

MEMORY VERSE: “The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things he saw.” Revelation 1:1, 2, NKJV

LESSON STUDY INTRO

This lesson begins to examine the process of how God communicates to and through his prophetic messengers.

1. God speaks in His Work and in His Word (Sun, Mon)

- General Revelation is God’s implicit communication through His work of Creation (see Ps. 19:1; Rom. 1:20).
 - God created our world to support life (teleological argument) with all the necessary factors like air, light, gravity, etc.
 - God also provides far more than necessary to give us maximum satisfaction.
 - Why else would we enjoy art, humor, varieties of food, etc.? (see also SC 10.1).
- Special Revelation is God’s explicit communication through the written Word of Scripture and the Living Word, Jesus Christ.
 - Interestingly, the Living Word is a confirmation of the written Word (see 2 Pet. 1:16-19).

2. Inspiration is a process (Sab, Mon)

- There are several steps involved in communicating God’s will to humanity—what the lesson calls the “multiform revelation-inspiration process,” or the “prophetic message delivery chain” (see Qtly, Sab, par 2, 3).
 - This process starts with God, through His Holy Spirit, inspiring His chosen messengers (2 Tim. 3:16, 17; 2 Pet. 1:20, 21).

It is not the words of the Bible that are inspired, but the men that were inspired. Inspiration acts not on the man’s words or his expressions but on the man himself, who, under the influence of the Holy Ghost, is imbued with thoughts. 7BC 945.10

- God revealed information to His messengers in various ways (see Heb. 1:1, 2).

- “God’s messages came through visions and dreams (Num. 12:6; Isa. 6:1, 8). God also used eyewitnesses (1 John 1:1–3), Spirit-inspired historical research (Luke 1:1–3), and divine impressions on the mind (2 Pet. 1:21). Regardless of the means used by the Holy Spirit, the prophets and biblical authors were given objective, rather than subjective, messages of truth to be shared.” Qtlly, Mon, par 5 (see also Teacher’s Ed, p. 66, 67)

3. God and His prophets are creative communicators (Tue, Wed, Thu)

- **Oral Messages** (see Tuesday’s lesson)
 - Many well-known prophets communicated solely by word of mouth (i.e. Noah, Nathan, Elijah, Elisha, John the Baptist and even Jesus Himself!).
 - Though their messages were not conveyed in writing, nevertheless these were some of the greatest prophets of all.
- **Written Messages** (see Wednesday’s lesson)
 - God commanded certain messages to be written and preserved as the canon of Scripture (Ex. 17:14; 1 Cor. 10:11; Rev. 21:5).
 - “Scriptures of the prophets” (Mt. 26:56; Rom. 1:2).
 - This written record of God’s will – the Bible – contains everything we need for salvation (Jn. 20:30, 31; 2 Tim. 3:15).

God committed the preparation of His divinely inspired Word to finite man. This Word arranged into books, the Old and New Testaments, is the guidebook to the inhabitants of a fallen world; bequeathed to them, that by studying and obeying the directions, not one soul would lose its way to heaven. 7BC 944.8

- **Drama, Symbols, Parables** (see Thursday’s lesson)
 - The Old Testament sacrificial system and associated buildings, furnishings, and ceremonies were “a pictographic representation of Christ’s atoning sacrifice on the cross and His heavenly priesthood” (see Qtlly, Thu, par 1).
 - Bible prophecy employs many symbols to represent real things.
 - The parables of Jesus were a creative, memorable way to teach heavenly principles.

CONCLUSION

In the revelation-inspiration process, we can see God’s love in action and the truth that He is “not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance” (2 Pet. 3:9).