

Reformed Systematic Theology

Week Two - The Fact of Divine Revelation

1. Introduction

- A. God revealed Himself
- B. What was it that God revealed about Himself
 - i. His existence and something of his nature
 - ii. Moral precepts through man's nature as the image Dei (image of God).
 - iii. His glory (Proverbs 19:1-3; Rom 1:19-20; WCF 1.1)
 - iv. His wisdom and power

II. Definitions

- A. Revelation – an uncovering; a removal of the veil; a disclosure of what was previously unknown. There are two types of revelation in Scripture:
 - i. General revelation – revelation that does not come in verbal forms but comes through the display of the manifest actions and presence of God. This is seen in creation, laws of nature, moral governance and in the plain examination of history. (Psalm 19:1,2; Romans 1:19, 20; 2:14,15)
 - ii. Special revelation – revelations that is specific and particular as well as progressive and redemptive. This revelation was necessary due to the sinfulness of mankind.
- B. Means of Special Revelation
 - i. Theophanies – Visible manifestation of God. In Scripture there are 5 types:
 - a. human form – Exodus 24:10; 33:11
 - b. visions – Numbers 24:3-4
 - c. “Angel of the Lord” – Genesis 16:7-12; Judges 13:3ff. This is the most used form in the Scriptures.
 - d. not in human form – Exodus 3:2-4:17; Ex 16:10
 - e. As the name of the LORD – Deut 12:5; Psalm 102:15
 - ii. Direct Communication – sometimes God spoke in audible voice to man. Deut. 5:4; 1 Sam. 23:2-4; 1 Kings 3:5)
 - iii. His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ – Heb 1:1-2
 - iv. Miracles
- C. Discussion questions

D. For Further Study

- Mention some of the appearances of the Angel of the Lord. Can he be a mere angel? Why or why not? Gen. 16:13; 31:11, 13; 32:28; Ex. 23:20-23
- Name some examples of revelation by dreams. What were the dreams and what was God revealing? Gen 28:10-17; 31:24; 41:2-7; Judges 7:13; Dan. 2:1-3; Matt. 2:13, 19, 20.
- Mentions some cases in which God revealed Himself in visions. Isa. 6; Ezek. 1-3; Dan 2:19; 7:14; Zech 2-6