

**GCC**



**“God Will Only Reveal  
What We Can Handle”**

**Grace Community  
Church**

**Bible Study**

## Subjects

- A. Moses: The Glory of God**
- B. Mary: Carrier of the Messenger**
- C. Paul: The Plan of God**
- D. Elijah: The Voice of God**
- E. Jonah: The Purposes of God**

# **God Will Only Reveal What We Can Handle**

## **II. What Is the Revelation of God?**

**A. Revelation: God's disclosure of things about Himself to man (Jeremiah 33:3).**

**B. What are some things that God has revealed to man about Himself?**

**i. His majesty (Deuteronomy 33:26; Job 31:23; 2 Peter 1:16)**

**ii. His power (Job 26:12; Jeremiah 10:12; Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 1:18; 1 Corinthians 6:14 1 Peter 1:5)**

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## **II. What Is the Revelation of God?**

**B. What are some things that God has revealed to man about Himself?**

**iii. His love for his creation (Jeremiah 31:3; John 3:16; Romans 5:6-8)**

**iii. His plan for salvation (Isaiah 49:6; Ephesians 3:7-11)**

**iv. His impending return (Revelation 22:7,12,20)**

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**C. How does God reveal Himself and His characteristics?**

**i. Prophecy (1 Peter 1:10; 2 Peter 1:19-21)**

**ii. Nature (Romans 1:19,20)**

**iii. His Word (1 Samuel 3:21; John 5:39)**

**iv. Dreams/Visions (Genesis 15:1-6; Job 33:14-18; Daniel 2:19; Acts 18:9)**

**v. Personal interaction (Genesis 15:12,13; Genesis Numbers 22:31-33; 1 Samuel 3:10-14)**

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## **III. Case Studies**

### **A. Moses: The Glory of God**

**i. What is the glory of God? Glory is what God possesses in his own right, a visible extension of his nature, a “concrete” form of his divine presence. (Psalm 19:1-6; Exodus 24:17; Exodus 29:43; Exodus 40:34-38; Isaiah 6:1-3; Ezekiel 9:3,4)**

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**ii. Moses was very close to God (Exodus 24:1,2;15-18; Exodus 33:7-11; Deuteronomy 34:10)**

**iii. Moses was so close to God that his appearance was not the same when he came back among his peers (Deuteronomy 34:34,35)**

**iv. Moses saw the Lord (Exodus 24:10; Numbers 12:8; is there a contradiction with John 1:18; 1 Timothy 1:17; 6:16; 1 John 4:12?)**

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**iv. God did disclose to Moses what Moses *needed* to know (Exodus 33:12-17)**

**a. Moses wanted information about how they would get to Canaan and how he would manage the people (Verse 12)**

**b. Moses wanted to know how could he be favored by God and yet given such a difficult mission (Verse 12b)**

**c. Moses wanted to know the “ways” of God and for God to spare the people (Verse 13)**



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**d. God lets Moses know that he would go with them (Verse 14)**

**e. Moses recognized that God's presence was totally necessary and it distinguished Israel from all other nations (Verse 15,16)**

**f. God granted Moses' request (Verse 17)**

**g. Moses asked for ONE thing that God was not willing to grant (Verses 18-23)**

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**h. God refused to reveal His face to Moses because Moses still had work to do (Verse 20; Verse 23)**

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**Conclusion:** Moses

could not fathom seeing

the fullness of God's

glory. He was not

ready.

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**C. How does God reveal Himself and His characteristics?**

**i. Prophecy**

**ii. Nature/ Empirical Observation**

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## **III. Case Studies**

### **B. Mary: The Carrier of the Messiah**

#### **I. What do we know about Mary?**

**A. Mary satisfied the biological requirement (Matthew 1:6; Luke 1:32,33)**

**B. Mary was a teenager, engaged to Joseph, possibly 12 or 13 years old and a virgin when God gave her the revelation (Luke 1:27)**



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**C. Mary was a part of God's Plan  
(Matthew 1:1,2; 6,7; 12; 16,17)**

**D. What was the revelation of God to  
Mary (Luke 1:28-36)**

**i. Mary was “favored” by the  
Lord (Luke 1:28)**

**ii. Mary was perplexed at the  
statement (Luke 1:29-30)**

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**iii. Mary would be the vehicle by which the Messiah would come(Luke 1:31-33)**

**a. When (Verse 31)- this would happen immediately/very soon**

**b. How (Verses 34,35)- Immaculate Conception**

**c. Confirmed faith (Verse 36,37)- see Elizabeth**

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## II. How Was the Message Delivered?

A. Gabriel delivered the message

B. Have angels delivered God's revelation before?

**Lot** (Genesis 19:12,13); **Joshua** (Joshua 5:13-16); **Balaam** (Numbers 22:27-36); **Job** 33:23-26; **Daniel** (Daniel 8:16; Daniel 9:20-22); **Zacharias** (Luke 1:8-16; 19); **Moses** (Galatians 3:19,20)

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**II. How Was the Message  
Delivered?**

**C. Were there issues that had to  
be resolved (Matthew 1:18-20)?**

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**III. What was Mary's Response to this Profound Revelation?**

**A. Mary was ready to execute the plan (Luke 1:38)**

**B. Compare with Zacharias' response (Luke 1:18-20)**

## Conclusion:

- A. *God* showed favor to Mary
- B. *God* chose her
- C. *God* made the decision to give her the entire revelation
- D. *God* knew that she would comply
- E. *God* needed her to fully understand what was about to

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**C. How does God reveal Himself and His characteristics?**

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# **I. What do we know about Paul?**

**A. Saul (Paul) was a witness to the stoning of Stephen (Acts 7:57)**

**B. Saul (Paul) was a persecutor of the church (Acts 8:3; Acts 9:1,2; 1 Timothy 1:12-14; Galatians 1:13)**

**C. Saul (Paul) was pressed into service by Jesus (Acts 9:1-7)**

# **I. What do we know about Paul?**

**C. His name is Saul of Tarsus but he was also called Paul (Acts 13:9)**

**D. Paul was an accomplished and religious man (Philippians 3:1-6; Acts 22:3)**

**E. Paul wrote 13 of the 27 NT books**

**F. Paul was called into service from the womb (Galatians 1:15)**

## II. God Gave Paul a Two-Fold Revelation

### A. Damascus: Saul Outside of God's Will

- i. It is possible that the revelation comes at a time when we are **OUTSIDE** the will of God (**Acts 9:3,4; 8,9**)
- ii. It is possible that others will be a part of God's plan for **OUR** lives (**Acts 9:10-15**)

## **II. God Gave Paul a Two-Fold Revelation**

**iii. It is possible that we must be humbled before we can be put into service for God (Acts 9:17-20)**

## **II. God Gave Paul a Two-Fold Revelation**

### **B. Paul the Apostle: Preacher to the Gentiles**

**i. Apostle literally means one who was sent**

**ii. Paul never took advantage of his position in the kingdom (1 Corinthians 15:7-10; 2 Cor 12:11; Ephesians 3:8; 1 Thessalonians 2:9)**

## **II. God Gave Paul a Two-Fold Revelation**

**iii. Paul received a revelation from God concerning the Gospel (Ephesians 3:6)**

**[See also Isaiah 11:10,11; 49:5,6]**

**a. Paul knew WHO he supposed to preach to (Acts 22:21; Ephesians 3:8)**



## II. God Gave Paul a Two-Fold Revelation

b. Paul received something that even the angels were not privy to (1 Peter 1:10-12; Ephesians 3:1-11)

**1. Revelation is given by the grace of God (Ephesians 3:2)**

**2. God's revelation is a mystery until He reveals it to us (Deuteronomy 29:29, Ephesians 3:3)**

## II. God Gave Paul a Two-Fold Revelation

**3. The revelation is intended to give us a greater insight to share with God's people (Ephesians 3:4)**

**4. The revelation is specific for God's purpose in the season in which it is revealed (Ephesians 3:5) The revelation to Paul was his mission from God (Ephesians 3:7,8)**

## II. God Gave Paul a Two-Fold Revelation

5. God had kept his plan to include the Gentiles hidden (Deuteronomy 34:6; Colossians 3:3 [God knows how to hide things!]; (Ephesians 3:9)

6. God had a reason for hiding the plan of salvation (Ephesians 3:9,10)

### **III. How Was it Delivered?**

**A. Paul received revelation directly from God (Acts 22:17,18)**

**B. In light of the prestige of God's revelation, God used a thorn in Paul's side to keep him humble (2 Corinthians 12:5-10)**

## IV. Why did God use Paul in this particular way?

A. Paul's knowledge of the Law made him an excellent apologist for grace

**B. Paul's life was already mapped out before he was born (like all of us)**

C. Paul was not afraid to be a martyr for the Lord [Philippians 2:17; 2 Timothy 4:6; Romans 1:16]

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# **I. What do we know about Elijah?**

**A. Elijah was the prototype of John the Baptist (2 Kings 1:8; Luke 1:17)**

**B. Elijah was a Northern Kingdom Prophet (See 1 Kings 17)**

**C. Elijah prophesied under King Ahab**

**D. Elijah brought a young man back to life (1 Kings 17:21-23)**

**E. Elijah never died (2 Kings 2:9-13)**

## **II. God Spoke Prophetically Through Elijah**

**A. What is a prophet? Prophet is one of three offices highlighted in the OT. One who speaks from direct revelation from God via the prompting of the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21).**

**1. Three Hebrew terms used:  
“Seer” { Ro’eh and Hozeah} and  
“One who is called to speak” {  
Navi’}**

**B. What do prophets do? Prophets  
speak to kings and laymen to give  
revelation from God (Jeremiah 1:5,  
Ezekiel 3:17)**

## **C. Is the job of a prophet difficult?**

**1. Foretelling: Future events  
(Judges 4:6,7,9,14; 2 Samuel 7:1-4;  
Daniel 12:4; Revelation 22:1-5)**

**2. Forth-telling: Judgment, right-  
now word (2 Samuel 12:1-7; 2 Kings  
1:1-4; Isaiah 58:1; Jeremiah 1:7-10;  
Daniel 9:4,5)**

### **III. God Gave Elijah a Multiple Revelations**

**A. No Rain in the Land (1 Kings 17:1)**

**B. Where to go to Find Shelter (1 Kings 17:2-4; 7-9; 14-16)**

**C. Mt. Carmel Rain was Coming (1 Kings 18:1; 40-44)**

**D. Mt. Carmel with Jezebel's Prophets: That God is the ONLY God of Israel (1 Kings 18:23-25; 37-39)**

### **III. God Gave Elijah a Multiple Revelations**

**E. Mt. Horeb (Sinai): That His mission was not finished (1 Kings 19:1-8; That it was time to get back to work (1 Kings 19:9-16)**

**F. Jezebel's and Ahab's Death (1 Kings 21:18,19; 23,24)**

**G. The End of His Ministry (Elisha): (1 Kings 19:16; 19; 2 Kings 2:9)**

## **IV. How Were the Revelations Delivered?**

**A. By Direct Revelation (1 Kings 17:2,8; 18:1; 21:17; 21:28; 2 Kings 1:3)**

**V. Why did God use Elijah in this particular way?**

**A. Elijah often felt abandoned by God (1 Kings 18:22; 19:10)**

**B. As a prophet, God could speak directly to him**

**C. Elijah was responsible for the spiritual welfare of Israel (1 Kings 18:21,22; 30,31; 38,39)**



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**i. Prophecy (1 Peter 1:10; 2 Peter 1:19-21)**

**ii. Nature (Romans 1:19,20)**

**iii. His Word (1 Samuel 3:21; John 5:39)**

**iv. Dreams/Visions (Genesis 15:1-6; Job 33:14-18; Daniel 2:19; Acts 18:9)**

**v. Personal interaction (Genesis 15:12,13; Genesis Numbers 22:31-33; 1 Samuel 3:10-14)**

**I. What do we know about  
Jonah?**

**A. Jonah is from Gath-heper**

**B. Jonah is the son of Amittai**

**C. Jonah was a Northern  
Kingdom Prophet (See 2 Kings  
14:20-25)**

**I. What do we know about Jonah?**

**D. Jonah prophesied under King Jeroboam (2 Kings 14:23-25)**

**E. Jonah was ultimately a symbol that Jesus would use to predict his own burial and resurrection (Matthew 12:40)**

**F. Jonah was used to describe God's grace in allowing for repentance (Matthew 12:41)**

## **II. God Gave Jonah a Prophetic Assignment that He did not Want!**

**A. God sent Jonah to Nineveh  
(Jonah 1:2)**

**B. The revelation was that God was going to destroy Nineveh  
(Jonah 3:1-4)**

## **II. God Gave Jonah a Prophetic Assignment that He did not Want!**

**C. We must be obedient to the assignments that God gives us (Jonah 1:3)**

**a. Jonah's disobedience put the lives of others in danger (Jonah 1:4,5,10)**

**b. Jonah's disobedience would not stop the will of God from happening (Jonah 1:12,17)**

## **II. God Gave Jonah a Prophetic Assignment that He did not Want!**

**c. In the midst of Jonah's disobedience, God still saved lives (Jonah 1:5,8,9; 14)**

**d. God is merciful EVEN in our disobedience (Jonah 2:7-10)**



### **III. God Had a PURPOSE for Jonah's Assignment**

#### **A. What is the role of a prophet?**

**1. Forth-telling: Judgment, right-now word (2 Samuel 12:1-7; 2 Kings 1:1-4; Isaiah 58:1; Jeremiah 1:7-10; Daniel 9:4,5)**

**2. Foretelling: Future events (Judges 4:6,7,9,14; 2 Samuel 7:1-4; Daniel 12:4; Revelation 22:1-5)**

### **III. God Had a PURPOSE for Jonah's Assignment**

**B. What is the ultimate outcome of prophetic revelation?**

- 1. Salvation and Repentance (Ezekiel 18:29-32; Isaiah 1:18-10; Acts 3:19)**
- 2. What purpose did God have for His revelation to Jonah? (Jonah 3:5-10)**

## **IV. How Were the Revelations Delivered?**

**A. By Direct Revelation (Jonah  
1:1; Jonah 3:1)**

**B. By Analogy (Jonah 4:6,7)**

**V. Why did God use Jonah in this particular way?**

**A. Jonah did not fully understand his role in what God was doing (Jonah 4:1)**

**B. Jonah did not truly understand the purpose of his ministry (Jonah 4:3)**

**C. Jonah needed to understand that God is sovereign (Exodus 33:19; Romans 9:15,16)**

## **Summary:**

- A. God reveals Himself with purpose**
- B. God's revelation is for the furtherance of His own will**
- C. God reveals partially or fully at His own discretion**
- D. God's revelation should be accompanied by our obedience**
- E. We will not always understand the WHY or the HOW.**