

Synopsis of the life of St. Peter

Peter, probably confused by the death of Jesus, after witnessing the empty tomb went to Galilee. There at Lake Tiberias he encountered the risen Lord where the miraculous draft of fishes was re-enacted and, following his denial of Jesus, was restored to service.

In Jerusalem, prior to Jesus' ascension, the disciples were instructed not to depart from there but to wait for the "promise of the Father", to receive power by baptism with the Holy Spirit. It was there Peter stood up to compel the eleven disciples to name a replacement for Judas Iscariot, in accordance with the scriptures. At Pentecost, filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter used "the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven" to preach the Gospel to people from all over the world who gathered in Jerusalem to observe Passover and the feast of weeks. Even though all spoke different languages they were amazed they could all understand. On that day 3,000 people became Christians!

While still in Jerusalem a lame beggar asked Peter for money but instead received the gift of healing. This miracle gave Peter a further opportunity to preach the Gospel as a crowd gathered when they saw the lame man walking, jumping and praising God. As a result 2,000 more men believed. Arrested by the Jewish priests & Sadducees Peter did not deny Jesus but instead "filled with the Holy Spirit" told his captors "It is by the name of Jesus Christ...that this man stands before you healed." The Sanhedrin forbade Peter to teach in the name of Jesus, but Peter told them "Whether it is right in the sight of God to obey you more than God, judge for yourselves."

He was the agent of Divine judgement when Ananias and Sapphira lied, secretly conspiring to hold back part of the proceeds from the sale of possessions. With John he went to Samaria to lay hands on new Christians, following the preaching of the Gospel by Philip, in order to give them the gift of the Holy Spirit. There he rebuked Simon, a sorcerer, who sort to acquire the gift of the Holy Spirit with money. He travelled to Lydda and healed Aeneas, a man who was paralyzed and had been lying in bed for 8 years. In Joppa he raised Tabitha from the dead and from there, after the "vision" on the roof top of the house of Simon, the tanner, he was prompted by the Holy Spirit to go to Caesarea, to the house of Cornelius, a Roman centurion who was a devout God-fearing man. As he preached the Holy Spirit "fell on all them that heard". The first Gentile Christians.

Sometime later King Herod began persecuting Christians. He caught James, the brother of John, and had him beheaded. This pleased the Jews so he had Peter arrested and thrown in prison. The night before his trial, Peter who was asleep and bound with chains between two guards, was delivered by an angel.

Later Peter briefly returned to Jerusalem with Paul to convince the Jewish Christians there that Gentiles did not have to be circumcised to be saved. After this not much is known about Peter's life. Early Christian writers tell us that Peter may have ended up in Rome where it is thought he wrote his letters 1 & 2 Peter.

St. Peter after our Lord's Crucifixion

Scripture References

Click on each of the links below, ([blue underlined](#)), to see the scripture verses at BibleGateway:

1. His denial of Jesus, and his repentance ([Matthew 26:69-75; Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:55-62; John 18:17.](#))
2. Visits the gravesite of Jesus ([Luke 24:12; John 20:2-6](#))
3. Jesus sends message to, after the resurrection ([Mark 16:7](#))
4. Jesus appears to ([Luke 24:34; 1 Corinthians 15:4,5](#))
5. Present at Lake Tiberias when Jesus appeared to his disciples; jumps into the water, and comes to shore when Jesus is recognized; is commissioned to feed the flock of Christ ([1 John 21:1-23](#))
6. Lives in Jerusalem ([Acts 1:13](#))
7. His statement in front of the disciples concerning the death of Judas, and his recommendation that the vacancy in the apostleship be filled ([Acts 1:15-22](#))
8. Preaches on Pentecost day ([Acts 2:14-40](#))
9. Heals the immobile man in the portico of the temple ([Acts 3](#))
10. Accused by the council; his defence ([Acts 4:1-23](#))
11. Foretells the death of Ananias and Sapphira ([Acts 5:1-11](#))
12. Imprisoned and scourged; his defence before the council ([Acts 5:17-42](#))
13. Goes to Samaria ([Acts 8:14](#))
14. Prays for the reception of the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit ([Acts 8:15-18](#))
15. Rebukes Simon, the sorcerer, who desires to purchase this power ([Acts 8:18-24](#))
16. Returns to Jerusalem ([Acts 8:25](#))
17. Receives Paul ([Galatians 1:18;2:9](#))
18. Visits Lydda; heals Aeneas ([Acts 9:32-34](#))
19. Visits Joppa; stays with Simon, the tanner; raises Dorcas from the dead ([Acts 9:36-43](#))
20. Has a vision of a sheet containing ceremonially clean and unclean animals ([Acts 10:9-16](#))
21. Receives the servant of the centurion; goes to Caesarea; preaches and immerses the centurion and his household ([Acts 10](#))
22. Advocates the preaching of the gospel to the Gentiles in the hearing of the apostles and elders ([Acts 11:1-18;15:7-11](#))
23. Imprisoned and delivered by an angel ([Acts 12:3-19](#))
24. Writes two epistles ([1 Peter 1:1; 2 Peter 1:1](#))