

I. Layer 1 – God Revealed

A. General Revelation – The God I Can See (in His works) But Not Hear and Understand

1. Creation witnesses to the existence and power of its Creator – “For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.” (Rom. 1:19-20)
2. Creation is a witness to God's glory – created things are glorious, so He must be more glorious
3. Creation is God's expression of silent splendor. There are no “words,” but the testimony is still in front of us.

B. Special Revelation – The God I Can Hear and Understand But Not See

1. God's clear speech is in Scripture
2. “While creation may utter a voiceless praise of God's glory, the Lord has given to human beings a concrete *word* that humans can access by studying the Scriptures of Israel.” (Jacobson, 209)

II. Layer 2 – God Unpacked

A. Creation Speaks – What we see

1. Creation is a continuous testimony of God – the verb implies continuous action (Davis, 107)
 - a. “The skies reveal the glory of God every single night of the week, every week of the year, year after year, and they have done so since their creation.” (Boice, 163)
 - b. The testimony is continuous in its gushing out – the word *yabbia* means “bubbling up like water from a spring.” (Futato, 89)
 - c. There is no place that creations' silent speaking cannot be “heard.”
2. Creation is an expression of the exuberant breadth and power of God. – “The heavens and skies are simply bursting to tell us of their Maker and keep pumping out their testimonies about Him.” (Davis, 107)
 - a. The endless grandeur of the cosmos, the tiniest parts of atoms, the abundance and diversity of animal species, the migration of birds and animals, gravity, the fact that science is constantly changing views on how to interpret the data.
 - b. Big Bang – Vesto Melvin Slipher, in 1913, discovered that about a dozen galaxies relatively close to earth are moving away from us at up to 2 million miles per hour. Edwin Hubble discovered in 1929 that the farther away a galaxy is, the faster it is moving. In 1965, Arno Penzias and Robert Wilson, from the Bell Telephone Laboratories, discovered the leftover radiation or echo of the Big Bang. Identifying the moment of creation. “For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been

sitting there for centuries.” (Boice, 164-165, quoting Robert Jastrow, founder and director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies)

3. Creation expresses God's pleasure in His Creation, and His precise hand on His creatures
 - a. There is a joy, a pleasure in God, an “exuberant goodness” in all His work – birds soaring on breezes, cheetahs running, great whales playing in the sea.
 - b. The way the Creation maintains balance, constantly working to restore itself – The Wolf reintroduction of 1995 to Yellowstone Park
 - 1) Grey wolves were killed off in 1930 – fewer elks died, which destroyed young willow, aspen and cottonwood plants that the beaver needed to survive, which meant songbirds left, and streams dried up (no beavers to maintain them), fewer fish. Only snow kept the elk population from completely taking over. Not enough food for carrion eaters.
 - 2) Wolves reintroduced – one beaver colony became nine colonies in short order, the willows recovered and gave a habitat for songbirds. More beavers meant the streams recovered, and more fish. The elks changed to smaller herds for protection, and were eaten evenly by wolves, which meant that the elk remains also fed hungry ravens, eagles, magpies, coyotes, and bears.

B. Scripture Speaks – What we hear and know

1. The **law** of the LORD is *Torah* (doctrine, teaching, instruction). It is everything God has revealed or says. The law revives the soul – it identifies our sin, and provides a way out. It connects us to our true needs. (Deut. 8:3b “Man does not live by bread alone, but lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD.”)
2. The **testimony** of the LORD – His statutes, “an aspect of the truth attested by God Himself.” (Boice, 171). We can trust Him and His Word. If we follow Him, and His Word, we find “salvation, contentment, joy, eternal life.” (Boice, 172). Our lives properly correspond to reality. We become wiser people.
3. The **precepts** of the LORD – His commands, His orders address us with His authority. When we come under His authority our “walk” becomes straight, no longer crooked, confused, and our hearts rejoice.
4. The **commandment** of the LORD – This identifies the precision of God's authority over us. It gives light to our eyes, preventing spiritual blindness. We can see clearly and keep from stumbling. (Ps. 119:105 “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.”)

C. Scripture Speaks – How we live

1. The **fear** of the LORD – This is about attitude: reverence and awe, “the attitude and disposition that word produces in one's life.” (Davis, 113) God's Word has no flaws, no faults or inadequacies. Man's truth changes from day to day and generation to generation. God's truth never changes. For us to trust with reverence is “clean” – referring back to the ceremonial law of Lev.10:10-11. When we fear God, we do what is acceptable in His presence.
2. The **rules** of the LORD – this can be translated *ordinances*, or *judgment verdicts*. God's Word is evaluating our thoughts and actions. Scriptures warns us like a

- lighthouse showing us where the dangerous rocks are in a storm. It tells us clearly what is right and wrong. It keeps us from sin, and from deceptive practices and ideas. It asks, "How do I apply this Word to my life?" (For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. Heb. 4:12)
3. **We need the Word of God.** Verse 10, according to Davis, describes a "holy coveting," (114) a strong desire. We should be so hungry for the Word of God that it is more valuable than gold and more enjoyable than honey. "Surely," Davis writes, "I should meet such godly grammar with an answering obsession. Surely His excellent Word must be met by my unrelenting appetite." (115)
 4. **The Word can mean life or death.** It brings either blessing or judgment

D. Scripture Speaks – It invites my response

1. Become an earnest person of prayer. **Show me my hidden sins and forgive me.** "Search me, O God, and now my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there by any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!" (Ps. 139:23-24)
2. **Keep me from willful sinning** that could lead to great rebellion.
3. Let every thought and speech be acceptable to God – refers back to Lev. 22:20, the sacrifice that was acceptable to God. **Make me blameless before you.**

III. Layer 3 – God's Answer to David's World and Ours

A. Do not worship creation, like the pagans do.

1. In the Ancient Near East, the sun-god was associated with justice and law
 - a. The sun may be expressed as a strong man running a race (Sumerian) or a bridegroom entering his bedroom (Akkadian) to the people around us, but the sun is not a god. It cannot carry the weight of deity. Instead, it is just following the course God has laid out for it, expressing God's glorious and exuberant nature.
 - b. God is the true judge, not the sun.
 - c. The sun cannot tell us how to live. That is only available to us through God's Word.
2. But there are ways in which the sun, God's creation, "speaks," connecting us to God and His Word.
 - a. The sun runs its circuit from night to day. Torah is all-encompassing, for all of our life.
 - b. The sun rejoices in making it rounds. God's precepts make our hearts rejoice.
 - c. The sun shines. Nothing can be hidden from its heat (can mean either heat or wrath). God's commands also bring a great light, an illumination to our hearts. And nothing can be hidden from God. He brings both blessing and judgment.
 - d. God's Word is more desirable than gold or honey (sun qualities)

- B. Worship God Alone – “You shall have no other gods before me.” (Ex. 20:3)
1. God is *El* in verses 1-6. He is your Creator.
 2. God is *Yahweh*, the I AM in the remaining portion of the psalm – my covenant LORD, where we are His people, and He is our God. He is more than Creator. He is in relationship with us.
 3. Therefore, we can bring our prayers before Him: Please accept my psalm, my prayer, my words, my life as an acceptable sacrifice of praise.
- C. Worship Christ who makes our relationship with God possible
1. He is the final Word of God
 - a. “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.” (Jn. 1:14)
 - b. “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. 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.” (Heb. 1:2-3a)
 - c. “Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Phil. 2:9-11)
 2. He is the Rock
 - a. The one who hid Moses from the full force of God's glory (Ex. 33:22)
 - b. Our fortress and deliverer (Ps. 18:2)
 - c. Our salvation (Ps. 95:1)
 - d. The One struck, standing between the sinful people and God's judgment (Ex. 17:1-7)
 - 1) “And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.” (Phil. 2:8)
 - 2) “For I want you to know, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.” (1 Cor. 10:1-4)
 3. He is Our Redeemer
 - a. The word is *go'el*, Kinsman-Redeemer; the family member tasked to buy his kin out of slavery, buy back the land lost due to debt, to bring justice to the one who cannot get it himself, to provide an heir. “God is the family member who bears the responsibility to rescue the psalmist when the waters of life run too deep, or to execute justice on the psalmist's behalf when justice is beyond the psalmist's grasp.” (Jacobson, 213)
 - b. “But God showed his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.” (Rom. 5:8-9)

- c. “We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.” (Rom. 6:6)
- d. “In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.” (Eph. 1:11-14)

Question:How can I make Scripture more central to my life?

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