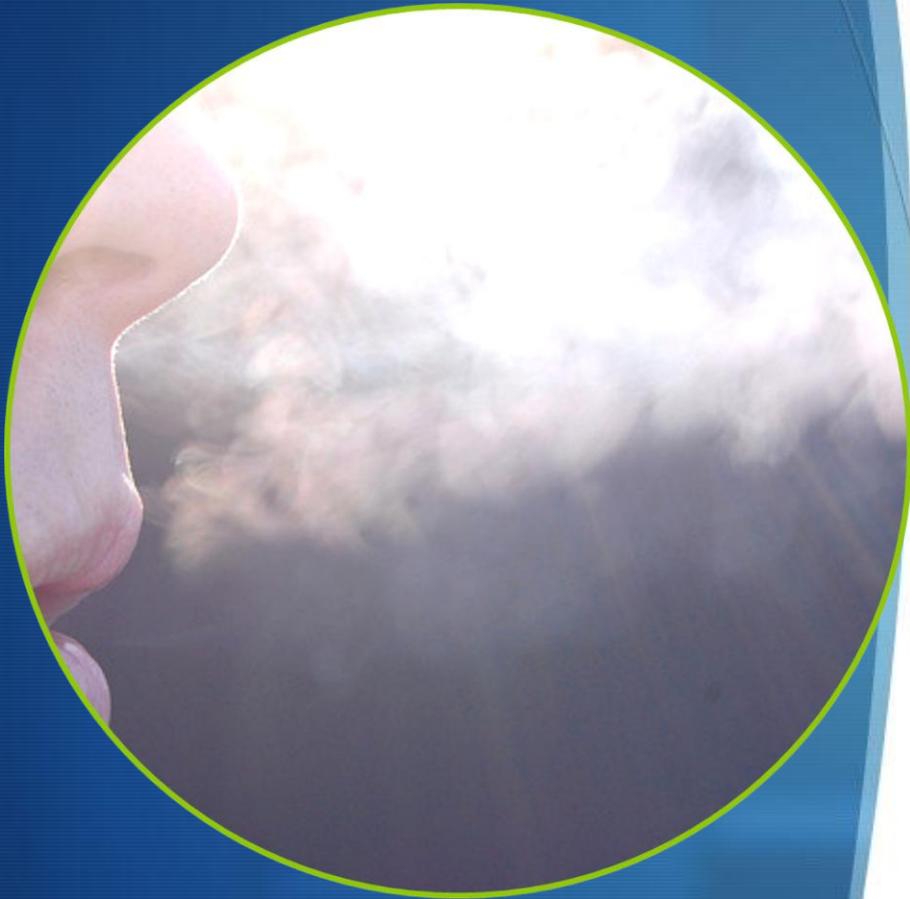


# What is The Bible? Part III: Revelation

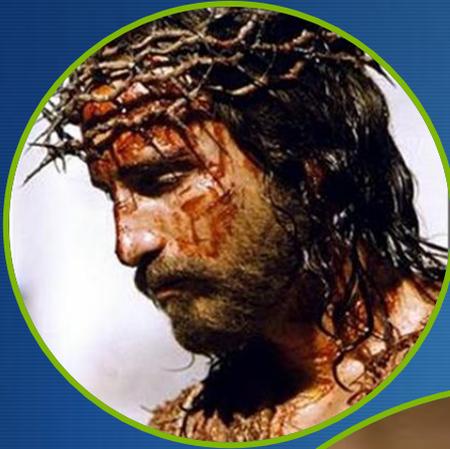
By Colin Barnes





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?

# The Revelation of God

- ◆ 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.

- Yoda

# Better Understanding?

- ◆ Not 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 revealing Himself
- ◆ God's invitation to wrestle with Him! The very meaning of Israel
- ◆ Incredibly powerful stories that call us higher
- ◆ Inspiration to shape our destiny and the world!