

revelation...nothing has been learned. (One might learn something indirect about the character of the person who purportedly did such a thing, but if what is told is not right, then nothing has been revealed. Revelation is, of necessity, a corollary of truth.

--Dependability: What is revealed is true and may be relied upon as what is accurate or needed at the time. Not only is it true, but it is true in adequate proportion to what is needed by the recipient.

--Authority: the revealed word carries all the weight, prestige, and executive command of the Lord who has given it. The inscripturated message bears the command of God...one of the great truths seen in the prophetic passages in particular.

c. Character of Revelation

--It is a natural happening in that it is consistent with the character of God that having done something He should tell of it (and not only God is in that mold). The willingness to be a "revealer" is part of the character of man and it should be expected that the God who made us would likewise, in His order, be a revealer. We do not mean that revelation is ordered by nature, but we do mean that it is only logical and in keeping with His character that God should tell of His work.

--It is broadly ordered in that it consists first of "general revelation" (that which is made known in the widest sense of creation) and "special revelation" which, in terms of His Word, relates to salvation and the gracious acts of God in that line. The "special" form is given in a number of ways...the audible voice, the physical confrontation, a demonstration of the will, a vision, etc., and ultimately in the inscripturated Word. The "general" is given in the wider aspects of life...nature, the universe, our being, etc. But revelation in all aspects is widely arranged so as to confront all of mankind with the reality of God and the fact of His will.

--It is a consistent body of continuing truth. This means that it is truth progressively issued being self-harmonious and consistent. The test of ongoing revelation is the record of what has been given. The totally revealed material becomes the normative expression of truth by which any subsequent material must be tested.