

June 1 & 2, 2019

# REASONS<sup>to</sup>BELIEVE

“Just because I don’t have an answer doesn’t mean, there is not an answer!”

2 Peter 1:16 *We did not follow cleverly invented stories when we told you about the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.*

## Seven Surprising Facts about The Gospels

1. One writer was non-Jewish.
2. Two writers were not a part of the 12 disciples.
3. Three are called Synoptic (see together) Gospels.
4. Four of the Gospels were anonymous.
5. Most involved investigation and quotation.

Luke 1:1 *Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, 2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. 3 Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the*

*beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account . . .*

6. Some NT authors used assistants.

1 Peter 5:12 *With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you . . .*

Romans 16:22 *I, Tertius, who wrote down this letter . . .*

7. None of this lessens the authority of the NT.

2 Timothy 3:16 *All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It straightens us out and teaches us to do what is right. 17 It is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do. NLT*

## Why do we think that Mark wrote the Gospel of Mark?

1. It is likely that Peter was not literate and certain that he did not write in Greek.

1 Peter 5:12 *With the help of Silas, whom I regard as a faithful brother, I have written to you . . .*

2. We believe Mark recorded the memoirs of Peter.

1 Peter 5:13 *She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you her greetings, and so does my son Mark.*

3. Papias (110 AD) wrote that Mark was the author.

4. There are passages about Peter that read very much like eyewitness accounts.

Mark 14:66 *While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. 67 When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him.*

*"You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus," she said.*

68 *But he denied it. "I don't know or understand what you're talking about," he said, and went out into the entryway.*

69 *When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, "This fellow is one of them."*

70 *Again he denied. it After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, "Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean."*

71 *He began to call down curses on himself, and he swore to them, "I don't know this man you're talking about."*

72 *Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him . . .*

5. Only Mark reported the reinstatement of Peter.

Mark 16:7 *But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee . . .*

6. There are no documents that have an alternative to "Mark."

7. If the intent was to usurp a famous name, the perfect choice would have been "Peter."

How do we know these accounts are "eyewitness?"

2018 MALE BABIES' NAMES IN AMERICA	JEWISH MEN'S NAMES IN PALESTINE	JEWISH MEN'S NAMES IN EGYPT

*The evidence shows that the relative frequency of various personal names in the Gospels corresponds well to the relative frequency in the full database of 3000 names . . . They indicate the eyewitness sources of the individual stories in which they occur.*

Richard Bauckham in *Jesus and the Eyewitnesses*