

## The Family 35 archetype for 2 Peter—final form

Wilbur N. Pickering, ThM PhD

This article is based on a complete collation of the following 43 representatives of the family for 2 Peter: 18, 35, 141, 149, 201, 204, 328, 386, 394, 432, 604, 757, 824, 928, 986, 1072, 1075, 1100, 1248, 1249, 1503, 1548, 1637, 1725, 1732, 1754, 1761, 1768, 1855, 1858, 1864, 1865, 1876, 1892, 1897, 2221, 2352, 2431, 2466, 2554, 2587, 2626 and 2723. At the six places where there is a division of at least 10% (in the 43), I spot-checked the following 45 MSS: 209,226,634,664,801,1040,1058,1101,1140,1247,1250,1482,1508,1617,1618,1619,1628,1636,1652,1656,1704,1726,1733,1737,1740,1745,1746,1748,1749,1752,1763,1766,1767,1856,1899,2080,2218,2261,2378,(2501),(2653),2691,2704,2777. Those 88 MSS represent a nearly complete roster of the family representatives that are presently available; I neglected four others that are scrambled, incomplete or hard to read. A few more family representatives may come to light, but not enough to challenge any decisions made here. My ‘presently available’ refers to the images that have been posted by both the INTF and the CSNTM. I say a sincere “Thank you” to both organizations.

I now discuss the divisions that were spot-checked. Only the MSS that support the minority variant are listed. Those within { } were spot-checked. The percentages within [ ] refer to the total of known MSS.

1:14 – ταχινη || ταχεινη 394,432,604,1100,1768,2221 {801,1058,1101,1746,1749,2261,2378<sup>v</sup>,2691}

Out of the 88 MSS, 1 is missing and 1 is different, so out of 86 extant MSS (within the family) 14 have the variant, which equals 16.3%. These appear to be alternate spellings of the same word that do not affect the meaning. But in any case, with only 16.3% attestation the variant is not a serious contender. The first form reproduces the archetype, beyond reasonable doubt.

1:19 – διαυγαση || διαυγασει 328,386,394,1754,2587 {226,664,1058,1247,1482,1737,1749,1752,1763,1766,1856,2218,2653,2704}

Out of the 88 MSS, 1 is illegible, so out of 87 extant MSS (within the family) 19 have the variant, which equals 21.8%. Is the tense aorist subjunctive, or future indicative? In the context, the translation will be the same. But in any case, with only 21.8% attestation the variant is not a serious contender. The first form reproduces the archetype, beyond reasonable doubt.

1:21 – ηνεχθη || ηνεγχθη 394,928,986,1249,1548 {1058,1482,1749,1752,2704}

Out of the 88 MSS, 1 is missing, so out of 87 extant MSS (within the family) 10 have the variant, which equals 11.5%. These appear to be alternate spellings of the same form. But in any case, with only 11.5% attestation the variant is not a serious contender. The first form reproduces the archetype, beyond reasonable doubt.

2:14 – πλεονεξιας || πλεονεξιαν [2%] 394,928,1249,1855,1876,2587,2626 {664,801,1058,1250,1482,1508,1726,1749,1752,1763,2261,2378,2691,2704}

Out of the 88 MSS, 1 is missing, so out of 87 extant MSS (within the family) 21 have the variant, which equals 24.1%; however, 11 of them are part of a subgroup, which would reduce that percentage by about half. Is the case genitive, or accusative? In the context the genitive is correct. But in any case, with only 24.1% attestation (or less) the variant is not a serious contender. The first form reproduces the archetype, beyond reasonable doubt.

3:1 – ειλικρινη || ειλικρινη [80%] 149,201,432,604,1548,1761,1768,1876,2221 {226,664,801,1140,1250,1618,1704,1767,2691,2704}

Out of the 88 MSS, 2 are missing, so out of 86 extant MSS (within the family) 19 have the variant, which equals 22.1%. Since aspiration is phonemic in Greek, it should be written, when applicable. In this case, we have alternate spellings of the same word. The first half of the word appears to relate to the word for sunlight, which is aspirated, which could explain why a derivative is also aspirated. But in any case, with only 22.1% attestation the variant is not a serious contender. The first form reproduces the archetype, beyond reasonable doubt.

3:3 – γινωσκοντες || γινωσκοντας 328,394,928,1249,1855,2587 {664,1058,1247,1482,1508,1618,1749,1752,1856,2080<sup>v</sup>,2704}

Out of the 88 MSS, 2 are missing, so out of 86 extant MSS (within the family) 17 have the variant, which equals 19.8%; however, 13 of them are part of a subgroup, which would disqualify the variant. Is the case nominative, or accusative? The accusative does not fit in this context, so the nominative is correct. But in any case, with only 19.8% attestation (or less) the variant is not a serious contender. The first form reproduces the archetype, beyond reasonable doubt.

That completes the discussion of the six places where there is a division of at least 10% of the collated MSS. As is typical of variation within the family, the differences are slight. As I have demonstrated, we are able to affirm the precise form of the family archetype for the book of 2 Peter, beyond reasonable doubt. It is reproduced in my Greek Text, *The Greek New Testament according to Family 35*. Should someone prefer one or more of the alternates, it remains true that none of the text has been lost; it is one or the other. I maintain that the family archetype has been perfectly preserved, but in any case, it has been completely preserved: no wording has been lost.

I will now consider the force of the evidence chapter by chapter, simply counting the MSS that have been fully collated, but due consideration needs to be given to the discussion of the divisions, above.<sup>1</sup>

Chapter 1: No variant has more than six MSS. Of the 43 collated MSS (complete, or nearly so), 18 are perfect representatives of the archetype in this chapter, and the MSS yet to be collated will probably add a few more. If we disregard singular readings (within the family), we add 7 more. It follows that we know the precise archetypal form of chapter one.

Chapter 2: No variant has more than seven MSS. Of the 43 collated MSS (complete, or nearly so), 19 are perfect representatives of the archetype in this chapter, and the MSS yet to be collated will probably add a few more. If we disregard singular readings (within the family), we add 11 more. It follows that we know the precise archetypal form of chapter two.

Chapter 3: No variant has more than nine MSS. Of the 43 collated MSS (complete, or nearly so), 14 are perfect representatives of the archetype in this chapter, and the MSS yet to be collated will probably add a few more. If we disregard singular readings (within the family), we add 6 more. It follows that we know the precise archetypal form of chapter three.

**Conclusion:** I have demonstrated empirically that we know the precise archetypal form of Family 35, for the book of 2 Peter, based on the available evidence. What I have done for 2 Peter, 1 Peter, James and the first six books, I believe that I can do for the remaining NT books as well. **God has preserved His Text!**

---

<sup>1</sup> I do not guarantee complete accuracy. An occasional mistake will not alter the big picture.