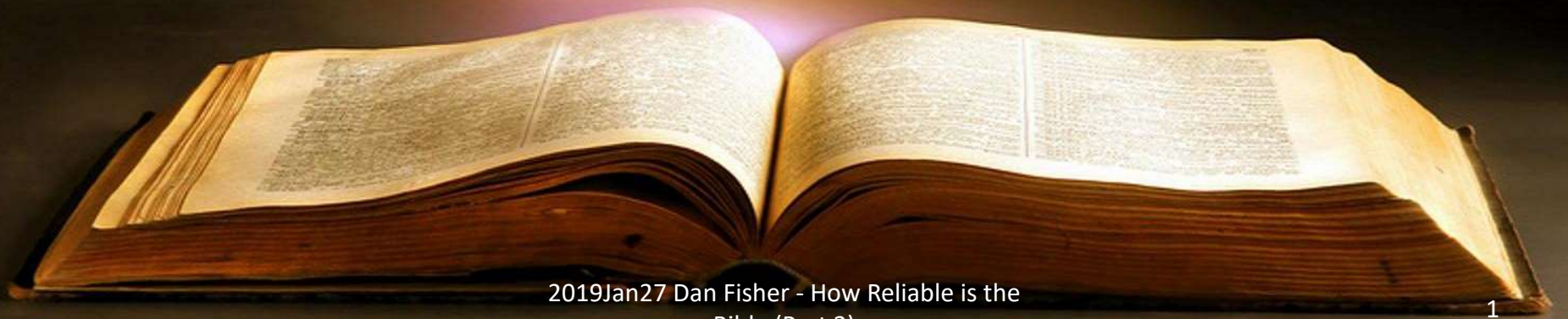


How reliable is the Bible?

Part 2: “Inspiration: its meaning, proofs, and consequences”



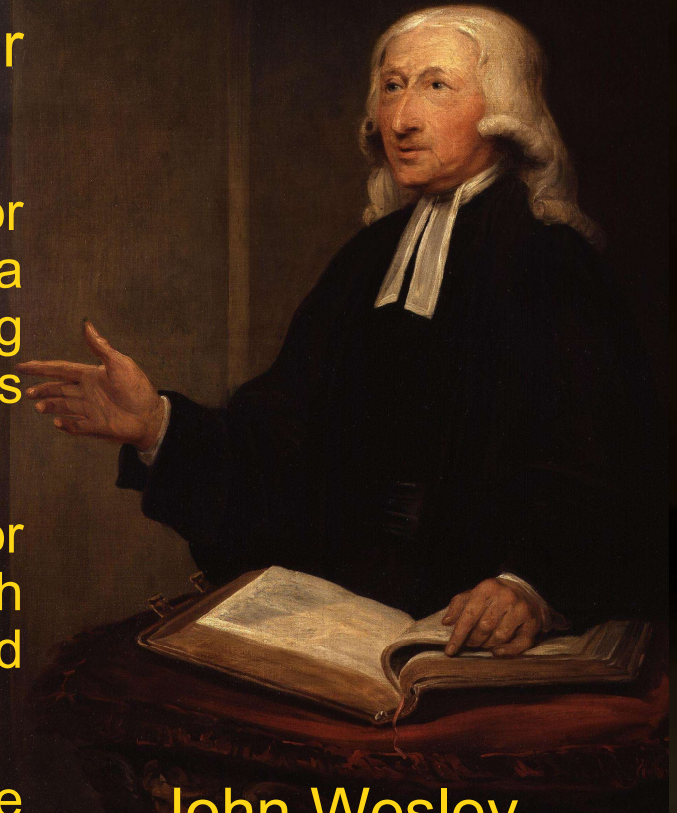
“The Bible must be the invention either of good men or angels, bad men or devils, or of God.

1. It could not be the invention of good men or angels; for they neither would or could make a book, and tell lies all the time they were writing it saying ‘Thus saith the Lord,’ when it was their own invention.

2. It could not be the invention of bad men or devils; for they would not make a book which commands all duty, forbids all sin, and condemns their souls to hell for all eternity.

3. Therefore, I draw this conclusion, that the Bible must be given by divine inspiration.”

2019Jan27 Dan Fisher - How Reliable is the Bible (Part 2)



John Wesley

What does the Bible claim about itself?

2 Tim 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration [*theopneustos*] of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Pet 1:19-21 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved [*phero*] by the Holy Spirit.

Four critical questions about the inspiration of Scripture:

1. What is inspired, the writer or his writings?

The New Testament reserves the word “inspiration” for the product and not the prophet.

2. What is inspired, the autographs or the copies?

Only the autographs were inspired, good copies are accurate.

3. How much of Scripture is inspired?

- All Scripture = “plenary” inspiration
- Even though a given passage may be more “inspiring” than another does not mean that one is more inspired than the other.
- Truth does not come in degrees – a statement is either true or false.

4. How does inspiration operate?

- God “breathed out” His word:

2 Tim 3:16-17 All Scripture is given by inspiration [*theopneustos*] of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

- God “carried” those who penned His word:

2 Pet 1:21 for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved [*phero*] by the Holy Spirit.

5. How do we “know” Scripture is inspired?

- By faith – “evidential faith”

Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

Heb 11:3 By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible.

Rom 1:20 For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse.

- By conscience – “God’s voice within”

Rom 1:19 because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them.

Rom 2:14-15 for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, ¹⁵ who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves their thoughts accusing or else excusing them)

- Evil conscience

Heb 10:22 let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an **evil conscience** and our bodies washed with pure water.

- Good conscience

1 Pet 3:16 having a **good conscience**, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.

1 Pet 3:21 There is also an antitype which now saves us – baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a **good conscience** toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

The Bible is:

- **Verbally inspired:** the very words are inspired

Ex 24:4 And Moses wrote all the words of the Lord.

2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is given by inspiration of God ...

1 Cor 2:13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches

Heb 5:12 you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God;

- **Infallible:** unfailing, unbreakable

Jn 10:35 the Scripture cannot be broken

2019Jan27 Dan Fisher - How Reliable is the
Bible (Part 2)

- **Plenary in its inspiration:** full, complete, extending to every part

2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture ...

Lk 24:27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

- **Completely inerrant:** wholly true without any error

Jn 17:17 Your word is truth

Ps 19:7 The law of the Lord is perfect

119:160 The entirety of Your word is truth

- **Irrevocable:** must be fulfilled

Mt 5:18 ... till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled.

Lk 16:17 And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass away than for one tittle of the law to fail.

Lk 24:44 Then He said to them, "... all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."

Acts 1:16 ... this Scripture had to be fulfilled ...

- **The final arbitrator of truth:**

Mt 4:4,7,10 Jesus used God's Word to fight Satan

Mt 21:42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures?"

Mk 11:17 Then He taught, saying to them, "Is it not written,"

Acts 17:2 Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures,

The Bible is God's Word + God cannot err =
the Bible cannot err