

Christian Doctrine

The Bible (Part 1)

How We Know What We Know about God

General Revelation

General revelation refers to those things, which every person sees and experiences, that reveal God's existence and shows what He is like. These include:

- Nature: Creation itself shows us God's glory and creativity ([Ps. 19:1-6](#)).
- History: God's hand in the events of history reveal His existence and sovereignty ([Ps. 75:6-7](#); [Acts 17:26-27](#); [Rom. 13:1](#)).
- Man's conscience: Our ability to know right and wrong teaches us what God is like ([Rom. 1:18-32](#); [2:14-16](#)).

There are, however, many questions that these things do not answer, such as: How can I know God personally? Why do I exist? What is the purpose of life? Thus, general revelation is not enough to know God the way He desires us to know Him. In order to understand these deeper things, we must see how God has spoken to us more specifically.

Special Revelation

Special revelation refers to everything God has told us that we would not know apart from His direct communication. There is no question that God desires to speak to us ([Deut. 29:29](#); [Amos 3:7](#); [I Cor. 2:10](#); [Heb. 1:1-2](#)). Some of the ways God has spoken to mankind throughout history include:

- Dreams and visions ([Gen. 28:12-16](#); [37:5-9](#); [Mt. 1:20](#); [2:13, 19](#))
- Theophanies: God appearing and speaking to people (Abraham – [Gen. 12:7](#); Moses - [Ex. 3:2](#); etc.)
- Prophets: God speaking through individuals ([II Sam. 23:2](#); [Zech. 1:1](#); [Eph. 3:5](#))
- Jesus Christ ([John 1:1](#); [Heb. 1:1-3](#))
- The Bible ([Ps. 19:7](#); [II Tim. 3:15-17](#))

God has given us the Bible as His way of speaking to us today. It is a written record of everything God desires us to know. Scripture serves as a trustworthy source for hearing from God at any time and in any place ([II Peter 1:18-21](#)).