

Who Was Peter? – Part II
Acts 1-12, 15
May 11, 2024

Peter took the lead in finding a replacement for Judas Iscariot. (Acts 1:20-26)

Peter preached the Spirit empowered first sermon on the Day of Pentecost. (Acts 2:1-41)

Peter also preached the Gospel after healing a crippled beggar. (Acts 3:1-26)

Peter's message provoked conflict with the Jewish religious leaders. (Acts 4:1-22)

Miraculous signs and wonders authenticated the message of the early church. (Acts 5:1-42)

Peter and John were sent to confirm Phillip's work among the Samaritans and God showed His approval by giving the Holy Spirit through them. (Acts 8:4-25)

Peter continued to heal and even raise the dead as the Gospel spread to new areas. (Acts 9:32-42)

Peter was then chosen by God to initiate the spread of the Gospel to the Gentiles: (Acts 10:1-48, 11:15-18)

Peter was imprisoned a second time and again miraculously set free by an angel. (Acts 12:1-19)

Peter spoke at the Jerusalem Council against forcing regulations from the Mosaic Law upon the Gentiles. (Acts 15:5-11)

Peter was not the first pope.

1. Peter was married according to Scripture.

And [Jesus] arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. (Luke 4:38)

Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas? (1 Corinthians 9:5)

2. Peter did not have special authority over the other apostles.

¹⁷ I did not go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went into Arabia. Later I returned to Damascus.

¹⁸ Then after three years, I went up to Jerusalem to get acquainted with Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days. ¹⁹ I saw none of the other apostles—only James, the Lord’s brother. (Galatians 1:17-19)

⁶ As for those who were held in high esteem—whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not show favoritism—they added nothing to my message. ⁷ On the contrary, they recognized that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised. ⁸ For God, who was at work in Peter as an apostle to the circumcised, was also at work in me as an apostle to the Gentiles. ⁹ James, Cephas and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised. (Galatians 2:5-9)

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. (Ephesians 2:19-20)

The reason I left you in Crete was that you might put in order what was left unfinished and appoint elders in every town, as I directed you. (Titus 1:5)

3. Peter (for a time) promoted error in the Church. (Galatians 2:11-16)

¹¹ When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.

¹² For 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. ¹³ The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

¹⁴ When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas 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?”

¹⁵ “We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles ¹⁶ know that a person is not justified by the works of 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 the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified. (Galatians 2:11-16)

For “you were like sheep going astray,” but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. (1 Peter 2:25).