

TWO BOOKS?

KENNETH R. SAMPLES



THE BIGGER PICTURE
ON CREATION

CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE OF REVELATION

REVELATION

God's Unveiling and
Self-Disclosure

CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE OF REVELATION

DUAL REVELATION

- ◇ GENERAL revelation
- ◇ SPECIAL revelation

GENERAL REVELATION

God's existence, power, wisdom, majesty, righteousness, and glory are manifested to all people at all times in all places through the created order, nature, history, and the human conscience.

TWO FORMS OF GENERAL REVELATION

1. **EXTERNAL** components
 - ◇ Created order
 - ◇ Providence in history

TWO FORMS OF GENERAL REVELATION

1. **EXTERNAL** components
2. **INTERNAL** components
 - ◇ Innate awareness of God
 - ◇ Moral conscience

SPECIAL REVELATION

God's specific and particular self-disclosure comes in and through His great redemptive actions, events, and words. It is called special revelation because it comes at SPECIAL TIMES and in SPECIAL PLACES.

THREE STAGES OF SPECIAL REVELATION

1. People of Israel (Old Testament)
2. Person of Jesus Christ
3. Preservation of the Bible

TWO-BOOKS THEORY OF REVELATION

FIGURATIVE book (God's world)
LITERAL book (God's Word)

BELGIC CONFESSION (1561)

ARTICLE 2: "We know him by two means:

First, by the creation, preservation, and government of the universe, since that universe is before our eyes like a beautiful book in which all creatures, great and small, are as letters to make us ponder the invisible things of God."

BELGIC CONFESSION (1561)

ARTICLE 2:

Second, he makes himself known to us more openly by his holy and divine Word, as much as we need in this life, for his glory and for the salvation of his own."

GENERAL REVELATION: PSALM 19:1-4

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world." (NIV)

SPECIAL REVELATION: PSALM 19:7-9

“The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The ordinances of the LORD are sure and altogether righteous.”

GENERAL REVELATION

PSALM 19:1-4

- ◇ Declares the glory of God (vs. 1)
- ◇ Perpetual and uninterrupted (vs. 2)
- ◇ Wordless and inaudible (vs. 3)
- ◇ Worldwide in scope (vs. 4)

GENERAL REVELATION

ROMANS 1:18-21

- ◇ All people see, understand, and know God.
- ◇ Unbelief is inexcusable.
- ◇ Fallen humans suppress the truth of God.
- ◇ Faith results from grace.

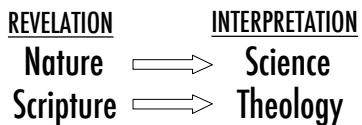
RELATING GR AND SR

1. Revelation is a unity: distinguished but not separated.
2. All truth is God's truth.
3. Don't exaggerate GR.
4. Don't diminish GR.

**WHAT HAPPENS WHEN
GENERAL REVELATION
AND
SPECIAL REVELATION
SEEM TO
CONFLICT?**

WILL GR AND SR EVER CONFLICT?

1. Divine revelation does not conflict.
2. Human interpretation may conflict.



WILL GR AND SR EVER CONFLICT?

1. Divine revelation **does not conflict.**
2. Human interpretation **may conflict.**
3. The sources of revelation can elucidate one another.
4. Neither source should be ignored.

For more information



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