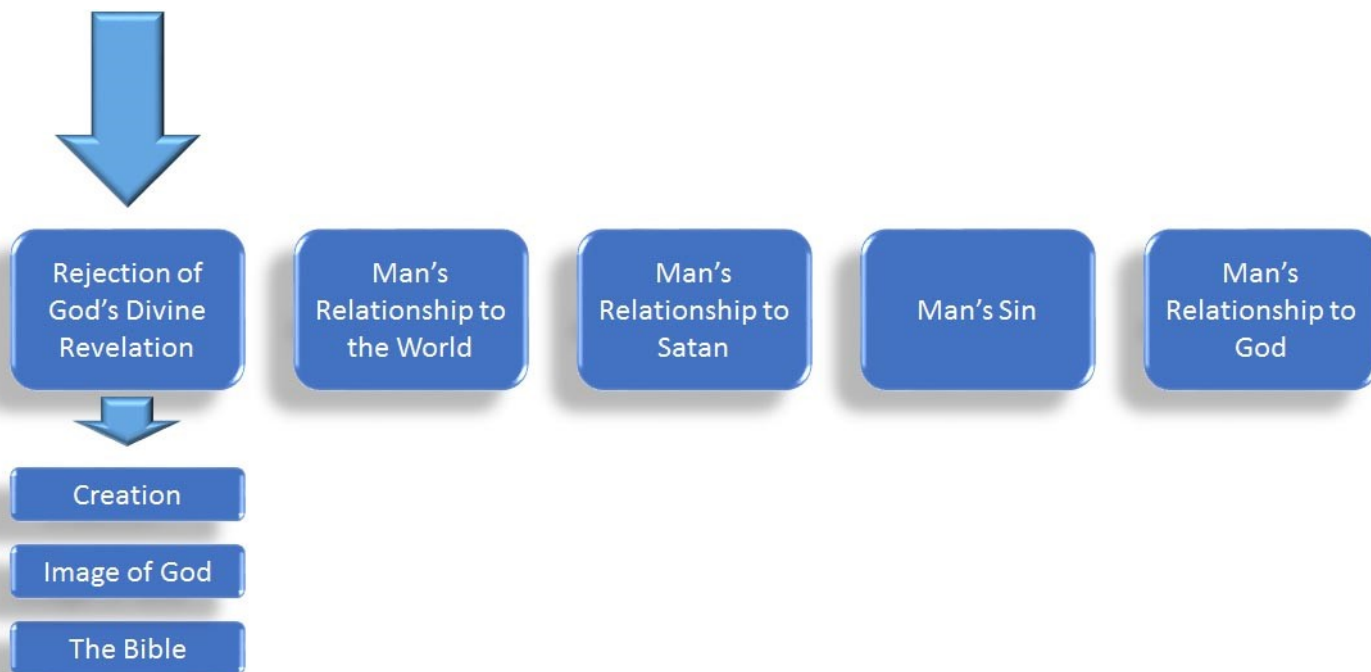


**The Real Question: Not Who, but
What Are They Telling You
Part 2**

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Study Guides For Discipleship

Rejection Of God's Divine Revelation



Divine Revelation Includes God's Creation

Divine revelation is truth that God has revealed or communicated to man. *God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ² in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. (Hebrews 1:1-2)*

God is emphasizing that since creation, He has revealed truth about Himself and His will at different times in various ways. All of mankind individually have received some form of divine revelation. God holds men accountable for this revelation which means His revelation (His truth) is not just to be learned, but also to be done. Knowledge of truth (revelation) must be followed by action.

So how has God revealed Himself? God has revealed Himself through His creation and made His creation evident to man. Why? Simply put, He wants man to admit the existence of a God who created them as that would imply moral responsibility to God, their creator. Man therefore has rejected God's revelation and suppressed the truth because they do not want to change their behavior. They even resort to claiming there is no God and justify their position through "intellectual honesty" and "scientific observation."

I once had the privilege of being one of 8 individuals selected to spend a spring day with Dr. Stephen Hawking in the 1980's when he toured New England. Among many discussions we also discussed his Big Bang theory, the meaning of life, and what constitutes a successful life. This man is adamant that there is no God, that out of nothing a part of the universe collapsed to the point that it snapped and life suddenly appeared. He was not an atheist. He was an agnostic. He was not interested in proving that God existed or didn't exist. He simply wasn't going to consider the possibility of the existence of Almighty God. Had he proven God's existence, would have meant he had a moral responsibility toward God. He therefore he chose to deny or acknowledge God's divine revelation without scientific research.

The heathen in the backward countries have the same position as Dr. Hawking or any sophisticated intellectual, or for that matter, most of mankind today. Heathens typically do not deny the existence of deity when they observe nature, they simply worship many gods. He changes the glory of God Almighty to images and articles that they have created themselves. God therefore holds heathens accountable because they live their entire lives without acknowledging the true God of nature. They will share the same fate of being condemned by God and spending eternity in hell separated from God.

- ◆ *Man is foolish by denying or perverting the truth of God's divine revelation. Consider these verses...*
- ◆ *The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. (Ps 19:1)*
- ◆ *I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Wonderful are Your works, And my soul knows it very well. (Ps 139:14)*
- ◆ *The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have committed abominable ^[a]deeds; There is no one who does good. (Ps 14:1)*
- ◆ *because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. (Rom 1:19-20)*
- ◆ *For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth ^[a]in unrighteousness, (Rom 1:18)*
- ◆ *²³ and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures. (Rom 1:23)*

Divine Revelation Includes Being Created In The Image Of God

In Genesis 1:26-27, God reveals and describes how he created man. ²⁶ *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; and let them rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the [a]sky and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."* ²⁷ *God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

Therefore God permanently burned His image onto all of mankind. In Genesis 9:26 we learn that this image is still retained by man, even after the fall of man into sin.

⁶ *"Whoever sheds man's blood, By man his blood shall be shed, For in the image of God He made man.* The image of God in man must reflect truth about the nature and character of God.

What is this image that man carries? Is it be physical, spiritual, or soulful? How can we see this image? I cannot conceive that the physical body is God's image as our bodies' age and decay, nor do I see a physical 'God Mark' on our physical bodies. God does not age or decay. God is the same as yesterday, today, and tomorrow. The image of God must refer to man's soul or spirit. The Bible confirms this conclusion in John 4:24 *24 God is [a]spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."* God has given us intellect, emotion, will, and a moral personality that is a conscience, an indicator of right and wrong. The later not only separates the physical body from the spirit, but also separates mankind from the rest of God's creation.

As man looks into his inner self, either casually or through a psychological study, he is aware that he is a moral being and a created being. Where does this awareness come from? Where did the idea of 'good and evil' originate? It came from the image of God that was affixed to each man. Man should conclude that God has created him. Therefore man is morally accountable to God since God has revealed Himself by 'stamping' His image on every single human.

Unfortunately, man reacts to his conscience, his sense of right and wrong, not by giving worship to God, rather in 'blaming' someone else. Man has that uncanny knack of blaming others to justify his/her own actions. Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the serpent, so who does the serpent blame? God. Man therefore rejects the truth of God's holy personality whenever he 'blames' or find 'excuses' for his own actions. Romans 2:1 confirms this. Therefore you have no excuse, [a]everyone of you who passes judgment, for in that which you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.

Divine Revelation Includes The Bible

All scripture is the inspired word of God. 2 Tim 3:16 says, ¹⁶ *All Scripture is ^[a]inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for ^[b]training in righteousness;* In other words, the Bible is exactly what God would say directly to man if He were using this form of revelation today.

2 Peter 1:20-21 clearly notes that God wrote the Bible and not man. ²⁰ *But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, ²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*

God directed men by the Holy Spirit to write what He wanted to communicate in human language, words capable of being understood by man. Review the following verses:

Romans 3:2 ² Great in every respect. First of all, that they were entrusted with the oracles of God

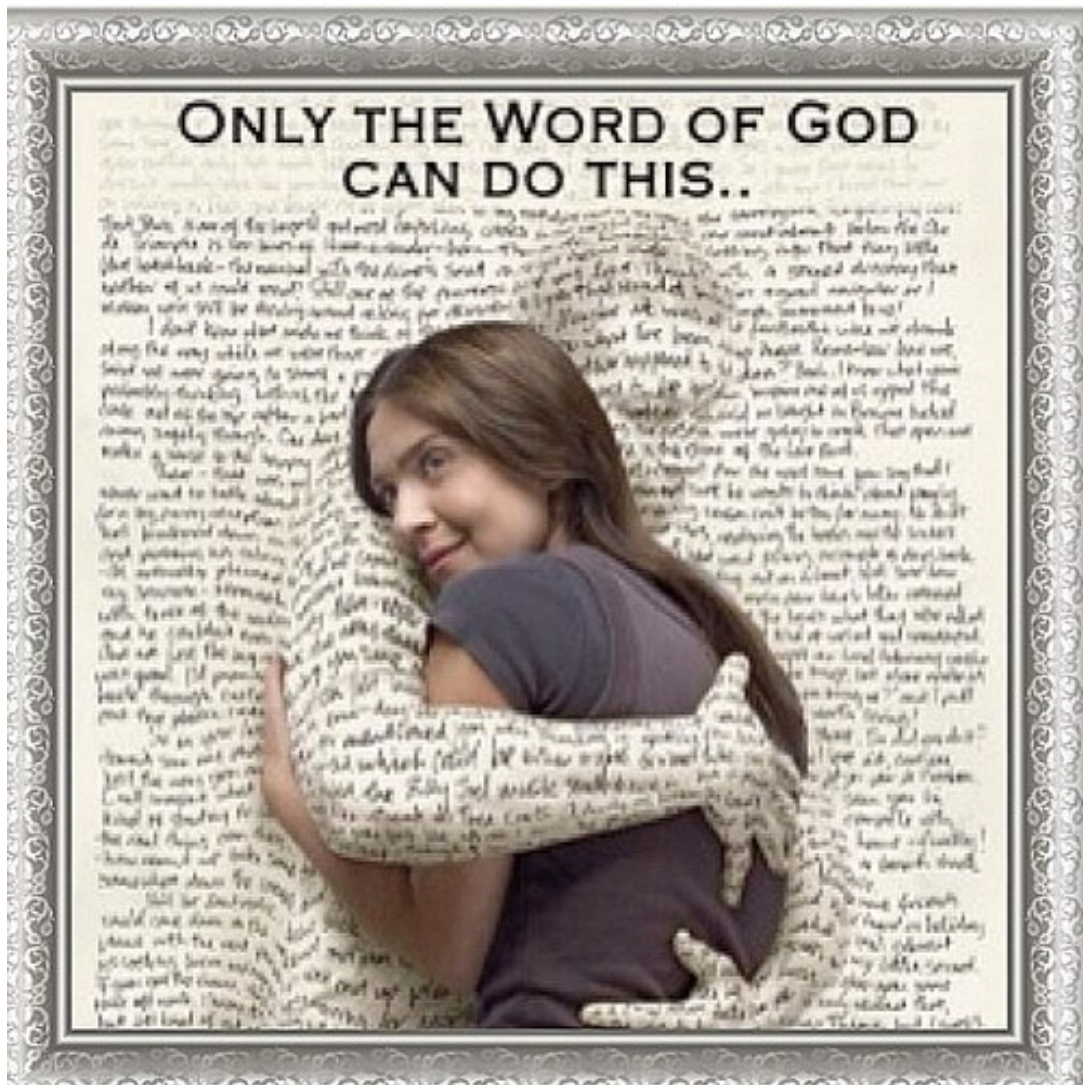
Exodus 20 Then God spoke all these words, saying,

² *"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of ^[a]slavery.*

³ *"You shall have no other gods ^[b]before Me.*

⁴ *"You shall not make for yourself ^[c]an idol, or any likeness of what is in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not worship them or serve them; for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children, on the third and the fourth generations of those who hate Me, ⁶ but showing lovingkindness to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.*

⁷ *"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not ^[d]leave him unpunished who takes His name in vain.*



⁸ "Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work, ¹⁰ but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God; in it you shall not do any work, you or your son or your daughter, your male or your female servant or your cattle or your sojourner who ^[e]stays with you. ¹¹ For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

¹² "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.

¹³ "You shall not murder.

¹⁴ "You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ "You shall not steal.

¹⁶ "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷ "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife or his male servant or his female servant or his ox or his donkey or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

¹⁸ All the people perceived the ^[t]thunder and the lightning flashes and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood at a distance. ¹⁹ Then they said to Moses,

“Speak ^[g]to us yourself and we will listen; but let not God speak ^[h]to us, or we will die.”

²⁰ Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid; for God has come in order to test you, and in order that the fear of Him may ^[i]remain with you, so that you may not sin.” ²¹ So the people stood at a distance, while Moses approached the thick cloud where God was.

²² Then the LORD said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, ‘You yourselves have seen that I have spoken ^[j]to you from heaven. ²³ You shall not make other gods besides Me; gods of silver or gods of gold, you shall not make for yourselves. ²⁴ You shall make an altar of earth for Me, and you shall sacrifice on it your burnt offerings and your peace offerings, your sheep and your oxen; in every place where I cause My name to be remembered, I will come to you and bless you. ²⁵ If you make an altar of stone for Me, you shall not build it of cut stones, for if you wield your tool on it, you will profane it. ²⁶ And you shall not go up by steps to My altar, so that your nakedness will not be exposed on it.’

Deu 18:15-22 ¹⁵ “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your ^[k]countrymen, you shall listen to him. ¹⁶ This is according to all that you asked of the LORD your God in Horeb on the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, let me not see this great fire anymore, or I will die.’ ¹⁷ The LORD said to me, ‘They have ^[l]spoken well. ¹⁸ I will raise up a prophet from among their ^[m]countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. ¹⁹ It shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him. ²⁰ But the prophet who speaks a word presumptuously in My name which I have not commanded him to speak, or which he speaks in the name of other gods, ^[n]that prophet shall die.’ ²¹ ^[o]You may say in your heart, ‘How will we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?’ ²² When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him

Deu 29:29 ²⁹ “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law

Luke 24:44 ⁴⁴ Now He said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”

John 5:46 ⁴⁶ For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me.

Luke 12:48 ⁴⁸ but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of ^[p]a flogging, will receive but few. From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.

Mt 11:20-24 ²⁰ Then He began to denounce the cities in which most of His ^[a]miracles were done, because they did not repent. ²¹ “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the ^[b]miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in ^[c]sackcloth and ashes. ²² Nevertheless I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you. ²³ And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will descend to Hades; for if the ^[d]miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. ²⁴ Nevertheless I say to you that it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you.

The Bible says Israel enjoyed a special relationship to God. To them were committed the oracles of God. God gave his Ten Commandments in written form. His law through Moses were written in the first five books of the Old Testament. Israel knew more about God and His revealed truth, than any other nation, but Israel rejected this extra truth. Israel broke the law of God at its very inception; refusing to repent under the preaching ministry of the prophets; and ultimately rejected the very Messiah toward whom the Old Testament pointed. Israel, therefore is more accountable to God.

The Bible consists of the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Bible contains God’s revelation of Creation, The Fall of man, God’s special revelation to Israel, and the significance of Christ’s person and redemptive work. The Bible gives to man God’s total revelation of himself and His program for the ages. The Bible is available practically everywhere today and in nearly every language.

In spite of all that God has revealed of Himself in the Bible, modern man apparently considers the Bible as just another volume of ancient literature, containing primitive religious concepts and of little appeal or desire to investigate its teaching. And most who read God’s word rejects what they find. As noted in 1 Cor 2:14 ¹⁴ But ^[a]a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually ^[b]appraised.

To reject the teachings of the Bible, to reject the message of the cross whereby God offered up His only begotten Son as the propitiation for the sins of mankind brings additional condemnation to the unsaved man. ¹⁸ He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the ^[a]only begotten Son of God. (John 3:18)

God has divinely revealed Himself through Creation, having the image of God in man, and The Bible (Oral and written Word of God)

When man rejects God Almighty’s Divine Revelation of Himself, God holds man accountable for this rejection.