

CHART: PROGRESSIVE REVELATION

SEEING THE REVELATIONS OF GOD OVER TIME

1. Revealed Later

- a. The Bible clearly instructs we sacrifice animals for sins, but later... Heb 10:4
- b. There was a time when Israel was enslaved to the Egyptians, but later... Exo 20:2
- c. God was adamant about circumcising every child of Abraham, but later... Gal 5:6
- d. The disciples did not know Jesus needed to die and raise again – Luke 18:31-33
- e. We cannot go anywhere in the Bible and think that men are informed of later revelation
- f. If you start reading the Bible and do not get to what is later, you will not know.

2. The Bible: Revelation of God

- a. The Bible speaks of our salvation, identity, walk, wisdom, church operation
- b. We don't immediately recognize that it is progressively revealed.
 - i. It isn't a user's manual where everything in it is describing what to do now
 - ii. It isn't a founding document where everything after is held to every letter
- c. The opposite of recognizing subsequent revelation:
 - i. "Everyone in the OT looked forward to the cross"
 - ii. The whole Bible says the same thing, same instructions, same responsibilities
 - iii. We take from Psalms, Joshua, prophets, red letters without regard to context.

3. Principles of Progressive Revelation

- a. God did not speak all at once – Heb 1:1
- b. God knows what he is doing... but men did not. Deu 29:29
- c. What was kept secret was not known before - Eph 3:5
- d. In due time (according to his purpose) – Rom 5:6, 1 Tim 2:6, Eph 3:10
- e. Some things have not yet been revealed – 1 Tim 6:15
- f. The word, wisdom, and will of God has been revealed – Eph 1:9, Titus 1:3, 2 Tim 3:17

4. Salvation

- a. Salvation is by grace through faith in the cross of Christ.
- b. Job asks, "How should man be just with God?" – Job 9:2
- c. David pleaded for mercy, not knowing how God could forgive – Ps 51:1-2, 130:3, 143:2
- d. Solomon knew all were sinners, and could only say fear God, do good – Ecc 7:20, 12:13
- e. "Who can tell if God will turn and repent and turn away his fierce anger" – Jonah 3:9
- f. Salvation is now revealed (and it was not before) – 2 Cor 4:4-5, 2 Tim 1:9-10

5. The Body of Christ Now Revealed

- a. The revelation of the mystery through the apostle Paul - Eph 3:1-6
- b. Go not into the way of the Gentiles - Matt 10:5-6 but now "to you Gentiles"
- c. "It is unlawful... to keep company..." – Acts 10:28 but now not under law of Rom 6:14
- d. Luke 9:2 – Were preaching Israel's kingdom come, but now the cross – 1 Cor 1:18
- e. Restore again nation Israel - Acts 1:6 but now a new creature, His Body – 2 Cor 5:17
- f. Worship in a temple daily Acts 2:46, 3:1 but now you are the temple – 1 Cor 3:16
- g. Preach the commandments to the world Matt 28:20 but now grace to the world!
- h. We must respect what was revealed later and now where in the Bible is our instruction.