

REASONING—Part 2a

1 Peter 3:15

Mark Kring, Senior Pastor

April 26, 2020



1. 1 Peter 3:15 indicates the need for constant readiness to respond.
2. The Bible places an implicit demand on all humanity to respond to its content or suffer the consequences (Proverbs 30:5-6; Revelation 22:18-19).
3. It is possible to test the accuracy of the Bible through historical and scientific discovery. God Himself says that His Word will stand up to the test (Psalm 18:30).

YOUR BIBLE IS UNIQUE IN ORIGIN

4. The Bible never had its origin in human minds, but God spoke through humans (2 Peter 1:21). God the Spirit directed the recording of all of the authors' writings, giving them supernatural revelation.
5. Your Bible...
66 books, 40 authors, 3 languages, 3 continents, 1500 years
...yet there is thematic harmony and consistency throughout with no contradiction.
6. The circumstances surrounding the writing of the Bible seem to guarantee its fallibility; yet, from Genesis to Revelation, it is amazingly consistent.

YOUR BIBLE IS UNIQUE IN SURVIVAL

7. Compared with other ancient writings, the Bible has more manuscript evidence than any ten pieces of classic literature combined.
8. The reliability of the Bible should be tested by the same criteria by which all historical documents are tested.
9. Three primary factors:
 - The number of existing manuscripts
 - The dating of the manuscripts
 - The proportion of variant readings

YOUR BIBLE IS UNIQUE IN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

10. The ever-increasing archeological record serves to authenticate your Bible.
11. If the Bible is only a book of history, it is not threatening as it requires nothing from us. But your Bible teaches absolute truth.
12. Two basic reasons God gave us the infallible Bible: 1) for present instruction; 2) for future hope/expectation.
13. Ultimately, it is a work of the Holy Spirit. The same Spirit that moved the authors to write what you hold today is the same Spirit that uses the written Word to validate that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.
14. The evidence, both internal and external, provides many compelling arguments for why one should believe the Bible. But in the end, it is about God convicting and convincing sinners that we need Jesus.
15. It is the truth that extends beyond the historical, the truth that extends to the eternal that captures our hearts.
16. Why should you be ready to make a defense?
 - Because God's Word compels you.
 - Because others have legitimate questions. God can use you to draw them to Himself.
 - For your own encouragement.

