

Connor Mighell

Dr. Robert Sloan Lee

Senior Tutorial

8 March 2011

Undesigned Coincidences, Historical Context, and Gospel Reliability

Recent scholarship aimed at denying the historical reliability of the Gospels postulates that these works were written by multiple authors, most likely from various groups in Asia Minor, Syria, or Egypt, in the second century C.E. or later. If these scholars are correct, then the Gospels were written by people who could not have been in a position to report accurately on the events that the Gospels describe. On the contrary, the multiple small details, or “undesigned coincidences,” which connect the Gospels count as compelling evidence in favor of their veracity. Coupled with the fact that the historical context of all four canonical Gospels matches well with what we know about first-century Judea from other sources, we can make an extremely strong case for the reliability of the Gospels.