

LIFE STREAMS STUDY GUIDE

The Authority of Scripture on Trial

Episode Two ~

The Witness of the New Testament: Authentic & Historically Accurate

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1. Read Luke 1:1-4.
 - a. Describe Luke's purpose for writing his account of Jesus' life and ministry.
 - b. What are some key phrases that stand out to you in his opening statement?
2. Read Acts 1: 1-8.
 - a. Describe Luke's purpose for writing his account of the foundation and beginning of the early church.
 - b. What key phrases stand out to you?
 - c. Put your lawyer hat on and read through this passage again. Describe key witness statements that stand out to you.
3. *"The historical record of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham."* Matthew 1:1 HCSB
 - a. Notice Matthew begins with a historical record of Jesus genealogy. How does this authenticate the testimony provided in Scripture about Jesus?
 - b. How does it serve to validate the trustworthiness of the New Testament?
4. Read, First John 1, the whole chapter.
 - a. What is John's testimony as a witness of Jesus' life and teaching?
 - b. Does he claim to be an eye witness?
 - c. If his testimony is true what are the implications?
5. Read First Peter 1:23-25.
 - a. What does Peter claim about Scripture, also known as The Word of God?
 - b. How has history proven this Scripture to be true?

QUOTES TO CONSIDER

“Although we do believe in the fact and importance of plenary verbal inspiration, the genuineness of the person and work of Christ can be established entirely apart from that assumption, provided only that the New Testament documents are accepted as valid and authentic historical writings, of the same sort as other historical documents.”

Dr. Henry M. Morris,

Many Infallible Proofs: Evidences for the Christian Faith

“To be skeptical of the resultant text of the New Testament books is to allow all of classical antiquity to slip into obscurity, for no documents of the ancient period are as well attested bibliographically as the New Testament.”

John Warwick Montgomery,

History and Christianity

“Both the authenticity and the general integrity of the books of the New Testament may be regarded as finally established.”

Frederick G. Kenyon,

The Bible and Archaeology

“The reliability of the NT is established because the number, date, and accuracy of its manuscripts enable reconstruction of the original text with more precision than any other ancient text. The number of NT manuscripts is overwhelming (almost 5,700 Greek manuscripts) compared with the typical ooi from antiquity (about 7 to 10 manuscripts; Homer’s Iliad has the most at 643 manuscripts.) The NT is simply the best textually supported book from the ancient world.”

Norman L Geisler,

Article, “Has the Bible Been Accurately Copied Down Through the Centuries?”

The Apologetics Study Bible

****NOTE**** *A more current count, as of 2012, reports that the manuscripts of Homer’s Iliad to be at 1,800 an increase from 643 at the time of Geisler’s published article.*