

# Discussion Outline & Questions for Sunday, April 5

## Teaching Series... Seeing God part 2 (Psalm 19)

*Last week we discussed:*

*The first way God has revealed himself is called...*

1. *Natural Revelation.* (Sometimes called 'general revelation')

*...God shows us who He is through His creation; through nature.*

**Psalm 19:1-2**

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

Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.

**This week Question 1: What is a more specific way God reveals himself to us?**

*The second way God has revealed himself is called...*

1. *Special Revelation.* (Sometimes called 'specific revelation')

*...God shows us who He is through His word; through the bible.*

**Psalm 19:7-9**

<sup>7</sup> The *law* of the Lord is *perfect*, reviving the soul;

the *testimony* of the Lord is *sure*, making wise the simple;

<sup>8</sup> the *precepts* of the Lord are *right*, rejoicing the heart;

the *commandment* of the Lord is *pure*, enlightening the eyes;

<sup>9</sup> the *fear* of the Lord is *clean*, enduring forever;

the *rules* of the Lord are *true*, and righteous altogether.

Discussion: v. 7-9 describes the word of the Lord... Take some time and fill in the chart below:

Subject	Description	Function
Law	Perfect	Reviving the soul
fear	clean	Enduring forever

## Question 2: How does the bible set itself apart from all other books?

*The Holy Bible sets itself apart from other books because...*

- 1. The Bible is inspired... God guided human authors to write his Words.*
- 2. Therefore to disbelieve/disobey the bible is to disbelieve/disobey God.*

### **Exodus 24:4 (It's claim)**

And Moses wrote down all the words of the Lord.

### **1 Peter 1:21 (Definition of Inspiration)**

no prophecy (scripture) ever came by the will of man;  
Instead, men spoke from God as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

### **2 Timothy 3:16-17 (Declaration of Inspiration)**

All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Discussion:

- As you look at Exodus 24:4 what was Moses (and other authors of the bible) writing down?
- 1 Peter 1:21 teaches us the bible was written by the will of God not the will of man; so God by his Spirit carries along the human author so that God's words are perfect just like we saw Psalm 19:7;  
...Discuss how does this passage help us see the bible as perfectly reliable, sure and true; yet written by imperfect men.
- According to 2 Timothy 3:16-17 what parts of the bible are inspired?
- According to the rest of this passage 2 Timothy 3:16-17..  
In light of this passage  
...Discuss how much authority the bible should have in our culture, our thinking, and our personal choices.  
...How much authority does the bible actually have in our culture, thinking, and choices. And why...

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## *3. The Bible is confirmed to be from the Lord; its claim, its composition, its prophecy, its message all validate the bible as God's word.*

Some thirty-eight hundred times the Bible declares, "God said," or "Thus says the Lord" (e.g., Ex. 14:1; 20:1; Lev. 4:1; Num. 4:1; Deut. 4:2; 32:48; Isa. 1:10, 24; Jer. 1:11; Ezek. 1:3; etc.)<sup>1</sup>

### **Isaiah 34:16 (It's Claim)**

Search and read the scroll of the Lord:

### **Isaiah 34:16**

Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom;  
listen to the instruction of our God, you people of Gomorrah!

- Think about other books you have read. Have any of them claimed to be the words of God himself?  
This is a pretty unique claim, in fact only a hand full of written material claim to be from God...  
...The Koran, The Book of Mormon, The Vedas, The Sutras, but none of them can compare to the Bible.
- The bible is unlike any other book... Take some time and think of ways the bible is different than all books  
Can you come up with at least 3 things? Make a list of what you come up with that makes the bible unique...
  - 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.

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<sup>1</sup> Enns, P. (2014). [\*The Moody Handbook of Theology\*](#). (J. Vincent & A. Sholes, Eds.) (Revised and Expanded, p. 158). Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers.

- Read through these 7 facts about the bible from Josh.org

- 1. Unique in Authorship.** The Bible was written by roughly forty different people from a whole range of backgrounds. Authors include kings (Solomon), fishermen (Peter), doctors (Luke), military leaders (Joshua), tax collectors (Matthew), and even some who are unknown.
- 2. Unique in Literary Genre.** The Bible is written in a multitude of distinct literary forms (or genres). It includes poetry (Song of Songs), history (Exodus), law (Leviticus), historical biographies (Gospels), songs (Psalms), wise sayings (Proverbs), letters (e.g., Romans), and more.
- 3. Unique in its Languages.** The Bible is written in three different languages (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek). Each of these dialects has a particular way of using words, painting images, and describing reality. Quite obviously, most books are written in one language alone.
- 4. Unique in its Teachings.** The Bible contains unique teachings not found in any of the other religious texts of the world. For instance, Christian Scriptures uniquely teach that salvation is by grace alone, a free gift from God to anyone who will receive it. There are other religions that offer forms of grace, but none that offer grace as a no-strings-attached gift.
- 5. Unique in its Impact.** The Bible has shaped Western civilization more than any other book. Its influence is unmistakable on art, music, literature, history, government, and so on. And despite the common mantra, the Bible was not a hindrance to the development of science. In fact, quite the opposite is true: Christian theology was essential for the rise of science.
- 6. Unique in its Circulation.** Rarely does a book reach the bestseller list or sell a hundred thousand copies. But the Bible has sold billions of copies and been printed tens of billions of times. No other book is even close.
- 7. Unique in its Survival.** No other written work has been as critiqued, scrutinized, or challenged as the Bible. The Bible has survived the attack of the Roman Emperor Diocletian in the 3rd-4th centuries, 18th century biblical criticism, and 20th century postmodern theory. No other book has withstood so much criticism yet remains unscathed to this day.

Lastly, The Bible is also **unique in Its Prophecy...**

...Roughly 30% of the bible is Prophecy. And about 80% of that Prophecy has already been fulfilled...

#### **Isaiah 46:9-10 and Isaiah 48:3, 5 (It's Prophecy)**

I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning  
and from ancient times things not yet done...

"The former things I declared of old; they went out from my mouth, and I announced them;  
then suddenly I did them, and they came to pass.

I declared them to you from of old, before they came to pass I announced them to you,  
lest you should say, 'My idol did them, my carved image and my metal image commanded them.'

- According to these Isaiah passages, God uses prophecy to set himself apart from idols or false gods...  
..since no other book has prophecy like the bible... discuss how prophecy confirms the bible is from God.

(example of Prophecy) Prophecy about the Cyrus and the return of the Jews to Jerusalem

*"Cyrus is my anointed king.  
I will stir up Cyrus and help him win his battles.  
I will make all his roads straight.  
He will rebuild Jerusalem.  
My people have been taken away from their country.  
But he will set them free.  
I will not pay him to do it.  
He will not receive a reward for it,"  
says the Lord who rules over all. (Isaiah 45:1;4;13)*



*The depiction of Cyrus the Great.*

Isaiah accurately predicts the king, his name, and his major foreign policy decision 150 years before he existed. In October 538 BCE, the Persian king Cyrus took Babylon and his first order was to let the Jews go home to rebuild.

### Question 3: How valuable is God's word?

The Holy Bible is valuable because...

1. It gives us specific & trustworthy information about God, life & salvation.
2. It warns us of the dangers of sin & shows us God's plan of redemption.

#### Psalm 19:10-11

<sup>10a</sup> More to be desired are they (*the scriptures*) than gold, even much fine gold;

<sup>10b</sup> (*God's word is*) sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

<sup>11a</sup> Moreover, by them (*God's law*) is your servant warned;

<sup>11b</sup> in keeping them (*God's rules*) there is great reward.

\*\*\*(*my comments were added to the text*)\*\*\*

Discussion: Back to your chart from Psalm 19:7-9 (see below) that describes the word of the Lord...

- Look at your Psalm 19 chart; have someone read aloud the 'Subject, Description, & 'function' sections in a sentence to remind our hearts of the treasure of the bible...

Example: 'God's law' is 'perfect' and it 'revives our soul';

God's testimony' is 'sure' and it 'Makes us wise' etc.

- Now turn those sentences into prayers of praise..

Example: Thank you lord for your 'law' because it is 'perfect' and we praise you that it 'revives our soul';

Subject	Description	Function
God's Law	Perfect	Reviving the soul
God's Testimony	Sure	Making us wise
God's Precepts	Right	Rejoicing the heart
God's Commandment	Pure	Enlightening the eyes
The fear of the Lord	clean	Enduring forever
God's Rules	True	Righteous altogether

- Let's make another section and add it onto our chart according to Psalm 19:10-11.
- In **verse 10a** write out some reasons why God's word is more valuable than gold in your life. (write in space below)
- In **verse 10b** write out some ways God's word brings joy to your life!

Subject	Description	Function
<i>Verse 10a</i> The Scriptures	valuable	Like gold
<i>Verse 10a</i> God's word	Desirable / brings joy	Like honey
<i>Verse 11a</i> God's law	Accurately	Warns
<i>Verse 11b</i> God's word	Obedience to God's word	Rewards

End of Outline for Sunday