



## Year 11 into 12 Philosophy and Ethics Bridging Project Developments in religious thought - Christianity



### How did the Christian belief in God originate?

**Revelation is all about God showing himself to man.**

There are **two ways** of describing revelation:

General revelation involves the witness of the natural world to the existence of God. Knowledge of God is gained through the natural world i.e. looking at the beauty of the natural world and feeling the presence of God. This is known as Natural theology.

Specific revelation relates to witness of a personal nature e.g. historical events, miracles, personal experiences i.e. miracles. Sacred teachings are viewed as vehicles of specific revelation too. Different approaches across and within religions will determine the type of revelation occurs.

So how is revelation gained by human beings?

#### **Task:**

Choose two of the following examples of revelation, and research both: **the conversion of Saul (the Bible, Acts 9:1-22), the Toronto Blessing, St. Bernadette of Lourdes, the day of Pentecost (the Bible, Acts 2:1-4), the Teleological argument for God's existence, the moral argument for God's existence.**

Then, write a detailed response to the following questions:

1. Describe this revelation – what is believed to have happened/ how does this theory try to show that God exists?
2. How is God shown through this experience? i.e. does he speak to the person, is God experienced through nature, is it a theory, etc.
3. How might religious and non-religious people interpret this event/belief?
4. Do you think that this event/belief/theory shows that God exists?

Bring your project, printed and ready to hand in, to the first Philosophy and Ethics lesson you have in **September**. Make sure you come and ask for help beforehand if you are stuck.

**Good Luck!**