

Below are pages 4 and 5 of Pastor Mark Driscoll's 2009 book, *"Trial: 8 Witnesses From 1&2 Peter,"* published by Mars Hill Church. Under the section called "Peter the Author," Pastor Driscoll again directly lifts and publishes, without attribution or proper footnotes, content from page 1369 of *"1 Peter," New Bible Commentary: 21st Century Edition, Ed. D. A. Carson, et al., 4th ed. (Downers Grove, Ill.: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994).*

### *Peter the Author*

While some critics argue that Peter is not the author of the letters bearing his name, the evidence against such critics is more than sufficient. They are prone to argue that he could not have written the letter based on Acts 4:13, which says that Peter was not formally educated. However, this charge is not credible for five reasons.

First, Peter is described in Acts 4:13 as "uneducated," and the style of Greek in which the letter is written is said to be too good for a Galilean fisherman to have used. Also, quotations in 1 and 2 Peter are taken from the Septuagint, the Greek version of the Old Testament, rather than the Hebrew version. The style is, however, not so "educated" as some would like to make out and in places it is much more the language of ordinary people. There is evidence that in Peter's time, Greek, as well as Aramaic, was spoken in Galilee, and as a fisherman living in Capernaum on one of the great trade routes, he would have had to speak Greek regularly. The fact that his own brother's name, Andrew, is a Greek one suggests that from boyhood Peter grew up with this language. Some thirty years' work of evangelism and teaching in a church that contained an increasing proportion of Gentiles would have made him more fluent in Greek and prepared to quote the Septuagint. Furthermore, the

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As well as this direct evidence that Peter the apostle was the author, the letter frequently alludes to the life and teaching of Jesus, which Peter was present to witness. Subsequently, the verdict of F. H. Chase is that "no Epistle has caught so much of the spirit of Jesus."<sup>4</sup>

Fourth, from the language of 1 Peter 4:14–16, some have built a case to suggest that the letter was written at a time when the very fact of being a Christian was a crime, and this is known not to have been the case until long after Peter's death. Peter's argument in 1 Peter 2–4, however, is that Christians must take care to live an innocent life so that if they are falsely accused, such slander will be without foundation. The book of Acts reveals that from the earliest days, misunderstanding, personal prejudices, and rejection of the gospel could lead to persecution because of the name of Christ (e.g., 13:50; 14:5, 19; 16:19–24; 17:5, 13; 18:12–13; 19:23–29). In fact, Peter's own words suggest that he was speaking only about individual and not state-sponsored persecution of Christians (1 Pet. 2:13–14). The relationship between the church and the authorities indicated in the letter is basically the same as in Acts,

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On page 6 of his book, Pastor Driscoll does credit David H. Wheaton and D. A. Carson in footnotes 5 and 6 from citations in *New Bible Commentary*. However, as you can observe in the book, those footnotes apply further down in his text, to two direct quotes from those men. The plagiarized sections themselves contain no footnotes, quotes or attribution.

which also precedes the horrendous and murderous persecution that was inflicted upon Christians in the time of Nero some years later.

Fifth, 2 Peter 3:1 reveals that the author of 2 Peter is in fact the same person who wrote 1 Peter: “This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved.” Despite some scholarly doubt concerning the authorship of 2 Peter, David H. Wheaton writes:

The writer leaves us in no doubt on the matter. He says he is “Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ” (1:1). He was on the mount of Transfiguration with Jesus (1:16–18) where only Peter, James and John were with him (Mk. 9:2–12). He had written on a previous occasion to the recipients of this letter (3:1) and is on familiar terms with them (3:1, 8, 14, 17). Furthermore, he calls Paul “our dear brother” (3:15), and at the time of writing he was expecting to die quite soon (1:14).<sup>5</sup>

Furthermore, the early church consistently recognized Peter as the author of the two letters bearing his name. This includes Polycarp, Irenaeus, Tertullian, and Clement of Alexandria, among others. Simply, 1 and 2 Peter were penned by Peter. D. A. Carson calls Paul Achtemeier’s commentary on 1 Peter “the fullest commentary in English at the exegetical level” and “a masterpiece of careful scholarship.”<sup>6</sup> Thus, the greatest technical commentator on 1 and 2 Peter concludes, “The majority of the evidence, both external and internal, would appear to support the traditional view that Peter the apostle wrote this letter.”<sup>7</sup>

## NOTES

1. Wiersbe, W. W., *The Bible Exposition Commentary (1 Pe 1:1)* (Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books, 1996, c1989).
2. D. R. W. Wood, “Peter” in *New Bible Dictionary*, ed. I. Howard Marshall et al., 3rd ed. (Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity Press, 1996), 905.
3. Karen H. Jobes, *1 Peter* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005), 8.
4. Quoted in David H. Wheaton, “1 Peter” in *New Bible Commentary: 21st Century Edition*, ed. D. A. Carson, electronic version, (Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 1994).
5. David H. Wheaton, “2 Peter” in *New Bible Commentary: 21st Century Edition*, ed. D. A. Carson, electronic version, (Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 1994).
6. D. A. Carson, *New Testament Commentary Survey* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1986/2007), 136.
7. Peter Achtemeier, *1 Peter* (Minneapolis: Fortress, 1996), 35–36.



Please see the following excerpt to compare with the previous excerpts from Pastor Mark Driscoll's book, "Trial: 8 Witnesses From 1&2 Peter." The following is from page 1369 of *1 Peter*, "New Bible Commentary: 21st Century Edition, Ed. D. A. Carson, et al., 4th ed. (Downers Grove, Ill.: Inter-Varsity Press, 1994).

