

“Knowing with Certainty”

Luke wrote “an orderly account” so that his friend Theophilus “might know the certainty of those things” concerning the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Luke’s accuracy as a historian has been proven and this is wonderfully related below in an excerpt from Lee Strobel’s book, *The Case for Christmas*.

“The physician and historian Luke authored both the gospel bearing his name and the book of Acts, which together constitute about one-quarter of the entire New Testament. The gospels of Luke and Matthew are the only ones to provide details about the birth story of Jesus.

Luke is believed to have personally interviewed eyewitnesses who knew about everything from the birth to the death to the resurrection of Jesus. In fact, this companion of the apostle Paul said he ‘carefully investigated everything’ so he could ‘write an orderly account’ about ‘the certainty’ of what occurred. There was no doubt that he was claiming to be recording actual historical events.

‘The general consensus of both liberal and conservative scholars is that Luke is very accurate as a historian,’ McRay replied. ‘He’s erudite, he’s eloquent, his Greek approaches classical quality, he writes as an educated man, and archaeological discoveries are showing over and over again that Luke is accurate in what he has to say.’

In Luke 3:1 he refers to Lysanias being the tetrarch of Abilene in about AD 27. For years scholars pointed to this as evidence that Luke didn’t know what he was talking about, since everybody knew that Lysanias was not a tetrarch but rather the ruler of Chalcis half a century earlier. If Luke can’t get that basic fact right, they suggested, then nothing he has written can be trusted.

That’s when archaeology stepped in. ‘An inscription was later found from the time of Tiberius, from AD 14 to 37, which names Lysanias as tetrarch in Abila near Damascus—just as Luke had written,’

McRay explained. ‘It turned out there had been two government officials named Lysanias! Once more Luke was shown to be exactly right.’

Another example is Luke’s reference in Acts 17:6 to ‘politarchs,’ which is translated as ‘city officials’ by the New International Version, in the city of Thessalonica. ‘For a long time people thought Luke was mistaken, because no evidence of the term *politarchs* had been found in any ancient Roman documents,’ McRay said.

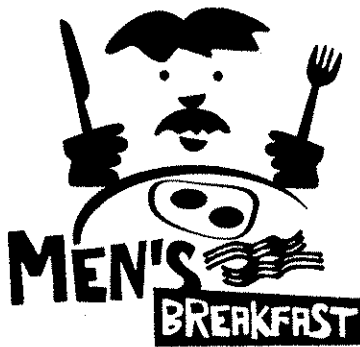
‘However, an inscription on a first-century arch was later found that begins, ‘In the time of the politarch . . .’ You can go to the British Museum and see it for yourself. And then, lo and behold, archeologists have found more than thirty-five inscriptions that mention politarchs, several of these in Thessalonica from the same period Luke was referring to. Once again the critics were wrong and Luke was shown to be right.’

One prominent archeologist carefully examined Luke’s references to thirty-two countries, fifty-four cities, and nine islands, finding not a single mistake.

Here’s the bottom line: ‘If Luke was so painstakingly accurate in his historical reporting,’ said one book on the topic, ‘on what logical basis may we assume he was credulous or inaccurate in his reporting of matters that were far more important, not only to him but to others as well?’

Matters, for example, like the resurrection of Jesus, the most influential evidence of his deity, which Luke says was firmly established by ‘many convincing proofs.’”

*To God Be The Glory,
Great Things He Hath Done!
Pastor Mason*



The Men's Fellowship will meet for breakfast at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, November 6 prior to the work day. No need to sign up—just come ready for a hearty breakfast prepared by our own Chef Kornhaus.

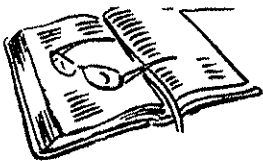
Saturday, November 6



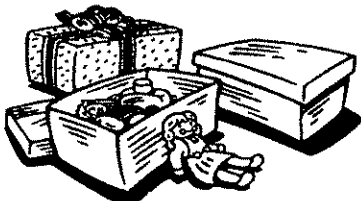
Our Fall Work Day has been scheduled for Saturday, November 6, from 9:00 a.m. to approx. 3:00 p.m. On the agenda is a general sprucing up of the interior and exterior of the church. Men, women and young people are encouraged to come and have a good time fellowshiping together as we work to beautify God's house. Lunch will be provided.

Many hands make light work!

Women's Bible Study



The next Women's Bible Study will be a 20 week study from Beth Moore on the apostle Paul. Normally a ten week study, we will be alternating the one hour DVD sessions with the book study. Studies will be at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays at the church, beginning January 12. A sign up sheet will be available in the foyer and there will be a study book on display as well. Call Sarah Kornhaus at 593-2324 if you have any questions.



**Operation Christmas Child
Shoebox Deadline Is
Sunday, November 14**



Thanksgiving WORSHIP SERVICE

A Community Thanksgiving Service will take place at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 21 at the Wellsville Bible Church. Ken Jordan will share his testimony. Non-perishable food items will be collected for the Salvation Army ministries. A time of refreshments and Christian fellowship will take place following the service.

Ladies Christmas Brunch

Saturday, December 4



The annual Ladies Christmas Brunch will be held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, December 4 at *Breezy Point Campground* on Wolf Spring Road in Scio. All ladies and their guests are welcome to join us as we begin the Christmas season focusing on Jesus, the reason for the season. So begin now thinking about who you would like to invite. A sign-up sheet and more information will be available soon.

Annual Snow Day?

The APB Club in Scio, where our annual Snow Day in January is held, has recently been sold. It will no longer be available for public use. The Fellowship Committee has been looking for an alternate facility for this function, to date we have not been able to locate a place that will accommodate our large group. A container is available in the foyer for any suggestions from the congregation regarding this event—a possible location, maybe a different activity? Thank you for your input.