



Tim Pauley  
PO Box 58403, Charleston, WV 25358  
304.767.8430  
[tim.pauley@capitolcom.org](mailto:tim.pauley@capitolcom.org)

## Can We Trust the Bible? Part 2

### 1 Peter 1:16-21

We have a great staff in our statehouse – attorneys, drafters, and proofreaders – who work hard every session to make sure that the bills that are presented and passed are correct and without error. Yet every year there are a few that are rejected or vetoed do to “technical errors” or other issues. As we consider if we can trust the Bible, this reminds us of a quote from a British pastor:

*“All other books in the world, however good and useful in their way — are more or less defective. The more you look at them — the more you see their defects and blemishes. The Bible alone is absolutely perfect. From beginning to end, it is “the Word of God.”* – J.C. Ryle

This is certainly a bold statement proclaiming the trustworthiness of the Bible. How can Bishop Ryle – and we – be so sure of the reliability of the Scriptures? Why can we say with David, **“I trust in Your word”** (Ps. 119:42)

Can we trust the Bible? Here in part two we will complete our consideration of Dr. Voddie Baucham’s statement:<sup>1</sup>

*I choose to believe the Bible because it is a reliable collection of historical documents, written by eyewitnesses during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses. They report supernatural events that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies, and they claim to be divine rather than human in origin.*

This statement summarizes a wonderful passage of scripture about God’s word:

***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. 17For 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”— 18and we ourselves heard this utterance made from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. 19So 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. 20But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, 21for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.***  
**1 Peter 1:16-21**

#### They report supernatural events...

Peter writes of how they witnessed that supernatural event on the Mount of Transfiguration when Jesus’ glory was revealed, Moses and Elijah appeared, and God the Father proclaimed, **“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased...”** The Bible writers report many other supernatural events: the lame healed, the blind given sight, the calming of the storm, and greatest of all, Jesus rising from the dead!

#### That took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies.

**“So we have the prophetic word made more sure”** (vs. 19).

One of the most powerful internal evidences of the truth and trustworthiness of the Bible are the prophecies found throughout the Old Testament that find specific fulfillment in the life and ministry of Christ in the New Testament. We could easily do an entire series of studies on this topic alone but let us look briefly at one of the most vivid examples. Psalm 22 begins this way, “My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?” (Ps. 22:1) Do those words sound familiar? They should, as we recall the words of Jesus as He suffered and died on the cross. As a matter of fact, before the addition of chapters and verses, Psalm 22 would have simply been known by the title of

those first words, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” (See Matthew 27:46) What follows in Psalm 22 is a vivid description of crucifixion written over 1,000 years before Christ was born or crucifixion was even invented. Consider the details described in the Psalm:

***16For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me; They pierced my hands and my feet. 17 I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me; 18They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots. (Psalm 22:16-18)***

When we read the account of the crucifixion in the Gospels, we find Jesus crucified by gentile Roman soldiers, between two thieves. His hands and feet were pierced by nails. None of His bones were broken, going against the normal procedure of breaking the legs of the victim to hasten death. We read how the soldiers cast lots for His robe.

Why did Jesus quote from this Psalm as He was suffering on the cross? Certainly, it was His heartfelt expression as He bore God’s punishment for our sin upon Himself. But I believe He was clearly making the connection that **HE** was the fulfillment of this Psalm, written over 1,000 years before He was born.

It is even more significant to see how Jesus fulfilled the entire Old Testament prediction of a savior who would come to deal with the problem of man’s sin. The law was given to demonstrate how far short we fall from God’s holiness. The whole sacrificial system was given, pointing ahead to The One who would live a perfect life—fulfilling the law so that He might suffer and die in our place, taking the punishment for our sin. Everything we see in the Old Testament predicts and points ahead to Christ. Everything we see in the New Testament is a fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies. This understanding of the nature of the Bible helps us to see the unity and wholeness of all the scriptures. This is another powerful evidence of how can trust the Bible.

*The Bible claims to be divine rather than human in origin.*

***“...No prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.” (vs. 21)***

This stands confirmed by other clear statements from Scripture:

***All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness... 2 Timothy 3:16***

***For this reason we also constantly thank God that when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but for what it really is, the word of God, which also performs its work in you who believe. 1 Thessalonians 2:13***

Most arguments against the truth and trustworthiness of the Bible come down to the issue that the Scriptures were written by men. But Peter describes how these men, as they wrote their eyewitness accounts, were moved by the Holy Spirit so that they spoke from God.

### **Conclusion**

To determine if we can trust the Bible, we must ask four questions we would ask of any book or document?

***Is it accurate?***

***Is it internally consistent?***

***Is it historically reliable?***

***Is it corroborated?***

If the answers to these questions about the Bible is affirmative, then what is the intelligent response?

*I choose to believe the Bible because it is a reliable collection of historical documents, written by eyewitnesses during the lifetime of other eyewitnesses. They report supernatural events that took place in fulfillment of specific prophecies, and they claim to be divine rather than human in origin.*

---

<sup>1</sup>Baucham, Dr. Voddie. *Can We Trust the Bible?* Message at Bible Center Church, Charleston, WV. June 2006. This lesson was largely adapted from Dr. Baucham’s message.

**CAPITOL BIBLE STUDY**

Thursday, November 20

12:00 McManus Conference Room

(# M252 Located near House Minority Offices)