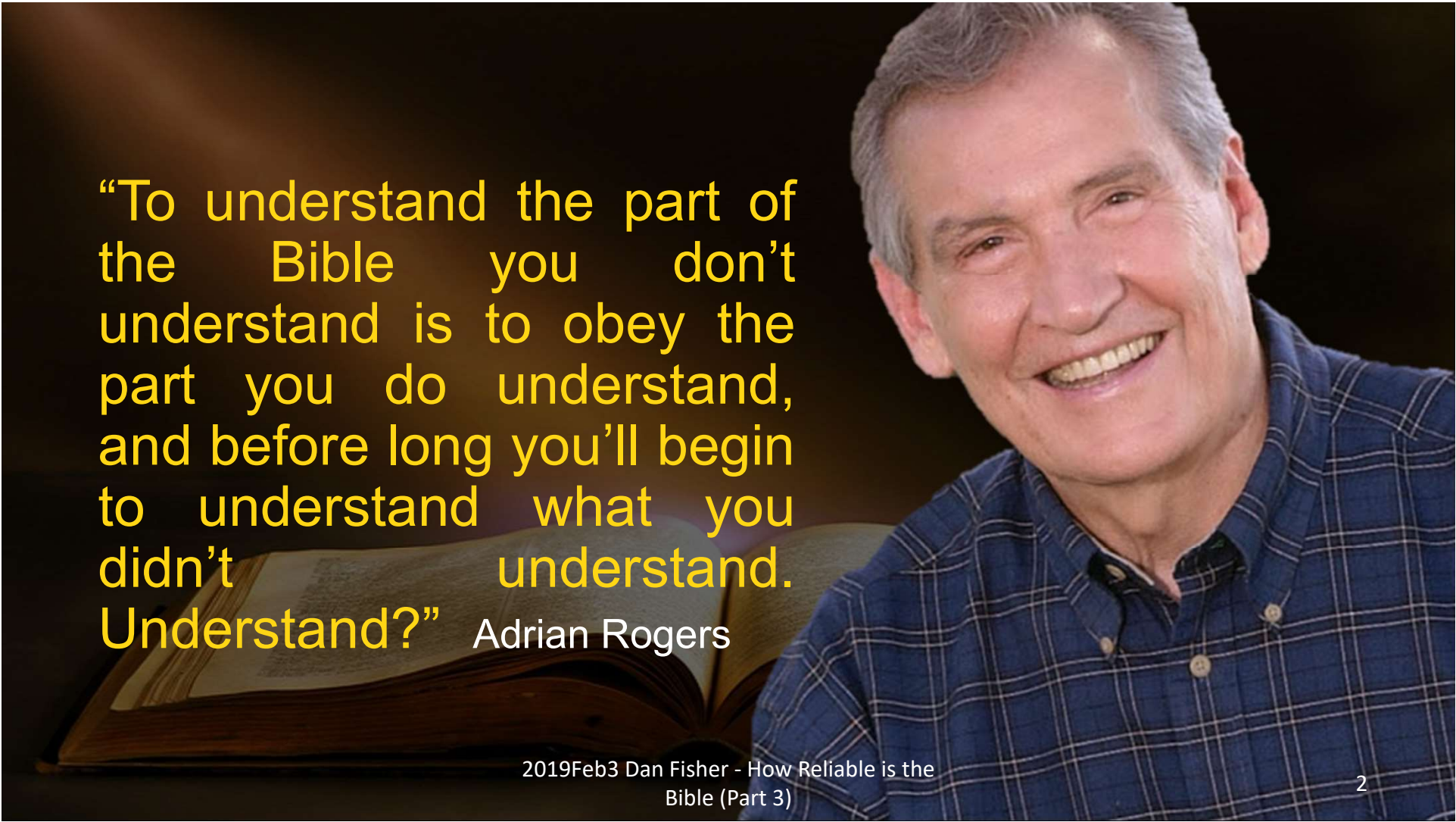


# How reliable is the Bible?

## Part 3: “Inspiration, revelation, & interpretation”



2019Feb3 Dan Fisher - How Reliable is the Bible (Part 3)



“To understand the part of the Bible you don’t understand is to obey the part you do understand, and before long you’ll begin to understand what you didn’t understand.” Adrian Rogers

2019Feb3 Dan Fisher - How Reliable is the Bible (Part 3)

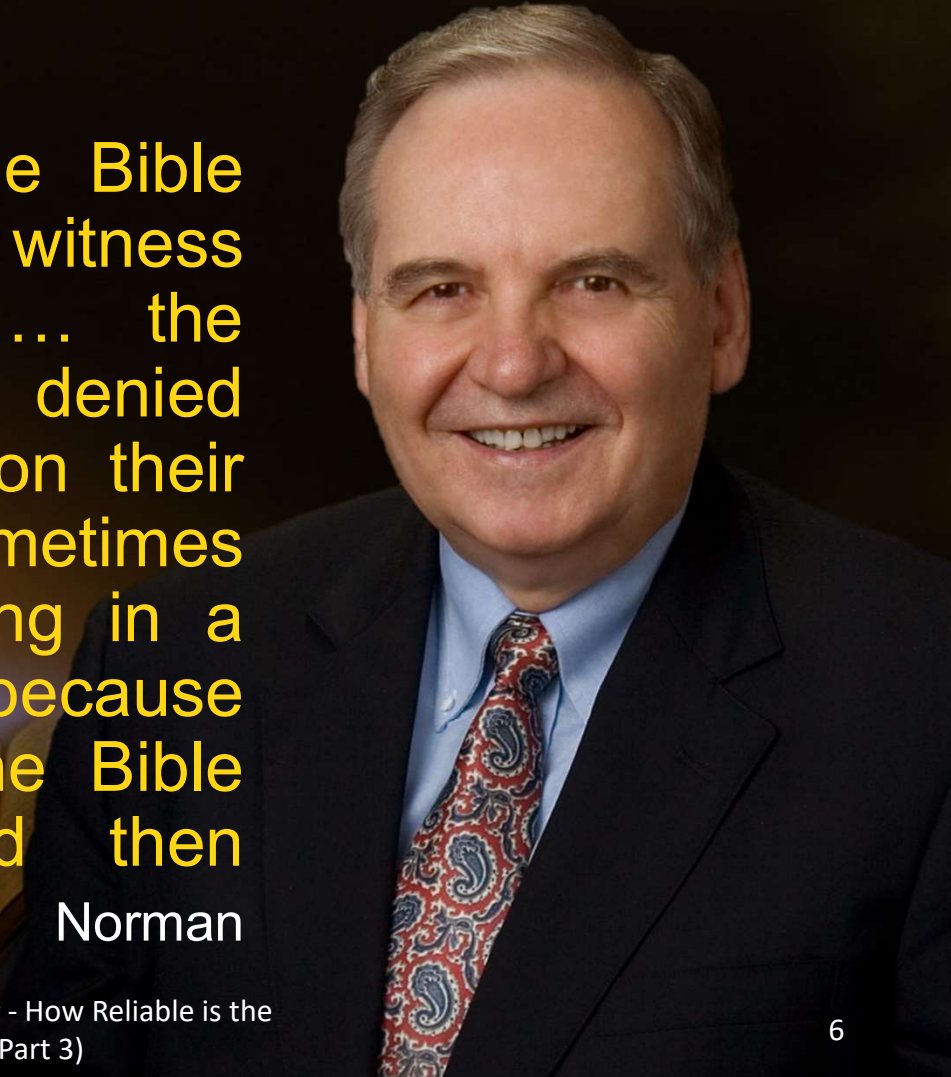
When discussing how reliable the Bible is,  
we must understand 3 critical terms:

Inspiration  
Revelation  
Interpretation

**The Bible unapologetically  
claims to be God's own words!**

2019Feb3 Dan Fisher - How Reliable is the  
Bible (Part 3)

**2 Tim 3:16-17** All Scripture is given by inspiration 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.

A portrait of Norman Geisler, a middle-aged man with short, light-colored hair, smiling. He is wearing a dark suit jacket, a light blue dress shirt, and a red and blue paisley tie. The background is dark.

“It is only proper that the Bible should be permitted to witness about its own nature ... the Scriptures should not be denied the opportunity to testify on their own behalf ... It is sometimes thought that this is arguing in a circle. Actually it is not, because we first ask only what the Bible claims about itself and then whether or not it is true.”

Norman Geisler

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- **The writings (Scriptures) were inspired – not the writer** (the product, not the prophet)
- **The autographs were inspired – not the copies** (autographs were inspired, good copies are accurate)
- **All of Scripture is inspired** (plenary inspiration)
- **Inspiration operates by God *breathing out* His word** (2 Tim 3:16-17) **and by God *carrying* those who wrote it** (2 Pet 1:21)
- **We “know” Scripture is inspired by *evidential faith*** (Heb 11:6,3, Rom 1:20) **and by *conscience*** (Rom 1:9, 2:14-15)

## The Bible is:

- **Verbally inspired:** the very words are inspired
- **Infallible:** un failing, unbreakable
- **Plenary in its inspiration:** full, complete, extending to every part
- **Completely inerrant:** wholly true without any error
- **Irrevocable:** must be fulfilled
- **The final arbitrator of truth**



Which of the following options is the most correct meaning of “inspired” when pertaining to scripture?

1. “all inspired scripture is of God”
2. “all Scripture is inspired of God”

What does Scripture mean when it refers to itself as “profitable”?

1. “the Scriptures are inspired because they are profitable”
2. “the Scriptures are profitable because they are inspired”

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

**Revelation:** God is the origin & giver of truth – man does not *find* God, rather God *reveals* Himself to man

**Rev 1:1** The Revelation [*unveiling*] of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants – things which must shortly take place.

**1 Sam 3:1** Now the boy Samuel ministered to the Lord before Eli. And the word of the Lord was rare in those days; there was no widespread revelation.

- Without God's revelation, man is left spiritually blind

**1 Cor 2:14** But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

**Jn 1:5** And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

**Lk 2:32** A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.”

**Eph 1:17-20** that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, <sup>18</sup> the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power <sup>20</sup> which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places,

**Rom 11:10** Let their eyes be darkened, so that they do not see, (Ps 69:22-23)

**Eph 4:18** having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

**2 Pet 1:9** For he who lacks these things is shortsighted, even to blindness, and has forgotten that he was cleansed from his old sins.

**2 Pet 1:19** And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place,

- Without God's revelation, man is left to his own "fallenness"

**Prov 29:18** Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but happy is he who keeps the law.

**Rom 7:7** What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet."



- Without God's revelation, man is left not knowing God's truth

**1 Cor 2:10** But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

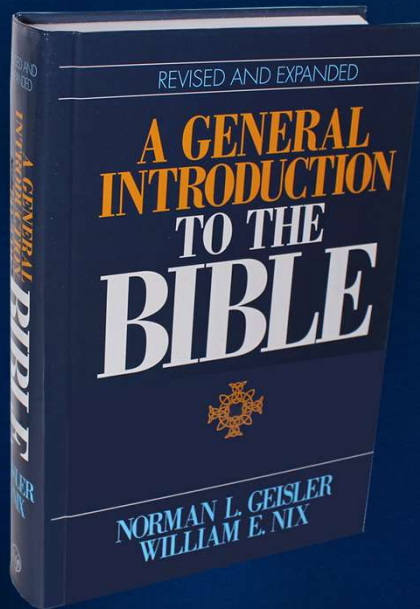
**Gal 1:11-12** But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. <sup>12</sup> For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.

**Eph 3:3** how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,

**Rom 16:25-26** Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery kept secret since the world began <sup>26</sup> but now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, for obedience to the faith

## In God's revelation, we have:

- **Divine causality:** the prime mover in inspiration is God



“God moved & the prophet mouthed, God revealed & man recorded.” Geisler & Nix

- **Prophetic agency:** the prophets were the means by which God spoke
- **Scriptural authority:** the Bible is a divinely authoritative book – the final product of God's causality and the prophetic agency.

**Interpretation:** the apprehension and understanding of God's revelation to man

# Hermeneutics: the science and art of interpreting Scripture

- **In revelation:** God discloses truth
- **In inspiration:** God delivers truth
- **In interpretation:** man discovers truth



“The Bible is not a book that men could write if they would, nor would write if they could.”

L.S. Chafer, *Major Bible Themes*

