

# Dr. Robert A. Peterson, Revelation & Holy Scripture, Session 12, Special Revelation in NT, Incarnation Resources from NotebookLM

1) Abstract, 2) Audio podcast, 3) Briefing Document, 4) Study Guide, and 5) FAQs

## 1. Abstract of Peterson, Revelation & Holy Scripture, Session 12, Special Revelation in NT, Incarnation, Biblicalelearning.org, BeL

**Dr. Peterson's lecture, the twelfth session on Revelation and Scripture, specifically examines special revelation in the New Testament as presented in the Gospel of John.** The lecture focuses on the **incarnation of Jesus**, exploring his roles as the **Light of the World**, the **Life Giver**, and the **Son of God** through key passages like the healing of the blind man and the "I am" statements. Peterson analyzes these accounts to illustrate how Jesus revealed God and offered salvation, contrasting the faith of believers with the unbelief of those who rejected his divine claims. He highlights John's purpose in writing his Gospel: that readers might believe Jesus is the Christ and have eternal life through him. The session also touches on the parallels between Old Testament prophecies and their fulfillment in Jesus, emphasizing his divine nature and authority.

**2. 15 - minute Audio Podcast Created on the basis of Dr. Peterson, Revelation & Holy Scripture, Session 12 – Double click icon to play in Windows media player or go to the Biblicalelearning.org [BeL] Site and click the audio podcast link there (Theology → Theology, Peterson → Revelation & Scripture).**



**Peterson\_Rev\_Sessi  
on12.mp3**

### 3. Briefing Document: Peterson, Revelation & Holy Scripture, Session 12, Special Revelation in NT, Incarnation

#### Briefing Document: Special Revelation in the New Testament (Focus on John's Gospel)

##### Executive Summary:

This briefing document summarizes Dr. Robert A. Peterson's lecture (Session 12) on special revelation in the New Testament, focusing specifically on the Gospel of John. Peterson explores the incarnation of Jesus Christ as the ultimate special revelation, examining key themes within John's narrative: Jesus as the Light of the World, the Life-Giver, and the Son of God. The lecture highlights how Jesus' words, actions, and claims reveal God in unprecedented ways, often contrasting with the understanding and reactions of the Jewish leaders and others.

##### Main Themes and Important Ideas/Facts:

##### 1. Jesus as the Light of the World:

- **Introduction in John 1:** The concept is introduced early in the Gospel, but John 9 (the healing of the man born blind) is the central treatment.
- **Contrast with Spiritual Blindness:** Jesus' healing of physical blindness serves as a metaphor for spiritual sight. Those who acknowledge their spiritual need gain sight through Jesus, while those who claim to see apart from him are judged and remain blind.
- *"For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind."* (Peterson quoting John 9:39)
- **Rejection of the Light:** Despite the signs, including the raising of Lazarus, the predominant response to Jesus as the light of the world is rejection by the Jewish leaders.
- *"Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him."* (Peterson quoting John 12:37)
- **Withdrawal of the Light:** In John 12, Jesus speaks of the light being among them for a little while longer, emphasizing the urgency to believe. His departure and hiding signify the withdrawal of this special revelation from those who reject it.

## 2. Jesus as the Life-Giver:

- **Bestowal of Eternal Life:** Jesus not only sustains physical life (as the Bread of Life) but also bestows eternal spiritual life to those who believe in him.
- *"I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."* (Peterson quoting John 6:35)
- *"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life."* (Peterson quoting John 6:47)
- **The Good Shepherd:** In John 10, Jesus as the Good Shepherd lays down his life and takes it up again, giving eternal life to his sheep, who hear his voice and follow him.
- *"I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand."* (Peterson quoting John 10:28)
- **The Resurrection and the Life:** Jesus' powerful "I am" statement in John 11 before raising Lazarus declares his very identity as the source of resurrection and eternal life.
- *"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die eternally. Do you believe this?"* (Peterson quoting John 11:25-26)
- **The True Vine:** In John 15, Jesus presents himself as the true vine, contrasting with the failed vineyard of Israel. Abiding in him is essential for spiritual life.

## 3. Jesus as the Son of God:

- **Divine Title and Equality with God:** Jesus' claim to be the Son of God is not merely a Messianic title but signifies his unique relationship with the Father and his equality with God, as seen in John 5:17-18.
- *"My Father is working until now, and I am working... This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God."* (Peterson quoting John 5:17-18)
- **Basis for Condemnation:** According to John's Gospel, the primary reason for Jesus' condemnation by the Jewish leaders was his claim to be the Son of God.

- *"We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has made himself the Son of God."* (Peterson quoting John 19:7)
- **Martha's Confession:** Martha's declaration of faith in John 11 anticipates the purpose statement of the Gospel, recognizing Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God.
- *"Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."* (Peterson quoting Martha in John 11:27)

#### **Important Supporting Points:**

- **Irony and Humor in John's Gospel:** Peterson points out John's use of irony and even humor to highlight the spiritual blindness of the leaders compared to those they deemed insignificant (e.g., the man born blind).
- **Jesus' Challenge to Religious Leaders:** Jesus deliberately performed miracles on the Sabbath to challenge the traditions of the elders and reveal his authority as the Lord of the Sabbath.
- **Inadequate Faith:** John's Gospel distinguishes between genuine and inadequate faith. Simply believing in Jesus is not enough; true faith leads to confession and a focus on God's glory rather than human approval.
- **The Significance of Miracles (Signs):** The miracles performed by Jesus are not merely acts of power but "signs" that reveal his identity and divine nature, pointing to a deeper spiritual reality. The resurrection of Lazarus is highlighted as the seventh and greatest sign before the crucifixion.
- **Old Testament Fulfillment:** John's Gospel presents Jesus as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies, as seen in the references to Isaiah concerning the rejection of the Messiah. The theophany in Isaiah 6 is interpreted as a Christophany.
- **Election:** Peterson notes John's theme of election, where the Father gives people to the Son, influencing who believes.

**Quotes:**

- *"I'm the light of the world."* (Peterson quoting Jesus in John 8:12 and 9)
- *"Never since the world began has it been heard that someone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If he were not from God, he could do nothing."* (Peterson quoting the healed man in John 9:32-33)
- *"Lord, I believe, and he worshipped him."* (Peterson describing the healed man's response in John 9:38)
- *"Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you."* (Peterson quoting John 12:35)
- *"These are written that you might believe that Jesus is Christ, the son of God, and that by believing you might have life in his name."* (Peterson quoting John 20:30-31)

**Conclusion:**

Dr. Peterson's lecture emphasizes the profound significance of the incarnation in John's Gospel as the special revelation of God. Through his identity as the Light of the World, the Life-Giver, and the Son of God, Jesus reveals God's nature, compassion, and saving power. The reactions to Jesus in the Gospel highlight the critical choice individuals face in responding to this ultimate revelation – either embracing the light and receiving life, or rejecting it and remaining in spiritual darkness.

## **4. Study Guide: Peterson, Revelation & Holy Scripture, Session 12, Special Revelation in NT, Incarnation**

### **Special Revelation in the New Testament: John's Gospel**

#### **Study Guide**

#### **I. The Incarnation as Special Revelation**

- Understand the concept of the incarnation as the special revelation of God in the person of Jesus Christ.
- Recognize John's Gospel as a key source for understanding this aspect of special revelation.

#### **II. Jesus as the Light of the World (John 1:1-18, 3:19-21, 8:12, 9:1-41, 12:35-36)**

- Identify the passages in John's Gospel where Jesus declares or demonstrates that he is the light of the world.
- Analyze the significance of the miracle of healing the man born blind in John 9 as a central illustration of Jesus as the light.
- Explain the spiritual implications of Jesus being the light, including bringing sight to the spiritually blind and judgment to those who claim to see without him.
- Understand the concept of inadequate faith in contrast to genuine faith demonstrated by the formerly blind man.
- Grasp the idea of the withdrawal of the light and its consequences.

#### **III. Jesus as the Life-Giver (John 1:4, 6:35-59, 10:1-30, 11:1-44, 15:1-17)**

- Identify the passages in John's Gospel where Jesus reveals himself as the giver of life.
- Analyze the "I am" statements related to life: "I am the bread of life," "I am the good shepherd," and "I am the resurrection and the life."
- Understand the meaning of eternal life as bestowed by Jesus and the security of those who receive it (John 10:28-30).
- Explain how the raising of Lazarus demonstrates Jesus' power over death and his role as the resurrection and the life.

- Interpret the metaphor of Jesus as the true vine and its implications for abiding life.

#### **IV. Jesus as the Son of God (Throughout John's Gospel, especially John 5:17-18, 11:27, 19:7)**

- Recognize the significance of the title "Son of God" in John's Gospel.
- Analyze Jesus' claim that God is his Father and the reaction of the Jewish leaders (John 5:17-18).
- Understand how this claim was perceived as making himself equal with God.
- Identify instances where individuals acknowledge Jesus as the Son of God (e.g., Martha's confession).
- Grasp that the claim to be the Son of God was a primary reason for Jesus' condemnation.

#### **V. Key Themes in John's Gospel Related to Special Revelation**

- **Signs and Belief:** Understand the role of miracles (signs) in revealing Jesus' identity and eliciting belief (or unbelief).
- **Judgment:** Recognize that Jesus' coming as light and life brings judgment, exposing spiritual blindness and hardening hearts.
- **Inadequate vs. Genuine Faith:** Differentiate between superficial belief and true, transformative faith that leads to confession and worship.
- **The Father-Son Relationship:** Understand the unique and intimate relationship between Jesus and God the Father as revealed in John's Gospel.

#### **Quiz**

**Instructions:** Answer each question in 2-3 complete sentences.

1. According to the lecture, what is the primary focus when studying special revelation in the New Testament, particularly in the Gospel of John?
2. In the story of the man born blind in John 9, what was the incorrect assumption the disciples made about the cause of the man's blindness, and what did Jesus say was the true purpose?
3. Explain the spiritual significance of Jesus' statement, "I am the light of the world," as it relates to those who do not see and those who claim to see.

4. Describe one instance from the lecture where the inadequacy or falseness of faith is highlighted in John's Gospel.
5. According to John 10, what does Jesus, as the good shepherd, give to his sheep, and what assurance does he provide regarding their security?
6. How does the raising of Lazarus in John 11 demonstrate Jesus' claim to be "the resurrection and the life"?
7. Explain the metaphor of Jesus as the "true vine" in John 15 and its connection to receiving life.
8. According to the lecture, why did the Jewish leaders seek to kill Jesus in John 5 after he healed the paralytic on the Sabbath?
9. What was the primary accusation the Jewish leaders used to condemn Jesus before Pilate, according to John 19?
10. How does the lecture explain the relationship between Jesus and the Father based on Jesus' statement, "My Father is working until now, and I am working"?

### **Answer Key**

1. The primary focus when studying special revelation in the New Testament, particularly in John's Gospel, is the incarnation of Jesus Christ. This includes understanding Jesus as the light of the world, the life-giver, and the Son of God, revealing God to humanity.
2. The disciples incorrectly assumed the man's blindness was a punishment for sin, either his own or his parents'. Jesus corrected them, stating that the blindness occurred so that the work of God might be displayed in him.
3. Spiritually, Jesus as the light of the world brings sight to those who acknowledge their spiritual blindness and turn to him. Conversely, he brings judgment upon those who claim to have spiritual insight apart from him, confirming them in their sin and blindness.
4. The lecture highlights the inadequate faith of some authorities who believed in Jesus but did not confess it publicly for fear of being put out of the synagogue, demonstrating they valued human glory more than God's glory.
5. As the good shepherd, Jesus gives his sheep eternal life, and he assures them that they will never perish and that no one can snatch them out of his or his Father's hand, emphasizing their ultimate security.



6. By deliberately waiting until Lazarus had been dead for four days and then raising him back to life, Jesus demonstrated his power over physical death and validated his claim to be the resurrection and the life.
7. The metaphor of Jesus as the true vine signifies that just as a vine gives life to its branches, those who remain in or abide in Jesus receive true and lasting life, highlighting the necessity of connection with him.
8. The Jewish leaders sought to kill Jesus not only because they believed he broke the Sabbath by healing but also because he called God his own Father, which they interpreted as making himself equal with God.
9. According to John 19:7, the primary accusation the Jewish leaders used to condemn Jesus before Pilate was that he had made himself the Son of God, which they considered blasphemy under their law.
10. Jesus' statement, "My Father is working until now, and I am working," indicates his equality with God by placing his own work of healing on the same level as God's ongoing work of providence, sustaining and directing the world.

## **Essay Format Questions**

1. Analyze the significance of the "I am" statements in John's Gospel ("light of the world," "life-giver," "resurrection and the life," "true vine") as they contribute to the understanding of Jesus as special revelation.
2. Discuss how the reactions of different individuals and groups to Jesus' miracles and teachings in John 8-10 reveal varying levels of spiritual understanding and faith (or lack thereof).
3. Explore the tension between physical sight and spiritual blindness in the Gospel of John, using the narrative of the man born blind (John 9) and Jesus' subsequent teachings as primary examples.
4. Examine the reasons for the Jewish leaders' rejection of Jesus as presented in the lecture, focusing on their interpretation of the law, Jesus' claims about his identity, and the concept of inadequate faith.
5. Evaluate the claim that John's Gospel presents Jesus as the ultimate and complete revelation of God, drawing upon the themes of incarnation, light, life, and sonship discussed in the lecture.

## Glossary of Key Terms

- **Incarnation:** The doctrine that the eternal Son of God took on human flesh in the person of Jesus Christ.
- **Special Revelation:** God's self-disclosure through specific means, such as miracles, prophecies, and ultimately through Jesus Christ and the Scriptures.
- **Light of the World:** A title Jesus claims in John's Gospel, signifying that he is the revealer of truth, the one who brings spiritual illumination and exposes darkness.
- **Life-Giver:** A role attributed to Jesus in John's Gospel, indicating his power to bestow eternal life upon those who believe in him.
- **Son of God:** A title for Jesus that signifies his unique relationship with God the Father and his divine nature.
- **Miracle (Sign):** Supernatural acts performed by Jesus in John's Gospel to authenticate his claims and reveal his glory and divine power.
- **Faith (Genuine):** A trust in and commitment to Jesus Christ that results in obedience, confession, and worship.
- **Faith (Inadequate/False):** Belief that is superficial, lacks commitment, or is motivated by worldly concerns rather than a true understanding of and devotion to Jesus.
- **Judgment:** The divine process of discerning between good and evil, truth and falsehood, often manifested in the contrasting responses to Jesus as the light and life.
- **Eternal Life:** The quality of life associated with God, which Jesus offers to those who believe in him, characterized by unending existence and a relationship with God.
- **Resuscitation:** The act of bringing someone back to physical life from death, as seen in the raising of Lazarus, Jairus's daughter, and the widow of Nain's son; distinct from the ultimate resurrection.
- **Eschatological Resurrection:** The future, universal raising of the dead at the end of time, in which believers will receive glorified, immortal bodies, exemplified by Christ's own resurrection.
- **Theophany:** A visible manifestation of God.

- **Christophany:** A pre-incarnate appearance of Christ.
- **Chiasm:** A literary structure in which parallel elements are presented in an ABBA or ABC...CBA pattern.
- **Antitype:** Something in the New Testament that is the fulfillment of a type in the Old Testament.
- **Type:** A person, event, or institution in the Old Testament that foreshadows or points to a greater reality in the New Testament.

## 5. FAQs on Peterson, Revelation & Holy Scripture, Session 12, Special Revelation in NT, Incarnation, [Biblicalelearning.org](http://Biblicalelearning.org) (BeL)

### Frequently Asked Questions on Special Revelation in the New Testament (Based on Peterson)

**1. What is the primary focus when discussing special revelation in the New Testament according to the Gospel of John?** The primary focus, particularly in John's Gospel, is the incarnation of Jesus Christ. This includes examining Jesus as the light of the world, the life-giver, and the Son of God, as these roles reveal God in a special and profound way.

**2. How does the story of the man born blind in John 9 illustrate Jesus as the "light of the world"?** The healing of the man born blind is the central illustration of Jesus as the light of the world in John 9. Jesus states, "I am the light of the world," and then proceeds to give sight to a man who had never seen. This miracle demonstrates Jesus' power to overcome darkness, both physical and spiritual, and highlights the spiritual blindness of those who refuse to believe in him despite the clear evidence of his divine work. The formerly blind man's growing understanding and eventual worship of Jesus further underscore this theme.

**3. In what ways does John's Gospel present Jesus as the "life-giver"?** John's Gospel portrays Jesus as the life-giver in several key ways. He claims to be the "bread of life," stating that those who believe in him will never hunger or thirst and possess eternal life. He is also presented as the "good shepherd" who gives eternal life to his sheep, ensuring they will never perish and are secure in his and the Father's hands. Furthermore, in the raising of Lazarus, Jesus declares, "I am the resurrection and the life," demonstrating his power over death and his role in providing eternal life to believers.

**4. How did Jesus' actions on the Sabbath, such as healing, lead to conflict with the Jewish leaders, and what was the underlying significance of these conflicts?** Jesus deliberately performed healings and other significant works on the Sabbath, which was seen as a violation of their traditions by the Jewish leaders. These actions provoked controversy and challenged their rigid interpretation of the Sabbath laws. The underlying significance was that Jesus, as the Lord of the Sabbath, was revealing his authority and challenging the leaders' priorities, exposing their spiritual blindness as they focused on legalistic rules while missing the presence of their Messiah.

**5. What does John's Gospel reveal about the identity of Jesus as the "Son of God," and how did this claim impact his relationship with the Jewish authorities?** John's Gospel clearly presents Jesus as the Son of God, an eternal and divine title. Jesus himself refers to God as his Father in a unique sense, claiming, "My Father is working until now, and I am working," which the Jewish leaders understood as making himself equal with God. This claim was considered blasphemous by them and became a central reason for their persecution and ultimate condemnation of Jesus, as they saw it as an illegal and unjust assertion of divinity.

**6. What is "inadequate faith" as portrayed in the Gospel of John, and how is it different from true belief?** Inadequate faith, as seen in John's Gospel, refers to a belief in Jesus that is not accompanied by genuine commitment and open confession. Even some authorities believed in Jesus but did not confess it publicly for fear of being ostracized from the synagogue, demonstrating that they valued the glory from men more than the glory from God. True belief, exemplified by the formerly blind man, involves recognizing Jesus for who he is, openly acknowledging him, and worshipping him, even in the face of opposition.

**7. What is the significance of the "signs" performed by Jesus in John's Gospel, particularly in relation to belief and unbelief?** The signs performed by Jesus in John's Gospel serve as evidence of his divine nature and purpose, intended to lead people to believe that he is the Christ, the Son of God, and to have life in his name. However, despite witnessing numerous signs, including the raising of Lazarus, many, especially the Jewish leaders, still did not believe in him. This highlights the doctrine of the inability of sinners to believe on their own and illustrates how rejecting the light, even when clearly displayed, leads to spiritual blindness and condemnation.

**8. How does the withdrawal of the "light of the world" in John 12 relate to the judgment brought by Jesus?** In John 12, Jesus speaks of the light being among them for a little while longer before he departs and hides himself. This "withdrawal of the light" signifies the impending judgment. Jesus explains that he came into the world for judgment, so that those who do not see (spiritually) may see, and those who see (but reject him) may become blind. The rejection of Jesus, the light of the world, by those who claimed to have spiritual insight (like the Pharisees) confirms them in their sin and leads to their spiritual blindness, fulfilling this aspect of judgment.