

The Nature of Biblical Revelation

Hebrew Roots 101

introduction

A proper view of the nature of the Bible is one of the most important foundations for all believers in Yeshua. Since there has been much confusion in certain circles about the nature of the Bible and the nature of Revelation, it is important to clarify what we consider the biblical position on these issues.

We will approach the subject by defining some of the most important words associated with progressive revelation.

Revelation

- The Definition
- Revelation is “an objective disclosure of truth by God, and used in contrast to illumination, which is the subjective understanding of a revelation”
- In other words “revelation” (not the book of Revelation) has to do with a body of truth from God made known to man. We are saying that the Bible is such a revelation. It is God’s truth made known to man. It is ABSOLUTE TRUTH. It is truth concerning the character and nature of God, of man and of our universe.

REvelation

- Moreover, we assert that there are only 3 ways that God revealed Himself. According to Psalm 19, the first mode of revelation is through that which **(1) He has created**. Hence the Psalm begins, “The heavens declare the glory of God”. God has revealed Himself **(2) through His Son, Yeshua**.
- John chapter 1 declares that He was the Word, the Living Word. God has revealed Himself **(3) through the Written Word**. There will be no additional revelation from God until Messiah returns.

The Scripture

- The Tanakh (OT) is replete with the expression “Thus says the Lord’. It is used in all of the sections of the Tanakh- The Torah, The Prophets and The Writtings. The Brit HaDasha also confirms the fact that God is the source for what is written.
- Here are three of the many passages which we can learn that the words of the Brit HaDasha are from God

The scripture

- John 16: 12-15
- 1 Corinthians 2
- 1 Thessalonians 2:13
- Jude 3
- The truth is, there is no fresher or more intimate revelation than Scripture. God doesn't need to give us private revelation to help us in our walk with Him. The canon of Scripture is complete. Through the Scriptures God has give us a body of teaching that is final and complete.

The scripture

- Of course, that does not negate the fact that through the Spirit of God, the Lord guides and directs us in a subjective way. But those instances are not Scripture and for that reason, they are not to be called revelations from God. Such experiences are a part of having personal relationship with God and they are not to be considered as new revelations from God.
- ***At all times, we are to measure everything with the objective standard of the Scriptures***

inspiration

- The Definition
- **Inspiration literally means** “God-breathed”. (It) refers to the process by which God superintended the writing of the sacred Scriptures so that , without destroying the individual styles of the writers, He nevertheless produced an errorless and authoritative book”
- The word “**Inspiration**” therefore speaks about the way that God’s revelation was recorded. When we say that God inspired the Scriptures, we mean that God’s revelation was accurately recorded by the human writers of the Bible just as God intended. There were no mistakes.

inspiration

- There are a number of characteristics regarding the concept of inspiration when it pertains to the Bible.
 - The source of the information (revelation) was God
 - The inscriber of the information (revelation) was man
 - God used all of the human faculties to inscribe His Words, thereby lending a human characteristics to the Scripture
 - The Scriptures embody God's inspiration in every word equally through out.

inspiration

- **Verbal** – refers to the fact that each and every word was divinely inspired
- **Plenary means “full”**. Hence, this term is used to mean that the history, science, genealogies, etc. contained within the Scriptures are all equally inspired

Inspiration

- The Scriptures
- 2 Timothy 3:16
- 2 Peter 1:20-21

- To summarize and clarify, when we use the word “inspiration” in reference to the Scriptures, we do “not mean that the Bible contains God’s revelation. It does not mean that gems of revealed truth are concealed in Scripture. It does not mean that men wrote God’s truth in their own words. It does not mean God merely assisted the writers. ***It means that the words of the Bible are the words of God, Himself. Every word of Scripture was breathed out by God.***

Infallibility

- The Definition
- Infallible literally means “not fallible or breakable”. It refers to the divine character of Scripture which necessitate it truthfulness” Another way of stating this is that when we use the word “infallible” in reference to the Bible, we are speaking of its reliability and its trustworthiness. It is a word that assumes the inerrancy of the Scripture.
- 1 Timothy 1:15, 3:1, 4:9
- 2 Timothy 2:11 Corinthians 7:25 & Psalm 19:7-10 (Overhead)

Authority

- The Definition
- The word authority when used in reference to the Bible has at least 2 nuances
- (1) The Bible and it only is our standard and text for all faith and practice.
- (2) Authority refers to the spiritual power and effectiveness that characterizes the nature of the Word of God.
- Isaiah 55:10-11
- Hebrews 4:12

Illumination

- The Definition
- This word describes how the Spirit of God brings understanding to readers of the Bible. It is “the process by which God enlightens man’s mind so that the objective disclosure of God (revelation) is subjectively understood by man”
- 1 Corinthians 2:11-16
- (OVERHEADS)

The Nature Of Biblical Revelation

Part II

The Nature of Biblical Revelation

- (Overhead) Progressive revelation is God disclosing His Truths in a gradual and deliberate manner. All of these Truths were established and set in place from before the foundation of the world. Over the progression of time, He chooses to reveal Truths to us. Although the illustration of a seed's gradual growth to a full flower is lacking in some areas, for our purposes it will suffice. In this visual we are essentially providing you with a tool which illustrates a concept that is difficult to verbalize. The "seed" contains all the Truth, and over time that "seed" reveals itself in its fullest expression

Progressive Revelation

- What it is....
- Progressive revelation is God disclosing His truths in a **gradual and deliberate manner.**
- What it is Not.....
- We do not mean that the earlier revelation is **inferior** in any way to the later stages of revelation
- We do not mean that the later stages of revelation **negate** any of the previous allotments from God.
- We do not mean that God is still revealing **more** of His truth today.

Progressive Revelation

- **Biblical Continuity**
- By this we mean that the message of the Bible is the same unified message from Genesis to Revelation. The doctrines established in the Tanakh are expanded in the Brit HaDasha. Moreover, by the term “biblical continuity” we are establishing the principle of consistency throughout all of the Scriptures.

Progressive Revelation

- **The Unity of Scriptures**
- Josh McDowell Quote
- For all that the Bible is not simply an anthology; there is a unity which binds the whole together. An anthology is compiled by an anthologist, but no anthologist compiled the Bible. F.F. Bruce observes “Any part of the human body can only be properly explained in reference to the whole body. And any part of the Bible can only be properly explained in reference to the whole Bible.

The Biblical Basis For Progressive Revelation

Part III

Biblical Basis For Progressive Revelation

- Passages that teach this concept
- Isaiah 2:3
- Isaiah 48:6
- Isaiah said that God was proclaiming new things, “hidden things”. The Hebrew word translated “hidden” (netzerot) is from the root (netzer) which means things that were formerly guarded or kept secret by God.
- Progressive revelation is when God finally reveals things that He has formerly kept guarded and stored in secret, waiting for just the right time (according to His sovereign design) to reveal them.

Biblical Basis For Progressive Revelation Cont.

- Luke 24:44-45
- John 16:12-13 This passage records a prediction by Yeshua of 1) the writing of the epistles = “He will guide you into all truth” 2) the writing of the prophetic portions of the Brit HaDasha, i.e. Revelation
- Hebrews 1:1-2 Our last passage is a critical one. It tells us that God revealed Himself in former times through the prophets. But there was also additional revelation that came through Yeshua, God’s Son.

Biblical Basis For Progressive Revelation Cont

- Kaiser “ There can be little doubt that the Old Testament is a series of successive divine revelations leading up to the grand disclosure in Yeshua The Messiah. That is the point of the writer of Hebrews as he began his book...”

The Importance of Progressive Revelation

- A. Progressive revelation reinforces the truth that God is the same yesterday, today and forever.
- B. Progressive revelation helps us to understand the nature of the unity of the Bible.
- C. Progressive revelation clarifies the Torah, the foundation of our faith.

Examples of Progressive Revelation

- Examples of Progressive Revelation (Overhead)
- A. Messianic Prophecy
 - Genesis 3:15
 - Genesis 12:1-3
 - Joseph
 - Genesis 49:8-10
 - Moshe
 - King David
 - Isaiah (Overhead)
- Micah 5:2
- Daniel 9:25-27
- Zechariah 14
- Malachi 4:5

The Knowledge of the Good News

- B.The Knowledge of the Good News
- 1 Corinthian 15:1-4
- Here it says that a central part of the contents of the Good News is that Messiah died for our sins and rose from the dead.
- Hebrews 4:2
- According to Hebrews 4, the form of the Good News that was known during the period of the Torah was in the concept called “Shabbat” (Sabbath). The writer of Hebrews defines the Good News in terms of the Shabbat rest that we have in Messiah.

The Knowledge of the Good News

- C. The Regeneration of the Remnant
- We have seen thus far how the knowledge of progressive revelation teaches us that although their knowledge was limited, nonetheless, the people of the Remnant, in the historical period of the Tanakh, knew about the Messiah and they also knew about His death and resurrection.

Looking Forward Looking Back

- Overhead
- The people who lived during the Tanakh period looked forward to the death of Messiah, by faith the same was the we look backward by faith, to the same central event.
- Question
- 1. Do you believe more in the first coming of Messiah than His future return?
- 2. Do you believe that God brought the Children of Israel out of Egypt more than you believe that He will resurrect the dead?

ABRAHAMIC COVENANT

**ABRAHAMIC
COVENANT**

Genesis 12:1-13

“land” **“seed”** **“blessing”**

**ISRAEL LAND
COVENANT**

Deuteronomy 30

“land”

**DAVIDIC
COVENANT**

2 Samuel 7

“seed”

**NEW
COVENANT**

Jeremiah 31

“blessing”