

Section II: The Living & True God



Chapter 5: Revelation of God



5. The Revelation of God

I. Characteristics of General Revelation

- General in scope – reaches all people (**Matthew 5:45** – it rains on *everyone!*)
- General in geography – reaches *all* lands (**Psalm 19:1-6**)
- General in its methodology (*everyone* understands the concept of rain; all humans have an internal law, the *conscience* – **Romans 2:14-15**)

Avenues of General Revelation

I. Characteristics of General Revelation

II. Avenues of General Revelation

A. Through Creation

- 1) Statement: “The universe around us is an effect which connotes an adequate cause (Ryrie, p.31)”

The Simple Cosmological Argument

Everything that exists has a cause of its existence.

The universe exists.

Therefore: The universe has a cause of its existence: God.

Avenues of General Revelation

I. Characteristics of General Revelation

II. Avenues of General Revelation

A. Through Creation

1) Statement

2) Presuppositions

a) Every effect has a cause

b) The effect caused depends on cause for its existence

c) Nature cannot originate itself.

Avenues of General Revelation

3) Development



Avenues of General Revelation

If something now exists (the cosmos) then either it came from nothing or it came from something which must be eternal. The something eternal in the second option could either be the cosmos itself which would have to be eternal, or chance as an eternal principle, or God the eternal Being.

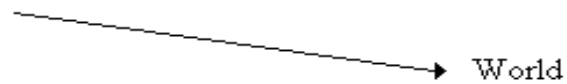
The Simple Cosmological Argument

THE COSMOLOGICAL ARGUMENT

CAUSE

EFFECT

Option #1 Nothing



World

Option #2 Something eternal

- a. Eternal matter
- b. Eternal chance
- c. Eternal God



Avenues of General Revelation

To say that the cosmos came from nothing means it was self-created. This is a logical contradiction, because for something to be self-created it must exist and not exist at the same time in the same way. Furthermore, self-creation has never been scientifically demonstrated and observed.

Avenues of General Revelation

A variation of the view that holds to the eternality of matter is the Steady State Theory which suggests that matter is constantly created near the center of the universe and destroyed at the outer perimeter of space. Violates the laws of thermodynamics.

Does not the matter of cause and effect also apply to God? Is He not also an effect that required a cause? The answer is no, because God is not an effect (which would require a cause) because He is eternal.

Avenues of General Revelation

Another option is that there is some eternal principle of chance or blind intelligence. To believe this option requires a large measure of faith. It can be demonstrated mathematically that random chance could not have produced what we observe today in the universe. But even if it could produce molecules and atoms, the “stuff” of the universe, could such a nonliving principle also produce the soul and spirit facets of life?

Avenues of General Revelation

The third option is the theistic one; that is, the eternal Being that caused the cosmos is God. This does not mean that the universe reveals all the details of the character of that eternal Being, but it does mean that there is a living, powerful, intelligent Being who caused the universe. Living, because non-life cannot produce life. Powerful, because of the very nature of what was formed. Intelligent, because of the order and arrangement of the cosmos, things which chance could not generate.

End

