

LESSON 8

Introduction to 2 Peter

1. Who wrote 2 Peter?

A. The Reasons for the Debate

B. External Evidence

C. Internal Evidence

1) Personal References

2) Stylistic Differences

3) The “Jude Problem”

4) The Strongest Reason for Authenticity

2. When was 2 Peter written?

3. Why was 2 Peter written?

A. How does its focus differ from 1 Peter?

B. What was the false teaching at issue in 2 Peter?

4. Peter & Current Events: Was Peter the first pope?

A. The top 10 reasons why he was not

“The Pope, Bishop of Rome and Peter’s successor, is the perpetual and visible source and foundation of the unity both of the bishops and of the whole company of the faithful. For the Roman Pontiff, by reason of his office as Vicar of Christ, and as pastor of the entire Church has full, supreme, and universal power over the whole Church, a power which he can always exercise unhindered.” (The Catechism of the Catholic Church)

Pseudepigrapha (Greek “falsely ascribed”) Jewish and Christian writings that began to appear about 200 BC and continued to be written well into Christian times; they were attributed by their authors to great religious figures and authorities of the past. Pseudepigrapha were composed in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek, and they include apocalyptic writings, legendary histories, collections of psalms, and wisdom literature. In most cases, Pseudepigrapha are modeled on canonical books of a particular genre: For example, Judith is inspired by the historical books of the Old Testament; Ecclesiasticus, by Proverbs; and the Psalms of Solomon, by the biblical Psalms.

Amanuensis is a Latin word derived from the phrase *ab manu*, which means “by hand.” The term refers to a servant or slave who has secretarial duties. In the Roman Empire, aristocrats would buy or hire amanuenses to write letters on their behalf. Like secretaries today, amanuenses had varying levels of skill, education, and political power.

Apostolic Fathers is a term applied to a group of Greek-language writers who were among the martyrs and major figures of the 1st and 2nd centuries in the Christian church. Although not worthy of inclusion in the Bible, their writings are considered a valuable source of early church history.