

Eschatology

a study of last things

GENERAL revelation & SPECIAL revelation?

1.

General revelation

General Revelation:

Refers to God's revelation in nature as opposed to His revelation in Scripture. More specifically, general revelation is manifested in several areas: for example:

- 1) physical nature,
- 2) human nature, and

Physical nature

Psalm 104:1-4 (NASB95)

- 1 The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands.
- 2 Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge.
- 3 There is no speech, nor are there words, Their voice is not heard.
- 4 Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their utterances to the end of the world. In them He has placed a tent for the sun.
- 5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber; It rejoices as a strong man to run his course.
- 6 Its rising is from one end of the heavens, And its circuit to the other end of them; And there is nothing hidden from its heat.

Psalm 17:16 (NASB95)

4 The heavens declare His righteousness, And all the peoples have seen His glory.

Job 12:17-8 (NASB95)

- 7 "But now ask the beasts, and let them teach you; And the birds of the heavens, and let them tell you.
- 8 Or speak to the earth, and let it teach you; And let the fish of the sea declare to you.
- 9 "Who among all these does not know That the hand of the Lord has done this,

Acts 14:15-17

15 "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God,

who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them.

16 In past generations he allowed **all the nations** to walk in **their** own ways.

17 Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness."

Worshipers look at these facts

To the Greek philosophers Paul speaks

Acts 17:24-26 (NASB95)

24 "The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands;

25 nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives life and breath and all things.

Even the heathen stand guilty before God:

Romans 1:17-20 (NASB95)

17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith."

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men **who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,**

19 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.**

Romans 2:12-14 (NASB95)

12 For all who have sinned without the Law will also perish without the Law, and all who have sinned under the Law will be judged by the Law.

13 For it is not the hearers of the Law who are justified (God), but the doers of the Law will be justified).

14 For when Gentiles who do not have the Law **do instinctively** **use things of the Law,** these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves,

15 so that **they show the work of the Law written in their hearts,** their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternating between good and evil.

16 on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.

Psalm 14:1 (NASB95)

1 **The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt; they have committed abominable deeds; There is no one who does good.**

God is revealed in nature in two basic ways:

as Creator and Sustainer

Colossians 1:16-17

16 For **by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,** whether **thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.**

17 And **HE IS BEFORE ALL THINGS,** and in him all things **hold together.**

Hebrews 1:2-3

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.

3 He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and **he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,**

Revelation 4:11

11 "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for **you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."**

2.

Special revelation

The Role of Special Revelation

For growth to the maturing of the believer

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)

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.

Romans 12:1-2 (ESV)

1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

2 Corinthians 10:5 (ESV)

5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ,

Psalm 119:7-11 (ESV)

7 The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple;

8 the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commands of the Lord are pure, enlightening the eyes;

9 the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether;

10 More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb;

11 Moreover, by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

12 Who can discern his error? Declare me innocent from hidden faults.

13 Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me! Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

14 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

Instruction to avoid deception

1 John 3:18-27 (ESV)

18 Children, it is the last hour, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that it is the last hour.

19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would have continued with us. But they went out, that it might become plain that they all are not of us.

20 But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you all have knowledge.

21 I write to you, not because you do not know the truth, but because you know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

22 Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son.

23 No one who denies the Son has the Father. Whoever confesses the Son has the Father also.

24 Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the beginning abides in you, then you too will abide in the Son and in the Father.

25 And this is the promise that he made to us—eternal life.

26 I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you.

27 But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him.

Special revelation reveals: The Bible Alone is Infallible and Inerrant

Matthew 5:17 (ESV)

17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; **I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.**

Luke 24:27 (ESV)

27 And **beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.**

Luke 24:44 (ESV)

44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that **everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.**"

John 5:39 (ESV)

39 You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me.

Hebrews 10:7 (ESV)

7 Then I said, "Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book." "

Special revelation reveals God as Redeemer

John 1:14 (ESV)

14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

We would not know Jesus Christ as Redeemer outside of special revelation

Special revelation reveals the Bible showing the only way of salvation

Acts 4:12 (ESV)

12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Romans 10:9 (ESV)

9 Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:14 (ESV)

14 How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?

3.

Concerning Special Revelation: a quote by

Leslie Sperry, Chaper

PROPHETCY

Prophecy is a distinct and unique feature of revelation wholly foreign to human ability. It amounts to history being powerwritten, therefore must prove a great phenomenon. Its fulfillment in the past is unquestionable, standing as indisputable evidence for inspiration.

4.

The importance of understanding end time events / eschatological prophecy

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV)

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.

Romans 15:4 (ESV)

4 For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

Revelation 1:3 (NASB95)

3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

5.

God's purposes for mankind was initiated with Adam

God's purposes are first mentioned in Genesis and brought to completion in Revelation

Genesis 2:8-22 (NASB95)

8 Now no shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the Lord God had not sent rain upon the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground.

9 But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground.

10 Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being.

11 The Lord God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed.

12 Out of the ground the Lord God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

13 Now a river flowed out of Eden to water the garden; and from there it divided and became four rivers.

14 The name of the first is Pishon; it flows around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold.

15 The god of that land is gold; the bdellium and the onyx stone are there.

16 The name of the second river is Gihon; it flows around the whole land of Cush.

17 The name of the third river is Tigris; it flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

18 Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.

19 The Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;

20 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

21 Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

22 Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.

23 The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.

24 So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place.

25 The Lord God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

6.

The culmination of God's purposes

7.

Eschatology: a study of last things

Eschatology: definition from the Merriam-Webster collegiate dictionary

er-cha-tol-ə-gy /ˈɛr-ko-l-ə-tɒ-l-ə-ji/ noun

plural -gies [Greek *eschatolux*, 'farthest'] : last

1 a branch of theology concerned with the final events in the history of the world or of mankind

A biblical definition:

It refers to a broader biblical perspective to God's purpose and direction for history

Scripture reveals God is moving history toward a future goal.

As a result, eschatology deals not only with the end of history, but also with the understanding of God's goal and sovereign purposes for his creation.

The biblical hope rests on God's covenant faithfulness to destroy evil, rescue his people, and restore his creation.

God's revelation through creation of physical nature serves to communicate attributes about himself to mankind.

Use Scripture according to the context intended?