

The Necessity of Scripture

Rocky Wyatt | October 30, 2016

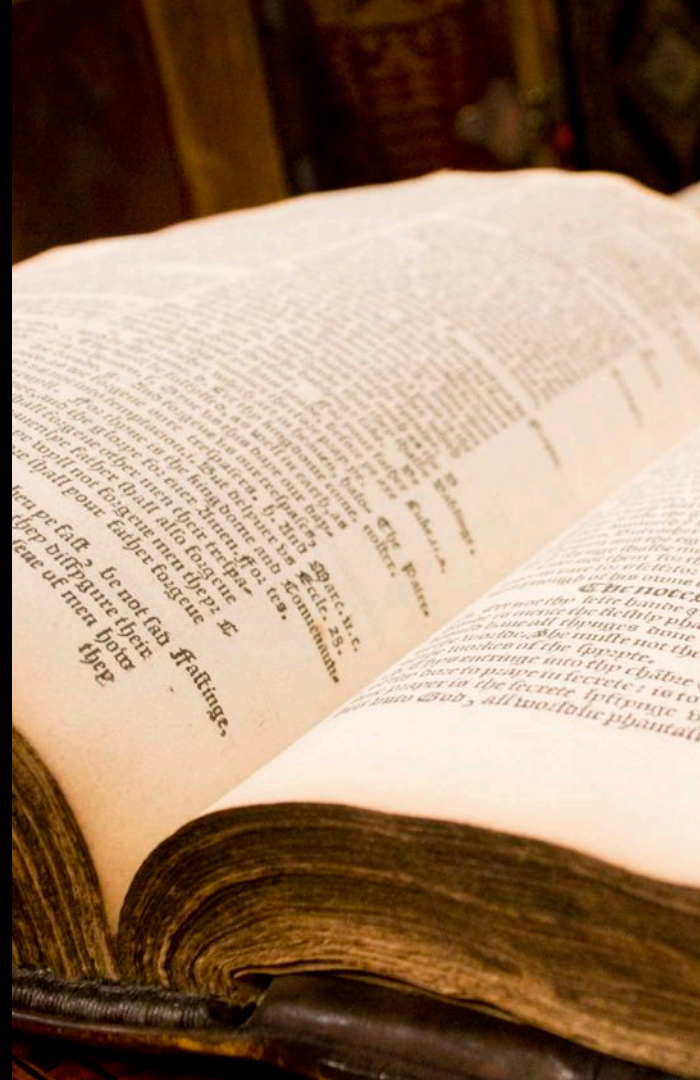


SECTION 1

Bibliology & Old Testament Survey

Grudem's Questions

- Do we need to have a Bible or to have someone tell us what the Bible says in order to know that God exists?
- Or that we are sinners needing to be saved?
- Or to know how to find salvation?
- Or to know God's will for our lives?



The Necessity of Scripture - Definition

The necessity of Scripture means that the Bible is necessary for knowing the gospel, for maintaining spiritual life, and for knowing God's will, but is not necessary for knowing that God exists or for knowing something about God's character and moral laws. –

- *Grudem*



The Necessity of Scripture - Definition

Scripture is necessary because God willed to provide it and because mankind's condition required it. The image of God in man requires communication between God and human beings. God's incomprehensibility is another reason for the necessity of Scripture. Natural revelation's insufficiency to teach the nature of God makes Scripture indispensable. The complexity of divine truth would have eventually required a written revelation even for Adam had he remained in his unfallen state...



The Necessity of Scripture - Definition

...The fall of man-made comprehension of divine truth in an oral form impossible, because corrupt mankind is always prone to distort what is oral. God's special revelation had to be in written form. The work of God also makes written Scripture a necessity, since Scripture is the means that God has chosen to do His work in human lives. Without Scripture much would be left undone. There can be no question that Scripture is necessary.

- *William D. Barrick*

Professor of Old Testament, The Master's Seminary



Revelation- Definition

The knowledge God gives to His creatures, especially His self-disclosure by whatever means He chooses, but definitively in the Bible as His inspired word. From this it is clear that Scripture is not the sole means of divine revelation, but it is the controlling one. It testifies that God speaks through His creation. Fallen man, however, cannot interpret creation aright. He needs the controlling word of Scripture to keep him right. Thus the study of revelation must include general, or natural revelation and special revelation, noting their separate characteristics and relationship.

- *Alan Cairns*

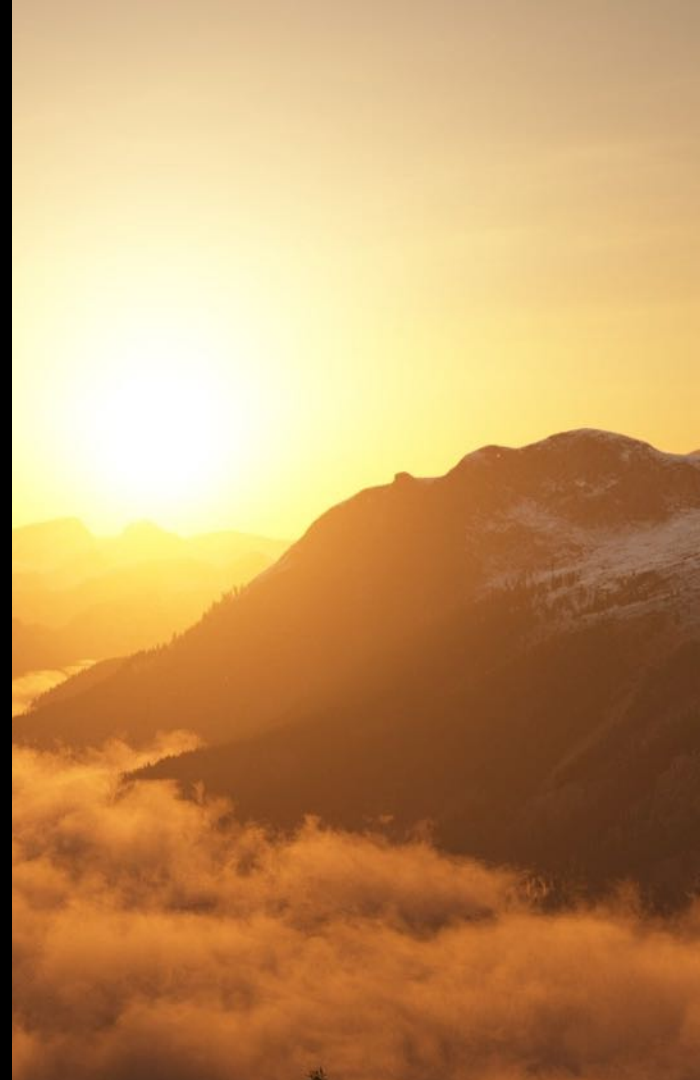
Dictionary of Theological Terms (p. 383)



General, or Natural Revelation

God has revealed Himself in His works of creation, hence the term “natural” revelation. This revelation of God in nature is accessible to all mankind without distinction, hence the term “general” revelation.

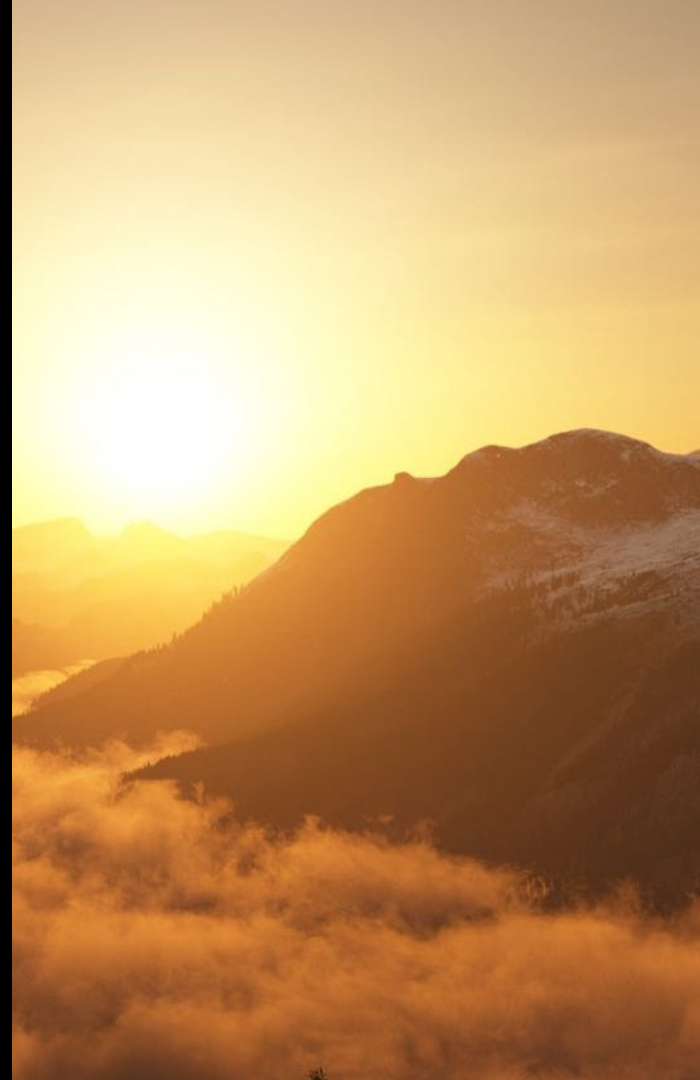
- *Alan Cairns*
Dictionary of Theological Terms



General, or Natural Revelation

By general revelation is meant that which is given to all men, in nature and history, and in the nature of man himself."

- *Unger's Bible Dictionary*



General Revelation in Nature

Psalm 19:1–6

The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, And night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; Their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, And their utterances to the end of the world. In them He has placed a tent for the sun, Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber; It rejoices as a strong man to run his course. Its rising is from one end of the heavens, And its circuit to the other end of them; And there is nothing hidden from its heat.



General Revelation in Nature

Romans 1:18–21

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, because that which is known about God is evident within them; for God made it evident to them. For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse. For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.



General Revelation in Providence

Acts 14:15-17

Men, why are you doing these things? We are also men of the same nature as you, and preach the gospel to you that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. "In the generations gone by He permitted all the nations to go their own ways; and yet He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good and gave you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness.



General Revelation in Providence

Matthew 5:45

...so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.

Daniel 2:21

It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men And knowledge to men of understanding.



General Revelation in Conscience

Romans 2:14-15

For when Gentiles who do not have the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them,



General or Natural Revelation

Finite persons are also a means of God's revelation. We are made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26–27), meaning that everything we were created to be reflects God in some way. Our bodies, minds, personalities reflect God, both individually and corporately. That image continues after the fall, contrary to the position of some theological traditions (Gen. 5:1; 9:6; 1 Cor. 11:7; James 3:9). Sin does counteract the knowledge, righteousness, and holiness of the image (Eph. 4:24; Col. 3:10), but it does not entirely erase the image of God. Even sin, in one sense, images God, for sin is basically an attempt to be God, to replace God on the throne.

- *Frame*

Systematic Theology: An Introduction to Christian Belief (p. 680)



Special Revelation - Definition

Special revelation is rooted in the redemptive plan of God, is addressed to man as sinner, can be properly understood and appropriated only by faith, and serves the purpose of securing the end for which man was created in spite of the disturbance wrought by sin.

- *Berkhof*

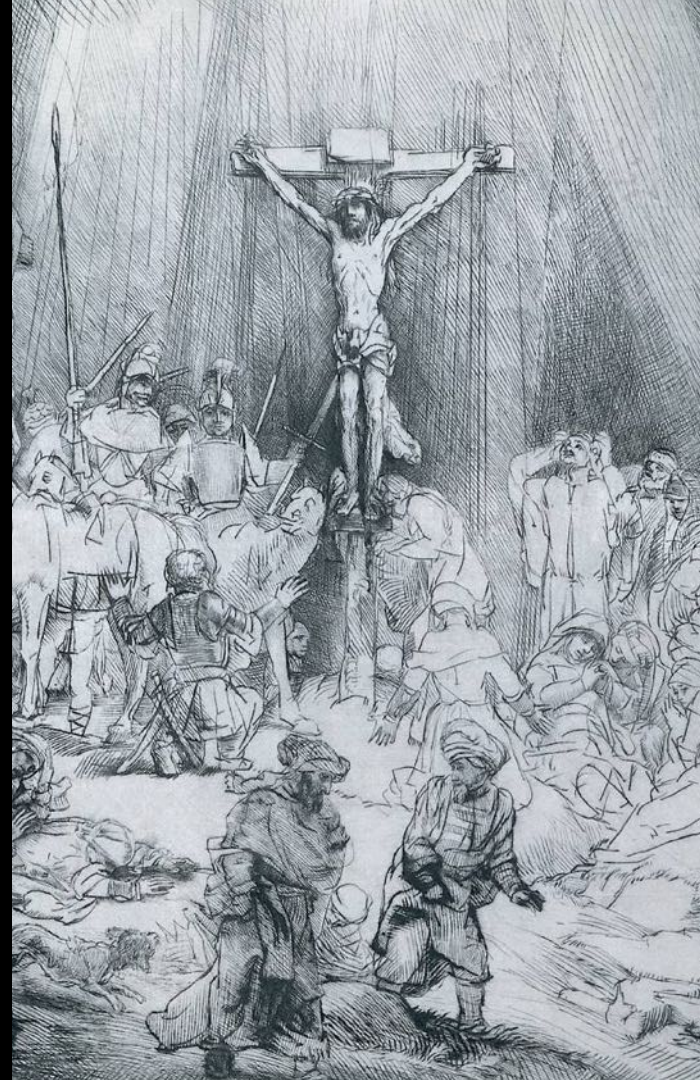
Systematic theology (p. 37).



Special Revelation In Christ

John 1:18

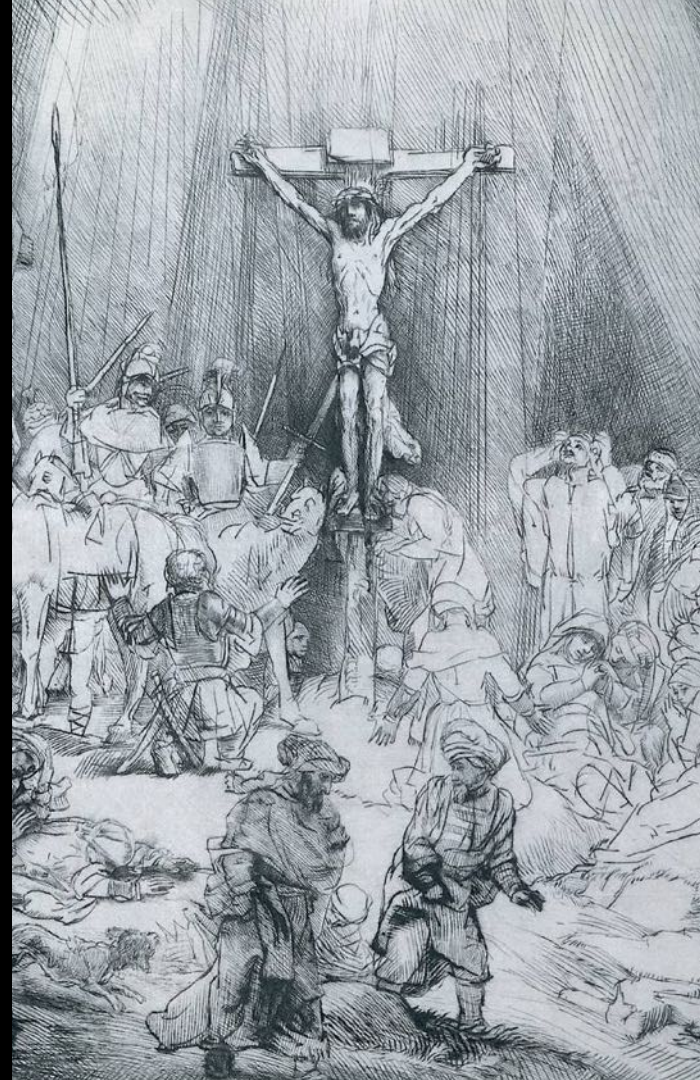
No one has seen God at any time; the only begotten God who is in the bosom of the Father, He has explained Him



Special Revelation In Christ

John 5:36–37

But the testimony which I have is greater than the testimony of John; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish—the very works that I do—testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me. And the Father who sent Me, He has testified of Me.



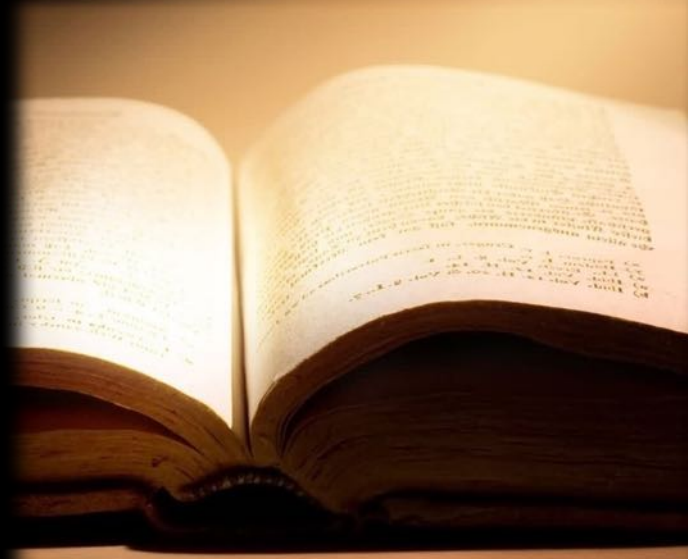
Special Revelation In Scripture

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;

2 Peter 1:21

for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.



The Necessity of Scripture

The problems of sin, guilt, and depravity had to be resolved; means of atonement, redemption, and reconciliation had to be provided. And now sin diminished man's comprehension of general revelation, thus lessening its efficacy. Therefore, special revelation had to become remedial with respect to both man's knowledge of and his relationship to God.

- *Millard Erickson*

Christian Theology (p. 176)



The Necessity of Scripture and the Incomprehensibility of God

Mankind's inability to comprehend God fully is not the result of the Adamic fall. It antedates the fall of man. Inability to understand God fully is related even to the perfect man's finitude at creation. As Erickson notes, "Because man is finite and God is infinite, if man is to know God it must come about by God's revelation of himself to man."

- *Bill Barrick*



The Necessity of Scripture and Salvation

Romans 10:13-17

for “Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!” However, they did not all heed the good news; for Isaiah says, “LORD, WHO HAS BELIEVED OUR REPORT?” So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.



The Necessity of Scripture and Spiritual Growth

Matthew 4:4

But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.' "

1 Peter 2:2

like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation,



The Necessity of Scripture and Good Works

2 Timothy 3:16–17

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.



The Necessity of Scripture and God's Will

Psalm 119:1

How blessed are those whose way is blameless, Who walk in the law of the Lord.

1 John 5:3

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.



The Necessity of Scripture and Faith

Romans 10:17

So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.



The Necessity of Scripture - Summary

God acts through His Word. Therefore, His Word needs to be heard, read, and understood. Without Scripture, humans are left without the means by which God has chosen to work. Thus, Scripture is necessary. Inscripturated revelation bears self-witness to the truth and trustworthiness of Scripture. A dependable record of divine truth provides assurance that a person is converted by the Word of God. Therefore, because of the way the sovereign God has chosen to reveal Himself and work out His plan, the Scriptures are necessary.

- *Bill Barrick*



The Necessity of Scripture - Summary

For as the aged, or those whose sight is defective, when any book, however fair, is set before them, though they perceive that there is something written, are scarcely able to make out two consecutive words, but, when aided by glasses, begin to read distinctly, so Scripture, gathering together the impressions of Deity, which, till then, lay confused in our minds, dissipates the darkness, and shows us the true God clearly.

- John Calvin



The Necessity of Scripture - Summary

For if we reflect how prone the human mind is to lapse into forgetfulness of God, how readily inclined to every kind of error, how bent every now and then on devising new and fictitious religions, it will be easy to understand how necessary it was to make such a depository of doctrine as would secure it from either perishing by the neglect, vanishing away amid the errors, or being corrupted by the presumptuous audacity of men.

- John Calvin



Life Without Scripture

Critical Issues Like:

- Abortion
- Sexual relations
- Anger
- Lying
- Stealing
- Laziness
- Murder
- Pride
- Salvation
- Justification
- Sanctification
- Righteousness
- Holiness
- Glorification
- Messiah/Savior
- Regeneration



The Necessity of Scripture in the Life of the Believer

- The Gospel for salvation (John 14)
 - To understand sin and holiness
 - To understand repentance and faith
- The Gospel for evangelism (Rom. 10)
- To learn about God
- To understand trials (1 Peter 1; James 1)
- To know God's Will (Rom. 12:1-2)
- To gain God's wisdom (Prov. 2)
- To know the future – Prophetic books



The Necessity of Scripture in the Life of the Believer

Psalm 119:48

And I shall lift up my hands to Your commandments, Which I love;
And I will meditate on Your statutes.

Psalm 119:97

O how I love Your law! It is my meditation all the day.

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.



The Necessity of Scripture in the Life of the Believer

Psalm 119:165

Those who love Your law have great peace, And nothing causes them to stumble.

Psalm 119:167

My soul keeps Your testimonies, And I love them exceedingly.

