

## *Revelation*

**WHAT IS REVELATION?** The religionist asserts that revelation is to be found only in the great Scriptures of the world. Thus, the Christian declares that the New Testament is an unchangeable and unalterable revelation, given by a Divine Being—"The Son of God"—and that other systems are more or less fallacious. The Buddhist maintains that the Great Teacher, the Lord Buddha, was spiritually enlightened, and that His teachings were a Divine revelation. The Hindu proclaims that Lord Krishna's teachings are a distinct revelation through that divine avatar of the will of the Supreme. Others, again, assert that the Vedas alone contain true revelation. The Zoroastrian states that his Prophet "Knew the Truth; He was inspired and revealed God's purpose to man." So does every religion declare its Teacher to be the best exponent of Divinity. Thus there are many religions and apparently multifarious revelations.

Yet it is possible to sum up religion—if we consider it from the life and not the form side—in these words: The Soul is immortal and an evolving entity. God is Good. As a man sows so must he also reap.

These basic ideas form the real nucleus around which all so-called revelation is built up. The revelation is one and the same, though to each race and nation the outer form and presentment differ.

The ideas, precepts, and ethics given by inspired Teachers differ in order to meet the needs of the nation and race to whom each revelation is given as a means of directing and guiding its evolution. The scriptures of the world, the bibles of the races,



Oil on canvas, Guido Reni (1575-1642), The Vatican

### *Saint Matthew and the Angel*

*The artist gives a visually literal rendition of divine revelation.*

served the believers in each particular revelation as a certain foundation of morality. Each Teacher lays down for the younger souls committed to His charge a certain code of ethics and morals applicable to their particular state of development, this code being regarded by its adherents, more or less, as direct and binding, its force depending not on intellectual thought and reason, but on the authority of the Teacher, who was presumably Divine and therefore *knew* (as first-hand knowledge) that which He taught.

Thus it must be apparent that so-called "revelation" was a body of ethics and philosophy given through different "Divine Men" or Elder Brothers, in order to mark out as it were a path for a humanity not yet sufficiently evolved to rely safely for guidance on its own reason or intuition. And the

object of religion, presumably, is to render progress more rapid than it would be if the race were left to experience alone in matters of right and wrong, faith and belief in the Divine Teacher causing the man to try to follow His precept.

Authoritative religion with its code of morals was a necessity for our earlier humanity—which was but at its beginning, in an infantile stage, and many blunders would be made and many blind alleys entered; for in that age of vague gropings primitive man was only driven by the lash of his animal instincts and passions, and possessed no experience to guide or reason to restrain. Notice the different codes of ethics inculcated in the Law of Moses and in the Teachings of the Nazarene—the sustenance needed for the child is valueless to the man, and so the religion suitable for a young race would be practically useless when that race had by successive incarnations evolved reason and self-control.

Many an action that would undoubtedly be a step backwards for us today was a step forward for the earlier races. In fact, our best of today will be our evil of tomorrow, for we are slowly evolving out of the human nature into the divine, and our saints and sages of today have been but savages in the past. We are living in this world, and treading the long ascent up the mountain called Experience, in order that the divine may develop. But it is a fatal mistake to make any so-called revelation a binding force on the soul. We should not swathe the limbs of a race with the old bands of the past. Many sublime truths give the scriptures of the world an eternal value, but many of their precepts and ethics are useless to our present civilization, and we make religion and regulation a clog and hindrance rather than a help if we are so orthodox that we cling to a form which the life has outgrown.

No outer revelation can take the place of the inner, and as the soul draws nearer to its divine source, it seeks experience from within, knowing that true revelation is the revealing of the God



*Die Bibel in Bildern, Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1789-1853)*

### **The Prophet Daniel**

*Daniel read the divine writing on the wall. An astrologer reads stellar characters inscribed on the sphere of the heavens, as reflected in a horoscope.*

within. Conscience is one form of revelation. Some call its voice the voice of God, and if by that they intend to convey the idea that it is the inborn experience of the Ego, striving to guide aright its present personal manifestation, they would not be far from the truth. For conscience may be considered as moral intuition, and we are wise when we seek to obey its guidance, for this reason—that, although not an infallible guide, it is the best we have. And if we act according to its dictates, we grow, even by our mistakes; for the mistake itself supplies the needed experience, and thus we gain both strength and wisdom.

At our present stage of evolution a horoscope may be said to be a revelation; though there are few Daniels today who can read “the handwriting upon the wall.” Some astrologers believe Daniel’s interpretation of those hieroglyphics to have been a reading of a nation’s destiny in the national horoscope. If a Daniel came to judgment today upon the national horoscopes, some strange revelations would be given to the world....Christ came to reveal the doctrine of Universal Love, and His second coming is thought to bring a revelation of Universal Wisdom, so that both wings of the true interpreter

or revealer, Mercury, may be given to the aspirant who is ready to receive the new revelation.

To many there is no such thing as revelation, but simply an evolution of matter devoid of spirit, and by those at present no revelation can be received, other than the slow process of the unveiling of their inner deeps through experience. All Teachers who come forth from time to time must echo the words of the Teacher of Christianity, who said, "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear."

However, apart from any religious revelation, what kind of revelation can we find in the divine science of Astrology? Enough to give rise to deep and prolonged reflection. I have said that every horoscope is a revelation, and a few moments' thought will convince my readers that this must be so, and that all that is necessary is the Daniel whose inner vision is sufficiently opened to interpret the Divine message it brings to every soul born into the world. For a horoscope is not only a revelation of the possibilities of the Ego, but also a guide and milestone which marks off the progress the Ego has made in its evolution.

To some students a nativity reveals much, to others very little, and sooner or later we shall have to realize that astrologers are born, not made. Indeed no one can be a competent astrologer who does not take into account the evolution of the Ego and the development of the soul. One astrologer may look at the nativity and from the rising sign alone reveal more than another who studies the whole nativity. Every planetary position and aspect is indeed a revelation, though few competent astrologers will reveal all that a horoscope discloses. In some horoscopes the destructive force is a prominent feature, in others the possibility of a saint, humanitarian, or genius is suggested. But a wise astrologer is discreet in his judgment, for in him lies the germ of prophecy, and if he can raise himself towards that higher part of his nature and subdue his lower and personal self, he may fit himself to become a helper and servant of humanity.

Perhaps some readers will be anxious to know how this is accomplished, and also willing, I hope, to make the sacrifice which is necessary to fit themselves to become one of the world's real helpers. Should they therefore ask for the key that

will admit them to the portal of wisdom on this line, I would recommend them first to discover what their own nativity has to reveal. When they have sought self-knowledge, with a view to eliminating their own special weaknesses, and by so doing have developed their own character and striven to evoke tolerance for the failings of others, they will then awaken to a true recognition of the law of Karma, which will enable them to find many a revelation in the horoscopes of others by which they can give that help and advice which will forward the evolution of these people to an extent that could scarcely be reached by any other means.

Astrology is a revelation of God's law. Each soul is born at the right moment to bring it under the law and harmony of the heavens, and the revelation of God's will regarding each soul is to be found in each individual horoscope. This may be a bold statement to those who are still held by orthodoxy within the narrow limits of convention and bigotry, but nevertheless it is true that "Each man's life the outcome of his former living is," and only those who earnestly and unselfishly seek to know the Will of our Father in heaven can in any way understand what a wonderful revelation every horoscope becomes.

"Ye are not bound, the soul of things is sweet." Every soul is making for perfection. And therefore he who would truly find his guiding star must seek by the light of revelation in his nativity the course in life he should pursue; for in every natus is surely seen the line of least resistance and the quickest way of progress. Thus man may know himself and how he may best unfold his divine powers; for in reality there is one divine life given as a seed for the life of man, that seed growing in matter by reincarnation, the infolded power becoming in time and space the unfolded power—Man made God. Revelation is ever being given in one form or another, but progress, after all, comes from "living the life" rather than by study. If we seek to overcome separateness and strive for unity, we shall become as those who try to "do the will of the Father in Heaven," and we are assured that they shall "know of the doctrine"—that is, they shall experience the Divine Revelation. □

—Bessie Leo