

# THE BIBLE: How “The Word” Became “The Book”

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Tape 1

## “How *The Word* of the LORD Came to Us”

### Judges 17:6 & 21:25

*“In those days, Israel had no king; everyone did what was right in their own eyes”*

- Our current events for the last 150 years has shown a steady decline in civility, order, faith, reverence, and Biblical morality
- European Enlightenment seems to be the mother that bred what we now understand in terms of Post-modernism, secular humanism, and Paganism in our land
- Post-modernism finds it's foundation or lack thereof, in the philosophical system known as relativism. At it's fundamental root, relativism denies that there is such a thing as absolute truth, let alone eternal truth. Therefore, truth becomes defined as anything you want it to be, for you, and nobody has the right to challenge your truth because your truth is exactly that: *your truth*. Your truth may differ from my truth, see, but that's the beauty of it. You are free to believe the way you want to believe, the way that seems right to you, and the same goes for me. And what you believe is true for you now, can change tomorrow, because we are all evolving . What was true for our ignorant and primitive, less enlightened founding fathers, is no longer current with what we know today, and so many laws and morals instituted by the less informed Biblical writers millennia ago, need to be revised or edited entirely, since, due to new and more scientifically sound data, we can see things more clearer than they could. Their truth served it's purpose for them at that time, but now, in these more enlightened times, new truth must be allowed to come forth to reshape our social and moral environment to allow for the growth and evolutionary summons for which we are all destined...blah...blah...blah!
- And this form of thinking has for a while now, been leavening the thinking of Christian theologians and the liberal congregations who support them.
- For instance, a few weeks ago SueJae and I were watching an interview being conducted by Bill O'Reilly in which he was debating a clergymen who was serving as the public spokesman for the Episcopalian convention in New York where the ordination of the first openly gay Episcopal Bishop – Rev. V. Gene Robinson, was being voted on (and which by the way, had been passed unanimously, or so we have been told).
  - In the interview O'Reilly first asked the spokesman if he and his cohorts were even a bit concerned that they were dividing not only Christians in his own denomination, but throughout the world by what they were doing.
  - He then brought up the point as to why there was such a big bru ha ha surrounding the issue, since the Bible was clear on the matter: Scriptures condemn homosexuality period. End of discussion. Just go to the authority on the matter – The Bible, and case closed.
  - The clergymen (I think he was the Bishop of the Episcopal church in San Francisco) responded by denying that the Bible had any authority over them!
  - The spokesman seemed a bit bewildered as well as cynical about the matter. He thought the whole thing rather funny, wearing a perpetual smirk on his face the whole time. At one point he alluded to his frustration as to why Christians couldn't just accept the fact that gay people are sexually active, and move on.

- After all, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down sodomy laws this year and Canada plans to legalize same-sex marriages
- Many in the pro-gay Christian movement question whether those Scriptures that have always been understood to condemn homosexuality are legitimate and uncontaminated, and claims are made that those words and passages that condemn homosexuality have been mistranslated.
- We are told the Bible should be taken literally in its **original language**, but that the translators have made it impossible for most people to do so because of their biased mistranslations of those passages.
- The claim is also made that the Biblical verses which seem to prohibit homosexuality have been taken out of their original context and had their meaning perverted, or that those statements only applied to cultural idiosyncrasies during the time periods when they were written.
- If that doesn't work, another line of argument appeals to the need for modern man to re-interpret the Bible according to the needs and development of the modern times in which they live, which is exactly the same error as the one they accuse biased translators of making. So on the one hand, we cannot trust our current translations when they talk about issues of a moral nature like the prohibition against all forms of homosexual behavior, because that isn't what the original language said, and only the original language has authority in our lives; and on the other hand, if we don't buy into the first argument, we are told that the Bible is antiquated and needs to be updated by today's more modern theologians and translators, who are motivated by a gay agenda and homosexual bias so that the Bible says exactly what they want it to say.
- And appeals to the loving nature of Jesus all inclusive love, which would never condemn homosexuals, but would rather draw them in and encourage them toward committed, loving relationships.
- These kinds of arguments have effectively bolstered the boldness of those in the pro-gay movement, and has called many to question both the scriptures and traditional, biblical morality.
- More and more churches and Christian colleges are denying the Bible it's rightful place as the singular authority in matters of faith and practice, denying it's divine inspiration, and it's infallibility. Without the Biblical authority, there can be no authentic, orthodox Christianity. Yet the Postmodern movement has even dared an attempt to make the eternal truths of the Bible non-absolute, non-eternally binding, and non-authoritative.
- Then there are those matters relating to the Ten Commandments Judge – Roy Moore, who is being denied the right to have not only a 5000 lb chiseled granite monument of the ten commandments displayed in his courtroom, but any display of the ten com. Anywhere in the courthouse, courtrooms, etc... The very symbols upon which our laws and morality are based in this country are being systematically dismantled by a group of people who hate anything that has to do with Jesus, God, the Bible and Christianity. This has nothing to do with the separation of church and state. This is the beginning of a swift end to all things Christian in this country, if we do not let our voices be heard constantly and boldly, come what may.
- Some may scoff at the notion that there is any real danger that the Bible would ever be condemned from public reading or private possession in America. But the case of Judge Moore is evidence that the Bible, at least some portions of it, is already being banned in America. The public reading of the scriptures in the Public School system is banned in many schools.
- There has been a movement fomented by the gay movement in Canada, to ban the Bible as a book of Hate literature, because of what it says about homosexuality.
  - According to a December 2001 decision by a Saskatchewan court of appeals, the Bible is hate literature if it is quoted verbatim and in context when it is used to condemn homosexuality as sin. The appellate court ruled for the provincial human-rights board for fining a man for submitting a newspaper advertisement

citing four passages of Scripture. The Bible verses that were quoted, all of which dealt with homosexuality, are as follows:

***You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination. (Leviticus 18:22)***

***If a man lies with a male as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood shall be upon them. (Leviticus 20:13)***

***For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse ... For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due. (Romans 1:18-19 and 26-27)***

***Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians 6:9-11)***

- Lorne Gunter in the Edmonton, Alberta Daily writes, "[Imagine] the hand-wringing if ever a federal court labeled the Koran hate literature and forced a devout Muslim to pay a fine for printing some of his book's more astringent passages in an ad in a daily newspaper." Canadian attitudes toward homosexuality have permeated the American media.
- Rev. David Anderson, president of the American Anglican Council (AAC), responded after being told by reporters that Rev. V. Gene Robinson's confirmation was accepted, by saying that it would prove to be the "fatal bullet" to the Anglican Communion, the church of Great Britain that includes the Episcopal Church in America and has 77 million members worldwide. He was quoted as saying this lament in response to the decision -  
***"We are on the deck of the Titanic, saying to the captain, the presiding bishop, that there's an iceberg dead ahead. For God's sake, steer us away from it. Don't hit it."***
- The Bible clearly warned that the great moral apostasy of the last days would be caused by the failure of Church leaders:

***"But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth [the Bible] will be blasphemed. (2 Peter 2:1-2)***

- Those of you who believe the Bible need to fight for its inclusion in the public life of our country. We need to contend for the Biblical faith which has been handed down by our forefathers in the faith, and we need to fight for a Biblically based society and nation, founded on the Christian faith and the Holy Scriptures, fought for at the loss of fortune, possession and property and life, by our founding fathers, and handed down to us. If we don't, God's warning to Israel through the prophet Amos, will fall upon our country, indeed, if it hasn't already:

***"Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord God, "That I will send a famine on the land; Not a famine of bread, Nor a thirst for water, But of hearing the words of the Lord. They shall wander from sea to sea, And from north to east; They shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Lord, But shall not find it." (Amos 8:11-12)***

- We have been given a stern apostolic charge, in light of those NT prophecies such as 2 Timothy 3, 1 Timothy 4, among others, which warn us of the turbulent and perilous times that will mark the last days. 2 Timothy 4:1-5, the apostle gives us a strong admonition (and it was part of the charge given to me at my holy ordination orders in 1981 as my Bible was handed to me):

***"In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: <sup>2</sup>Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction. <sup>3</sup>For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. <sup>4</sup>They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. <sup>5</sup>But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry."***

- Our identifying statement of who we are as a congregation ensconces us firmly in the Bible: **"We, the members of the Fresno Christian Growth Center make up a community of faith, rooted in the eternal word, empowered by the eternal Spirit, to continue the ministry of the eternal one."**
- This is no laughing matter. Of all the messages I have ever preached, this next series will probably be one of my most important (if not the most important) series I have ever done. I hope I can do it justice by holding your attention throughout it, and in the process elevate your awe of the Bible, and inspire you to study it and live it, even as you love it, as I do. Lets pray together and ask God's blessing.
- Now, in this series we will find out if the charges that the Bible has been mistranslated ad nauseum, and that the Biblical writers wrote out of their own personal biases, etc...
- How trustworthy is the Bible, and how can it be infallible and have divine authority over us if it was written by fallible men? And are the translations of the bible we have today trustworthy or are they corrupt?
- Before we talk about ***How the Book of God Came to Us*** I'd like to lay a foundation by talking about ***How the Word of the LORD Came to Us?*** This series is a study on how the spoken Word of God became the Written Word or Book of God. **T**

## A. HOW DOES GOD SPEAK TO US? HOW DOES THE WORD OF THE LORD COME?

1. Throughout the OT we often read

- a. *“and the word of the LORD came to Abraham”*
  - b. *“and the word of the LORD came to Isaiah the prophet”*
  - c. *“and in such and such a year, the word of the LORD came unto Jeremiah the prophet, saying...”*
2. Now these men weren't meditating or praying, or doing yoga or any other such thing trying to get in touch with the supernatural or divine. God chose the day, hour, the timing to speak to them, and at the time of His good pleasure, He revealed His will to them, and when this happened, we are simply told, *“and the Word of the LORD came...”* to them.
3. Almighty God, the living God, is a God who speaks. He spoke the word into creation, and He revealed His will for mankind by speaking His will to Adam. He has spoke thus, often, to men through His prophets and Apostles. This is the unique truth of Christianity. God's spoken word was written down for all generations. Throughout all generations, God has preserved what He spoke through His written Word - the Bible. God revealed the totality of His will to mankind in history, progressively. This progressive revelation was a deliberate, step-by-step process by which God made His will, His truths and His message known to man. How did He do this?

#### **a. Revelation**

- i. Revelation begins with a thought in the mind of God. The Bible reveals to us that God wishes to be in relationship with us and in the context of that relationship, share with us what He knows. It is because God is a person and therefore, seeks to have a personal relationship with us, that He did not simply plug Himself and His knowledge into our minds and press the download button. Instead, His plan was to reveal Himself only to a few who then, in turn, shared with us what God revealed to them. These were designated as "prophets." This enabled those people who heard what the prophets had received from God in their own vernacular. This is what the writer of Hebrews meant, when he wrote chapter one verses 1 & 2 -

***“God, who in sundry times and in diverse manners, spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets; has in these last days spoken to us by His Son... (Hebrews 1:1-2a).***

- ii. God's revelation was progressive in that it wasn't all given at the same time not was it accomplished in the same manner.
- iii. Yet in each case, God communicated His message to them in a way in which His message was internalized in them and

understood by them in ways familiar with them; and these same men later on became the authors of Scripture. This process is known as Revelation. We'll speak more on this in a minute.

## **b. Inspiration**

- i. The human speakers of “the divinely revealed Word” became the authors of “the divinely revealed Book” by taking the words that God had given them and writing them down, using their own languages and vocabularies. Inspiration not only illumined God’s word to them, but also empowered them to write God’s word accurately and succinctly, so that the words they wrote were as much the living revelation of God as the spoken word was. So not only are the words of God inspired, but the book of God containing His word is itself inspired as well.
- ii. This is so because the men who recorded God’s word with pen and paper were themselves inspired. Everything about God’s revelation to man is inspired because it is superintended by the third person of the Blessed Trinity, The Holy Spirit. He inspires the Words, He inspired the writers, He inspires the preachers and teachers who preach and teach the Word, He inspires those who hear and read the Word, and He inspires obedience to the Word and performing the Word.
- iii. This work was supervised by the Holy Spirit so that the complete, infallible and inerrant Word of God was communicated and recorded. This is the doctrine of ***Inspiration***. Peter and Paul clearly point this out: Paul tells us in 2 Timothy 3:16-17

***<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.***

- iv. Peter tells us in 2 Peter 1:20-21

***<sup>19</sup>And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; <sup>20</sup>knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, <sup>21</sup>for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.***

- v. So, whenever someone preaches the Bible, or speaks in the name of God the words of God, sharing something God has given them, or a burden God has put upon them, revelation and inspiration take place on the part of both the speaker and the hearer. Those

who respond in faith and love get convicted, comforted, called, saved, edified and empowered; those who resist inspiration get hardened and calloused in their hearts, and become more cynical, as they descend deeper into darkness and unbelief (Romans 1).

- vi. Jesus warned about this very thing in Matthew 13:12-15, when he said-

***“Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. This is why I speak to them in parables:***

***Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing they do not hear or understand.***

***In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:***

***You will be ever hearing but never understanding;***

***You will be ever seeing but not perceiving.***

***For this people’s heart has become calloused;***

***They hardly hear with their ears,***

***And they have closed their eyes.***

***Otherwise they might see with their eyes,***

***Hear with their ears,***

***Understand with their hearts,***

***And turn, and I would heal them.”***

### **c. Illumination/Hermeneutics**

- i. As the believer reads and studies the Bible, its truths are enlightened by the Holy Spirit, so that they might be convicted of sin and unbelief, challenged to grow and walk in faith, and transformed in their thoughts and ideas. In other words, the Word becomes embodied and embraced by faith in the heart and mind and thinking of the devoted believer, by the ministry of the Holy Spirit.
- ii. The study of the Bible is not merely an intellectual exercise. It comes to the one who reads the Words of God worshipfully, as the Holy Spirit gives light and ILLUMINATION, and as the believer studies utilizing the use of the sound tools of interpretation called HERMENEUTICS. Such things as context, culture, consistency, and the like go into understanding what was meant behind the written Word, so that it is not taken out of the context of its originally intended meaning, as the devil is famous for doing.
- iii. Jesus promised us that when He went away, He would send us another counselor/comforter/advocate just like Himself. He, the Holy Spirit, is thus called the “Spirit of truth” who has been sent to “guide us into all truth.” (John 16:12-14) He illumines the teachings and commandments of Jesus Christ to us so that we might know them, believe them and do them.
- iv. Since all of Scripture testifies about Jesus Christ, it’s as if Jesus were an open book, and that when we study the Bible we are studying Him, and the Holy Spirit thus stands behind us and shines the spotlight of illumination over our shoulder so that we

might see Jesus more clearly, love Him more deeply, and understand Him more truly.

#### **d. Application**

- i. These inspired, illuminated, Word infused thoughts in the mind of the believer have not accomplished their purpose until they are transformed into a corresponding action in his/her life.
- ii. Thus, we can see that the end goal of God's communication to man is to bring about a change, not only in our beliefs, but also in our behaviors and lives.
- iii. We must not merely study the Bible as a mere academic exercise. We study it because it brings us to the knowledge of God and because we respond by obeying Him. The outcome from our growing in the knowledge of God should always be worship, and obedient service. However, if we refuse to heed what we hear when listening to the inspired word of God, and fail to take it seriously enough to apply it, our hearts will begin to harden to it, and our internal resistance will become more stubborn, until we actually become deaf to it, no longer able to even hear it. This is a symptom of either judgment or discipline upon those who resist or rebel against the Word of God. (Isaiah 6:9-10; Matthew 13:15).

## **B. HAS GOD SPOKEN? THE DOCTRINE OF REVELATION**

### **1. Two Types of Revelation**

God is different from us in that He is transcendent. By this we mean that God is separate and apart from His creation. Therefore, it would be impossible to know God were it not for the fact that He has taken the initiative and revealed Himself to man. His revelation is a self-revelation. He has done this in two ways

#### **a. General Revelation.**

**18**The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, **19**since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. **20**For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

**21**For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. **22**Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools **23**and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for

**images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.**

**24Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. 25They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen. (Romans 1:18-25)**

- i. General revelation is also called "natural" revelation, which means that it is revelation that takes place within the realm of nature., rather than that it comes naturally - (John Denver's Rocky Mountain High – “talk to God and listened to the casual reply” seems to say it comes naturally and is in error)
- ii. The signs of God's presence in the realm of nature are only visible to us because God has revealed them to us (universe; order; beauty; providence; affinity, etc....)
- iii. There is a limitation to this general revelation. For instance, the doctrine of the Trinity is not clearly revealed in nature alone, but needs to be further revealed and explained.
- iv. This passage in Romans states that there are two specific aspects of God's existence which are revealed in creation.
  - His eternal power (Niagara Falls; Yosemite; Moon, Stars, Sun; Ocean)
  - His divine nature (beauty in nature; sun rises on just and unjust = mercy; order)

## **b. Special Revelation**

**<sup>6</sup>We do, however, speak a message of wisdom among the mature, but not the wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. <sup>7</sup>No, we speak of God's secret wisdom, a wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began. <sup>8</sup>None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. <sup>9</sup>However, as it is written:**

**“No eye has seen,  
no ear has heard,  
no mind has conceived  
what God has prepared for those who love him”**

**<sup>10</sup>but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. (1 Corinthians 2:6-10)**

- i. There are certain things which have never been seen or heard by mortal man nor even entered the heart of man. Such things cannot be understood through logic, intellect or rationally. They are the workings of God and the blessings that He has promised to those who are His people

- ii. How can we know about them? It is only through specific revelation

***“but God has revealed it to us by his Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:10).***

- iii. Man was originally created to have fellowship with God. However, this doesn't negate the fact that Adam and Eve required special revelation in order to know anything about God. This special revelation was provided by God when He communicated His will to Adam in the Garden.
- iv. Man is unique in that he alone is created in the image and likeness of God. He alone in all of creation has a God-consciousness. You have never seen a rooster worship the Lord. A tiger does not ask a blessing on the food he is about to eat. Even a praying mantis does not pray. Only man is made to have fellowship with God, and to know specific and special things from God.

## 2. THE EFFECTS OF THE FALL ON REVELATION

- i. Man's fall into sin broke his fellowship with God. The lines of communication between God and man were broken. Because of man's fallen, sinful condition, he could do nothing to repair the situation.
- ii. Thus, not only is man helpless to know God on the basis of being a limited creature, he is in an even further state of helplessness and darkness, due to his sin, known as **enmity**, which is a state of deep seated ill will, hostility and hatred toward someone (Gen. 3:15; James 4:4; 1 John 2:15-16; Romans 8:7). Romans 3, among other passages, tell us fallen people don't even care about the things of God, and don't even bother to seek Him on their own. And there is a sense in which man has become dulled in his ability to comprehend God and the things of God.
- iii. This means that God must take the initiative in restoring fellowship with man. He must be the one who first acts out of love for us by calling out to us through His preachers and prophets who preach from His word, summoning us to seek Him, believe Him, obey Him, turn to Him.
- iv. In both salvation and revelation, it is GOD who takes the initiative. This is one way to define grace. God reveals Himself in His son, and the Holy Spirit reveals the person and work and teachings of the Son to us. The entire Trinity works to reveal the truth and love of God to us. As Romans 1 put it, ***“We are w/o excuse.”***

### 3. THE PLACE OF THE PROPHET IN REVELATION

**“God, who in sundry times and in divers manners, spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets...has in these last days spoken unto us by His Son... (Hebrews 1:1-2a).**

- i. What is a prophet? The Prophet served as a mouthpiece for God. God spoke through them. They spoke for God. They were called a number of different names: seers, prophets and, as in the case of Elijah & Elisha, “Man of God.”

#### **b. The Dependence of the Prophets upon the Spirit of God**

***“But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. (2 Peter 1:20-21)***

- i. The contrast is obvious. The message of the prophets did not originate with the prophets. That message came from God.

#### **c. God's Revelation Coincides with His Redemptive Work.**

**“Surely the Lord God does nothing unless He reveals His secret counsel to His servants the prophets.” (Amos 3:7)**

- i. God always speaks when He institutes redemptive activity. When He is not engaged in redemptive activity, there is generally no need for God to speak.

#### **d. Jesus - the Ultimate Prophet.**

- i. Jesus fulfilled the promise of Moses that there would come one who would be a prophet of his caliber (Deuteronomy 18:15-19).
- ii. Jesus is the ultimate revelation of God. It is for this reason that He is called "the Word" (John 1:1, 14). He is the living word of God. God has communicated Himself to us by becoming man (Colos.)

### 4. CHARACTERISTICS OF REVELATION

#### **a. Revelation is Progressive**

- i. The way that God revealed Himself in the Garden of Eden to Adam and the woman does not seem to have been as detailed a revelation as that which is presented in the New Testament epistles.

- ii. Instead, God has gradually revealed greater and greater measures of His truth over a long period of time as He spoke " in sundry times and in divers manners" (Hebrews 1:1).
- iii. **Each aspect of revelation was based upon that which had been given prior.** Thus, when Jesus stood in the Temple in Jerusalem and said, "Before Abraham was, I AM," it was presupposed that those who were listening knew that God had once told Moses, "I AM THAT I AM."
- iv. The revelation that Jesus was God in the flesh was based upon a prior revelation of who God was in His pre-incarnate state.

#### **b. Revelation is Partial**

*"The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things revealed belong to us and our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law. (Deuteronomy 29:29).*

*"For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known. (1 Corinthians 13:12)*

- i. (1 John 3:3).

#### **c. The Results of Revelation**

- i. Now I want to ask you a question. It is the question that you should ask at the end of any Bible study. It should be asked of any teaching and after any sermon. What are the practical applications of this teaching of divine revelation?
- ii. We now have a higher perspective of the world in which we live. We can see it from a new point of view. We can know who we are in light of it, and what we are destined for, since our destiny has to do with our origins, and the Bible says our origins are rooted in God's design and purpose for us when He created us.
- iii. The humanist seeks to do one of three things when he is confronted with the question of God
  - he denies the existence of God.
  - he claims that God cannot be known.
  - he tries to regulate God to a little storage cabinet among the other details of life (Roman pantheon and pinch of incense)

**personal comment: *It all comes down to this: there can only be one LORD. You can have many lords, but there can only be one LORD, ultimately speaking, who carries the most weight, the most***

**authority; whose Word is the first word and the last word, and His word is to be obeyed above all other words.**

**A denial of God, no matter how intellectual it sounds, is merely an attempt at masking the real issue: the fear of surrendering the reigns of your life to another; to relinquish control of your life and destiny.**

**The real question behind the questioning of whether or not the Bible is trustworthy enough to have ultimate authority over our lives as God's Word to man, is the question of who has the right to hold the reigns and call the shots and hold us accountable for our moral conduct.**

**As a father and as a pastor, I boldly make my stand by saying as for me and my house and the church I pastor, we will never tolerate our God, or the symbols that represent our God and the word of God, to merely be placed in a cubbyhole alongside everybody else's idea of gods and goddesses, or what ever belief system they have. We will not give so much as a pinch of incense to Caesar, however he disguises himself in our modern, slipping, sliding government.**

iv. You see, the bottom line for me is that God has spoken! And God wrote a book! It is foolish to deny the existence of someone who is standing there talking to you. It is foolish to deny a book whose author is God.

- Fact: God can be known.
- He can be known because He has made Himself known. He has revealed Himself to us. He spoke to us; he wrote a book to us.
- God has given us commands to be obeyed.
- And bottom line: our lives dare not remain unchanged by the fact of revelation. It should make all the difference in the world. Jesus said in Matthew 7:24-27 -

**<sup>24</sup>“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. <sup>25</sup>The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. <sup>26</sup>But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. <sup>27</sup>The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”**

Hebrews 2:1-4 warns us

**<sup>1</sup>We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away. <sup>2</sup>For if the message spoken by angels was binding, and every violation and disobedience received its just punishment, <sup>3</sup>how shall we escape if we ignore such a great salvation? This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord,**

***was confirmed to us by those who heard him. <sup>4</sup>God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.***

<b><i>Qualities of Spiritual Health/Atrophy</i></b>	
<b>Spiritual Health</b>	<b>Spiritual Atrophy</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• hope</li> <li>• positive outlook</li> <li>• thankfulness (attitude of gratitude)</li> <li>• acceptance of death</li> <li>• forgiveness, self-acceptance</li> <li>• commitment and devotion</li> <li>• meaning and purpose</li> <li>• clear values and morals</li> <li>• inner peace</li> <li>• intimacy and openness</li> <li>• edification when reading the word</li> <li>• self-worth, self-esteem</li> <li>• biblical behavior (follow biblical guidelines)</li> <li>• respect and submission to authority</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• emptiness, depression, despair</li> <li>• anxiety, neurotic</li> <li>• loss of meaning and purpose</li> <li>• apathy and lethargy</li> <li>• obsessing over "magic" solutions</li> <li>• conflicting values</li> <li>• needing to prove one's self</li> <li>• hurried and harried</li> <li>• self-absorption (psycho-somatics)</li> <li>• Sleepy and bored when reading the word</li> <li>• justify and rationalize sin</li> <li>• do what is right in own eyes</li> <li>• fear of man instead of God</li> <li>• rebellion against authority</li> <li>• pride, hard-hearted, "past feeling", irreverence, alienation, isolation</li> <li>• moral free-for- all</li> <li>• unwholesome attraction to what is dark and oppressive</li> <li>• unthankful and resentful</li> </ul>

The sum of all scripture is that people come to faith and grow in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

John 20:30-31

***<sup>30</sup>And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup>but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.***

1 John 5:13

***<sup>13</sup>These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.***

Luke 16:19-31

***“If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.”***

Next week we will deal with the question: Did God Write a Book? The Doctrine of Inspiration. We will find out who wrote the Bible, and how the word of God became the Book of God.