

WAS THE CHURCH BUILT ON PETER AND WAS PETER A POPE?

W J A Z RADIO

Good morning friends, we are happy to come your way with Bible answers to some important questions. We are truly thankful for the way the lesson was received last week. Your interest in writing for copies of the sermon shows that good people are still interested in studying the Bible. Isn't it wonderful to live ⁱⁿ a country where friends and neighbors of differing faiths may consider their difference with mutual respect?

The sermon this morning, like the one last week, is presented with the conviction that there are sincere, honest people in all churches. But just as Paul was completely sincere while he was completely in error and persecuting Christians, so today, good, honest people may be in religious error. We trust that each listener and reader of this sermon will examine the scriptures to see whether these things are so.....THE BIBLE IS RIGHT!

The sermon this morning contains the answer to two important questions: "Was The Church Built On Peter," and "Was Peter A Pope?"

Concerning the question "Was The Church Built On Peter?" we go to the gospel of Matthew chapter 16: 13-20,

"Now when Jesus came into the parts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Who do men say that the Son of man is? And they said, Some say John the Baptist; some, Elijah; and others Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. He said unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-Jonah: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but

my Father who is in heaven. And I aslo say unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Then charged he the disciples that they should tell no man that he was the Christ."

If one reads this passage in the original Greek he will read the words as follows: "Thou art Petros(masculine, a stone) and upon that very rock(petra, feminine, a ledge of rock) I will build my church.....I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shalt have been loosed in heaven."

The keys of the kingdom were used by Peter to open the doors of the church. In Peter's great sermon in Acts 2, he told the great multitude to "repent ye, and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins: and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." About three thousand Jews obeyed, and the Lord added them to the church. Later, Peter used the keys to admit Gentiles as recorded in Acts chapter 10.

The power of binding and loosing was given not only to Peter but to all the apostles. Matthew 18:18 and John 20:22-23. They taught only as they were inspired of God and their teachings are with us today in the New Testament. It should be noted that the power of binding and loosing was never given to anyone ~~###~~ except the apostles,

and there is no God-given authority for this power to be
 down
 passed on/to others.

Was the church founded on Peter? Not

"Other foundation can no man lay than
 that which is laid, which is Jesus
 Christ." (1 Cor. 3:11).

Now for a summary of this question to see what God's
 word has revealed to us.

(1). The apostles and none other, were given the
 power to bind and loose, and that only by the
 authority of Christ.

(2). The church was founded on Christ. (1 Cor. 3:11).

With the Bible having given us the answer to this
 question let us now consider the next question, "Was Peter
 A Pope?" Since the entire structure of Catholicism rests
 upon the premise that Peter was a Pope, this claim will be
 considered in detail.

Peter did not fit the Papal pattern because he was
 poor. When asked for alms, he said, "Silver and gold have
 I none" (Acts 3:6). Peter was unable to pay a halfshekel
 tax until provided with money by a miracle (Matthew 17:24-
 27). He did not dwell in palaces, surrounded by gold and
 Jewels.

Peter did not fit the Papal pattern, because he was
 married. (Matthew 8:14). In following Christ, Peter "left
 all" (Matthew 19:27), but he did not leave his wife (1 Cor.
 9:5). Peter was an elder, as well as an apostle (1 Peter
 5:1). It is required that elders be married men with faith-
 ful children (Titus 1:6).

Peter did not fit the Papal pattern because he was humble. He would not allow anyone to call him "father", since this was condemned by Jesus (Matthew 23:8-11). The only title he ever claimed for himself was "Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ" (2 Peter 1:1). Peter was never carried about on a throne for throngs to bow down before him. When Cornelius bowed before him, Peter said, "Stand up, I myself also am a man" (Acts 10:26). Forseeing the arrogance and pride of false religious rulers who would be powerful, he exhorted elders not to lord it over the church (I Peter 5:3). He spoke of himself humbly as "a fellow-elder" (I Peter 5:1), and when he used the term "chief Shepherd" he was referring not to himself but to Christ (I Peter 5:4).

Peter did not fit the Papal pattern because he did not consider himself infallible. Jesus once rebuked Peter by saying, "Get thee behind me, Satan" (Matthew 16:23). Peter denied his Lord three times. Peter was guilty of a serious error of conduct in which he led others into error. He was rebuked "before them all" by Paul (Gal 2:11-14). In considering a doctrinal question in Jerusalem Peter was only one of the speakers (Acts 15). It was James, not Peter, (Acts 15:19) who spoke the final word.

Peter did not fit the Papal pattern since he did not teach that he was the head of the church. Peter taught of only one "chief Shepherd" (I Peter 5:4), and that was Christ. Peter taught that the "stone" and "rock" upon which the church was built was not a man but Christ (I Peter 2:6-8). This teaching agreed with the conversation

that Jesus had with Peter (Matthew 16:15-19), where they were not talking about which man to build the church, but the great question Jesus asked was, "Who say ye that I am?" When Peter gave the correct answer, Jesus answered, "Upon this rock I will build my church." Peter was given the keys of the kingdom of heaven with the power of binding and loosing. This power was shared by the other apostles (Matthew 18:18, John 20:21-23). Since Peter did not consider himself the head of the church, he made no provision for anyone to succeed him. He said nothing about successors.

Peter did not fit the Papal pattern because the other apostles did not regard him as their superior. Paul said, "I am not a whit behind the very chiefest apostles" (2Cor. 11:5). And it was Paul who had publicly rebuked Peter for his erroneous conduct (Gal. 2:11-14), Peter was referred to as as one of the pillars of the church (Gal. 2:9). Notice Peter was ONE of the pillars, not head of all the churches. The church had been "built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone" (Eph. 2:20). The church was built on the "apostles," plural, not on one apostle. Although false teachers have attempted to build the church on Peter, "other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 3:11). Peter was one of the favorite three of the Lord, Peter, James, and John. He was impulsive and a natural leader. He was a beloved and faithful apostle. He was prominent but he was not pre-eminent.

Peter did not fit the Papal pattern because he was not in Rome. There is no Biblical evidence that he was ever in Rome. Paul wrote to the Roman Christians and saluated 27 persons (Romans 16:3-15) but did not mention Peter. In the last letter ~~#####~~ Paul wrote to Timothy from Rome, he said, "Only Luke is with me," and "At my first defence, no one took my part, but all forsook me" (2Timothy 4:11,16). Where was Peter? He was not in Rome.

Peter did not fit the Papal pattern because Peter taught doctrines different from that of the Pope. Peter believed in baptizing only those who had been taught, and who had repented (Acts 2:38). There is no record of his baptizing anyone who was too young to understand what he was doing. Peter taught that disciples of Christ should wear the name "Christian" (I Peter 4:16). Peter did not believe in traditions, but taught that God's word contains "All things that pertain unto life and godliness" (2 Peter 1:3). Peter agreed with the doctrine that Jesus Christ is the only head of the church (Col. 1:18, 2:10, Eph. 1:22, 4:15, 5:23), and that Christ nowhere authorized any man to be head of the church on earth since "All authority in heaven ^{on} and/earth" had been given to Christ. (Matthew 28:18).

Now let us summarize what we have learned from the Bible on this second question:

- (1). Peter did not fit the Papal pattern because he was poor.
- (2). He was humble.
- (3). He did not consider himself infallible.

(4). He did not teach that he was the head of the church.

(5). The other apostles did not consider him their superior.

(6). He was not in Rome.

(7). He differed in doctrine from the Popes.

When it is proved that Peter was not a Pope, the whole structure of Catholicism and Protestantism falls, with the so-called "successors" of Peter. Protestantism came from Catholicism and for sometime has been drifting back to it in teachings and practice.....Our aim in teaching God's Word is not to make Catholics nor Protestants but Christians and Christians only. The word of God makes Christians and Christians only. This is the reason we plead with you to study the Bible and do only what the Lord commands you to do.

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