

The Bible: God's Redemptive Words

Lesson 1: What is the Bible?

Intro

- There are a lot of competing ideas out there for defining what the Bible is
- There are also many competing notion for how God reveals Himself to us (if at all)

Theories of God's Revelation

1. **Revelation = Doctrine**
2. **Revelation = God's Historical Acts**
3. **Revelation = Individual Inner Experience**
4. **Revelation = Spiritual Encounter**
5. **Revelation = New Spiritual Awareness**

- While there is a kernel of truth in each of these, they all fall short by themselves.
- The Bible is God's powerful speech which contains teaching, is based on historical events, produces inner experiences and powerful encounters with God as well as new awareness again and again.
- The Bible = God's self-disclosure and a record of what He has done which is accommodated to our limited understanding and meticulously designed by Him to generate in us the effect that He desires.
- Thus His record of His redemptive acts produces what it describes:
 - o It teaches the need for redemption
 - o Describes its accomplishment through Christ and the Spirit
 - o And then produces it within those whom the WORD confronts