

The Perfect Book: Revelation (continued)

What does the Bible contain?

B. Special revelation

1. Definition: Special revelation is the act of God whereby He makes Himself and His truth known at specific times and to specific people.
2. Forms of special revelation
 - a) Personal experiences (Galatians 2:2)
 - b) Some miracles
 - (1) An unusual event, not solely the product of natural laws, accomplishing some useful work for God and revealing the presence and power of God.
 - (2) Their content
 - (3) Three periods of prominence in biblical history
 - c) Prophecy
 - (1) Definition: Prophecy is the giving forth of instruction and teaching or the foretelling of events through a direct communication from God.
 - (2) Background explanation
 - (a) The primary function of an Old Testament prophet was not a predictor.
 - (b) The primary function of a New Testament prophet was also as an informer and instructor, not a predictor (1 Corinthians 14:3).
 - (c) The prophet spoke directly from God with an immediate revelation.
 - d) The life of Jesus Christ on earth
 - (1) Statements of Scripture
 - (a) Hebrews 1:1-3
 - (b) John 1:14, 18
 - (2) Methods
 - e) The Scriptures
 - (1) Their statements (claims to be revelation)

- (2) Their content
- (3) Arguments for their validation as revelation
 - (a) Their self-claims: Many places in Scripture we find claims that what is written is God's word.
 - (b) Their indestructibility
 - (c) Their fulfilled prophecy
 - (d) Their scientific and historical accuracy.
 - (e) Their influence for goodness and justice.
 - (f) Their contents: The Bible is not a book that people would write if they could, nor could write if they would.
 - (i) Would not
 - (ii) Could not
- (4) Some concluding facts
 - (a) Written revelation is not exhaustive.
 - (b) Written revelation is intended for the salvation of unbelievers (John 20:31) and the edification of believers (Romans 15:4; 1 Corinthians 10:11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).
 - (c) Written revelation has been completed
 - (i) This really relates to canonicity.
 - (ii) Reasons for this