

God's Story, Our Story

An Introduction to Christianity

Lesson 4: Revelation (CCC 51-165)



By love, God has revealed Himself and given Himself for all men and women in order that we might know Him and realize the meaning and purpose of our lives. (CCC 68)

CCC 36, 37, 47, 52

1. Man can know God through natural reason and revelation.
2. Religions that agree with natural reason should:
 - a. reveal one God.
 - b. reveal a God who is personal, all-knowing, all-loving, and all-powerful.
 - c. make a claim to divine revelation.
 - d. be ancient.
 - e. be universal.
3. All religions cannot be equally "true" because they contradict each other on most basic teachings on God, the world, man, sin, salvation, and the afterlife.

Ex 19:6, Dt 14:2

4. God chose the people of Israel to be a special treasure whom he would deliver from slavery and establish a covenant with them. This covenant established laws that would allow the people to proclaim that God is the only living and true God.

Gen 12 :2-3, 17 :5-8
CCC 64, Jer 31:35-37

5. God promised to remain with his adopted sons and daughters of Israel forever. He did not just reveal Himself to them one time but continues to do so, especially through the prophets.

CCC 53, 68

6. God communicates to us gradually and in stages through words and deeds.

CCC 65, Heb 1:1

7. Jesus is the fullness of God's revelation. In Christ, God has Revealed everything.

Ezek 36:23-28

8. One sign of God's faithfulness and truth revealed to man is the fact that the people of Israel have survived through history.

CCC 121-123
Dt. 27:3, 1Ki. 8:26
Is. 40:8, Ezek. 1:3

9. The Old Testament books are divinely inspired and retain a permanent value that cannot be revoked.

10. In the Old Testament scriptures, the mystery of our salvation is present in a hidden way.

11. The Old and New Testaments are the Word of God.

12. Divine Revelation reveals to man the "meaning of life". This

<p>CCC 52, 142-144</p> <p>CCC 150-55</p> <p>CCC 156-58</p> <p>CCC 160-65</p> <p>"Walk by faith, not by sight."</p> <p>"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." (Ps 119:1-8, 105)</p>	<p>road map for life tells us: What we are to believe; who we are; who God is; why we live; how we are to live.</p> <p>13. Man cannot live without Divine Revelation and it is his job to pursue it and live it out.</p> <p>14. Man's response to revelation is called Faith.</p> <p>15. Faith is a surrendering of our <i>intellect</i> and <i>will</i> to God.</p> <p>16. Faith is also a <i>human act</i> to trust in God and this act can only be made by man by <i>grace</i>. Grace is a gift from God.</p> <p>17. Faith builds upon reason to heal it, perfect and elevate it.</p> <p>18. Some errors about faith are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Rationalism: attributes to natural reason a knowledge which only faith can confer; b. Fideism: distrusts the reason's natural capacities. <p>19. No one can force man to have faith in God. Man has free will to choose God.</p> <p>20. Faith is necessary for salvation; it is the beginning of eternal life.</p> <p>21. To live, grow, and persevere in faith, man must pray, nourish his faith with the Word of God, and do acts of charity.</p>
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Revelation in a Nutshell

1. God reveals Himself to man through natural reason.
2. God revealed Himself to the people of Israel as the one, living, and true God.
3. God speaks to man in stages through words and deeds.
4. Man's response to revelation is *Faith*.
5. Faith is a gift from God, given by grace, for man's salvation.

Questions for Discussion

1. How does God reveal himself to man?
2. Can all religions be "equally" true?
3. How is God's covenant relationship with Israel related to our own life?
4. How is God's revelation in Jesus connected with His revelation to Israel and to us?
5. What does divine revelation tell us about the meaning of life?
6. What must we surrender to God in order to have faith?
7. What is rationalism? What is fideism?

Key documents on revelation: The [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#) (CCC) ; Constitution on Divine Revelation [Dei Verbum](#) (DV)