What is The Bible? Part III: Revelation

By Colin Barnes



The AIR we breathe...

Authority Inspiration **Revelation**



The Bible has authority to...

- Reveal God and His mission
- Shape us to be like Jesus
- Direct us to walk & work with Him



The Bible is God-breathed

- Not written by God or even dictated
- Inspired by man's greatest experiences and revelations
- A secure foundation to seek inspiration
- It is alive and speaks!

What is Revelation?

- Apocalypto to reveal or uncover
- Not information
- Comes by wrestling with
 - Nature
 - Earlier revelations
 - Experience
- The Bible is God's revelation to man



Progressive or Flat Revelation?



- Flat implies all scripture carries equal weight
- Progressive implies a later revelation carries greater weight
- The Bible says the former are mere shadows! Col 2:16-17, Heb 8:5
- God seems happy to relate to people in their own culture

The Nature of Revelation



- It's not flat
- It builds
- Like climbing a mountain
- It takes time!
- Why?



- Creator Adam & Eve
- Faithful Friend Abraham
- Saviour Joseph
- Redeemer Moses
- Shepherd King David
- Loving Father Jesus



Revelation Is Contextual

- Not just eternal truth
- To help take the next step
- Sacrifice
- Slavery
- Hardness of hearts



Pick & Mix?

- Some will worry we have a pick and mix approach to scripture
- Driven by fear
 - We'll abuse the Bible
 - We'll get it wrong
- Why some won't even consider Creation is a story



Fear leads to defensiveness



Fear is the path to the dark side. Fear leads to anger, anger leads to hate, hate leads to suffering.

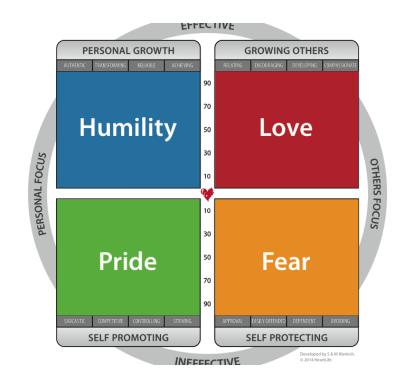
Better Understanding?

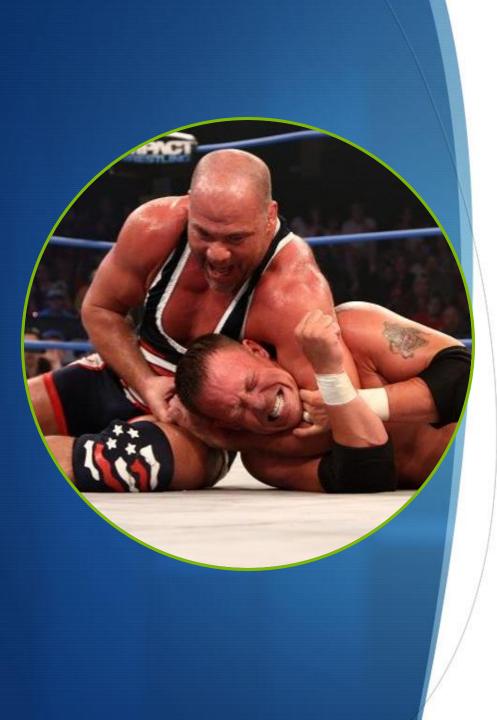
- The New Testament doesn't speak of a different God, but His people have a better revelation
- Genocide
 - Outweighed by the later revelation to love our enemies
 - They didn't understand God's heart
- Elijah calling down fire, Luke
 9:54-55



Living Above the Line!

- Pride telling others what to believe
- Fear need to prove we're right
- Humility accept we're wrong (in part) but heading right
- Love blessing others, accept and honour their perspectives and journeys (not approve)





Awesome Library!

- Man's record of wisdom & experience
- God's invitation to wrestle with Him! The very meaning of Israel
- God's revelation of Himself
- Powerful stories that have authority to call us higher
- Inspiration to shape our destiny and the world's!