

**GOD'S UNIVERSAL AND SPECIAL REVELATION**  
**(Psalm 19:1, Romans 1:19-21)**

I. Universal (General) Revelation:

A) It is God's communication of His existence, character, and moral law, to all persons at all times and in all places. It comes through observing nature, through seeing God's directing influence in history, and through an inner sense of God's existence and his laws that he has placed inside every person.

B) Knowledge and morality in humans are not their own accomplishments but gifts from God as He has structured this into his universe.

C) In all cultures, at all times and places humans have believed in the existence of a higher reality than themselves. General revelation points to a higher power, a creator, and some evidences of his character.

D) None of this knowledge is enough to bring salvation, only condemnation. It helps us to see that God is just in condemning those who have never accepted the gospel. It makes everyone responsible and accountable before him. No one can claim ignorance. You have to willfully close your mind to the obvious to believe anything other than a master, designer is responsible.

E) It serves to inform conscience and create a basis that enables the gospel to make sense to a non-Christian mind.

II. Special Revelation:

A) It is God's specific communication and manifestation of himself addressed to a specific people at specific times, which are available now only by the words of Scripture, that enables individuals to enter into a redemptive relationship with him.

B) Special revelation personally introduces the triune God of Scripture who created the world and provided redemption in a way that could never have been conceived by man.

C) Special revelation works in harmony with general revelation as both are coherent and intelligible from God. Special revelation builds on general revelation.

D) Special revelation's objective is relational not merely to enlarge the scope of knowledge. It is personal in that God reveals himself specifically in ways that are significant for faith. He has revealed himself in historical events, divine speech, and the incarnation.