

The Clarity of Scripture

The Gagging of God?

God is *incomprehensible*. We can't know him exhaustively

Psalms 139:6; Ecclesiastes 7:23; 8:17; Romans 11:33-35; John 3:12

God wants to communicate. We can know him truly through Scripture.

- God *accommodates* himself to human language.
- He uses language *analogically* (not univocally or equivocally). E.g. "Who is a rock, except our God" (2 Samuel 22:32); "I am the door of the sheep" (John 10:7)
- But he is the God who designed Creation that we might understand him (e.g. Ephesians 3:14-15)
- And he is the God who gave the Old Testament so that we would understand the New.
- An his word achieves the purpose for which it was sent (Isaiah 55:10-11; *Speech-Act Theory*)

It's our fault when we don't understand Scripture

- Jesus holds his opponents responsible for failing to understand Scripture (e.g. Matthew 22:29)
- We are warned of false-teachers who "twist" the Scriptures (e.g. 2 Peter 3:16)

God helps us to understand Scripture

- By our reflection on the words (e.g. 2 Timothy 2:7)
- By the help of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:12)
- By the help of teachers (Ephesians 2:11)