

413 A total epiphany

Since the third century, Christians have been calling this time of year ‘epiphany’, and that’s certainly what January has felt like for me – an unveiling, you might say. I’m thrilled by what God seems to have been showing me, and it doesn’t take many of my words to explain it:

epiphany – the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi ^{Mt 2:1–12}
– a moment of sudden and great revelation or realization
from Greek *epiphaneia* – appearance, manifestation or revelation

I asked ‘How does God communicate?’ and I’d now say: *totally, utterly, from beginning to end, to anyone and everyone, in any and every possible way*. As the ultimate parent, God desperately wants us to know and experience this ‘love beyond measure’; here’s the progression I see:

- *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth ... And God **spoke**: "Let there be light," and there was light.* ^{Gen 1:1,3}
- *The covenants* (I’ll explain in a minute)
- *The prophets*
- *The annunciation* ^{Luke 1:26–38}
- *Emmanuel, ‘God with us’* ^{Mt 1:23}
- *The epiphany* ^{Mt 2:1–12}
- *In many ways and by many means God spoke in ancient times to our ancestors through the prophets; but at the end of these days he **spoke to us in a son**.* ^{Heb 1:1,2}
- *In the beginning was the Word. The Word was close beside God, and **the Word was God**. In the beginning, he was close beside God.* ^{Jn 1:1,2}
- *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have **seen with our eyes**, which we have **gazed at**, and **our hands have handled** – concerning the **Word of Life!*** ^{1 Jn 1:1}
- *The Book of **Revelation***

And how does God communicate in C21? (AI generated)^[412]

- *Scripture* (*foundational*)
- *the Holy Spirit*
- *prayer* (*two-way*)
- *providence* (*circumstances*)
- *other people* (*community*)
- *creation and conscience*
- *direct revelation* (*rare but possible*)

God’s total passion, it seems to me, is to communicate love to us. So how could we *not* do all we can to communicate that love to others... maybe even using words.

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(The covenants? I am currently rereading John Walton’s book about the successive covenants; he suggests that their main purpose is as part of God’s plan of self-revelation.^[135,136,226])