

The image is a composite. On the left side, there is a photograph of an older man with thinning hair, wearing a grey and blue patterned polo shirt. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. On the right side, there is a painting of a dirt path winding through a landscape with several trees and rolling hills. The painting has a soft, painterly style with visible brushstrokes. The overall background is a mix of the photograph and the painting.

Christian Apologetics

Session 7:
Revelation of God (Part 1)

How Can I Know God?

How Can I Know God?

Big Idea

God revealed himself through **general** and **special** means so that mankind can **know** Him and be reconciled to Him to **enjoy** Him forever.



How Can I Know God?

Process of God's Revelation



Revelation



Inspiration



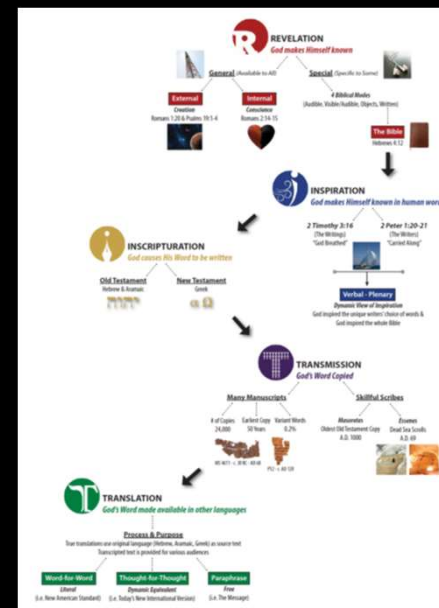
Inscripturation



Transmission



Translation



How Can I Know God?

Means of Revelation (Overview)

God Makes Himself Known
to Mankind by both
General and **Special** Means



How Can I Know God?

Means of Revelation

(Overview)

General Revelation

External – Creation

Internal – Moral Conscience

Special Revelation

External – Prophets, Jesus

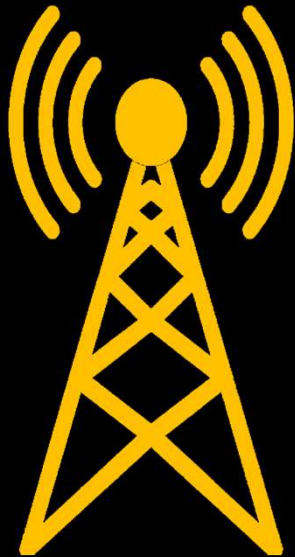
Internal – Holy Spirit



How Can I Know God?

General Revelation

(Overview)



Universally Available to
All People for **All** Time

Observing God in Creation:
His **Power** and **Nature**

Knowing God as **Creator**



How Can I Know God?

General Revelation

(External - Creation)

- ¹ The heavens **proclaim** the glory of God.
The skies **display** his craftsmanship.
- ² Day after day they continue to **speak**;
night after night they **make** him **known**.
- ³ They **speak** without a **sound** or **word**;
their **voice** is **never heard**.
- ⁴ Yet their **message** has gone throughout the
earth, and their **words** to all the world.”

Psalm 19:1-4 (NLT)

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How Can I Know God?

General Revelation

(External - Creation)

Universe Had a **Supernatural Beginning**

Fine-Tuning of the Universe

Cambrian **Explosion** of Life

Blueprint for Life

Universal **Design Patterns**



How Can I Know God?

General Revelation

(External - Creation)

“They know the **truth about God** because he has made it **obvious** to them. For ever since the world was created, people have **seen** the earth and the sky. Through everything God made, they can **clearly see** his invisible qualities—his **eternal power** and **divine nature.**”

Romans 1:19-20 (NLT)



How Can I Know God?

General Revelation

(External - Creation)

Creation was subjected to **frustration**.

Creation has been **groaning** as in the **pains** of childbirth right up to the present time.

Creation will be liberated from its **bondage** to **decay**.

We **groan** inwardly as we wait eagerly for the **redemption** of our bodies.

Romans 8:20-23 (NIV)



How Can I Know God?

General Revelation

(External - Creation)

Emergent Religious Beliefs Among Indigenous Tribes

- Existence of an All-Powerful/Knowing Deity
- Existence of Evil/Morality
- Existence of a Judging/Punitive Deity
- Rituals of Appeasement/Atonement



How Can I Know God?

General Revelation

(Internal - Conscience)

Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know his law when they **instinctively** obey it, even without having heard it. They demonstrate that God's law **is written in their hearts**, for their own **conscience** and **thoughts** either accuse them or tell them they are doing right.

Romans 2:14-15



How Can I Know God?

General Revelation

(Internal - Conscience)

Psychological Science of Morality

"Evidence suggests that we're all born with some **innate sense of morality** and fairness."

David Pizarro (Cornell University)

"Babies are **predisposed** to interact with good people."

Karen Wynn (Yale University)



How Can I Know God?

General Revelation

(Internal - Conscience)

Innate Sense of Moral “Rightness”

People are Driven by a Sense of **Rightness**

Mankind was Created with an Innate Desire
to be in **Harmony** with Others



How Can I Know God?

General Revelation

(Summary)

General Revelation provides knowledge of a Creator-God

Because creation is marked by the consequence of sin, it creates in each of us a sense of **wrongness**, and a **longing** for a **lasting peace** with God, and **freedom** from the **guilt of sin**



How Do I Know Life Was Created for a Purpose?

Reflection

Q1: How do you **observe** God in creation?

Q2: What **evidence** convinces you of the **existence** of God?

Q3: How is creation marked by the consequences of **sin**?

Q4: How do you experience the **conflict** between **right** and **wrong**, **good** and **evil**?

Q5: What is your biggest takeaway from today's training?

BONUS: **What** do you believe to be true about God based today's teaching? **Why** do you believe it to be true?

