

The Center of Revelation

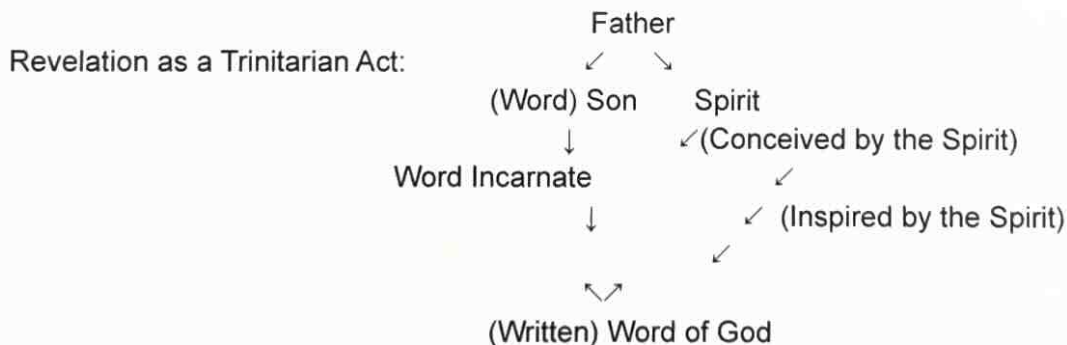
- Why talk about this (why not just talk about the Bible)?
- Matt. 16:16-17 "You are the *Messiah, the Son of the living God.*" Jesus replied, "**Blessed are you**, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but **by my Father in heaven.**"

Two Observations: 1. God reveals God's self; 2. God reveals himself in "flesh and blood" Jn 1

- *How* we come to know something is determined by *what* that thing is.
- Ex. Cheese (Process of making it; different types; how it tastes)
- God is, fundamentally, Triune - a community of persons united in perfect love as One being. Therefore, we know God by being united to Him in love (relationship!).

The centerpiece and the point of Revelation is fulfilled in the Incarnation of God in Jesus, the Messiah. In Him we see God's Word about Himself, and His Word about who He is towards us. There is no God except the One revealed in Jesus, and all God's revelation points to Jesus.

Heidelberg Question 19: **Whence knowest thou this?** [referring redemption and forgiveness in Jesus] **Answer:** From the Holy Gospel, which God himself first revealed in paradise, afterwards proclaimed by the holy Patriarchs and Prophets, and foreshadowed by the sacrifices and other ceremonies of the law, and finally fulfilled by his well-beloved Son.



- The work God does to "stoop" in order to reveal himself in the Incarnation and in Scripture should cause us to approach knowledge of God humbly. How do we cultivate humility in times of learning, worship, or prayer?
- Scripture is not a textbook on divinity, but a story of a personal God; the incarnation is not a museum exhibit of God's traits, but God embodied as, and forever tied to, humanity. How do we make sure that our knowledge of God's revelation is never abstracted from this personal and relational focus of the gospel?
- What are the conditions around what makes theology (what we're doing here) important/worthwhile? *Does it draw us to pray?*