

It does not mean that which could not have expected, but that which one would not even dare to expect, because it is the very opposite of that which could be expected along any rational line whatever: that God should love, and give His love to one who has broken faith with Him and has been disobedient to Him. That which is absolutely unexpected, and never could have been expected, is God's forgiving grace.

6. Revelation has always and everywhere the character of a sudden event. It stands out from all ordinary happenings, for the "normal" course of development, and is a kind of "incursion from another dimension." But in the Bible alone is this sudden happening understood in an absolute sense, as the unique, as that which can never be repeated.... Not all Biblical revelation has this unique and unconditional character. Every prophet is indeed unique in his way, it is true, and his message is, at least in part, unique. And yet none of the Prophets is the Unique One, but the later Prophets repeat and carry farther the teaching of the earlier ones. The unique and unrepeatable revelation is that event to which prophecy points as its real meaning, in which He Himself is here, "God with us," the Christ. Here takes place that which, in its very nature, happens once for all, and is therefore unconditioned....

It is... no accident that in the passages in the New Testament where this uniqueness is expressed in logical terms, in actual words, we are directed to an actual event, at an actual spot on the earth, and at an actual time in history, to the Cross, to the sacrificial death of the Son of God, as the decision event of redemption. Here, on the very border line between death and life, between this world and the other, in death, but in this one death, the death of the Son of God, everything is concentrated with which this One, all His life, was concerned.... Here, in the history which is in the strictest sense of the word on the very border line of historical happenings, there takes place that which all other history seeks in vain: salvation, the rescue from the powers of destruction. Here therefore the real revelation takes place, the revelation of the holiness and the mercy of God, of His nature and His will, of His plan for humanity and for the world. Here takes place that which is the fulfillment of all history, and which at the same time bursts the framework of all history: the absolute Event.

- c. The view of Carl F. Henry, as expounded in *God Who Speaks and Shows*, Volume II of *God, Revelation, and Authority* (Waco, Texas: Word Books, 1976), pp. 8-16.

Carl Henry sets forth fifteen theses that "summarize what can be said for divine revelation in terms of the living God who shows himself and speaks for himself":

1. Revelation is a divine initiated activity, God's free communication by which he alone turns his personal privacy into a deliberate disclosure of his reality.