

Chapter Seven

Doctrine vs Historical Revelation

Chapter Five

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I. Historical Revelation

- A. Historical Revelation:** The divine record, by the Holy Spirit, of what has taken place.
1. When speaking of Historical Revelation we are speaking of those aspects of scripture which are narrative in nature
 - a. Historical Revelation is no less inspired than other portions of the Word of God.
 - b. It is wholly and completely the Word of God, carrying with it all the divine attributes of the Word of God.
 - c. It is limited in application only, not in terms of its divine nature.
 - d. In calling it Historical Revelation, we are simply recognizing different ways God transmits truth and as a result the differing ways He desires us to use this truth, we are not in any way diminishing the power and authority of the Word of God.
 2. When we read Historical Revelation it is like watching TV.
 3. God divinely allows us to know how events unfolded.
 - a. To be allowed to know something is not the same as being commanded to do or experience something.
 - b. We experience this in our day to day communications with our children and God, choosing to use language to communicate with us does so as well.
 4. Historical Revelation is not universally applicable
 - a. Because something good is accomplished, it is not necessarily applicable
 - 1.) Example: Moses and the Red Sea
 - 2.) In this case, simply because Moses was able to part the Red Sea, it does not necessarily follow that you will be able to do this as well.
 - b. Because something bad is done it is not necessarily applicable
 - 1.) Example: David and Bathsheba
 - 2.) In this case, simply because David committed adultery with Bathsheba and yet remained the king of Israel, it does not excuse adultery in men's lives.
 - c. Because Jesus did it, it is not necessarily universally applicable
 - 1.) Example: Raising the dead
 - 2.) Again, Jesus' raising of the dead cannot be viewed as exemplary, in other words, an example to be followed, but rather historical, an event which God chose to do, but not necessarily for us to imitate.
 - d. Because the apostles or early church did it, it is not necessarily applicable
 - 1.) Example: The Apostles and the Holy Spirit
 - 2.) The repetitive events of the Holy Spirit in the early church do not establish a precedent for the church of today. Doctrine, not Historical Revelation establishes precedents.
 5. This is true even when there is an historical theme running throughout the Word of God
 - a. Example: Water
 - 1.) Exodus 14:21, 22
 - 2.) Joshua 3:14 – 17
 - 3.) II Kings 2:8
 - 4.) II Kings 2:14
 - 5.) II Kings 6:6
 - 6.) Matthew 14:26

- 7.) Matthew 14:29
- b. Example: Fire
 - 1.) Genesis 19:24
 - 2.) Exodus 9:23
 - 3.) Leviticus 9:24
 - 4.) I Kings 18:38
 - 5.) II Kings 1:10, 12, 14
 - 6.) Job 1:16
 - 7.) I Chronicle 21:26
 - 8.) II Chronicles 7:1
 - 9.) Luke 9:54
 - 10.) Revelation 13:13
- c. Example: Lions
 - 1.) Judges 14:5, 6
 - 2.) I Samuel 17:34 - 37
 - 3.) II Samuel 23:20
 - 4.) I Kings 13:24 - 26
 - 5.) I Kings 20:35, 36
 - 6.) II Kings 17:25, 26
 - 7.) Daniel 6:16 - 22
- d. Example: Raising the dead
 - 1.) I Kings 17:22
 - 2.) II Kings 4:32 – 34
 - 3.) Matthew 9:24, 25
 - 4.) John 11:43, 44
 - 5.) Acts 20:9 - 12
- e. Example: The Holy Spirit – the same principle applies
- 6. The value of Historical Revelation
 - a. Reveals the actions of God to us
 - 1.) Acts 1:1 – God reveals to us both His actions and His doctrines
 - 2.) John 21:24, 25 – God chooses those actions which He desires for us to know about. These actions are true, they are part of God's revealed truth.
 - 3.) Revelation 1:1-3 – We are blessed by knowing the actions of God, even if we do not personally participate in them. Both future actions and past actions.
 - b. The divine attributes of God's Word are still of value to us, even if we are not directly applying the Word to our lives.
 - 1.) I Timothy 4:6 – It is spiritual nourishment to us.
 - 2.) Hebrews 4:12 – Convicts us
 - 3.) John 17:17 – Sanctifies us
 - 4.) Psalm 119:9,11 – Keeps us from sin
 - 5.) And many, many other divine attributes of God's Word
 - c. They are illustrations and examples for us – both good and bad
 - 1.) James 5:10 – Prophets
 - 2.) James 5:11 – Job
 - 3.) John 13:15; I Peter 2:21 – Jesus
 - 4.) I Corinthians 10:7 – 11; Hebrews 4:11 – Israel
 - 5.) II Thessalonians 3:7, 9 – Apostles
 - 6.) Jude 1:7 – Sodom and Gomorrah
 - d. We are able to derive devotional thoughts and applications from Historical Revelation but it is not doctrine, therefore is not universally applicable and does not transcend time and space.
 - 1.) Nehemiah 7:5 – God can impress upon us to pursue a certain course of action.

- 2.) Psalm 19:11 – He can warn us and direct us.
- 3.) It is important for us though to differentiate between what we “feel” like God is telling us to do from a passage of Historical Revelation and from what a Doctrinal passage from God’s Word says to do.
- 4.) From a reading of Acts 13:2 you may feel a confirmation of the call to China as a missionary, but you cannot from this passage teach a universal call to all Christians to go to China to the mission field.

B. Doctrine: The divine teaching by the Holy Spirit of truth, which is universally applicable to all people, transcending both time and culture.

1. When speaking of Doctrine we are speaking of those aspects of scripture which are instructional in nature.
 - a. When we read Doctrine it is like listening to a sermon delivered by the Holy Spirit, from the Bible.
 - b. It is here that we are divinely taught universal spiritual truths by the Holy Spirit.
2. The Bible clearly teaches on the subject of doctrine.
 - a. Teachers are responsible to be equipped in doctrine
 - 1.) 1TI 4:6 In pointing out these things to the brethren, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following.
 - 2.) TIT 1:9 holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching, that he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.
 - 3.) TIT 2:1 But as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine.
 - 4.) TIT 2:7 in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified,
 - c. We are expected to be discerning of doctrine.
 - 1.) EPH 4:14 As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves, and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming;
 - 2.) 1TI 6:3 If anyone advocates a different doctrine, and does not agree with sound words, those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and with the doctrine conforming to godliness,
 - 3.) 2TI 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires;
 - d. Our behavior is to reflect our grasp of doctrine
 - 1.) 1TI 6:1 Let all who are under the yoke as slaves regard their own masters as worthy of all honor so that the name of God and our doctrine may not be spoken against.
 - 2.) TIT 2:10 not pilfering, but showing all good faith that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior in every respect.
3. Doctrine is universally applicable
 - a. The first century semi-literate fisherman of Galilee
 - b. The 21st century nomadic tribesman of the Sahara dessert
 - c. The 21st century computer expert in London
 - d. The 21st century business executive in New York City
 - e. All are equally accountable to the same doctrinal passages of scripture

- C. When teaching the Word of God, Historical Revelation supports doctrine, not vice versa.
 - 1. In teaching the Word of God, we begin with Doctrine and then support it with illustrations from Historical Revelation.
 - a. An example of understanding Historical Revelation in the light of Doctrine is the death of Saul.
 - b. In II Samuel 1: 1 – 10 the Amalekite servant reported to David that he had performed a mercy killing on King Saul to keep him from suffering and falling into the hands of the enemy. (II Samuel 1:1 – 16)
 - c. Yet in I Samuel 31:1-7 the Word of God records that Saul took his own life.
 - d. Which is true?
 - e. An understanding of Doctrine vs. Historical Revelation makes this clear. The Doctrinal Revelation of the death of Saul is given in I Samuel 31:1-7 and King Saul did indeed die by his own hand.
 - f. II Samuel 1:1 – 10 accurately records the events following Saul’s death including the lie told by the Amalekite servant.
 - g. When reading the Word of God we should always ask ourselves, is God saying this – Doctrine, or is the Word of God accurately recording what man is saying – Historical Revelation.
 - 2. We do not begin with Historical Revelation and teach it as if it were Doctrine.
 - 3. As a result, when we are about to teach the Word of God, or seeking to apply it to our lives, we should ask ourselves, “Is this passage Doctrinal in nature or is it Historical Revelation?”
 - 4. The answer to this question will guide us in our understanding of the Word of God.