

The Life of Peter the Apostle

Introduction

1. Peter was one of the earliest and most prominent disciples of Jesus. Several names are given him: the Hebrew name Simeon, the Greek name Simon, the Aramaic name Cephas and its Greek counter-part Peter.

Acts 15:14 **Simeon** hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.

Mat 4:18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, **Simon** called **Peter**, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

Mat 4:19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

2. Andrew brought Peter to see Jesus. It has often been called “operation Andrew.”

Joh 1:42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jonah: thou shalt be called **Cephas**, which is by interpretation, a stone.

Peter A Chip Off the Rock

1. **Kephas** is an Aramaic name often used to designate Peter as a disciple of Christ, although **Kephas** soon gave way to Peter. As an apostle and leader of the early church we find **Petros** is used in lieu of **Kephas**. Both **Kephas** and **Petros** mean a small rock chipped off a much larger rock—a **Petra**.

2. Peter is a translation from the Greek word **Petros** meaning a piece of a rock chipped from a larger rock--a name given to Peter by Christ.

Mat 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Mat 16:17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

Mat 16:18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter (**Petros**), and upon this rock (**Petra**) I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

3. In Mat 16:18 there is an obvious play on the words Peter (**Petros**, a proper name denoting a piece of rock) and rock (**Petra**, a rocky mass). The spiritual body, the church, mentioned here for the first time, is built upon the divinely revealed fact about Christ as confessed by Peter.

4. As men are made aware of and acknowledge His person and work, they become members of the body of Christ--the Church.

Origin and Early Life

1. Peter's original home was Bethsaida, a fishing village on the northern shore of the Sea of Galilee not far from Capernaum. It was there Peter and his brother Andrew docked their vessel.

Joh 1:44 Now Philip was of Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter.



2. It was also near Capernaum somewhere on the shore of the Sea of Galilee that Andrew and Peter first met the Lord.

Mat 4:18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

Mat 4:19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

3. Peter and Andrew were partners in the fishing business with Zebedee and his sons James and John. Compare Mar 1:16-18 with Luk 5:4-11

Mar 1:16 Now as he walked by the sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

Mar 1:17 And Jesus said unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you to become fishers of men.

Mar 1:18 And straightway they forsook their nets, and followed him.

Luk 5:4 Now when Jesus had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

Luk 5:5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

Luk 5:6 And when they had this done, they enclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

Luk 5:7 And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

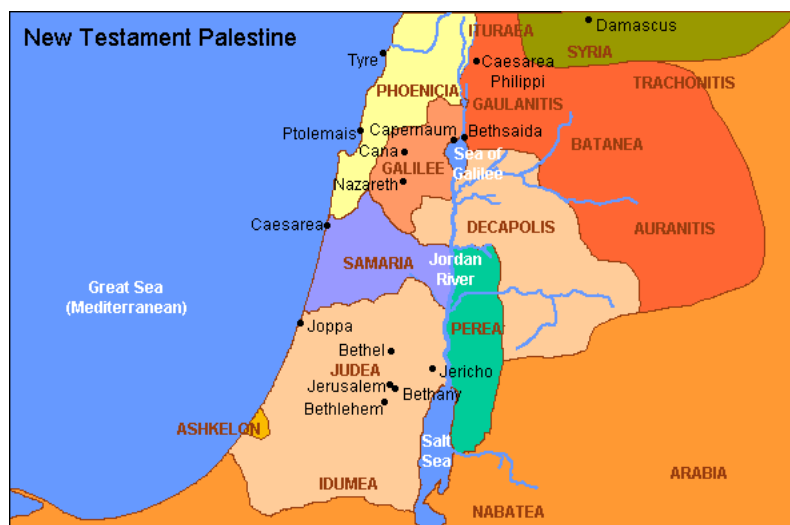
Luk 5:8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

Luk 5:9 For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:

Luk 5:10 And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.

Luk 5:11 And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

4. Peter's father, Jonah, was probably a fisherman, an occupation which Peter and his brother Andrew had followed. According to present standards, his education was limited, but he would have been able to read and write Aramaic and to speak some Greek which was widely used in the cities of Galilee, though with a guttural Galilean accent.



5. Peter and his brother, Andrew, were followers of John the Baptist, who first called their attention to Jesus. Peter with the other disciples accompanied Jesus from the scene of John the Baptist's ministry back to Capernaum. In all probability they returned to their fishing for a brief time, although the Gospels do not state so directly.

6. From the large number of disciples who followed Him, Jesus, much later, chose 12 to be His intimate companions. The motives of Peter in following Jesus were initially as much personal as spiritual.

7. Knowing that Jesus was recommended by an influential figure like John the Baptist, he saw Him a potential Messiah for the nation.

Peter's Life as a Disciple

1. Jesus' education of Peter is illustrated by a number of episodes. Jesus began to teach Peter a new mode of life. A few examples

- In response to Peter's question concerning the payment of the temple tax, Jesus assured him that the true Israelites should be free from taxation, and then supplied enough money to pay for Himself and for Peter also.

Mat 17:24 And when they were come to Capernaum, they that received tribute money came to Peter, and said, Doth not your master pay tribute?

Mat 17:25 He saith, Yes. And when he was come into the house, Jesus prevented him, saying, What thinkest thou, Simon? of whom do the kings of the earth take custom or tribute? of their own children, or of strangers?

Mat 17:26 Peter saith unto him, Of strangers. Jesus saith unto him, Then are the children free.

Mat 17:27 Notwithstanding, lest we should offend them, go thou to the sea, and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money: that take, and give unto them for me and thee.

- When Peter asked Jesus whether he should forgive an annoying enemy for more than seven offenses, Jesus replied that he should forgive 70 times seven (Mat 18:21-22)--an injunction that Peter would find hard to obey. Seven times seventy is 490 years which certainly has eschatological applications. See the *Doctrine of Seventy Weeks*.

Mat 18:21 Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times?

Mat 18:22 Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

- Peter's surprise over the withered fig tree implies some incredulity concerning Jesus' power. Jesus promptly reminded him that he needed more faith (Mar 11:20-22). There are all manner of eschatological nuances involved in these passages.

Mar 11:20 And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.

Mar 11:21 And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away.

Mar 11:22 And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

Mar 11:23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Mar 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

- Peter objected to letting Jesus wash his feet, but when Jesus told him that it was a necessary condition of fellowship, Peter revealed his real attitude by asking for a bath. (Joh 13:5-10). **Nipto** in these passages refers to washing of hands and feet and **Louo** refers to a complete bath of the body--**Nipto** refers to rebound and **Louo** refers to salvation faith.

Joh 13:5 After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash (**Nipto**) the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

Joh 13:6 Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash (**Nipto**) my feet?

Joh 13:7 Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter.

Joh 13:8 Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash (**Nipto**) my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash (**Nipto**) thee not, thou hast no part with me.

Joh 13:9 Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.

Joh 13:10 Jesus saith to him, He that is washed (**Louo**) needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all.

- Peter was one of the three chosen to watch with Jesus in Gethsemane, but fell asleep from weariness and sorrow (Mat 26:37-40).

Mat 26:37 And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy.

Mat 26:38 Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me.

Mat 26:39 And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.

Mat 26:40 And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?

- When the arresting party came, Peter attempted to defend Jesus with weapons, and was sternly rebuked. Peter then fled from the garden with the other disciples (Joh 18:10-11).

Joh 18:10 Then Simon Peter having a sword drew it, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.

Joh 18:11 Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?

- Having regained his equanimity in some measure Peter with John appeared at the house of the high priest after following the arresting party at a discreet distance. Alarmed by the latent hostility around him, three times he vigorously denied any connection with Jesus. A fulfillment of Jesus prophecy of the three denials before the rooster crowed twice (Mar 14:66-72).

Mar 14:66 And as Peter was beneath in the palace, there cometh one of the maids of the high priest:

Mar 14:67 And when she saw Peter warming himself, she looked upon him, and said, And thou also wast with Jesus of Nazareth.

Mar 14:68 But he denied, saying, I know not, neither understand I what thou sayest. And he went out into the porch; and the cock crew.

Mar 14:69 And a maid saw him again, and began to say to them that stood by, This is one of them.

Mar 14:70 And he denied it again. And a little after, they that stood by said again to Peter, Surely thou art one of them: for thou art a Galilaeen, and thy speech agreeth thereto.

Mar 14:71 But he began to curse and to swear, saying, I know not this man of whom ye speak.

Mar 14:72 And the second time the cock crew. And Peter called to mind the word that Jesus said unto him, Before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. And when he thought thereon, he wept.

- When the disciples returned to Galilee, Peter proposed that they resume their trade of fishing. The Lord rebuked Peter and reminded them they were to be fishers of men and not fish.

Joh 21:15 So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.

Joh 21:16 He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

Joh 21:17 He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep.

Peter in Jerusalem

1. After the ascension of Jesus, the disciples were gathered in an upper room for prayer, awaiting the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. Peter, in error, proposed that one be chosen to take the place of Judas so that the apostolate might be complete (Acts 1:15-23).

Acts 1:15 And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)

Acts 1:16 Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.

Acts 1:17 For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.

Acts 1:18 Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.

Acts 1:19 And it was known unto all the dwellers at Jerusalem; insomuch as that field is called in their proper tongue, Aceldama, that is to say, The field of blood.

Acts 1:20 For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take.

Acts 1:21 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

Acts 1:22 Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection.

Acts 1:23 And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias.

2. On the first New Testament day of Pentecost he preached the initial message to the crowd that gathered, declaring that they must repent and be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Approximately 3,000 were converted, and the church was begun (Acts 2:14-15).

Acts 2:14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

Acts 2:15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.

3. During the early years of the church in Jerusalem, Peter was the acknowledged leader. He performed notable miracles (Acts 3:1-7 ff.), defended the cause before the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:8-12), and disciplined offenders like Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:3-8).

Acts 3:1 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour.

Acts 3:2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple;

Acts 3:3 Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms.

Acts 3:4 And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

Acts 3:5 And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

Acts 3:6 Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have given I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

Acts 3:7 And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ancle bones received strength.

Acts 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,

Acts 4:9 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;

Acts 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

Acts 4:11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Acts 5:3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

Acts 5:4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

Acts 5:5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

Acts 5:6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him.

Acts 5:7 And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife (Sapphira), not knowing what was done, came in.

Acts 5:8 And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.

4. As time progressed Peter's leadership of the Judeo Christian churches in the Holy City was supplanted by James the half-brother of Jesus Acts 15:13-17.

Acts 15:13 And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me:

Acts 15:14 Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.

Acts 15:15 And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written,

Acts 15:16 After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up:

Acts 15:17 That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.

Peter's Ministry Outside Jerusalem

1. When persecution against the church broke out after the controversy over Stephen, Peter extended his ministry to new fields. Summoned with John to Samaria where Philip had gathered a large number of new converts.

1.1 Peter and John were sent to Samaria to assist in Philip's ministry. There Peter encountered a misguided believer who wanted to buy "the works of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 8:14-24).

Acts 8:14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

Acts 8:15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

Acts 8:16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

Acts 8:17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,

Acts 8:19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

Acts 8:21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

Acts 8:22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

Acts 8:23 For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

Acts 8:24 Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

2. Peter ministered in the coastal cities of Lydda and Joppa, where he healed Aeneas and resuscitated Dorcas and preached through the maritime plain of Sharon (Acts 9:32-40).

Acts 9:32 And it came to pass, as Peter passed throughout all quarters, he came down also to the saints which dwelt at Lydda.

Acts 9:33 And there he found a certain man named Aeneas, which had kept his bed eight years, and was sick of the palsy.

Acts 9:34 And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.

Acts 9:35 And all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord.

Acts 9:36 Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.

Acts 9:37 And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died: whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber.

Acts 9:38 And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them.

Acts 9:39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.

Acts 9:40 But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

3. In response to a vision given to him while staying at Joppa, he initiated the evangelization of the Gentiles by preaching in the house of Cornelius, a Roman centurion stationed at Caesarea (Acts 10:1-45).

Acts 10:1 There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band,

Acts 10:2 A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always.

Acts 10:3 He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius.

Acts 10:4 And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God.

Acts 10:5 And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter ...

Acts 10:17 Now while Peter doubted in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean, behold, the men which were sent from Cornelius had made enquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate,

Acts 10:18 And called, and asked whether Simon, which was surnamed Peter, were lodged there.

Acts 10:19 While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee ...

Acts 10:23 Then called he them in, and lodged them. And on the morrow Peter went away with them, and certain brethren from Joppa accompanied him ...

Acts 10:25 And as Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him, and fell down at his feet, and worshipped him.

Acts 10:26 But Peter took him up, saying, Stand up; I myself also am a man.

Acts 10:27 And as he talked with him, he went in, and found many that were come together.

Acts 10:28 And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing for a man that is a Jew to keep company, or come unto one of another nation; but God hath shewed me that I should not call any man common or unclean ...

Acts 10:34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

Acts 10:35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him ...

Acts 10:37 That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached ...

Acts 10:39 And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree:

Acts 10:40 Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly ...

Acts 10:43 To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

Acts 10:44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

4. For entering a Gentile's house he was criticized by the Jewish party in the church, and was obliged to justify his conduct when he returned to Jerusalem (Acts 11:1-18).

Acts 11:1 And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God.

Acts 11:2 And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him,

Acts 11:3 Saying, Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them.

Acts 11:4 But Peter rehearsed the matter from the beginning, and expounded it by order unto them, saying ...

Acts 11:15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning.

Acts 11:16 Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.

Acts 11:17 Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?

Acts 11:18 When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

Peter's Later Ministry

1. The council of Jerusalem marked the mid-point of the first century. Peter visited Antioch with Paul and during that visit a severe disagreement developed. Later Peter went with Paul and his entourage to confront James over the question of legalism versus grace. His earlier disagreement with Paul was resolved, for he stood with Paul at the council, and later in his second epistle spoke favorably of Paul as "our beloved brother."

Gal 2:11 When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong.

Gal 2:12 Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group.

Gal 2:13 The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

Gal 2:14 When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter in front of them all, "You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?"

Gal 2:15 "We who are Jews by birth and not 'Gentile sinners'

Gal 2:16 know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.

Gal 2:17 "If, while we seek to be justified in Christ, it becomes evident that we ourselves are sinners, does that mean that Christ promotes sin? Absolutely not!

Gal 2:18 If I rebuild what I destroyed, I prove that I am a lawbreaker.

Gal 2:19 For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God.

Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Gal 2:21 I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

Acts 15:1 Some men came down from Judea to Antioch and were teaching the brothers: "Unless you are circumcised, according to the custom taught by Moses, you cannot be saved."

Acts 15:2 This brought Paul and Barnabas into sharp dispute and debate with them. So Paul and Barnabas were appointed, along with some other believers, to go up to Jerusalem to see the apostles and elders about this question.

Acts 15:3 The church sent them on their way, and as they traveled through Phoenicia and Samaria, they told how the Gentiles had been converted. This news made all the brothers very glad.

Acts 15:4 When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and elders, to whom they reported everything God had done through them.

Acts 15:5 Then some of the believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees stood up and said, "The Gentiles must be circumcised and required to obey the law of Moses."

Acts 15:6 The apostles and elders met to consider this question.

Acts 15:7 After much discussion, Peter got up and addressed them: "Brothers, you know that some time ago God made a choice among you that the Gentiles might hear from my lips the message of the gospel and believe.

Acts 15:8 God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us.

2Pe 3:15 And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

2Pe 3:16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

2. Peter was married and in his later ministry his wife traveled with him (Mar 1:30 and 1Co 9:5).

Mar 1:30 But Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell him of her.

1Co 9:5 Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and as the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?

3. Between A.D. 50 and the close of the New Testament period little is said about Peter. Paul alludes to Peter's travels, and the fact that a group in the Corinthian church said, "I am of Cephas" (1Co 1:12). This certainly indicates that he may have been known personally there.

1Co 9:6 Or I only and Barnabas, have not we power to forbear working?

1Co 9:7 Who goeth a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?

1Co 1:12 Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.

1Co 1:13 Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?

1Co 1:14 I thank God that I baptized none of you, but Crispus and Gaius;

1Co 1:15 Lest any should say that I had baptized in mine own name.

1Co 1:16 And I baptized also the household of Stephanas: besides, I know not whether I baptized any other.

1Co 1:17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.

4. 1Pe 1:1 indicates that Peter had preached in the synagogues of the dispersed in northern Asia Minor and the second epistle hints that he anticipated a sudden and perhaps a violent death (2Pe 1:12-15) in accord with Jesus' prediction (Joh 21:18-19).

1Pe 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

2Pe 1:12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

2Pe 1:13 Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;

2Pe 1:14 Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.

2Pe 1:15 Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.

Joh 21:18 Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdedst thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not.

Joh 21:19 This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

5. His epistles show that he was active in preaching until the time of his death, and that he had exercised a wide ministry in the Roman world. There is no evidence for the claim of the Roman Catholic Church that he founded the local assembly at Rome and served it for a quarter of a century until his martyrdom.

6. Had he been living in Rome between the years c. A.D. 55-60 it is inconceivable that Paul would have written to the Romans without mentioning him, or that there would have been no allusion in Acts to his presence if he had been in the city when Paul was there.