

Was Peter Ever in Rome? I

(Church at Home)
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Greetings everyone, this is Fred Coulter. Welcome to Church at Home. Church at Home is sponsored by the Christian Biblical Church of God, and we are dedicated to restoring original Christianity for today.

There is one of the great religions of the world who *believes, teaches and repeats* over and over and over again *one of the greatest myths and lies to keep people in bondage to that church!* That is the Roman Catholic Church that says that Peter came to Rome in 42_{A.D.}; that he was crucified in Rome and buried in Rome.

Well, the Truth is from the Scriptures and true history and archeology evidence, we know Peter never went to Rome. None of the bones that they *supposedly* got in the catacombs are the bones of Peter. In fact, *one bone was found to be of a woman!*

How are we going to be able to prove this from the Scriptures? Well, we're putting online a chronology of the New Testament. This chronology of the New Testament *will prove that Peter was never in Rome!*

Chronology:

{https://www.cbcbg.org/franklin/Peter_Was_Never_in_Rome_Supplemental-OLD.pdf}

You have to understand that it is proven that 30_{A.D.}—April the 5th according to the Julian calendar; Nisan 14 according to the Calculated Hebrew Calendar. By the way, the early New Testament Church used the Calculated Hebrew Calendar.

Nisan 14 was when Jesus was crucified. He was resurrected toward the end of the Sabbath after being in the grave three days and three nights. He ascended into heaven on the Wave Sheaf Offering Day to be accepted by God the Father *as the perfect sacrifice for the sins of the world!*

Later, He came back to the earth that same day and appeared to the apostles, and He was with them for 40 days and 40 nights showing the infallible proofs of His resurrection.

We've also seen that the claim that Peter was the first pope—by virtue of what was recorded in Matt. 16—*was not true!*

So, let's come to the Book of Acts because the Book of Acts gives us very important historical truths on which we can understand the chronology of the New Testament.

- What would be the most perfect time to make Peter the first pope?
- Would it not be the last day before Jesus ascended into heaven to be at the right hand of God the Father?

*That would really be the best place to do it because that would end all doubt, once and for all—*wouldn't it? But let's see what Jesus told them:

Let's pick it up here in Acts 1, and as we do let's understand something: Paul wrote and said that *all Scripture is God-breathed!* That means each and every one. Some translations have perverted what the originals that are actually called *autographs*.

The copies are called *apographs* and a translation is generally from an *apographe*. An apographe—if it follows the autograph—carries the same weight and authority as the autograph.

Holy men were the ones who wrote the New Testament. So, we need these historical facts because God the Father and Jesus Christ knew way ahead of time that Satan the devil *would raise up the counterfeit Christian church through Simon Magus*, which we have already covered.

Now we need to go through the chronology of the book of Acts and other Scriptures, *which will absolutely prove that Peter never went to Rome at any time!*

So, let's pick up the Bible account here in: Acts 1:1: The first account I indeed have written, O Theophilus, concerning all things that Jesus began both to do and to teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after giving command by the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom He had chosen; to whom also, by many infallible proofs, He presented Himself alive after He had suffered, being seen by them for forty days, and speaking the things concerning the Kingdom of God" (vs 1-3).

That's a tremendous thing to understand, *and at no time do we find that Peter was made pope during that time!* So, we're going to investigate now from the time of the beginning of the New Testament Church. The New Testament Church did not begin in Rome it began in Jerusalem at the temple on the Day of Pentecost. We're going to see that we've already covered a couple of verses from there.

What we're going to see is that all the original apostles were from the house of Israel: Benjamin, Judah and Levi. We'll talk about the

Apostle Paul later, because he was the apostle to the Gentiles, *not Peter!*

Verse 4: “And while *they* were assembled with *Him*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem but to ‘await the promise of the Father, which,’ *He said*, ‘you have heard of Me. For John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with *the* Holy Spirit after not many days” (vs 4-5).

So, the count of the time from the ascension of Jesus to heaven to be accepted by God the Father, which was the Old Testament Wave-Sheaf Offering Day and He was the First of the firstfruits. ***He fulfilled it when he ascended in heaven to the Father’s Throne!***

He came back the very same day and appeared to the apostles for forty days. Now, the apostles knew that Jesus was going to establish the Kingdom of God beginning with Israel. So, now they asked this question:

Verse 6: “So then, when they were assembled together, they asked Him, saying, ‘Lord, will You restore the Kingdom to Israel at this time?’ And He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know *the* times or *the* seasons, which the Father has placed in His own authority” (vs 6-7).

Jesus could have told them, ‘Hey guys, listen. You hang tight. You’re going to start things, but I’m not coming back for 2,000 years.’

He didn’t do that! See, because things are revealed as necessary when we need to know the information.

Verse 8: “But you yourselves shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you**... [collective you] ...shall be My witnesses... [not Peter, all the apostles] ... both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and unto *the* ends of the earth.”

That was a prophecy of the coming writing of the New Testament, which would be distributed in mass around the world, like we have today nearly seven billion Bibles in the world. It’s gone to the ends of the earth. So the writings and teachings of the apostles have been sent by God to be there.

Now, I imagine that even someone down in the Antarctic near the South Pole, have a Bible there someplace. We’ve gotten e-mails from many places in the world, but never from the South Pole. So, if anybody’s down there at the South Pole, be sure and e-mail me and let me know that Church at Home has arrived in Antarctica.

Verse 9: “And after saying these things, *as* they were looking at *Him*, He was taken up, and a

cloud received Him out of their sight. Now, while they were gazing intently up into heaven as He was going up, two men... [two angels] ...in white apparel suddenly stood by them, Who also said, ‘You men of Galilee, why do you stand *here* looking up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, Who was taken up from you into heaven, shall come in exactly the same manner as you have seen Him go into heaven.’ Then they returned to Jerusalem from *the mountain* called Mount of Olives...” (vs 9-12).

Rev. 1, says that, “*Every eye shall see Him.*” And that’s quite a story! You need to go to **cbcg.org** *or* **truthofgod.org**, and you need to go through some of the sermons that we have concerning Pentecost and the return of Christ and all the fantastic events that are going to take place.

You need to go to the segments that we have on Church at Home, which shows about how Jesus Christ is going to return. ***He’s going to return probably in the lifetimes of most of us today!***

- it’s not going to be a secret rapture
- it’s not going to be a hidden thing

It is going to be heaven-shaking and earth-shaking! As the Book of Revelation shows, absolutely dynamic and powerful beyond anything we have ever understood.

So, they went back. Now we’ll just summarize the rest of it. They had to select another apostle to take Judas’ place who fell. They selected Matthias to replace him.

Now let’s see what happened, and let’s see how the Church began. Remember, Jesus said He would build it on the Rock—of Himself—and *not on Peter*, though Peter was one of the leading apostles. We will see very soon that it was Peter and John.

Let’s read just a couple of verses here about the Day of Pentecost:

Acts 2:1: “And when the Day of Pentecost, the fiftieth day, was being fulfilled, they were all with one accord in the same place. And suddenly *there* came from heaven a sound like *the* rushing of a powerful wind, and filled the whole house where they were sitting” (vs 1-2).

That power and authority came from God, NOT from Peter!

Verse 3: “And there appeared to them divided tongues as of fire, and sat upon each one of them. And they were all filled with *the* Holy Spirit; and they began to speak with other languages, as the Spirit gave them *the words* to proclaim” (vs 3-4).

They proclaimed Christ—crucified, and resurrected—and it was a witness to those at the

temple. There may have been as many as 50,000 people there! Think about this: Those who had come in from the countries out of the Diaspora:

- they had heard about the crucifixion
- they had heard that His body was stolen away, **or** He was resurrected

They came to Jerusalem, and God inspired a lot of them to come to Jerusalem so they would get this witness concerning the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ **with the power of God through the twelve apostles speaking dynamically!**

Some of them said they're all drunk. But Peter said, 'No, this is the third hour in the morning. We're not drunk as you suppose,' And he gave a powerful sermon to them, convicting them that they had their part and their hand in crucifying Jesus Christ.

Remember this: there were probably some of those who were out there in the crowd when Pilate came and showed them Jesus and said, 'Whom do you want?' *Give us Barabbas!* 'What shall I do with this man?' **Crucify Him! Crucify Him!**

They even were so absolutely set in their ways that they said, 'And his blood be upon us and our children.'

What you need to understand is this: When you make any statement like that to God, He's going to take you up on it. For the Jews that said that:

- Did he not take them up on it?
- Did he not in 70_{A.D.} destroy the temple?

But first, He gave them an opportunity to repent! He gave them an opportunity to come out from underneath their own judgment upon themselves and their future children! So, Peter ended his sermon here in:

Verse 36: "Therefore, let all *the* house of Israel know with full assurance that God has made this *same* Jesus, Whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

So He knew there were those out there who were the ones out there shouting, "Crucify Him! Crucify Him!" There may have even been some of those who were standing right there watching Jesus die on the cross, who were taunting Him and mocking Him and saying, 'If you're the Christ, save Yourself and come down from there.' **These are pretty powerful things!**

Verse 37: "Now, after hearing *this*, **they were cut to the heart...**"

So this had to include a lot of those who were there saying those things.

"...and they said to Peter and the other apostles..." (v 37). *Not just to Peter, but the other apostles, they are all included. Not just Peter as the pope!*

"...Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?' Then Peter said to them... [this is the message for all of us today]: 'Repent and be baptized each one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for *the* remission of sins...' (vs 37-38).

All of those who are listening, all of those of you who follow Church At Home:

- What are you going to do with the Truth of God that we present? *Because God holds you responsible for it!*
- What are you going to do with the knowledge concerning the Sabbath, Passover and Holy Days of God?
- Are you going to continue in the way that you're going?
- Are you going to prove what is right?
- Are you going to prove what is true?
- Are you going to hold fast to that which is good?

"...and you yourselves shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (v 38).

That is the important thing, the Holy Spirit of God: to lead us and guide us! That's the power by which God does everything that He does. He gives it to us as a begettal so that we can become His own son or daughter.

This is the beginning of the most dynamic and fantastic thing to ever happen on the face of the earth. Then God, at that time, in giving the Holy Spirit, ***began to make His dwelling place in the converted hearts and minds of those who repent and receive the Holy Spirit!***

That's why He destroyed the temple. He destroyed the ***temple because of the sins of the Jews!*** So, we're just here at the beginning. So let's see.

Peter said, v 39: "'For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all those who are afar off, as many as *the* Lord our God may call.' And with many other words he earnestly testified and exhorted, saying, 'Be saved from this perverse generation'" (vs 39-40).

Question, are we living in a more perverted generation today than ever before? With perverted sex, perversion of marriage, the most ludicrous and

insane thing is to declare same-sex marriages as on a par of husband and wife, man and woman.

- we have a perverted education
- we have a perverted government
- we have a perverted economic system

*So, the call to you today is, **save yourself from this perverse and perverted generation:***

- through Jesus Christ
- through repentance and baptism

Notice what happened here, right there at the temple; v 41: “Then those who joyfully received his message were baptized; and about three thousand souls were added that day.”

Quite a thing! As we go along, we’ll ask: Did Peter leave for Rome shortly after this? *No, this is in 30_{A.D.}* It is said that he went to Rome in 42_{A.D.}, and that’s when Simon Magus went, as we have already seen. But the question will remain: Did Peter ever go to Rome? *Well, let’s see where he operated from!*

He was right there in Jerusalem, and let’s understand that the apostles were in Jerusalem, most of them, until about 40, 42, 44_{A.D.} Where were the original apostles told to go? *To the lost sheep of the house of Israel!*

All right, let’s follow the chronology along now. Acts 3-5, the Gospel was preached in Jerusalem. That very thing that the scribes and Pharisees and the Romans wanted to get rid of grew right there in Jerusalem to such an extent that it was absolutely astonishing.

Remember, Annas and Caiaphas, the high priests, were the ones that convicted and tried Jesus and had him crucified. Now, here are the apostles, plus the hand of miracle of God.

Act 3 is very interesting. It was on a day when Peter and John were coming into the temple and there was a man at the Gate Beautiful, who was begging. He had been there for many years, begging alms. He had his particular spot going into the temple area where he would beg alms.

So, Peter and John were coming in and he was expecting to receive something from them.

Acts 3:4: “Peter and John...”

I never heard of John being the apostle to the Romans, have you? *Well, there they are together!*

Verse 3: “When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. But Peter and John, intently observing him, said,

‘Look on us.’ And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. But Peter said, ‘Silver and gold I do not have; but what I do have, this I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarean, rise up and walk’” (v 3-6).

Now, notice he didn’t say, ‘I am the first pope. I am telling you, rise and walk.’ NO! ***In the name of Jesus Christ, rise and walk.***

Verse 7: “Then taking him by the right hand, he raised *him* up; and immediately his feet and anklebones were strengthened. And leaping up, he stood and walked; and he entered into the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. Now all the people saw him walking and praising God” (vs 7-9).

Who it was because they saw him all the time. He’d been there many years. So, the people were coming and looking intently upon the apostles as if *they, they* had the power to do this. Notice what Peter said.

Verse 12: “And when Peter saw *it*, he answered to the people, ‘Men, Israelites, why are you wondering at this? And why are you looking upon us so intently as if by *our* own power or Godliness *we* have made him to walk?’”

He didn’t say, ‘I’m the first pope, everybody bow down.’ NO! Who did he give credit to?

Verse 13: “The God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His Son Jesus, Whom you delivered up, and denied Him in the presence of Pilate, after he had judged to release *Him*.”

He uses this as an opportunity to preach the Gospel concerning Christ.

Verse 14: “But you denied the Holy and Righteous One, and requested that a man *who was* a murderer be granted to you; and you killed the Author of life Whom God has raised from *the* dead, whereof we are witnesses. And through faith in His name, this *man* whom you see and know was made strong in His name; and the faith that *is* through Him gave this complete soundness to him in the presence of you all. And now, brethren, I realize that you acted in ignorance...” (vs 14-17).

Then he told them, v 19: “Therefore, **repent and be converted**...”

And boy, there were thousands that repented. This got to the Sanhedrin and they wanted to know: ‘What is happening.’

Well, we’ll continue this next time because the chronology will bring us down through the things of the Apostles, what they did and where they

went. ***We can discern from the Scriptures clearly that Peter was never in Rome!***

So you download the chronology. You follow along with us in this series we're doing: *Was Peter ever in Rome?*

You're going to be mighty surprised, because it's just exactly like John the Baptist told the scribes and Pharisees who were trying to flee the wrath that was coming. He said, 'Who warned you to flee the wrath that is coming? Bring forth fruits worthy of repentance. And now the axe is already being taken against the tree.'

That's what's happening! What we're going to bring out is like taking an axe and chopping down the major doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church ***as worthless lies and not true!***

Then people have to ask the question:

- Do I want to base my life on the Truth of the true Jesus Christ

or

- on the lies of men?

➤ **What are you going to do?**

Just like Peter said:

➤ **What will you do?**

Once again, thank you for inviting me into your home. This is Fred Coulter saying until next time, so long everyone.

Scriptural References:

- 1) Acts 1:1-12
- 2) Acts 2:1-4, 36-41
- 3) Acts 3:4, 3-9, 12-17, 19

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Revelation 1
- Acts 4-5

Also referenced: Chronology:

{https://www.cbcg.org/franklin/Peter_Was_Never_in_Rome_Supplemental-OLD.pdf}