

# The Apostle Peter

*Gives us the perspective of an everyday Jew living in a Roman world who walked and talked with a human Jesus before realizing that He is the Christ.*

- 1-30 AD *Little is known about Simon Peter's life before meeting Jesus.*
  - Simon the son of Jonah was from the Galilean town of Bethsaida (John 1:44) but moved to Capernaum (Mark 1:29). He was married and his wife would later travel with him (1 Corinthians 9:5). He was a fisherman and had two business partners, James and John (Luke 5:10).
- 30-33 AD *Simon Peter's time with Jesus.*
  - Simon hears about Jesus from his brother Andrew who was a follower of John the Baptist (John 1:40-41). While Simon and Andrew were fishing at the Sea of Galilee, Jesus sees them and asks them to, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men." (Matthew 4:18; Mark 1:16-18).
  - Jesus was teaching at the synagogue when Simon's mother-in-law became very ill. Jesus goes and heals her then continues to heal any brought to him throughout the night (Matthew 8:14-15; Mark 1:29-31; Luke 4:38-39). In the morning Jesus goes back to teaching in the Synagogue.
  - Later Jesus was teaching by the lake and sees Simon's boat. Simon was cleaning his net after an unsuccessful night of fishing when Jesus climbed in the boat and asked Simon to take him just off the shore so that he could teach from the boat. At the end of his teaching, he told Simon to cast his net in the deep. When Simon did as he was told, he miraculously caught a great number of fish (Luke 5:1-7).
  - When Jesus named the twelve apostles he called Simon, "Peter" meaning rock (Mark 3:16; Luke 6:14; John 1:42; Matthew 10:2).
  - Jarius, ruler of the synagogue, begged Jesus to heal his twelve-year-old daughter who was dying. By the time Jesus, Peter, John, and James arrived the girl was dead. But Jesus said, "Do not weep, for she is not dead but sleeping." Jesus, then took her hand and raised her from the dead (Matthew 9:23-26; Mark 5:37-43; Luke 8:51-55).
  - The apostles were waiting for Jesus in a boat when a storm came. Suddenly, they see Jesus, walking on water toward them, Peter says, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." Jesus tells Peter to come but when Peter tries to walk on water, he only makes it a few steps before sinking. Jesus reaches for him saying, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" (Matthew 14:22-32; John 6:19-20).
  - Peter declares Jesus as the "Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16; John 6:68-69). Jesus tells Peter, "...you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church..." (Matthew 16:18). Jesus then tells the disciples that He will be killed and then rise on the third day, but Peter rebukes Jesus saying, "Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you." Jesus then tells Peter to, "Get behind

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- me, Satan!” scolding him to focus on God and not on man (Matthew 16:21-23; Mark 8:31-33).
- Six days later Peter, John, and James, witness the transfiguration of Jesus and the appearance of Moses and Elijah on a mountain (Matthew 17:1-3; Mark 9:2-3; Luke 9:29-32). Peter suggests that he make three tabernacles to honor Moses, Elijah and Jesus but instead Peter fell to the ground in fearful silence at God’s glory (Matthew 17:4).
  - Jesus asks Peter and John, “Go and prepare the Passover for us, that we may eat” (Luke 22:8). At the Passover meal Jesus predicts that Peter will deny Him three times before a rooster crows (Matthew 26:34; Mark 14:30; Luke 22:34; John 13:38). Peter tells Jesus that he will never deny Him (Matthew 26:35; Mark 14:31).
  - Jesus asks Peter and the others to pray with Him in The Garden of Gethsemane, but they all fall asleep (Matthew 26:40-46; Mark 14:37-42; Luke 22:45-46). When Jesus is arrested Peter takes his sword out and cuts off the ear of a servant (Matthew 26:51; Mark 14:47; Luke 22:50; John 18:10) which Jesus then heals.
  - Jesus’s prediction comes true. Peter denies Him three times (Matthew 26:69-75; Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:55-60; John 18:16-27).
  - Peter and the other disciples receive word from Mary Magdalene that the body of Jesus is no longer there in the tomb (Mark 16:10; Luke 24:9; John 20:1-2). Peter rushes to Jesus’s tomb to confirm the news (Luke 24:12; John 20:3).
  - Jesus appears to Peter before appearing to the other disciples (Luke 24:34, 1 Corinthians 15:5). Jesus gives Peter and the other disciples the gift of the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49; John 20:21-23).
  - Peter and six others were fishing at the Sea of Galilee but catching nothing when Jesus appeared, but they didn’t realize it was Jesus. Jesus asked them if they had any fish (John 21:4). When they answered no, He told them to cast their nets on the other side. And so, they did. They then caught so many fish that they couldn’t haul them all in. When Peter realized it was the Lord he swam to shore. After sharing a meal together Jesus asked, “Peter do you love me?” three times and each time Peter said yes (John 21:15-17).
  - Peter and a large group of people gathered at a mountain in Galilee to see Jesus. It was there they received the Great Commission, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matthew 28:16-20; 1 Corinthians 15:6).

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- 33-48 AD *Simon Peter's ministry after Jesus's death as described in the book of Acts.*
  - Peter along with the other disciples met in the upper room and Matthias was appointed to replace Judas Iscariot, whom had committed suicide (Acts 1:12-26).
  - On the day of Pentecost Peter preached on the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:14-36).
  - Peter and John when on their way to temple encountered a man who had never walked. When the man asked for alms Peter said, "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" Then the man was able to walk (Acts 3:6-8). Peter began to preach to those around them but as he was speaking the priests and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them and had them arrested (Acts 4:3). The Sadducees then told Peter and John to stop telling people about Jesus (Acts 4:18).
  - Peter and John were sent to Samaria to pray that they might receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14-15). Peter continued to travel spreading Jesus's teachings. While in Lydda he found a man named Aeneas who had been paralyzed. Peter told Aeneas, "Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." Then Aeneas rose and all turned to Jesus (Acts 9:32). Near Lydda was Joppa. Peter was then brought to Joppa to pray for a woman named Tabitha who had died. Peter sent everyone outside then knelt and prayed, he said "Tabitha, arise." She arose and all turned to Jesus (Acts 9:36-43).
  - At Caesarea God called on Cornelius, a centurion, to find Peter. Cornelius's men found Peter while he was having a vision from God. God told Peter to go with Cornelius's men. It was during this meeting that Peter realized, "Truly I understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him." Peter then knew that the good news wasn't just for the Jews but for all nations and as Peter was talking the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard his words, even the Gentiles (Acts 10).
  - When the church in Jerusalem heard that Peter had shared Jesus's words with Gentiles, they criticized him but after they heard Peter's report they said, "Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life" (Acts 11:1-18).
  - About that time King Herod killed James the brother of John with the sword. When he saw that it pleased the Jews, he also arrested Peter (Acts 12:1-5). The night Herod was to execute Peter, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers. An angel of the Lord appeared, woke him and his chains fell off. The angel told Peter to get dressed and to follow him. When they came to the iron gate leading into the city it opened on its own and Peter escaped saying, "Now I am sure that the

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Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting” (Acts 12:6-19).

- This is the last we hear of Peter’s ministry in the book of Acts.
- 60-64 AD *Little is known about Peter’s life and ministry after 48 AD*
  - It is believed that Peter wrote the letters, First and Second Peter, during this time. First Peter is full of encouragement and practical advice. It teaches us about the Holy Spirit and the wonders of faith. Second Peter is a warning to study, be a lifetime learner so that you will become strong in your faith and not be deceived. Always seek the truth of God.
  - Peter’s death is not recorded in the Bible although there is a prophecy that he will be martyred (John 21:18-19). Catholic tradition dictates that Peter was the first pope and that he died by crucifixion, upside down (because he was unworthy to die the same way as Jesus) in approximately 64 AD during the time of the Great Fire in Rome which Nero blamed Christians for. After the fire Nero would begin the Great Roman Persecution of Christians which lasted from 64 AD-313 AD.

\*All quotes come from the English Standard Version of the Bible.