

REVELATION

Meanings of revelation:

- I.
 - A surprising and previously unknown fact, especially one that is made known in a dramatic way. "revelations about his personal life"
 - The making known of something that was previously secret or unknown. "the revelation of an alleged plot to assassinate the king"
 - Used to emphasize the surprising or remarkable quality of someone or something. "seeing them play at international level was a revelation"
- II.
 - The divine or supernatural disclosure to humans of something relating to human existence or the world. "an attempt to reconcile Darwinian theories with biblical revelation"
 - The last book of the New Testament, recounting a divine revelation of the future to St. John.
 - The first revelation to Mohammed through the archangel Gabriel was to "Read!" (This image is of Mohammed receiving the first revelation.)



In Buddhism it was called enlightenment: the moment when Buddha understood that life was suffering.

"The root of suffering is attachment"
The Buddha



Questions to live into:

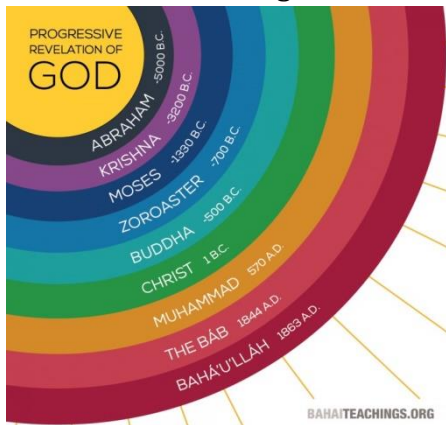
- What is the difference between insight and revelation?
- How do I live today as if revelation is an ongoing continuous process in my life?
- Is there a place for revelation in science?



Spiritual Practices

- Extend your learning to a new area – read a book, magazine, zine, or website that is new to you.
- Open any book, without looking, drop your finger on the page and read the sentence. Is there something revealed to you?
- Reflect on revelatory experiences in your life. They may have been shocking, hurtful or amazingly beautiful. They may have revealed a truth about you, a relationship or the nature of reality. Write about it, or talk to a friend.

Bahia's understand that God has been revealing itself to humankind through a succession of prophet's, starting with Abraham and ending with Bahauallah.



Revelation Dancers

Does revelation need to be understood by the mind or can it be known through the body?

A Unitarian Perspective

Unitarian Universalist minister James Luther Adams proposed five smooth stones of liberal religion in an essay entitled "Guiding Principles for a Free Faith," which was published in *On Being Human Religiously: Selected Essays in Religion and Society* (Max Stackhouse, ed. Beacon Press, 1976, pp. 12—20). R. Lloyd Ryan summarizes JLA's smooth stones:

1. Revelation is continuous.
2. Relationships ought to rest on mutual and free consent.
3. We need to work together for a just and loving community.
4. We have a commitment to express our faith in society.
5. Live in hope.

Do you agree with his premise? Is it still relevant forty years later?

