

**Fundamentals of the Faith**  
**Lesson One—Introduction To The Bible, Part One**  
***Revelation and Inspiration***

God the Creator chooses to reveal (the root of revelation) Himself To His creation.

The two ways in which God chooses to reveal Himself is through general revelation and special revelation.

***General Revelation***

General Revelation is revelation available to all human beings.

This general revelation is most clearly seen in the creation

*18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, 19 because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. 20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.*

**Romans 1:18-20 (NASB)**

God's existence, attributes, power, and nature are clearly seen in and through the creation.

Verse 20 tells us that such revelation is understood by humanity

*Noeo*: to grasp or comprehend perceive, apprehend, understand,  
gain an insight into

So clear is that revelation that it leaves man guilty and without excuse. (V.20)

*The heavens are telling of the glory of God;  
And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands*  
**Psalm 19:1 (NASB)**

The creation, particularly here the sun, moon, sky, stars, tells a story, a story about the glory of God.

The creation also declares the handiwork of a Creator.

Satan's counterpunch to such clear, glorious, telling revelation? Confuse and pollute

***Special Revelation And Inspiration***

*“God uses special revelation when he reveals himself directly and in greater detail. God has done this through (1) direct acts, (2) dreams and visions, (3) Christ's incarnation, and (4) Scripture.”*

**John MacArthur, Richard Mayhue**  
**Biblical Doctrine: A Systematic Summary of Bible Truth**

*“The Holy Scripture is the only sufficient, certain, and infallible rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience, although the light of nature, and the works of creation and providence do so far manifest the goodness, wisdom, and power of God, as to leave men inexcusable; yet are they not sufficient to give that knowledge of God and his will which is necessary unto salvation.”*

**1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith, 1:1**

Special revelation, in the form of the written word, is given by God through the process of inspiration.

*16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

**2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)**

“God-breathed” = theo (God) pneustos (breath or Spirit)

Scripture testifies that its very words are words breathed out by God.

This sets the Bible apart from any other source claiming to be an authority.

**How Does Inspiration Work?**

*And the Lord said to Moses, “Write these words, for in accordance with these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.”*

**Exodus 34:27 (ESV)**

In this case, God “dictated” the words to the one who would write them.

Those words were captured in written form to be shared as God’s special revelation to His people

*20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

**2 Peter 1:20-21 (ESV)**

Men chosen by God were “carried along” by the Spirit to communicate God’s Words

*Phero* = to guide, to direct, to lead

This “carrying along” is not a robotic process, but rather incorporates the personality and intellect of each inspired writer

The inspired words of God serve as God’s *special* revelation, a revelation by which He reveals particulars about Him, His will, the creation, humanity, sin, salvation, etc.

As such, the Scripture itself demands its place as the sole source of authority

Satan’s counterpunch to God’s special revelation, His Word?

To add to His Word by claiming some have further revelation and/or to adjust the number of the books included in the Bible