GROVE BIBLE

REVELATION OF GOD IN SCRIPTURE

BIBLIOLOGY
PAPER





God's Generosity

God has generously revealed Himself in and through the Scriptures. Jesus, the Word incarnate is the preeminent source and substance of God's special revelation, made known to believers through God's inspired word, the Bible.

God Is generous (Rom. 8:32, 2 Cor. 8:9, Eph. 1:3, James 1:5, 2 Cor. 9:10, Psalm 112:9). He is the source of every good gift (James 1:17). God has given life and breath (Acts 17:25, Gen. 2:7). God has generously given the gift of salvation to His people (Rom. 6:23, Eph. 2:8, Isaiah 55:1), He has given the gift of repentance, and eternal life (Acts 11:18). He has given the gift of faith (Phil. 1:29) and has even given His very own Son as the sacrifice (John 3:16). God has also freely given His Spirit and His Word (1 Cor. 2:12). The doctrine of God's generosity highlights His benevolent nature, most supremely, the gift of revealing Himself in Jesus Christ, through His holy Word. (John 1:18, 2 Cor. 4:6, 2 Tim 3:16). God is generous in His very essence, "God reveals himself to himself, each Trinitarian person to the other two, and his revelation extends beyond his own being. It comes also to the world He has created, and especially to the intelligent creatures of that world: angels and human beings. Because self-revelation is His nature, he wants all his creatures to know him" (John Frame). God did not create because of any lack or need, in Himself (Acts 17:24,25), rather He generously created out of the abundant overflow of His perfect being. The most generous gift that God shares is....Himself, revealed in His word. God the self-existent, wholly independent, eternal, and transcendent God, has generously stooped down to make Himself known through His word, as John Calvin vividly expressed,"God is like that nurse who lisps to a new born babe."



Revelation

God has revealed Himself through general revelation to all mankind in creation (Rom. 1:21, Psalm 19:1) and through the conscience (Rom. 2:14). This revelation is not sufficient for salvation though, it merely leaves man without an excuse to deny God (Rom. 1:21). God has savingly revealed Himself, in special revelation, to His people throughout redemptive history, in visions (Isaiah 6:1), by His audible voice (Gen. 3:9), in dreams (Num. 12:6, Gen. 20:3), Theophanies (a tangible manifestation of God) (Deut. 31:15, Gen. 12:7), Christophanies (a tangible manifestation of the pre-incarnate Christ) (1 Cor. 10:4), through the prophets (Ex. 4:11) and in many ways (Heb. 1:1). In these last days, at this point in God's redemptive timeline He reveals Himself through His Son, Jesus Christ, made known in His word, the Bible (Heb.1:2, John 1:18). God reveals His glory in the New Covenant message of The Gospel of Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 4:6). The whole of the Bible is a special revelation of God in written form (2 Tim. 3:15–17). It is a completed work, "nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelation of the Spirit, or traditions of men" (LBC, 1689, Par. 6), (Rev. 22:18-18). No further revelation is needed, only illumination of God's word by His Spirit. God has most clearly revealed Himself in Christ, who did not merely bring a message, but was Himself the message. Jesus is God with us (Matt. 1:23). God generously revealed Himself, in the Word incarnate, through His word inscripturated, the Bible. As James M. Boice said, "we can state categorically that there is no [saving] knowledge apart from Jesus Christ and that there is no knowledge of Jesus Christ apart from a knowledge of the Bible." God has revealed Himself for His glory and for believers eternal gain. "Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son" (Hebrews 1:1-2).