

A STONE CALLED PETER

An Article by
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Peter's name before he met the Lord Jesus was Simon. He was the son of a man called Jonah. (Matthew 16:17) He had a brother (probably an older brother) called Andrew. (Matthew 4:18; John 1:40-42) He was married by the time he met Jesus, but we are not told whether he had children. (Mark 1:30; 1Corinthians 9:5) Family history is often not important in the gospels. The Bible often focuses instead on a person's relationship with God as an individual responding in obedience to the will of God for their life.

Simon was an ordinary fisherman when he met the Lord Jesus. He was not (highly) educated. (Acts 4:13; Matthew 4:18) He was in this business along with James and John, the sons of Zebedee. When he accepted to be discipled by Jesus, the Lord gave him a new family name, Peter. The name Peter means "stone" or "rock". The Lord Jesus gave the name a great significance when He linked it to building His Church on "this rock". (Matthew 16:18) From that time, he was called Simon Peter.

THE CALLING OF PETER – Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 4:38-39; Luke 5:1-11; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-19;

Peter was called at a time when his fishing business was not going well. (Matthew 4:19; Mark 1:17) Jesus promised to make him and his business associates – James and John – "fishers of men." Obviously, he accepted the call but he did not follow Christ as a full time missionary. He still attended to his trade until in Luke 5:1-11 when he gave it all up, despite the fact that at that time Jesus Christ prospered that trade for him.

SOME IMPORTANT THINGS ABOUT PETER DURING THE EARTHLY LIFE OF CHRIST

- ✚ Brought to Jesus by Andrew – John 1:40-42
- ✚ Named "Cephas" or Peter by Jesus – John 1:42
- ✚ Appointed to ministry by Jesus – Matthew 4:18-22; Matthew 10:2-4; Matthew 16:18
- ✚ A devoted family man, introduced his family to Jesus Christ – Matthew 8:14-15
- ✚ Knew by revelation from God that Jesus was the Messiah – Matthew 16:13-19; 2Corinthians 5:16
- ✚ Walked on water by faith in Christ – Matthew 14:22-33
- ✚ Witnessed many miracles of Christ directly, including private ones – Mark 1:29-39; Luke 8:49-56
- ✚ Witnessed the Transfiguration of Christ – Matthew 17:1-8; 2Peter 1:16-18
- ✚ Was entrusted with the keys of God's kingdom on earth – Matthew 16:19
- ✚ Loyal to Christ enough to want kill those who want to kill Jesus – John 18:10-11
- ✚ A versatile learner, willing to ask important questions – Matthew 18:21
- ✚ A humble follower, willing to worship Jesus at all times – John 13:6-10
- ✚ Ignorant of the importance of crucifixion – Matthew 16:21-23
- ✚ Denied Christ in fear of his life, but sorrowed bitterly later in repentance – Matthew 26:69-75
- ✚ Was at Christ's empty tomb on the day of resurrection – John 20:1-8
- ✚ Witnessed the ascension of Jesus Christ – Acts 1:9-14

REMARKABLE TRAITS AS HE FOLLOWED JESUS

- 📖 Moved from being a coward to boldness – Matthew 14:28-31; Matthew 26: 58, 69-74
- 📖 Changed from being impulsive to humbleness – John 18:10
- 📖 Matured in his understanding – from ignorance to true knowledge – Matthew 16:21-22
- 📖 Changed from being inquisitive to submissiveness – John 21:21-22
- 📖 Changed from pride in his own ability to dependence on Christ – Matthew 26:33-34
- 📖 Accepted responsibility – Matthew 17:24-27; John 21:15-23; Acts 1:15-26; Acts 3:12-26
- 📖 Performed miracles – Mark 6:7; Luke 10:17; Acts 3:1-11; Acts 9:36-43
- 📖 Baptised in the Holy Ghost – Acts 2:1-4; Acts 4:23-31
- 📖 Foremost Apostle in the Jerusalem Church and in the Church at large – Acts 1:15-26; Acts 2:14-47