

(3) Acts 14:16-17

Translation:

- 16 Who in past generations (or ages) permitted all the nations to go their own ways.
- 17 And yet He did not leave Himself without a witness of conferring benefits, giving you rains from heaven and fruitful times, filling (or satisfying) your hearts with food (or nourishment) and gladness.

Commentary:

The scope of this statement appears to include all nations of mankind in all generations of their history. Thus a general revelation is being referred to.

The statement "He did not leave Himself without a witness" is equivalent to the statement "He left a witness to Himself".

The witness God left is His manifest benevolence to all mankind, in the form of the benefits of rains and fruitful times and satisfying food.

Although God's witness to Himself is undoubtedly affected by the curse that original sin has brought on creation, this passage appears to affirm the continued existence and meaningfulness of that witness, even though it may be obscured by the results of sin.

Although this passage does not tell us how many human beings have received God's witness, it would at least seem that men possess some capacity to receive this witness if it is properly to be called a "witness" in any meaningful sense.

(4) Romans 1:18-25

Translation:

- 18 For the wrath of God is being revealed from heaven upon all godlessness and unrighteousness of men, who are suppressing the truth in unrighteousness,
- 19 Because that which is known of God is manifest among them, for God manifested (it) to them.
- 20 For since the creation of the world the invisible things of Him, even His eternal power and divinity, are being perceived, being understood by the made things, with the result that they are without excuse.
- 21 Because that when they knew God they did not glorify Him as God, nor were they thankful, but became