

# REASON VS. REVELATION

CORE BELIEF #1

## Revelation:

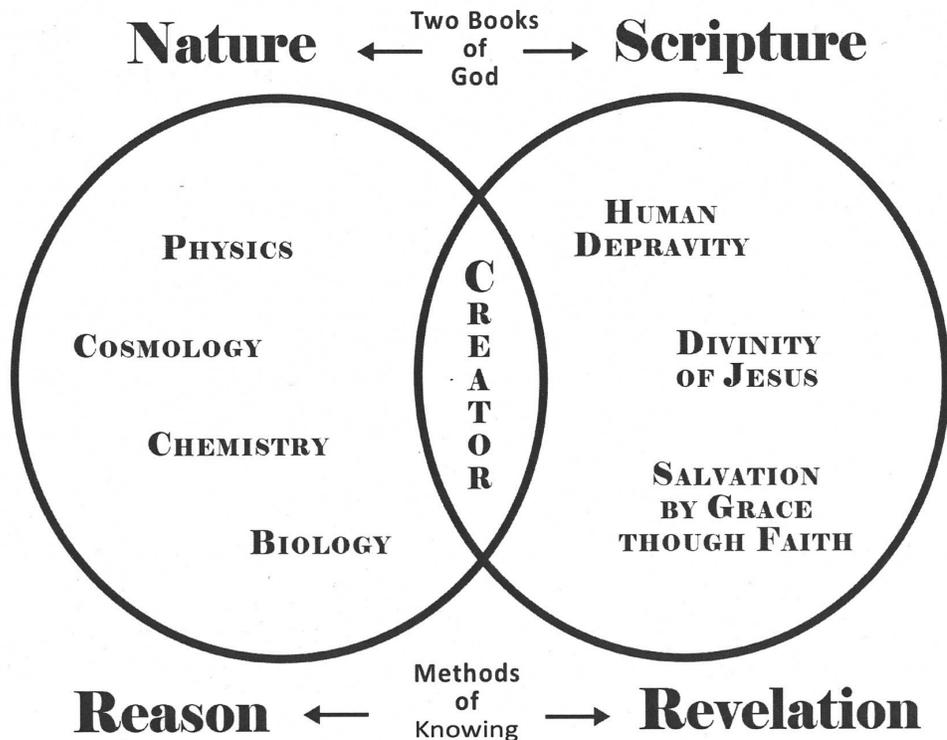
“No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.” — Luke 10:22

“Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ Jesus replied, ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in Heaven.’”

— Matthew 16:16-17

“I want you to know, brothers, that the gospel I preached is not something that man made up. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.”

— Galatians 1:11-12



**Reason** is a great gift of God to help humanity understand the world and consequently improve their lives. The **Enlightenment** was a movement in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries that elevated the importance and power of human reason. The great mistake it made, however, was to exalt reason as the only means to gain knowledge of the world, humanity, and of God. Revelation was **rejected**. This error still dominates the academic institutions of the western world.

Christians embrace reason as a gift of God, but know that it is limited and that there is another way of accessing knowledge: through God's revelation in His Word.

“Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has God not made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe.... My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on man's wisdom, but on God's power.... This is what we speak... not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught us by the Spirit expressing **spiritual truths in spiritual words**. The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are **spiritually discerned**.

—1 Corinthians 1:20-22; 2:4-5, 13-14

**The Gospel reading is from Matthew 13:11-16 (NIV)**

**11** He replied, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. **12** Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. **13** This is why I speak to them in parables:

“Though seeing, they do not see;  
though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

**14** In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

“You will be ever hearing but never understanding;  
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

**15** For this people’s heart has become calloused;  
they hardly hear with their ears,  
and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their hearts  
and turn, and I would heal them.’

**16** But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.