

BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT

Question:

Can you give a substantive defense as to why you believe the Bible is true?

1 Peter 3:15 Instructs us to be able to give a reasonable answer to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you.

Answer:

The Bible is a reliable collection of historical documents written down by eyewitnesses during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses.

They reported supernatural events that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies and claimed that their writings are divine rather than human in origin. - Dr. Voddie Baucham, Jr.

I. A Reliable Collection of Historical Documents.

A) Written over a span of 1500 years.

1. 40 different authors...All walks of life...Different languages...Different cultures.
2. Written on 3 different continents.
 - a. Asia

- b. Africa
- c. Europe

B) As vast and different that the human authorship belongs to...all 66 books agree from Genesis to Revelation.

1. Thematically...Man's needs for redemption.
2. Historically...Agrees with accounts of record in other works.
3. Prophetically 100% accurate in every regard.

POINT: THE WHOLE BIBLE IS TRUE...

PSALM 119:160..."THE ENTIRETY OF YOUR WORD IS TRUTH."

II. Written by eyewitnesses during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses.

A) Peter's account (2 Peter 1:16-19)

1. We were eyewitnesses. (v.16)
2. We have the prophetic word confirmed. (v.19)

B) Luke's account (Luke 1:1-4)

1. I have taken in hand. (v.1)
2. To set in order a narrative. (v.1)
3. Those who were eyewitnesses. (v.2)
4. That you may know the certainty of those things...instructed. (v.4)

C) John's account (1 John 1:1-4)

1. Which we have heard. (v.1)
2. Which we have seen. (v.1)
3. Which we have looked upon. (v.1)
4. And our hands have handled. (v.1)
5. Concerning the Word of life. (v.1)

D) Paul's account (1 Corinthians 15:3-8)

1. I delivered what I received...CHRIST died and was raised upon the third day. (vv. 3-4)

2. He appeared to Cephas...a.k.a. Peter. (v.5)
3. He appeared to the twelve. (v.5)
4. 500 brethren at once...of whom the greater part remain. (v.6)
5. James and all the apostles. (v.7)
6. Lastly by me (Paul). (v.8)

POINT: 310 DIFFERENT EYEWITNESSES NONE OF WHOM CONTRADICT THE CRUCIFIED CHRIST WHO DIED AND ROSE AGAIN ON THE THIRD DAY.

III. Report supernatural events that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies.

A) Prophecy is telling history in advance of it happening.

1. (Micah 5:2) Jesus would be born in Bethlehem.
2. (Matthew 2:5-6) 700 years later...CHRIST is born in Bethlehem.

B) Psalms 22 'My God...My God, why have you forsaken me?'

Matthew 27:46, "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"

1. Written 1000 years before Christ was born by a man who knew nothing about crucifixion...it wasn't invented yet.
2. Not just any crucifixion but the sacrificial and substitutionary death of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.
 - Psalm 22:14, "My heart...has melted within Me." John 19:34, "And one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out."
 - Psalm 22:15, "My strength is dried up...My tongue clings to My jaws."
 - John 19:28, "...that the Scripture might be fulfilled...[Jesus] said, 'I thirst.'" Psalm
 - 22:18, "...for My clothing they cast lots."

Matthew 27:35, "Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet."

Close: Acts 17:30-31, "Truly these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent...because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

***You have irrefutable evidence the Word of God is historically valid, prophetically accurate, and 100% true.**