M05A1 Revelation - Word of God - Part 1

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As humans, we can study to learn about God through Human Speculation, General Revelation, and/or Specific (Special) Revelation. Human speculation captures a god more or less similar to ourselves. This view of may be somewhat better than ourselves or it might be a monster.

General revelation primarily comes through nature. We recognize God’s power and intelligence through beauty and the useful utilities nature provides. The five senses reveal God’s attention to detail through our five senses. We learn a rudimentary love when we realize honey gets us more of what we need than vinegar. A mastery of mathematics enables us to approach the wonder of artificial intelligence. With only general revelation, however, we learn nothing about Jesus and his saving grace. We grow wrinkled, perhaps ravished with cancer, and die without a hope. We can wish to outlive family and friends but if so we die alone. What was ours belongs to someone else or worse is trashed. We’re forgotten.

We can blossom, grow into a self-esteem that knows more awaits us at the end of our lives — when we discover the revelation that God wishes to shower upon us. We best learn about God directly learning from him. In Luke 19:10 “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

God spoke through the sons of God, primarily the descendants of Seth. The sons of man primarily followed the example of Cain. Unfortunately the sons of God intermarried with the daughters of man and at the time of the flood only one family was sufficiently committed God to believe and act to enter the ark.

God spoke through the patriarchs following the flood. Even when Abraham sinned against God and the Philistine king, Abimelech, God instructed the king through a dream to ask Abraham to pray for him. (Genesis 20:7) In Revelations 1:5-6, “ [Jesus Christ] hath made us kings and priests unto God. Abraham mediated as priest to Abimelech. The nation Israel descended from Abraham and God spoke to them with the intention that they be a witness to God’s glory.

When promising blessings in Deuteronomy 28 he says in verse 13, “And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the Lord thy God.” In 2 Kings 20 we read that king Hezikiah was healed by God. Further as a sign God set the clock back (the shadow back 10 degrees). Earlier God had given Judah victory over the Assyrian king, 185,000 Assyrians died over night. All this attracted the attention of the Babylonian king who sent emissaries to learn more. God provided the opportunity to witness but Hezikiah was blind to the burden.

God speaks to his people because he loves them. God speaks “through” his people to others because he also loves them. Matthew 5:16 “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” This speaks of good works in gratefulness to him who saves us; good works his holiness enables in us. Good works of love that point to God above. [Good works don’t achieve salvation but result from our glory in the grace that sets us free.]

Man’s natural state is rebellion against God. We can’t imagine God until we consider the evidences in nature that point to a higher being, not to the chaos of evolution but to a higher power than ourselves. If we then turn to the special revelation showing us God in the Bible then God can draw us to himself. (John 12:32)

Specific Revelation from God is found only in the Bible, and nowhere outside it!

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