour their perspectives and journeys (not approve)



Awesome Library!



- ◆ Man's record of wisdom & experience
- ◆ God's invitation to wrestle with Him! The very meaning of Israel
- ◆ God's revelation of Himself
- ◆ Powerful stories that have authority to call us higher
- ◆ Inspiration to shape our destiny and the world's!