

These “Zealous Monks” would have to find over 6k manuscripts, steal them, change all of them, not show their ink work, get them all back from where they stole them and never tell anybody what they did.

B. Languages Conspiracy – The Bible was written in Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic but copied in Syriac, Coptic and Latin, within 50 years of Christ.

C. Commentary Conspiracy – You would also have to deal with the different comments recorded by the writers and copiers of Scripture. *“If all we had was the commentary of the NT fathers, we could reproduce more than 90% of the entire scriptures.”* – Dr. Bruce Metzger

...that report to us supernatural events...

2 Peter 1:16-21, NASB95 - ¹⁶ ...we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

¹⁷ For when He received honor and glory from God the Father, such an utterance as this was made to Him by the Majestic Glory, “This is My beloved Son with whom I am well-pleased”— ¹⁸ and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

- Not super-human, not psychosomatic, but supernatural events!

...that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies...

2 Peter 1:19, NIV84 - ¹⁹ And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it....

Luke 24:44, NASB95 - ⁴⁴ Now He (Jesus) said to them, “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”

- There are 365 prophecies concerning Jesus that were predicted in the OT and fulfilled in the NT. (e.g., Ps. 22)
- There are over 900 general biblical prophecies that have been fulfilled.
- There are 9 prophecies that have yet to be fulfilled. [The rapture, the revelation of the antichrist, the 7-year tribulation, the battle of Armageddon, the second coming, two final judgements (saved vs. lost), the millennial reign and the eternal state (heaven or hell).]

...they claimed that that their writings were divine rather than human in origin!

2 Peter 1:20-21, NASB95 - ²⁰ But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, ²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. **POINT:** The Bibles you hold in your hands are sufficient for everything...

Pastor Joe's Sermon Listening Guide

Where there's
CHRIST
There's HOPE



Why Believe the Bible?

Part Three: "Assurance from the Past"

2 Peter 1:16-21

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • Pew Bible Page Number is 1117.

In the STUDY VERSE SECTION, God’s Word is printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe’s commentary in the smaller faced text. Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. • Pastor Joe’s email address is Joe@southreno.com.

If you were asked, “**Why do you believe the Bible?**”, what would you say?

1. I was raised that way...
2. I tried it and it worked for me...
3. It’s just what I believe....
4. I feel it’s right....

We live in an anti-intellectual, anti-moral, pro-experiential, post-modernism, millennial, Gen-Z world where “experience” is king and “truth” is subjective!
(No absolutes; Whatever works for you, works for you.)

But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.... - 1 Peter 3:15, NIV84

And he answered, “YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND; AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” - Luke 10:27, NASB95

REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK

“Why can we trust the Bible?”

1. Because of the fulfillment of biblical prophecy.

Did you know that hundreds of Old Testament predictions found their fulfillment in Jesus Christ, alone.

2. Because of biblical archeological evidence.

Archeology confirms that the Bible is true. No other religious text passes the test of biblical archeology.

3. Because of paleographical evidence.

Paleography, the study of ancient writing systems and the deciphering and dating of historical manuscripts, confirms the reliability of Scripture.

4. Because of its denunciation of sin.

Only the Bible tells us about our true condition without God. MOST other religions convey man as “becoming better”; not so in Scripture.

TODAY'S STUDY SECTION

“Why can we trust or believe in the Bible?”

Because, (based on 2 Peter 1:16-21) it is a reliable collection of historical documents written down by eyewitnesses during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses that report to us supernatural events that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies; they claimed that their writings were divine rather than human in origin!

- Dr. Voddie Baucham

Because...it is a reliable collection of historical documents...

2 Peter 1:16a, NASB95 - ¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ....

- No myths, no fairytales, no cunningly devised stories

2 Timothy 3:14–17, NASB95 - ¹⁴You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them, ¹⁵and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹⁷so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.

How do we decide? The ‘Scientific Method’ (i.e. observable, measurable, and repeatable) is not used to prove historical events (e.g. we couldn’t prove George Washington was the first US President). We would utilize the ‘Evidentiary Method’ (i.e. court room) with eyewitness(s), that tell or write collaborating the same account and we would utilize any and all physical evidence that would be applicable to verifying the truth.

...written down by eyewitnesses...

2 Peter 1:16, NASB95 - ¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.

- Having corroborating eyewitnesses is key here.

We believe the Bible because it is an all-sufficient, reliable, internally consistent, sacred writing corroborated in three languages—Greek, Hebrew and Aramaic—written on three continents—Asia, Africa and Europe—and written by over 40 authors (most of which didn’t even know each other) who wrote over a 1,500 year period resulting in over 60 ancient manuscript copies that all tell a singularly woven story with Christ as its grand subject, man’s redemption, its design and the glory of God, its end. -JKT

Luke 1:1–4, NLT - ¹Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. ²They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples.

³Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus, ⁴so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught.

...during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses...

1 Corinthians 15:3–8, NASB95 - ³...Christ died for our sins...⁴ He was buried, and...was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, ⁵and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time, most of whom remain until now, but some have fallen asleep; ⁷then He appeared to James, then to all the apostles; ⁸and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. (NT: We have 600 eyewitnesses to the resurrections of Christ who both spoke and wrote about it.)

“The only thing I can figure is this: Paul’s claim must have been doctored up and changed so many times...by overzealous monks seeking to make a lie a truth so they could maintain a concocted narrative of Jesus’ divinity...after all, all theologians know we do not have the autographa’s (sic) and therefore, can’t really know what they said.”

- Charles Templeton (nemesis to Rev. Billy Graham)

These “overzealous monks” would face 3 levels of conspiracy:

A. Manuscript Conspiracy - We have well over 6k copies of NT/OT matching manuscripts (MSS) and most are only decades old.

Doc	Circa	# of MSS Copies	Youngest MSS
Julius Caesar's "GALLIC WARS"	BC/AC	10	+900 yrs later
Aristotle's "POETICS"	350 BC	5	+1,400 yrs later
Herodotus' "THE HISTORIES"	400 BC	10	+1,000 yrs later
Shakespeare's HAMLET	Late 1500s	3	+140 yrs later
Homer's Iliad	8 th Cen. BC	6	+ 9,000 yrs later

