

I believe God is a communicating God, and He has chosen to reveal Himself to humanity. Graciously, He has communicated to us in two ways. He has communicated to us through general revelation (God has chosen to reveal Himself in a general, universal way) and through special revelation (God chose to fully reveal Himself through special means to a smaller group of people).

General Revelation:

I believe God has revealed Himself in a general way to all people groups, at all times through the creation (Rom. 1:18-21, Ps. 19:1-3), conscience (Rom. 1:32 & 2:14-15), and through human intuition (Acts 17:28-29). Romans 1:18-20 and Psalms 19:1-3 declare that God has made His existence known through His creation, and His creation reveals much about God's nature: It reveals that our God is a wise God (Ps. 104), a powerful God (Rom. 1:20), a gracious and kind God (Acts 14:17).

I believe God has also revealed Himself in a general way through our conscience (Rom. 2:14-25). He has communicated to us through the inward conviction of conscience and has made us aware that we do not meet His moral requirements (Rom. 3:23).

I believe God has also revealed Himself to us through human intuition, meaning that all people have an inner witness that God exists (Acts 17:28-29). Each of us instinctively knows God exists. We may be confused about His identity, but not about His reality.

I believe God's purpose in general revelation is to make people aware of Him, and begin to seek Him (Acts 17:27). Even though God has revealed Himself to all of humanity in all periods of times, many choose to ignore God and suppress the truth that they know to be true (Rom. 1:18, 25, 28). Practically, this means they live as if God doesn't exist, even though they

know He does. Those who refuse to respond to God's general revelation and ignore His existence by not moving forward in faith and seeking Him, stand condemned before the very God they said didn't exist (Rom. 1:18, 25, 28, 32)!

Special Revelation:

I believe God has more fully revealed Himself to select people through divine events such as: direct speech (Acts 9, Matt. 17), dreams (Matt. 1:18-20), visions (Isa. 6), and a glimpse into reality (Matt. 17). God has also revealed Himself in a special way through the Scriptures (1 Pet. 1:20-21, 2 Tim. 3:16), and most fully through His Son, Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh (John 1:14, 18, Heb. 1:1-2).

The Scriptures:

I believe in the verbal and complete inspiration by God of the original writings of the Old and New Testament Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:16). I believe there was a partnership between the Holy Spirit and the human authors as the Spirit guided them in the process. God was working with their unique personalities, their unique backgrounds, unique life experiences, their education to enable, or to inspire the writing of Scripture in such a way that they wrote all that God wanted to them say without excess or error (2 Pet. 1:20-21, 1 Cor. 14:37). Furthermore, I believe the inspiration of Scripture is both verbal, meaning the very words of Scripture are inspired (Matt. 5:18) and plenary, meaning that the inspiration extends to all of Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16).

I believe the 39 books in the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament make up the totality of inspired Scripture and have been preserved by our gracious God so that those who submit to the God of the Scriptures can be saved, and learn how to live a life that

pleases God (2 Tim. 3:15-17). The Scriptures are our only infallible rule of faith and practice (Matt. 15:3) and its message is alive and at work today, convicting and calling people into a life changing relationship with Jesus Christ (Heb. 4:12).

I believe the Scriptures speak clearly too all Believers (Deut. 30:11-14), as the Holy Spirit illuminates the mind of the Believer (John 16:13, 1 Cor. 2:12-13). This is not to say that there are not difficult passages (1 Pet. 3:18-20), but that as we study the Scriptures in context, with an understanding of the grammatical, historical, and cultural situation, we do so in humility, trusting the Spirit to guide us (John 16:13) and seeking the aid of a community of Spirit-led believers (Acts 2:42).