

## **Bible Basics for a Christian Worldview**

A Bible Study for PEP-Jacksonville *Starting Points*

By Pastor David L. Burke, BSEE, M.Div.

**“Christianity is not a series of truths in the plural, but rather truth spelled with a capital ‘t’ Truth about total reality, not just religious things.  
“Biblical Christianity is Truth concerning total reality—and the intellectual holding of that total Truth and then living in the light of that Truth.”  
—Francis Schaeffer, Address at the University of Notre Dame, April 1981.**

This study is based upon the following resources:

*A Summary of Christian Doctrine* by Louis Berkof (Banner of Truth)

*Understanding Biblical Doctrine* by Ronald W. Nickerson (Crown & Covenant Publications)

*Confessing Christ* by Calvin Knox Cummings (Great Commissions Publications)

*The Reformation Study Bible*, ESV Version (Ligonier Ministries)

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture citations and references are from the *English Standard Version* (ESV) of the Bible, © 2000, 2001 by Crossway Bibles.

## Study 1 – Revelation and the Holy Scriptures

### I. Revelation in General

- A. Definition: Revelation refers to the various means by which the Triune God reveals or makes known to us His person and character, His works and ways, His will for our lives, and especially the way of salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ.
- B. Necessity: Unless God reveals Himself to us, we cannot know or interact with Him, know how we are to live in His world, or even why we exist (e.g., “No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father’s side, he has made him known,” John 1:18).
- C. God’s reveals Himself in two ways: to all men generally in creation (general or natural revelation) and to many in special and/or supernatural ways, especially in the Bible (special or supernatural revelation). As an example, see Ps. 19:1-6 and 19: 7-14.

### II. General or Natural Revelation

- A. Definition: General or natural revelation is God’s self-disclosure given to all men in the facts and workings of nature, and in the moral/religious make-up of man.
- B. God reveals Himself in His creation.
  - 1. Read Psalm 19:1-4.
    - a) What does v. 1 say the heavens and the sky declare/proclaim to man?  
\_\_\_\_\_
    - b) What does v. 2 say is shown to man by the creation?  
\_\_\_\_\_
    - c) According to vs. 3-4, how widespread and understandable is nature’s testimony of God? \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2. Read Romans 1:18-20.
    - a) According to these verses, is the unbelieving man ignorant of God? What does man do with the truth of God’s existence?  
\_\_\_\_\_
    - b) How does v. 20 say that God has made Himself and His invisible characteristics known to all men?  
\_\_\_\_\_
    - c) What two attributes or characteristics of God is man able to perceive in creation? List two examples of these attributes as shown in nature.  
\_\_\_\_\_
    - d) How clear is God’s revelation of Himself in nature? \_\_\_\_\_
    - e) What is the result upon all men of this universal knowledge of God (v. 20) in nature? \_\_\_\_\_

C. God reveals Himself in the moral/religious make-up of man.

1. Read Romans 1:21-25.

a) Though all men know the true God and are obligated to worship Him, what do they do instead?  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) From this, we can say that God reveals Himself to man through man's \_\_\_\_\_ nature.

2. Read Romans 2:14-15.

a) According to these verses, does man have an innate sense of right and wrong? \_\_\_\_\_. What word is used in v. 15 for this inner sense of right and wrong?  
\_\_\_\_\_

b) From this, we can say that God reveals Himself to man through man's \_\_\_\_\_ nature.

D. According to Rom. 10:13,14 and 2 Timothy 3:15, what does the creation not reveal to man? \_\_\_\_\_

### III. Special or Supernatural Revelation

A. Definition: Special or supernatural revelation refers to the special means whereby God has revealed Himself to sinful man in order to reveal His nature and character, His will for man, and the way of salvation in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Though God has in the past employed various means of special revelation, the Bible is His preeminent and abiding means of special revelation for mankind.

B. Match the appropriate verses listed in the right hand column with the form of special revelation listed in the left hand column.

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|---|-------------------------|
| ___ 1. By direct appearance (theophany) | a. 1 Thessalonians 2:13 |
| ___ 2. In a voice from heaven           | b. Hebrews 1:1          |
| ___ 3. In dreams or visions             | c. 2 Timothy 3:16       |
| ___ 4. In His Son, Christ               | d. Daniel 4:31          |
| ___ 5. Through the prophets             | e. Judges 13:2-23       |
| ___ 6. By the apostles                  | f. John 1:15-18         |
| ___ 7. In the Scriptures                | g. Genesis 31:11-13     |

C. Read Numbers 12:6-8 and Heb. 1:1-2. What do the following verses tell us had to be done if these revelations were to be preserved? Deut. 31:24, Jer. 36:1-2, Luke 1:1-4  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### IV. The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture

A. Definition: The original manuscripts of the Old and New Testaments were given by God the Holy Spirit guiding the human writers of Scripture in such a way that the Bible in all its parts and all its words is totally free from error and is the very Word of God but at the same time does not rule out the personality and style of the individuals chosen by God to write the Scriptures. This is commonly referred to as verbal, plenary, organic inspiration.

B. The Bible is inspired by God. This means that God is the ultimate author of Scripture and that the Bible carries the authority of God Himself).

1. Read 2 Timothy 3:15-17.

a) What is the primary purpose of the Bible as stated in v. 15?

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b) Read 2 Timothy 3:16 in the English Standard Version (you can find in online at <http://www.biblegateway.com>). How is the Scripture given to us?

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c) What are the four uses of Scripture stated in v. 16?

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d) According to v. 17, what is the goal of these four uses of Scripture?

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2. Read 2 Peter 1:21.

a) What did not produce the prophecies of the Bible?

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b) How did the true prophecies of the Bible come about?

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C. The Bible, God's very Word, is fully and completely true and authoritative.

1. Read Psalm 19:7-11

a) What are the six adjectives in 7-9 that describe Scripture's trustworthiness?

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b) How valuable and useful is Scripture according to vs. 10-11?

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2. Read Leviticus 19:2 and Romans 7:12. What common quality is ascribed both to God and His Word? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Read Romans 3:4a and John 17:17. What common quality is ascribed both to God and His Word? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Read Matthew 5:17 and John 10:35. What was Jesus' view of the Old Testament?

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5. Read Isaiah 8:20. What does this verse say about the authority of those who speak contrary to God's Word? \_\_\_\_\_
- D. The Bible is sufficient as the only rule of faith and life.**
1. Read Proverbs 30:5-6.
    - a) How reliable is God's Word? \_\_\_\_\_
    - b) What are we command not to do? \_\_\_\_\_
    - c) Why not? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Read Revelations 22:18,19.
    - a) What two things do these verses command us not to do?  
\_\_\_\_\_
    - b) What are the consequences of disobeying God's commands?  
\_\_\_\_\_
    - c) What is the significance of finding these commands at the very end of the last book of the Bible?  
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