

Participant Handout for: *Why You Can Believe the Bible*

[Based on lecture from Voddie Baucham](#)

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According to Voddie Baucham, answering the question of why you can believe the bible “boils down to a question about the authority of the Bible.”¹

Key scripture: 2 Peter 1:16-21(NASB):

16 For 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. 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. 19 *So* we have the prophetic word *made* more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. 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.

Baucham encourages believers to respond to those who question our belief in the authority of scripture in this way: “I choose to believe the Bible because it’s a reliable collection of historical documents written by eyewitnesses during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses that reports supernatural events that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies and claim their writings are divine rather than human in origin.”²

Lesson Part 1: *It’s a reliable collection of historical documents*

Discussion starters:

- What are ways you determine whether a statement, claim, or person is reliable?

- Name characteristics of the Bible that make it a collection of historical documents.

¹ Antioch Bible Church. “Why You Can Believe the Bible - Voddie Baucham.” *YouTube*, 10 Sept. 2014, www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1XJ7DeR5fc.

² Antioch Bible Church. “Why You Can Believe the Bible - Voddie Baucham.” *YouTube*, 10 Sept. 2014, www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1XJ7DeR5fc.

Why the Bible is Reliable

The Bible is reliable because it speaks of life, literature, and language.

Life: the Bible is *inspired*; no _____ origin

- What does Paul say about scripture in 2 Timothy 3:16-17? Paul says "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" (NASB).
- The verb "inspired" comes from Greek word *theopneustos* meaning God-_____.
- This same verb is found in Genesis 2:7. What type of breath did God breathe into Adam?

Literature: the Bible is *infallible*; no _____

- What does Psalm 19:7-10 say about the characteristics and benefits of the law, testimony, precepts, commandment, fear, and judgements of the Lord?
- How do you define a primary resource? What about a secondary resource?
- In what ways is the Bible reliable based on primary and secondary resources?

Language: the Bible is *immutable*; no _____

- Discussion Starter: Imagine enrolling in a class where your entire grade is based on a final exam covering material covered throughout the year. How would you feel after learning two weeks before the exam that material you studied is outdated and is replaced by new material?

- Matthew 5:18 and Isaiah 40:28 remind us that God and the Bible *never* change.
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Lesson Part 2: *written by eyewitnesses*

- What are characteristics of an eyewitness?

- Attesting eyewitness vs. testifying eyewitness

- Eyewitness
 - In the Bible, who are examples of eyewitnesses to Jesus' life, miracles, burial, death, and resurrection?

 - Deuteronomy 19:15 reads: "A single witness shall not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin which he has committed; on the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed" (NASB).

 - Matthew 3:13-17--God testifies to Jesus' divinity to Pharisees, Sadducees, John the Baptist, and the crowd

 - Matthew 17:1-5--God testifies to Jesus' divinity to Peter, James, and John while they are on the Mount of Transfiguration

 - Matthew 18:15-17--Matthew addresses importance of witnesses concerning church discipline

 - I John 1:1-4--John warns Christians about false doctrine that questioned Christ's resurrection
 - 1 What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life— 2 and the life was manifested, and we have

seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us— 3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete (NASB).

- Liewitness
 - According to Deuteronomy 19:16-19, what is the process and penalty for people who are false eyewitnesses?
 - One word best summarizes what a liewitness commits which is **blasphemy**, “a term derived from a Greek word meaning to injure the reputation of another. In the Bible it means showing contempt or a lack of reverence for God.”³
 - How might both believers and non-believers blaspheme God and the Bible?

Final thoughts:

John 20:24-29--Jesus talks to Thomas about believing

24 But ^aThomas, one of the twelve, called ^{1a}Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. 25 So the other disciples were saying to him, “We have seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “Unless I see in ^aHis hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, ^bI will not believe.” 26 After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been ²shut, and stood in their midst and said, “^aPeace *be* with you.” 27 Then He said to Thomas, “Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing.” 28 Thomas answered and said to Him, “My Lord and my God!” 29 Jesus said to him, “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? ^aBlessed *are* they who did not see, and *yet* believed.”

Why can you believe the Bible?

³ Powell, Mark Allan, ed. “Blasphemy.” *The HarperCollins Bible Dictionary (Revised and Updated)* 2011 : 98. Print.