

Lesson Three: The Necessity of Revelation and Faith

I. Review

Natural Theology and *Dei Filius*

God can be known by the power of reason alone

Last week we went over the common objections against God throughout history and the more common ones we here now, especially from Richard Dawkins and Christopher Hitchens.

II. Divine Revelation and Faith

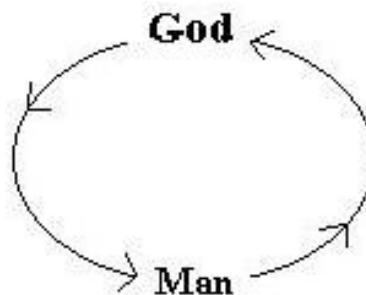
C.S. Lewis, *Surprised by Joy*

Revelation comes from the Latin *revelatio* and the verb form *revelare*, meaning to uncover or remove the veil.

Dei Filius (1870): The same Holy Mother Church holds and teaches that God, the beginning and end of all things, can be known with certitude by the natural light of human reason from created things; “for the invisible things of him, from the creation of the world, are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made” (Romans 1:20); nevertheless, it has pleased His wisdom and goodness to reveal Himself and the eternal decrees of His will to the human race in another and supernatural way, as the Apostle says: “God, who in many and various ways, spoke in times past to the father by the prophets, last of all these days has spoken to us by His Son” (Hebrews 1:1-2).

St. Thomas Aquinas on the scheme of Divine Revelation and the Divine Economy of Salvation:

Exitus-Reditus



Dei Verbum §2: “In His goodness and wisdom God chose to reveal Himself and to make known to us the hidden purpose of His will (see Ephesians 1:9) by which through Christ, the Word made flesh, man might in the Holy Spirit have access to the Father and come to share in the divine nature (see Ephesians 2:18; 2 Peter 1:4). Through this revelation, therefore, the invisible God out of the

abundance of His love speaks to men as friends and lives among them, so that He may invite and take them into fellowship with Himself.”

How Does God Reveal Himself?

How Can We Know if a/the Revelation is True?

Miracles

Prophecies

Further Reading:

Catechism of the Catholic Church §50-133.

Dei Filius (1870)

Dei Verbum, Second Vatican Council’s Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, November 18, 1965.

Feingold, Lawrence, *Faith Comes from What is Heard: An Introduction to Fundamental Theology*. Emmaus Academic, 2016.

Sheehan, Matthias Joseph, *Handbook of Catholic Dogmatics* 1.1 and 1.2. Emmaus Academic, 2019.

Sheehan, Archbishop Michael, *Apologetics and Catholic Doctrine*. Baronius Press, 2015.