

UNDERSTANDING THE ONE STORY OF SCRIPTURE

Week 4 –God’s Self-Revelation

September 29, 2026

Why should we delve into the self-revelation of God when we’re attempting to understand the one story of Scripture? Knowing Who God is...

- ...goes hand-in-hand with understanding the one story of Scripture as the one story is God’s message.
- ...helps us understand difficult passages.
- ...causes us to understand the purpose of our lives.
- ...is the basis for comprehending God’s eternal purpose.

What is your response to God when you come across difficult passages in Scripture OR passages with which you are NOT comfortable? How then do you view God?

Knowing Who God is – and that He is faithful to His word will give us peace in our moving forward and asking the Holy Spirit to give us understanding – because we truly desire to understand GOD’S word – NOT our thoughts about God’s word. Truly understanding Who God is in the midst of undesirable (in our minds) circumstances can TRULY cause us to thank Him...to REJOICE in Him...because He desires the best for us. When we surrender to Him, thanking Him for Who He is...Phil. 4:6-8 becomes so real in our lives... *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

God’s Self-Revelation.... God’s desire is that the world may know Him and understand Who He is. How do we know this is God’s message to the world? Scripture reveals that...GOD is REVEALING Himself.

God’s general revelation and His special revelation are the two ways God has chosen to reveal Himself to humanity. General revelation refers to the powerful truths that can be known about God through nature. Special revelation refers to the more specific truths that can be known about God through the supernatural which draws individuals to Him.

Psalm 19:1-4 - King David wrote...*The heavens declare the glory of God; (To whom? THE WORLD!) and the firmament shows His handiwork. ² Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. ³ There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.*

⁴ Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

Observations:

God announces Who He is! The heavens shout out His glory!

King David looked to the heavens and saw God's handiwork...God's artwork magnifying His glory – ALL Who He is!! David HEARD the glory of God...as it was DECLARED!

But David was born approx. 1,000 years before Jesus. How could David have heard God declare His handiwork at creation? Wasn't this declaration made just at creation? *Declare* – in the Hebrew means to recount, to retell (to tell again...and again). *Declare*...this verb is in the present tense. That is, the heavens “are declaring,” and the sky “is proclaiming” the creative work of God. God's creative work has been a continual display SINCE CREATION!

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There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard. Their line/sound/voice has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. What we see in nature is meant to constantly/to continually show the world that God exists. The heavens and all with which God has filled them constitute the ongoing testimony to the glory of God. The entire earth is receiving this message – and understanding it in their language! The Hebrew word for “glory” is *kavod* – which means “weight” – heaviness depicting ALL WHO GOD IS!!!!!! ...and the firmament shows His handiwork – all God's works are displayed every day...every moment of the day since they were created!!

The Apostle Paul expanded this idea in Romans 1:20. He explained that God's *invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead*, so that they are without excuse. Paul told the church in Rome that because this testimony had gone out through all creation, all men are *without excuse* for rejecting the God who gave us such clear and beautiful evidence of His power and wisdom. God has made Himself known!

Rom. 1:18-20 (See Steven Cole below – comments highlighted in red or just underscored) *For the wrath of God (the righteous anger of God. Our holy God MUST deal with sin) is revealed (uncovered; laid open before us; disclosed; made bare) from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress (hold down) the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest (evident; displayed) unto them, for God has shown it to them. (The TRUTH has been made known to all) ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen* (God shows us something of His eternal power and divine nature/Godhead as He states in v. 20). (God provides sight/spiritual sight to those who are responding to His creation. And because they are “clearly seen” through God giving sight...and they continue to be clearly seen, they are...), *being understood* (they continue to be perceived through the Holy Spirit [I Cor. 2:14]) *by the things that are made* (those within mankind who are responding to the general revelation...and they understand), *even His eternal power and Godhead* (deity in terms of the Trinity; divine nature), *so that* (those who have suppressed the truth of God) *they are without excuse* (without defense; without vindication/without justification) – BECAUSE GOD HAS MADE HIMSELF KNOWN.

Rom. 1:21-23 - ...*because, although they knew (to have knowledge of) God (that's a profound statement – and yet v. 18 - they suppressed the truth in unrighteousness), they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile (useless; worthless) in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened (were blinded).. ²² Professing to be wise, they became*

fools, ²³ and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man —and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things - !!!!!

Man appeared to have head knowledge of God but refused to glorify Him as God! And, instead of glorifying God, they transformed their mind's idea of Him into corruptible forms and images!

Special revelation is how God has chosen to reveal Himself through miraculous means. Special revelation includes physical appearances of God, dreams, visions, the written Word of God, and Jesus. The Bible records God appearing in physical form many times (Genesis 3:8, 18:1; Exodus 3:1-4, 34:5-7), and the Bible records God speaking to people through dreams (Genesis 28:12, 37:5; 1 Kings 3:5; Daniel 2) and visions (Genesis 15:1; Ezekiel 8:3-4; Daniel 7; 2 Corinthians 12:1-7). Of primary importance in the revealing of God is His Word, the Bible, which is also a form of special revelation.

Understanding God's self-revelation allows for us to enter into a personal relationship with Him.

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This relationship can bring peace and guidance to our daily lives, peace regarding our eternal destiny, satisfaction, the desire to EXALT God, to magnify Him because of WHO HE IS, to serve Him, and in so doing, the desire to serve others.

Why would God desire a relationship with us?

GOD is eternal. Do you believe that GOD is eternal? GOD – God the Father is eternal, God the Son is eternal, God the Holy Spirit is eternal. Each Person in the trinity must be eternal. If they are not eternal – the Trinity would not be eternal – God would not be GOD!

How do we understand the relationship within the Godhead?

After Jesus walked approximately 60 miles from the Galilee to the Jordan River...for His cousin, John, to immerse Him, we read...

Matt. 3:16-17 – that when He came up immediately from the water, *...behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. ¹⁷ And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.'*

Matt. 4:1 - *Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.*

Luke 4:14 – Jesus returned from the wilderness *in the power of the Spirit.*

Acts 10:38 - Peter announced that God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and power.

Heb. 9:14 – the author of Hebrews told his primarily Jewish readership that the blood of the Messiah, *Who, through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God....*

At Jesus' resurrection, we read that Jesus was raised from the dead by the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:11; 1 Peter 3:18).

John 17:24 - *Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.*

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit...God is inseparable because God is ONE...eternally ONE.

Deut. 6:4 – *Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one; “echad”* – a composite one - NOT an absolute one! Inseparable? YES! Three in One.

“Inseparable” points to the truth that there was, always has been, and always will be a RELATIONSHIP among/within God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit – our Triune God – the Trinity! There has always been and always will be love among/within the Trinity – within the Godhead! Since love is known among the 3 persons of the Trinity...God created the world BECAUSE He loved and desired a relationship with the pinnacle of His creation...man...with us...with you, and with me!

Before He created the universe, God experienced absolute satisfaction in Himself. God dwelt joyfully in eternity as the Trinity. These three were together in fellowship with one another from all eternity. They loved each other. And, God is extending that love to the world – to us!

Additional self-revelations of God in Scripture:

Moses and the Burning Bush (Ex. 3) – God revealed Himself to Moses from a burning bush. Ex. 3:2 - *And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush. So he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, but the bush was not consumed.* God discloses His personal sacred name, “I Am Who I Am” (God is eternal and is sufficient unto

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Himself)...establishing Himself as the faithful God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. We will see the Angel of the LORD again.

The Giving of the Law at Mount Sinai (Ex. 19-20) – God revealed His holiness, power, and moral standards to the entire nation of Israel. The revelation is accompanied by thunder, lightning, a thick cloud, and a loud trumpet blast displaying that God is transcendent (above time and space) and awe-inspiring.

Elijah and the “Whisper” (I Kings 19:11-12)...God revealed to Elijah His intimacy, gentleness and comfort.

The Angel of the LORD - pre-incarnate appearance of Jesus....

Gen. 22:11-18 – stopped Abraham from sacrificing Isaac.

Gen. 16:7-12 – visited Hagar, the outcast, in the wilderness.

Ex. 23:21 – In the wilderness God told Israel, re: the Angel of the LORD, *Beware of Him and obey His voice; do not provoke Him, for He will not pardon your transgressions; for My name is in Him.*

Judges 13:18 – Samson’s father asked the Angel of the LORD, “What is your name?” The Angel of the LORD’s response, *‘Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful?’*

Isa. 9:6 - *For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called WONDERFUL, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*

To be loved by God and to love God! Are we MARVELING at WHO GOD IS?

QUESTIONS:

What impacted you re: Who God is?

Was there anything difficult to understand?

How does knowing Who God is launch you into a closer relationship?

How do you now understand Psa. 19:2 and Rom. 1:20?

How will your life be changed through this lesson?

SUGGESTED HOMEWORK:

Reread Week 4.

In your journal note observations re: the text and ask questions.

Share this lesson with friends, family members and discuss.

Read Week 5 when you receive it.