



Major Bible Themes

52 VITAL DOCTRINES OF THE SCRIPTURE
SIMPLIFIED AND EXPLAINED

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Chapter Four **The Bible: As a Divine Revelation**

Devotional Thought...



Step # One

Find the Outline



MBT Chapter Four Outline

A. Devine Revelation

1. Revelation of God in Creation
2. Revelation in Christ
3. Revelation in the written Word

B. Special Revelation

C. Interpretation

1. Purpose of the Bible as a whole
2. Message of each book
3. To who it was addressed
4. Context
5. Similar Teaching
6. Accurate Exegesis
7. Guard against Prejudice

Understand It



MBT Chapter Four Outline

A. Forms of Devine Revelation

The Bible is intended to be a revelation of the being, works, and program of God. That an infinite God would seek to reveal Himself to His creatures is reasonable and is essential to God's fulfilling His purpose in creation.

1. Revelation of God in Creation

The eternal power and character of God are revealed by the things which are created (Rom. 1:20). The natural world being a work of God discloses that God is a God of infinite power and wisdom and has de signed the physical world for intelligent purposes

Understand It



MBT Chapter Four Outline

2. Revelation in Christ

The Son of God came into the world to reveal God to men in terms which they could understand. By His becoming man in the act of incarnation, facts about God which otherwise would have been difficult for man to understand are translated into the limited range of human comprehension.

3. Revelation in the written Word

The written Word of God is able, however, to reveal God in even more explicit terms than can be observed in the person and work of Christ

Understand It



MBT Chapter Four Outline

B. Special Revelation

Throughout the history of man, God has given special revelation. Many instances are recorded in the Word of God of His speaking directly to man as He did in the Garden of Eden or to the prophets of the Old Testament or the apostles in the New Testament. Some of this special revelation was recorded in the Bible. Upon completion of the sixty-six books in the Bible, special revelation in the ordinary sense seems to have ceased.

Understand It



MBT Chapter Four Outline

C. Interpretation

In receiving revelation which comes through the Holy Spirit as He teaches the Word of God to a believer in Christ, the problems of interpretation of the Bible are evident. Certain basic rules are necessary if one is to understand the science of interpretation, called "hermeneutics." While there is reliance upon the Holy Spirit for instruction in the Word of God, certain principles may be enumerated.

Understand It



MBT Chapter Four Outline

C. Interpretation

1. Purpose of the Bible as a whole

In interpreting the Bible, every text must be taken in the light of the total content of Scripture, as the Bible does not contradict itself.

2. Message of each book

The interpretation of Scripture must always take into consideration the purpose of the book of which it is a part.

3. To whom it was addressed

While all Scripture is given by equal inspiration of God, not all Scripture is equally applicable

Understand It



MBT Chapter Four Outline

C. Interpretation

4. Context

One of the important considerations in the Exposition of any text is to consider the immediate context. Often this gives the clue to what was intended in the particular statement. Scripture which precedes and follows any given verse helps the reader understand the verse itself.

5. Similar Teaching

Because the Bible cannot contradict itself, when a theological statement is made in one verse it should be harmonized with any other similar theological statement elsewhere. This is the particular task of systematic theology,

Understand It



MBT Chapter Four Outline

C. Interpretation

6. Accurate Exegesis

The Bible was originally written in Hebrew and Greek, and often there is difficulty in precise translations. While for most purposes a good translation is sufficient, a careful student will sometimes consult authorities who are able to shed light on a specific text,

7. Guard against Prejudice

Care should be taken not to twist a text into what it does not say in order to harmonize it with preconceived ideas. Each text should be allowed to speak for itself even if it leaves temporarily some unresolved problems of harmonization with other Scripture.

Write it Down



MBT Chapter Four Outline

A. Devine Revelation

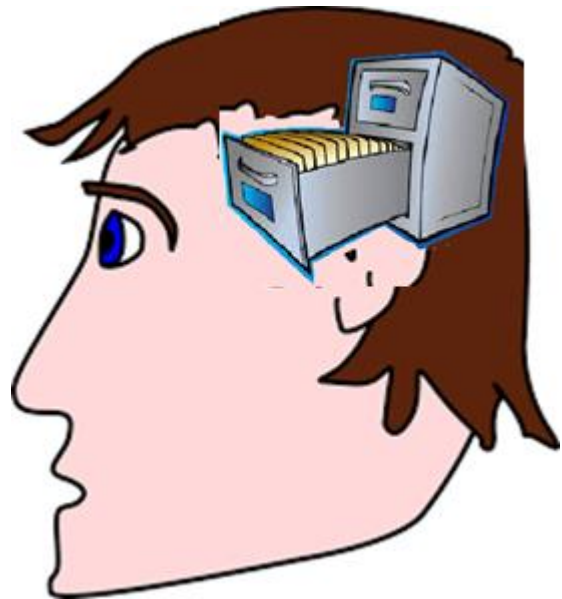
1. Revelation of God in Creation
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1. Purpose of the Bible as a whole
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Memorize it



MBT Chapter Four Outline

A. Devine Revelation

1. Revelation of God in Creation
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The Bible

As a Devine Revelation

The Bible is a...



S Special Revelation

I Interpretation

D Divine Revelation

1. In Creation
2. In Christ
3. In the Word

1. Purpose of the Bible as a whole
2. Message of each book
3. To who it was addressed
4. Context
5. Similar Teaching
6. Accurate Exegesis
7. Guard against Prejudice

Step # Two

Read the Section and look up the passages



A. Devine Revelation

1. Revelation of God in Creation

Rom 1:20 *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.*

2. Revelation in Christ

Gal 4:4 *But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,*

John 14:9 *Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*

3. Revelation in the written Word

Rom 1:17 *For in it (GOSPEL) the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."*

B. Special Revelation

Gen 3:9 *But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"*

Heb 1:1-2 *Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, 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.*

C. Interpretation

1Cor 2:10 *these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.*

Step # Three

Memorize one Passage per section



Learn general and specific later.

- Highlight key words
- Understand difficult words and the meaning

1. Revelation of God in Creation

Rom 1:20 *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.*

Read out loud 5 times what you are trying to memorize



Write the verse on paper or put the verse into you phone

2. Revelation in Christ

John 14:9 *Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? **Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.** How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*

Read out loud 5 times what you are trying to memorize



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3. Revelation in the written Word

Rom 1:17 *For in it (GOSPEL) the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."*

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B. Special Revelation

Gen 3:9 *But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"*

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C. Interpretation

1Cor 2:10 *these things* **God has revealed to us through the Spirit.** *For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.*

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Step # Four Take the Test at the end of the chapter

Chapter Four

The Bible: As a Devine Revelation



1. What is the extent and the limitation of revelation in nature?

The revelation of God through nature, however, has its limitations, as there is no clear disclosure of the love of God or the holiness of God

2.To what extent is Christ a revelation of God?

Accordingly, in Christ not only is the power and wisdom of God revealed, but also the love of God, the goodness of God, His holiness, and His grace. Christ stated, "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9). Therefore, one who knows Jesus Christ also knows God the Father.

3.Why is it reasonable to assume that God would desire to reveal Himself to man?

That an infinite God would seek to reveal Himself to His creatures is reasonable and is essential to God's fulfilling His purpose in creation. It is only natural that rational beings should attempt to learn something about the Creator who made them.

4. Why was the written Word necessary to reveal God completely

The written Word of God is able, however, to reveal God in even more explicit terms than can be observed in the person and work of Christ.

5. What are some of the major subjects of divine revelation which could not be learned in nature?

The revelation of God through nature, however, has its limitations, as there is no clear disclosure of the love of God or the holiness of God

6. What is meant by special revelation?

Many instances are recorded in the Word of God of His speaking directly to man as He did in the Garden of Eden or to the prophets of the Old Testament or the apostles in the New Testament

7. What work of the spirit has replaced special revelation today, and why is this necessary?

As the Spirit of God illuminates or casts light upon the Scriptures, this is a legitimate form of present tense revelation from God in which the teachings of the Bible are made clear and applied to individual life and circumstances

8. Why must the purpose of the Bible as a whole, as well as the particular message of each book of the Bible, be taken in consideration?

In interpreting the Bible, every text must be taken in the light of the total content of Scripture, as the Bible does not contradict itself

9. What are the dangers of misapplying Scripture, and why must primary and secondary application be distinguished?

Thus the question must be raised concerning who is in view in a particular passage. Here primary and secondary application must be distinguished. Primary application might extend only to the individual or group to whom the Scripture is addressed. There is almost always a secondary application, as the particular truths set forth in the scriptural text are found to have a general application beyond the one to whom it is actually addressed.

10. What is contributed by the context of any passage?

Often this gives the clue to what was intended in the particular statement. Scripture which precedes and follows any given verse helps the reader understand the verse itself.

11. Why must interpretation of one text be in harmony with other biblical passages?

Because the Bible cannot contradict itself, when a theological statement is made in one verse it should be harmonized with any other similar theological statement elsewhere.

12. To what extent is accurate exegesis required?

The Bible was originally written in Hebrew and Greek, and often there is difficulty in precise translations. Thus a knowledge of the original language is helpful in determining exactly what the text says. Students of Scripture who do not have these technical tools can often be helped by commentaries and expositions by writers who are able to give added light upon a particular text. While for most purposes a good translation is sufficient, a careful student will sometimes consult authorities who are able to shed light on a specific text,

14. To what extent should the normal meaning of words determine the meaning of a passage?

Proper interpretation assumes that each word has its normal literal meaning unless there are good reasons for regarding it as a figure of speech.

14. What are the dangers of prejudice in interpreting Scripture?

Care should be taken not to twist a text into what it does not say in order to harmonize it with preconceived ideas.