

# Systematic Theology





# Types of Revelation

- General Revelation
- Special Revelation



# General Revelation

- Generally Available
- General Information



# Special Revelation

- God making Himself known with a clarity and fullness that surpasses general revelation.



# Intro to Special Revelation

- Jesus
- Scripture (The Bible)
- Particular Revelation



# Special Rev- Jesus

➤ God's Living Word



In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

John 1:1-2, 14, 18

ESV



# Special Rev- Written Word

- The Bible
- Inspired By God
- *God-Breathed*



All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

ESV



# Special Rev- Particular Rev

- Revelation to Specific Individuals at Specific Times
  - Dreams
  - Visions
  - Etc



What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up. Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others weigh what is said. 30 If a revelation is made to another sitting there, let the first be silent. 31 For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all be encouraged,

1 Corinthians 14:26, 29-31

ESV



# Prophecy

- Cessation?
- Scripture ALWAYS Takes Supremacy
- Maybe Not As Dramatic As We Often Think



# Inspiration

- Absolutely Essential and Fundamental
- Scripture, Not Authors
- Inspiration is a property of the Scripture, not the authors.



And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:19-21

ESV



# Generally Available

- Information that is not restricted to certain people, times or places.
- Available to all mankind



# Extent of Inspiration

- Plenary
- Verbal
- Confluent



# Plenary

- All of Scripture is inspired by God.
  - Doctrine
  - Prophecy
  - Trivialities



# Verbal

- Not Just The Concepts
- The Very Words
- Small Differences Could Make A Big Change



# Confluent

- Both The Product of Human Author and God



# Theories of Inspiration

- Two Primary Theories
  - Dictation
  - Supervision



# Dictation Theory

- God Dictated His Word
- Stenographers
- NOT A COMMON VIEW ANYMORE
  - Trivial Things Make This Difficult



Erastus remained at Corinth, and I left Trophimus, who was ill, at Miletus. Do your best to come before winter. Eubulus sends greetings to you, as do Pudens and Linus and Claudia and all the brothers.

2 Timothy 4:20-21

ESV



# Supervision Theory

- God Sovereignly Guided The Authors To Write
- Their own:
  - Terms
  - Language
  - Feelings



# But How?

- Apparent Incoherency of Plenary, Verbal, and Confluent
- Many Theologians Do Not Have An Answer



# Root Question

“This is the problem that we confront. If you want to have a supervision theory of inspiration, how is it that the Holy Spirit can produce a revelation which is verbally, word for word, God’s revelation to us, and yet is done through the free, spontaneous authorship of human writers?”



# Inerrancy & the Problem of Evil

- Basingers Argued:
  - Essentially You Can Have Either:
    - Free Will
    - Biblical Inerrancy
    - But Not Both



# Cont.

- If God can violate free will to cause men to write His inspired Word, then he could violate it to make a world that is without evil.



1 The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

Psalm 19:1

ESV



14 For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law.  
15 They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them  
16 on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

Romans 2:14-16

ESV



6 He will render to each one according to his works: 7 to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life;

Romans 2:6-7

ESV



Questions?

The background is a dark blue, wavy pattern that resembles a gravitational well or a distorted grid. It is filled with numerous small, white and light blue stars of varying sizes. In the lower-left quadrant, there is a faint, glowing nebula-like structure with a reddish-pink hue. The overall effect is that of a deep space or a complex physical field.