

Was Peter Ever in Rome? II (Church at Home) Fred R. Coulter

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.

We've been covering the topic: Peter was never in Rome! We also saw that Peter was not that rock on which Jesus would build His Church. Jesus built His Church on Himself!

- He is the Head of the Church!
- He is the Chief Cornerstone!

Not the pope!

God never granted any authority to any man at any time to assume the powers claimed by the Pope of Rome. We just saw in Acts 3 how they healed the man at the Gate Beautiful. After that, because of their preaching it says in Acts 4:4 that 5,000 people believe. This upset the priests and the Pharisees and Sadducees and elders. Remember, they were the ones who agreed to have Jesus put to death.

Remember now, all of this is coming back upon them in a way that they never expected. Jesus rose from the dead! They never found the body! Don't you believe that if they would have ever found the body that it would have been displayed showing that this was the body of Jesus? That His resurrection from the dead was hoax palmed off by the apostles? No siree!

Let's see what happened after the apostles were arrested and put in prison overnight. Here in Acts 4 is like the calling together in the United States of a joint session of congress with the President to give a speech.

Acts 4:5: "Now, it came to pass in the morning *that* their rulers and elders and scribes were assembled together in Jerusalem, and Annas, the high priest, and Caiaphas... [those are the ones who condemned Jesus] ...and John and Alexander, and as many as were of *the* high priest's lineage" (vs 5-6). *They were all there with all of their official garb!*

Verse 7: "And after placing them... [all 12 apostles] ...in the midst, they inquired..."

Now, you have to picture this. Here they all are, the great Jewish inquisition of the apostles.

"...By what power or in what name did you do this?... [miracle of healing the man] ...Then Peter, filled with *the* Holy Spirit, said to them,

'Rulers of the people and elders of Israel, if we are examined this day as to a good work *done to the* infirm man, by what *power* he has been cured, be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarean, **Whom you crucified, but Whom God has raised from the dead, by Him this man stands before you whole.**' (vs 7-10).

Now notice that Peter never assumed to himself that he was the rock on whom Jesus would build His Church. Notice what Peter said:

Verse 11: "This is the Stone [Jesus Christ] that was set at naught by you, the builders, which has become the Head of *the* corner" (vs 7-11)--*not Peter!* What a perfect chance for him to say:

Now look all you leaders of Jerusalem and all you priests there, Jesus has set up a new system and I am the head of it and I am the pope and all of these followers bow down and kiss my ring and kiss my feet. Unless you rulers of the Sanhedrin and the Jewish people do likewise, you're all going to be in trouble.

Perfect time to do so, but he didn't do it, did he? Sometimes we need to point out the obvious by looking at the reverse side of things.

Notice what he said in v 12, because remember Jesus said to those Jews and Pharisees:

I know you, that you do not have the love of God within you, and that if you would listen to Moses or believe Moses—through whom you think you have eternal life—those are the Scriptures that Jesus said spoke of Me.'

So, here are the same ones here:

Verse 12: "And there is no salvation in any other. For neither is there another name under heaven which has been given among men by which we must be saved."

No hint at all that Peter took authority to himself. He gave all credit to Jesus Christ, God the Father, correct? *Yes, indeed!*

Now, those at this august meeting, all the learned, all the educated, all the elite of the age of Peter's time, they looked at them and they saw that these were unlearned men, fishermen, common folk 'talking to us like that?'

I mean, sometimes you get that feeling from the government, and from church members and things, don't you? *Yes, indeed!*

They were stuck with a problem, because standing right there was the man that they healed. They got together and said:

Now, what are we going to do with these men? We can't deny the miracle because look, the man is standing right here. What are we going to do? Well, since we're the authorities, we will command them never to speak in this name again.

Well, you know what happened? After they left, they [the apostle] went out and preached more and did more miracles and other things like that, didn't they?

Now, this is happening in the period as you follow along in the chronology, from 30 and 31_{A.D.} and then beginning in 32_{A.D.}, we'll cover some other things. We'll skip over some of the things in the chronology, but I want you to download this chronology—

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

—and I want you to go through it and follow it with the sermons that we're giving. Now, let's see what else happened:

Acts 5—After 'cheats' came in and tried to lie about how much they sold the estate for: Ananias and Sapphira both died and they wound them up and buried them, and great fear fell upon the Church at that point.

Acts 5:11: "Then great fear came upon the whole Church, and upon all who heard these things."

Now, notice what was happening in Jerusalem. Great things were taking place. God's Spirit was working really big time.

Verse 12: "And many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch"—*right at the temple, right at the place where the great Sanhedrin would meet!*

Verse 13: "And none of the others dared to join them, but the people magnified them; and believers were added all the more to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women" (vs 13-14).

Great things were done. The priests and Sadducees were watching all of this happening. They were seeing the people that used to come to them going to the apostles. Oh, what a terrible thing that was. They couldn't handle it, as we will see.

Verse 14: "And believers were added all the more to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women), insomuch *that the people were* bringing out the sick into the streets and putting *them* on beds and stretchers, so that at least the shadow of Peter

passing by might overshadow some of them" (vs 14-15). *Did Peter stop and say:*

Well, now aren't you lucky? I'm the first pope and my shadow passed by and you were healed. Look how great I am. Kiss my ring! No, kiss my feet! And know, if you'll go against anything that I say, you're going to burn in hell forever.

Well, Peter didn't do that.

Let's continue on and see what happened here.

Verse 16: "And a multitude from the cities round about also came together to Jerusalem, bringing sick ones and those beset by unclean spirits; *and* they were all healed. Then the high priest rose up, and all those with him, being of *the* sect of the Sadducees; *and* they were filled with anger" (vs 16-17).

Why, they should have been happy! They should have run out there and brought in Peter, put a crown on him, and say, 'Yes, you are the man, Peter!' *No, they didn't!*

They went out and arrested them and put them in prison, so they could cross-examine them in the morning. So what happened? *Well, God sent an angel, unlocked the doors and they all got out!* The guards were standing there, and when they came to get them, the doors were locked, the guards were there. They never knew what happened, and all twelve of the apostles were released, and the angel told them:

Verse 20: "Go and stand in the temple, *and* speak to the people all the words of this life."

Notice what the high priest said to them. Remember, he's the one who persuaded Pilate to crucify Jesus Christ. So, they got all the apostles there, and the high priest said to them:

Verse 28: "Saying, 'Did we not order you by a *direct* command not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, with *the* purpose of bringing this man's blood upon us.'"

No, they said, 'Let His blood be upon us and on our children.' ***They brought it on themselves!***

Verse 29: "But Peter ***and*** the apostles..." *There was no highly exalted papal office for Peter!*

Answered and said, 'We are obligated to obey our new pope.' *No, no, no, no, no, no!*

"...***We are obligated to obey God rather than men***" (v 29)—*telling this august authoritative assembly of the leaders of the Jewish nation and*

Judea that they were not going to obey them!

So they wanted to kill them. Then Gamaliel said:

Now put the apostles out? I want to give you a little advice.

I'm going to paraphrase it here:

Now we've had insurrections in the past and we've had movements in the past, but they all came to nothing. So, I want to tell you this, that ***IF this be of men, it will come to nothing!***

But IF it be of God, you better be careful lest you are found, all of you leaders here, fighting God!

So, they followed his advice and then they decided 'we will beat them and let them go.' Let's see what they did.

Verse 40: "And they were persuaded by him; and they called in the apostles *and*, after beating *them*, commanded *them* not to speak in the name of Jesus; and they released them."

They [the apostles] came back happy that they were able to suffer on account of Jesus. But they [the Jewish leaders] couldn't stop them.

Verse 42: "And every day, in the temple and in the houses, they did not cease teaching and preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

This brings us pretty much to the conclusion of two full years.

Then we come to Acts 6 & 7, which is the martyrdom of Stephen. And Stephen, after giving a tremendous abbreviated history of how God brought the nation of Israel out of Egypt, and he first called Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and so forth, and then all the sins that Israel continually committed.

Here is another witness by Stephen. Why not Peter, 'the pope'? Hmm, no such thing. So, here's Stephen, someone just recently ordained as a deacon, notice what he tells them. *Notice this powerful witness!*

The leaders in Judea, the priesthood, the elders, the Sadducees and the Pharisees. *This was the last witness that they had and given a chance to repent!*

From this time forward, it was destined that they would be slaughtered and killed, and the temple destroyed and razed to the ground, just like Jesus said, 'without a stone being left upon a stone.'

Stephen gives this witness to them because you see, everything the Jews looked to was the temple. Today it's the same thing. They say, 'When

the temple is built, the Messiah is going to return.' Well, in that they may be *partially* correct.

But even what Stephen, in quoting from the Old Testament, told them that 'God does not dwell in buildings made by the hands of men, ***but in those who are converted.***'

- ***IF*** that's the case, why do the Catholics have St. Peter's Basilica with all the idols and everything that's in there?
- ***IF*** Peter was the first pope?
- ***IF*** he brought the true Gospel of Christ?

Well, Peter did, but the pope never has!

So, let's read what Stephen says here:

Acts 7:48: "However, the Most High does not dwell in temples made by hands, as the Prophet [Christ] says: 'The heaven *is* My Throne, and the earth *is* a footstool for My feet. What house will you build for Me, says *the* Lord, or what *is the* place of My rest? Have not My hands made all these things?'" (vs 48-50).

Don't you understand? The great God who made the heavens and the earth doesn't need a building made by men as a place for Him to dwell in.

Now, notice what he says to them; notice how the Holy Spirit inspired Stephen. This is a greater and more powerful message than Peter, who was *supposedly to be the first pope*, ever gave to them when he spoke to them.

So now, do we make Stephen the first pope? No, because he died. Let's look at his witness here:

Verse 51: "O stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You do always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers *did*, so also *do* you. Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, of Whom you have become the betrayers and murderers; who received the Law by *the* disposition of angels, but have not kept *it.*' And when they heard these things, **they were cut to their hearts, and they gnashed their teeth at him**" (vs 51-54).

No repentance! No repentance! They were vengeful. They were hateful. They were murderous.

Verse 55: "But he [Stephen], being filled with *the* Holy Spirit, looked intently into heaven *and* saw *the* glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God." *That's the One Whom they killed, Whom God resurrected!*

It doesn't say, 'and they all fell on their face, repenting, tearing their garments.' *No, no, no!*

- no love of God
- no Truth of God
- no understanding of God

They were just driven on by their hatred and vehement attitude toward Jesus Christ.

Verse 57: “Then they cried out with a loud voice, *and* stopped their ears, and rushed upon him with one accord, and cast *him* out of the city *and* stoned *him*....” (vs 57-58). ***So much for the love of God!***

Verse 59: “And they stoned Stephen, who called upon *God*, saying, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’”

Notice his attitude just before the instant that he died:

Verse 60: “And he fell to his knees *and* cried with a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not lay this sin to their charge.’ And after he had said this, he died.” ***Quite a witness to them!***

This brings us into two full years after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Notice that ***the greatest witness to them came from a deacon***, not from Peter! ***Peter was never the first pope, and he never went to Rome!***

We will see that with all the other things that we are going to cover with this.

Then we have Acts 8 that we already covered, how that the apostles sent down Peter and John to where Simon Magus was. Remember, ***Simon Magus was the one who used sorceries! That’s witchcraft!*** That is today the equivalent of the New Age religion. ‘I’m okay, you’re okay.’ You don’t need anything but yourself.

Simon Magus *pretended* to be an apostle of Jesus Christ, but he was not. There were a lot of false apostles, so much so that the Church at Ephesus...

Come to Rev. 2, where God says to this Church, Christ did! ***Here’s what we are to do:***

- don’t believe anyone who says he’s an apostle
- don’t believe anyone who says he sits in the seat of Peter
- don’t believe him when he says he’s the vicar of Christ

Christ does not need evil, idolatrous men to be His ministers! They are the **ministers of Satan the devil!**

Now, when the Church was developing, yes, everyone wanted to use the name of Jesus Christ, just like they have today. Notice what Jesus says to the Church at Ephesus:

Revelation 2:2: “I know your works, and your labor, and your endurance, and that you cannot bear those who are evil; and *that* you did test those who proclaim *themselves* to be apostles, **but are not, and did find them liars.**”

That’s what we are to do. ***We are to prove everything!***

As the Apostle Paul said; 1-Thessalonians 5:21: **“Prove all things. Hold fast to that which is good.”**

This is what we are doing. We are going to do a survey of the book of Acts, and we will see:

- Where did Peter go?
- When did he go?
- What did he do?
- Did he ever at any time go to Rome?
- Did Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, ever acknowledge that Peter had been in Rome?

That’s what we need to do! We need to do like the Bereans did: ***search the Scriptures to see if these things are true or not!***

Now, let me just tell you one final thing: **You will never receive eternal life IF you are living in sin and believing in lies, and accepting a false Jesus and a false system that calls itself the Church of Jesus Christ**—the Roman Catholic Church. And ***no other church that has idolatry or Sunday-keeping*** is a true representative of the true Jesus Christ and God the Father.

Only those who keep the commandments of God have the testimony of Jesus Christ and the faith of Jesus Christ. Those are the few, and you need to find out where they are. ***That begins with Church at Home.***

Be sure and visit our other website where we have hundreds of messages. {truthofGod.org} Download the chronology and we’ll post up pretty quickly another article, which will be, “Peter was never buried in Rome, but on the Mount of Olives.”

So, until next time, thank you for inviting me into your homes. And so long, everyone.

Scriptural References:

- 1) Acts 4:5-12
- 2) Acts 5:11-17, 20, 28-29, 40, 42
- 3) Acts 7:48-55, 57-60
- 4) Revelation 2:2
- 5) 1 Thessalonians 5:21

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Acts 3; 4:4; 8

Also referenced:

Chronology:

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

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Transcribed: 12/28/23