

"The Word of God in the words of men"

Luke 1.1-4

Mid 1980's Wife & I Faculty Bp Tucker Theological College UGANDA  
One of my SUBJECTS > ISLAM > Welcomed into Mosques to Learn  
Large Islamic High School in Kampala / Invited by Xtian Student Group  
Xtians in ISLAMIC School – Help us UNDERSTAND Islam Better

“Good Reasons Why Muslims Reject Xianity” – but Not Good ENOUGH  
Told me Xtian grp couple DOZEN / Admin > Whole School Assembly!  
Faculty sat in Front Row – Arms Folded – Not Warm, Fuzzy WELCOME  
Most MUSLIM Clerics – Imams & Mullah's – Caps and Robes

Q & A - ENRAGED MULLAH's Stood & QUOTES –

Luke 1.1-4- <sup>1</sup>Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, <sup>2</sup>just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, <sup>3</sup>it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, <sup>4</sup>that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

WHERE does THIS SAY this is the WORD of GOD? Book by a MAN!

Quickly Declared > Bible - Word of man // Quran - Word of God

MUSLIM Proud: NOTHING of Muhammed in Quran, Pure word ALLAH

NOT a Quran if NOT in ARABIC > Muh. ILLITERATE

QURAN means RECITE > EXACT words given by Angel Gabriel

20 yrs AFTER Muhammed before QURAN was WRITTEN Down

I said U R Right!! BIBLE - BOTH word of God & the word of man

Looked at ME like You - Dumb Muzungu // SWAHILI for Dumb Haole

MAIN Reason here to CELEBRATE Coming of JESUS is it is TRUE!

FAITH is Grounded on FACTS – Bring your BRAIN to CHURCH

John Stott's definition of FAITH “Reasoning Trust”

Word of God in words of men -

2 Peter 1 16 For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 17 For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,” 18 we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain. 19 And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay

attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts, 20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

GREATEST Revelation of the GLORY of JESUS

PETER w/ James, John, Moses, Elijah & Transfigured JESUS

Peter HEARD VOICE of God on that Mtn > This is MY Beloved Son

NOT Look Back to those GOOD OLD DAYS > Forward to SCRIPTURE

LAMP SHINING – DAY DAWNING – MORNING STAR

PROPHETIC WORD CONFIRMED – PROPHECY of SCRIPTURE

METHOD of DELIVERY --- v. 21 Men, Spoke from God, Carried H.S.  
carried along --- unique personality

Luke writes MORE of NT than anyone – Luke / Acts – 30% NT

Most BEAUTIFUL, POLISHED Greek in all of NT // HEBREWS

v. 1 Setting and Context

Luke GATHERS and SIFTS Thru Witness of Eyewitnesses

MANY – Not sure where, who, how many – MARK was likely FIRST

v. 2 LUKE was NOT an Eyewitness of JESUS

*PROBABLY NOT a Believer > GENTILE, led to X by PAUL*

WRITTEN Accounts AND EYEWITNESSES > Preachers of WORD

RELIABLE Tradition – ORAL and WRITTEN

INCLUDING and ESPECIALLY APOSTLES > Apostolic Church – NT

Luke was NOT Apostle – Apostolic IMPRAMATUR of PAUL

1 Cor 15 Paul > More than 500 saw RISEN Jesus – Many Still Alive

Only Luke is with me.

2 Timothy 4.11

SAW, BELIEVED (Not all who saw Jesus Believed)

WORK of Luke based on SOLID HISTORIOGRAPHY

v. 3 Thorough RESEARCH – Checked and Cross-checked

THEOPHILUS ‘lover of God’ – likely a PATRON? Believer?

Method: Done Carefully, Took all into Consideration, from Beginning

Sir William Ramsey “Luke’s history is unsurpassed in regard to its trustworthiness” -- Luke 3 names of Governors, etc. – Acts 27 - ship

Use of SOURCES was CAREFUL and COMPREHENSIVE

v. 3 ORDERLY Account --- Not necessarily CHRONOLOGICAL

Theological, Topical, Thematic > Arranged for IMPACT, like SERMON

Paul calls Luke ‘beloved physician’ > DR. OF SOULS – Cares for People

GOAL – Reasonable, Factual, Trustworthy HISTORICAL ACCOUNT

Dr. Luke RESEARCH --- Zechariah, Elizabeth, Mary, Simeon, Anna...

v. 4 PURPOSE – MORAL Purpose

1.1-4 ONE LONG Sentence – Last Word CERTAINTY

PERSUASIVE ESSAY – GOAL is that READER – Believe & Follow J

READ BIBLE > BIBLE READS US! > Luke uses word SAVE, Salvation

INCARNATION – Word of God in Human Flesh

Principle REVELATION of God --- Scriptures & Savior --- God & man

Sufficiency of Scripture --- Luke 24

Don’t you wish Jesus was WITH US NOW!? Even BETTER

God TOLD Me?? > Best way to KNOW >> SCRIPTURE

Luke 24.25 And he said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?” 27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

28 So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, 29 but they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent.” So he went in to stay with them. 30 When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. 31 And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. 32 They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?”

Luke 24.44 Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.” 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures

French philosopher Voltaire - Predicted during Enlightenment

"in 25 yrs. Bible will be forgotten / Xty thing of the past"

40 years after his death - 1778 - Bible's printed in his home

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1.14

he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 1 Corinth 15.6

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched--this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. 1 John 1.1-3