

Introduction to the Bible

Session 2: Progressive Revelation

What does the Bible reveal?

How does it reveal it?

Why does God need to reveal Himself?

Why does it reveal it the way it reveals it?

1. Why does God need to reveal Himself?

Fellowship and communion with God was lost in the fall. Adam and Eve were created with identity, authority, blessing, and purpose. But when they chose to follow the enemy instead of God those things were distorted or lost.

Genesis 1:26-28

Genesis 2:16-17

Genesis 3:1-6

Genesis 3:8-10

Man's position and relationship with God was changed as a result of the fall.

Hebrews 11:6 "And without faith it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that He exists and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him."

Ephesians 4:17-18 NKJV "This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;"

2. Did God change?

James 1:17

Malachi 3:6 NKJV "For I am the LORD, I do not change..."

Hebrews 13:8 NKJV "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

1 Corinthians 2:14 NKJV "But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

3. How does God reveal Himself?

Through Progressive Revelation in His Word

When we are talking about progressive revelation, we are talking about the revealing of God's plan throughout history and throughout the Word pertaining to Christ Jesus.

Romans 16:24-26 NKJV "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen. Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith—"

Revelation = APOKALUPSIS," = appearing, coming, manifestation, revelation; from the root word apokalypso meaning disclose, to take off the cover, to reveal

John 1:17-18

Hebrews 1:1-2 NKJV "God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they."

John 16:12

BUT John 16:13!

Matthew 13:16-17 NKJV "But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear. For truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

Matthew 13:35

Old Testament Revelation was accurate but incomplete. They did not have the whole picture, only part of the picture. Only the shadow of the one who was projecting it.

4. Why did God reveal it this way?

Galatians 4:4 NKJV "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,"

Mankind wasn't ready for the full plan to be revealed until it could be observed in Christ.

Matthew 16:21-23 NKJV "From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "Far be it from You, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

John 16:25

John 16:33