

# SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY





# WHAT KIND OF REVELATION?

- The Action
- Not the Book



# AUTHORITY

- “...the right to demand belief and obedience.”
- Levels of Authority
  - Subsidiary Authority
    - Parents
    - State
    - God



# GOD IS THE SUPREME AUTHORITY

- “...has the right... to demand belief and obedience unconditionally from us.”
- So how can we know His plan?



# GOD'S AUTHORITY

- “If God is the ultimate authority who directs our lives, command us to live in certain ways, and requires us to believe certain things, how do we know God’s will and mind on any subject, so as to follow His authority?”



# OUR DEFINITION OF REVELATION

- “Revelation is the disclosure of God’s will and mind on something.”
- It is how God has chosen to reveal Himself to us. (Unveiling)



# TWO TYPES & TWO DEFINITIONS

- Definitions
  - Broad Revelation
    - Any Communication From God
    - General Info from Bible & Revealed in Nature
  - Narrow Revelation
    - Hidden Information Such As Prophecy



# TWO TYPES & TWO DEFINITIONS

- Types
  - General Revelation
  - Special Revelation



# GENERAL REVELATION

- Senses of General Revelation
  - Generally Available
  - General Information



# GENERALLY AVAILABLE

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



# GENERAL INFORMATION

- General Information About Who God Is, But Not Specific
- Ex. Creation Shows A Powerful Creator, But Not The Trinity.



# TYPES OF GENERAL REVELATION

- Nature
- Conscience



# NATURE

- All People Can Know There Is A Creator  
Based On Creation Itself



18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

ROMANS 1:18-20

ESV



# CONSCIENCE

➤ A Common Moral Code In Each of Us



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



# FUNCTION OF GENERAL REVELATION

1. To Show Forth God's Glory
2. To Render People Morally Culpable Before God
3. To Make Salvation Through Christ Universally Acceptable
4. To Stabilize Human Society



# TO SHOW FORTH GOD'S GLORY

- Creation Testifies To A Creator
- It Shows Us His Power



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

PSALM 19:1

ESV



# TO RENDER PEOPLE MORALLY CULPABLE

- Morally Guilty
- We Know Right and Wrong



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ESV



# WHAT ABOUT THOSE...

- Who Have Never Heard The Gospel?
  - “... they will be judged fairly on the basis of the information they have, not on the basis of information they never received. They will be judged on the basis of general revelation.”



# SALVATION THROUGH X UNIVERSALLY AVAILABLE

- Salvation Through Christ Can Be Had Through General Revelation
- How Were OT People Saved?
- Possible, But Unusual



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



# STABILIZE HUMAN SOCIETY

- A Common Moral Code Forms A Common Foundation



# GENERAL REV & APOLOGETICS

- Basis For Natural Theology Arguments:
  - Arguments From Design
  - Cosmological Arguments
  - Moral Arguments



# NEXT WEEK

- Read:
  - Defenders 2-3 & 4: Doctrine of Revelation, pg. 16-32 (Special Revelation & Inspiration)



QUESTIONS?

