

“Why Do You Believe the Bible???”

2 Peter 1:16-21

Introduction

“I choose to believe the Bible because the Bible is a reliable collection of historical documents written by eyewitnesses who lived during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses. They report supernatural events in fulfillment of specific prophecies and they claim that their writings are divine rather than human in origin.”

- Dr. Voddie Baucham (summarizing 2 Peter 1:16-21)

2 Peter 1:16-21 -

I. Why I Choose to Believe the Bible...

A. “...reliable collection of historical documents...”

Note: The Bible is a collection of 66 books, written by over ___ authors, on ___ different continents, in ___ languages (Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic) over a span of 1,500 years.

Note: There have been over _____ archaeological digs made that support the historical accuracy of the Bible.

Luke 1:1-4 -

B. “...written by eye-witnesses who lived during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses...”

1 Corinthians 15:3-9 -

Two Common Arguments AGAINST the Validity of Scripture:

1) The Multiple Translation Argument:

Note: Those who hold to this argument compare it to the children’s game “_____”.

Note: The Bibles we hold in our hands are not translations of _____ but are translations from the oldest/best manuscripts available.

2) The “Bible’s-Been-Changed-&-Doctored-Up” Argument:

Note: This argument states that the church leaders at the Council of Nicea (in 325 AD) _____ the manuscripts (changed the Bible!!!) to add miracles and make Jesus look like the Divine Son of God.

Note: We have _____ manuscripts or portions of manuscripts of the New Testament. Including Old Testament manuscripts or portions of manuscripts, we have 20,000!

Note: Earliest manuscripts we have date back to _____ decades after the original writing.

How does this compare with other literary works???

- Julius Caesar's *Gaelic Wars*: less than a dozen copies, earliest copy is 1,000 years after the original.
- Aristotle's *Poetics*: less than 10 copies; earliest copy is 1,400 years after the original.
- Writings of Socrates: ZERO copies and NO originals! All we know is what Plato told us.
- Homer's *Iliad*: About 600 copies, earliest copy is 2,100 years after the original.

Note: The Bible was first translated into Syriac, Coptic, and _____.

Note: All but 11 verses of the N. T. can be _____ from the writings of the early church fathers!

C. "...they report supernatural events in fulfillment of specific prophecies..."

Note: Jesus' miracles were often performed before friends and _____ alike.
(Mark 3:6 - John 11:45-48 - Acts 3:11-26 -)

Note: There are _____ specific prophecies that we can point to that have been fulfilled:
(Genesis 3:15 - Deuteronomy 18:15-18 - John 6:14 - John 7:40-41 - Matthew 2:23 - Jeremiah 23:5-6 -
Isaiah 61:1-2 - Luke 4:20-21 - Luke 24:25-27 -)

D. "...they claim that their writings are divine, rather than human in origin."

1) *What's wrong with the statement: "I can't believe the Bible because men wrote it." What's inconsistent and incomplete with that statement, as it relates to Scripture?*

2) *What's wrong with the statement: "I can't believe the Bible; I can't believe anything by blind faith!"*

3) *What's wrong with the statement: "I can't believe the Bible because I'm a person of science! I believe in the scientific method! Prove the Bible scientifically!"*

Note: In order to use the scientific method to prove something, it must be _____, measurable, and repeatable...history is neither!

Note: To prove historical events we use an _____ method (like in court) using credible, reliable eyewitness testimony.

4) *Because we can give a reasonable answer and good evidence for why we believe the Bible, does that mean then that WE, through our reason & logic, can CONVINCe people to believe the Bible and embrace Christ and bring them to salvation? Are we capable, in and of ourselves, to do that?*