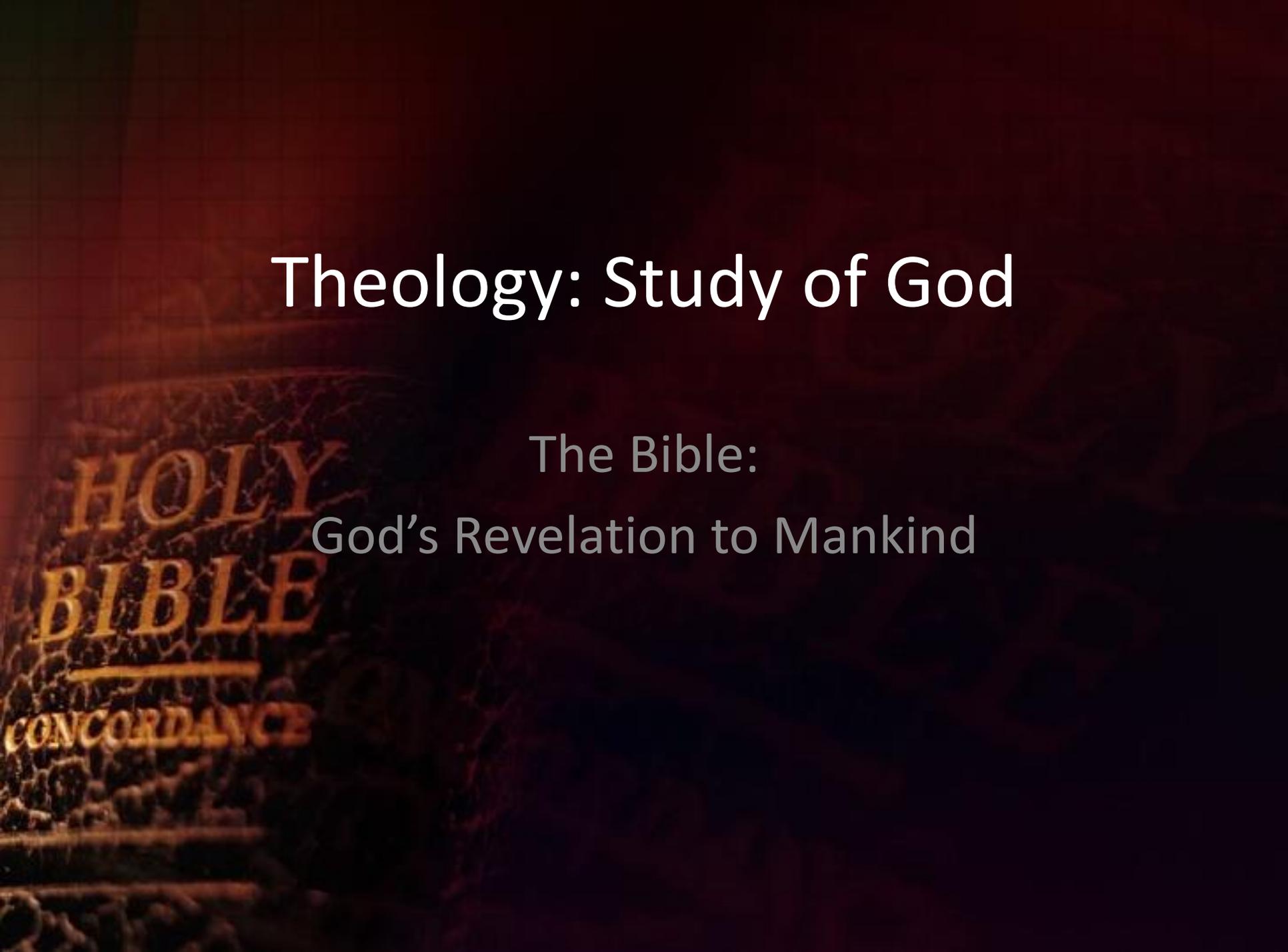


Theology: Study of God

The Bible:

God's Revelation to Mankind



HOLY
BIBLE
CONCORDANCE

Claims of the Bible

The Bible is a special book!

- Written by more than 40 human authors
- From a variety of locations: desert, palace, prison, Egypt, Israel, Babylon, Greece, Rome...
- Over a span of more than 1,500 years

Yet there is a unified theme throughout

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE UNIFIER OF THE SIXTY-SIX BOOKS, DETERMINING ITS HARMONIOUS CONSISTENCY. IN UNITY THESE BOOKS TEACH THE TRINITY OF GOD, THE DEITY OF JESUS CHRIST, THE PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, THE FALL AND DEPRAVITY OF MAN, AS WELL AS SALVATION BY GRACE. IT QUICKLY BECOMES APPARENT THAT NO HUMAN BEING(S) COULD HAVE ORCHESTRATED THE HARMONY OF THE TEACHINGS OF THE SCRIPTURE. THE DIVINE AUTHORSHIP OF THE BIBLE IS THE ONLY ANSWER.

PAUL P. ENNS (THE MOODY HANDBOOK OF THEOLOGY)



Claims of the Bible

The Bible reveals God to humanity

- “...thus says the Lord...”
- The Bible is truthful in everything
- More than the words of man
- Rejecting the Bible is rejecting the word of God

The Bible Is God's Self Revelation

- It would be impossible for us to know God unless He chose to disclose Himself to us.
- The agnostic claims “we cannot know whether or not God exists”
 - *We can if He makes Himself known.*
 - *A God who is powerful enough to create the universe, is certainly capable of communicating*
 - *It seems reasonable that a God who created intelligent beings would want to be known*

General Revelation

- Though nature (Psalm 19:1-6)
 - Constant (“day to day,” “night to night”)
 - Wordless (“without speech”)
 - Heard by entire world (“through all the earth”)



General Revelation

- What does nature teach us about God?
 - He is powerful
 - He is wise
 - He is reliable and faithful
 - He is benevolent and good
 - And much more
- Harmony and order, complexity of the human body, beauty = evidence of design

ACTS 14:16–17

ACTS

“In the generations gone by He permitted all the nations to go their own ways; and yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.”

General Revelation

- Objection: “What about drought, famine, earthquakes, hurricanes, and disasters?”



- We can sense that something is broken = sin

General Revelation

- Our conscience is also a testimony
- Gives a basic awareness of right and wrong
- God is holy, righteous, pure
- There is a moral law we ought to follow
- General revelation is limited, but it is enough to make us accountable before God

...their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them,

Romans 2:15

NASB

Special Revelation

- Through Scripture (Psalm 19:7-11)
- Written by prophets and apostles
- “law,” “testimony,” “precepts,” “commands”
- “restores,” “makes wise,” “gives joy,”
“enlightens,” “warns”
- Contains the answer we seek

For no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

2 Peter 1:21

NASB

Special Revelation

- Through Christ (Hebrews 1:1-3)
- God has spoke through His Son
- He reveals the Father's love, compassion, concern for the lost, holiness, truth, justice, faithfulness, power, glory
- He shows us the seriousness of our sin
- He leads us into a relationship with the Father, calling us to faith in His death, burial, and resurrection

No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him.

Progressive Revelation

- God unfolds His plan in stages, not all at once:
 - Adam was given just a hint of deliverance
 - Abraham received a promise
 - Moses was shown the holiness of God
 - David was told of an eternal kingdom
 - The twelve witnessed the coming of Messiah
 - Paul was entrusted with a mystery (the Church)
 - John saw a glimpse of the future restoration

Progressive Revelation

- Some doctrines become clearer:
 - The Trinity
 - Resurrection and life beyond the grave
 - Source of forgiveness (from the altar to the cross)
 - Messiah: A Suffering Servant or Conquering King?
- Progressive revelation *does not* mean there were errors in the OT which needed correcting

The Need for Illumination

- The Holy Spirit helps believers understand God's Word
- This help is available to all who seek it
- Why do we need illumination?
 - God is infinite, we are not (Isaiah 55:8-9)
 - Sin has clouded our human minds (Rom. 1:21)

