

HOW GOD REVEALS HIMSELF TO US

March 12, 2025 -- Pastor Ben Nistor

2 Timothy 3:16-17

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.

Hebrews 1:1-2

1 Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

1) HOW DOES GOD REVEAL HIMSELF?

- A) **NATURAL/GENERAL REVELATION:** God's act of revealing himself through creation and the human conscience.

Romans 1:18-20 -- CREATION -- see also Psalm 19:1-2

*18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 **For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.** 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.*

Romans 2:14-16 -- CONSCIENCE

*14 For when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do what the law requires, **they are a law to themselves**, even though they do not have the law. 15 They show that the work of the law is written on their hearts, **while their conscience also bears witness**, and their conflicting thoughts accuse or even excuse them 16 on that day when, according to my gospel, **God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.***

- B) **SPECIAL REVELATION:** God's act of revealing himself through miracles, signs, dreams, visions, theophanies, and prophecy. Ultimately, all of God's acts are contained in the Holy Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, which provide the special knowledge of salvation through Jesus Christ.

2) HOW DID WE GET THE BIBLE?

A) General Information (SEE HANDOUTS)

- Written over 1600 years: 1500 B.C. to A.D. 100
- 40 different authors
- 66 books (Old Testament has 39; New Testament has 27)

B) The Doctrine of Inspiration: God oversaw and directed men to write His words.

2 Peter 1:21

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.

1 Corinthians 2:12-13

12 Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. 13 And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

C) The Sovereignty of God in Preserving His word

Isaiah 46:10

'My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,'

Isaiah 40:8: cf. 1 Peter 1:25

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Matthew 5:18

18 For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

3) WHAT DOES GOD REVEAL IN THE BIBLE? (SEE HANDOUTS)

CREATION (GEN 1-2)

FALL (GEN 3)

REDEMPTION (1 JN 4:14)

GLORY (REV 21)

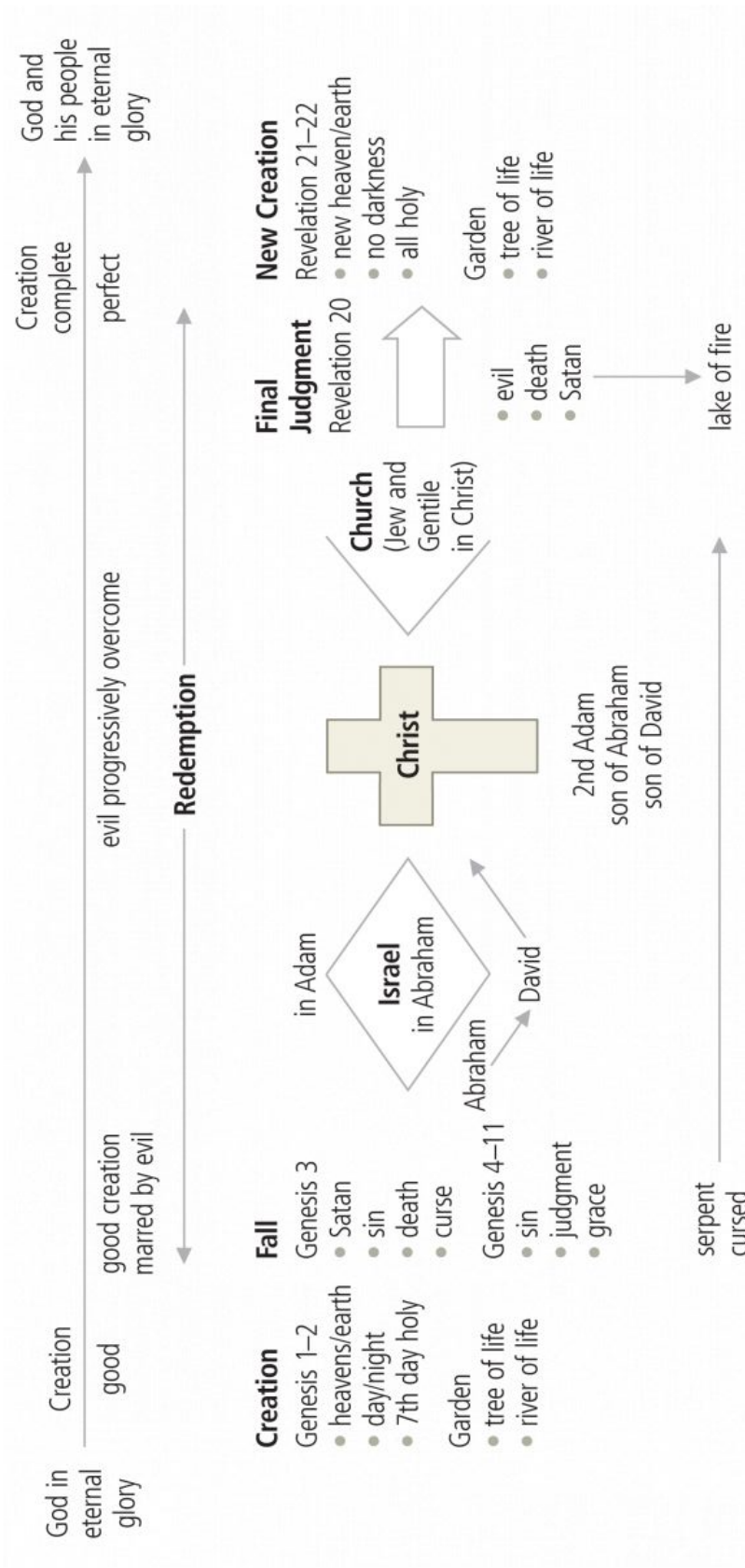
GOD

MAN

CHRIST

RESPONSE

- The PATTERN of the Kingdom -- GENESIS 1-2
- The PERISHED Kingdom -- GENESIS 3
- The PROMISED Kingdom -- GENESIS 17:1-8
- The PARTIAL Kingdom -- EXODUS 19-20; 2 SAMUEL 7:1-17
- The PROPHESIED Kingdom -- HOSEA 1-3
- The PRESENT Kingdom -- LUKE 1:67-80
- The PROCLAIMED Kingdom -- 2 CORINTHIANS 4
- The PERFECTED Kingdom -- REVELATION 21-22



GOD'S BIG PICTURE

