

ACTS 1:15

A. Acts 1:15 - And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)

1. Peter is not usurping authority because of carnal **pride** or personal ego. He is there because **Christ** had appointed him, chosen of the 12, to be the leader who will represent Christ. That is why he stands up here in private and later in public.

Acts 2:14 - But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

2. The number (120 men) indicates they had a roll **book**, or registry, in this Messianic Church. They had a way of knowing the names and number of people in this church in Jerusalem.

*When you get together 120 Jews and they are in one accord (vs. 14), you have something **special**!

3. An O.T. comparison: II Chronicles 5:11-14 - And it came to pass, when the priests were come out of the holy *place*: (for all the priests *that were* present were sanctified, *and* did not *then* wait by course: 2Chron. 5:12 Also the Levites *which were* the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, *being* arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:) 2Chron. 5:13 It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers *were* as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up *their* voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, *saying*, For *he is* good; for his mercy *endureth* for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD; 2Chron. 5:14 So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God.

*In Acts 1 and 2, there are 120 (ready to be **priests**) waiting to be filled with the Holy Spirit!

4. Also note: (Same Context) - II Chronicles 5:10 - *There was nothing in the ark save the two tables which Moses put therein at Horeb, when the LORD made a covenant with the children of Israel, when they came out of Egypt.*

*They were the two tables of the Law and it is referring to the event in Exodus!

a. Remember in Exodus when Moses came down from the Mount and there was debauchery going on in the camp of Israel? Moses told them to choose - "Who is on the Lord's side?".

Exodus 32:28 - And the children of Levi did according to the word of Moses: and there fell of the people that day about three thousand men.

b. *When God gave the Law, it resulted in the immediate slaying of **3000** people.

**Then in Acts 2, there were 120 in the upper room who were filled with the Holy Spirit. How many were saved from Peter's sermon?

Acts 2:40-41 - And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. Acts 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

c. 3000 died when inaugurating the **Old** Covenant, and now in Acts, 3000 are saved to inaugurate the **New** Covenant to Israel!

5. It is **not** as some say: "It's the Body of Christ." **No!** It is what God is doing with Israel. It is not God bringing death (Law), but salvation to Israel's Little Flock (New Covenant).

B. One other thing: Peter was **never** a Pope!

*Dawson Barlow on Peter:

1. The R.C.C. says Simon Peter was their church's first pope.

*They say he moved to Rome in A.D. 42 and served as the Primate of Rome until A.D. 64, when he was crucified upside down. The cemetery supposedly became the building site for the basilica of St. Peter, now known as the Vatican.

2. For Peter being in Rome they use: I Peter 5:13 - The *church that is at Babylon*, elected together with *you*, saluteth you; and *so doth* Marcus my son.

*They say Babylon is an allegorical reference to Rome, or a symbolic reference to Rome. Interesting! It is strange that the term "Mystery Babylon" in the Revelation (17) is a reference to **Rome**, yet it is denied by the R.C.C. that it is referring to Rome.

C.

Our Answer:

1. Peter was not the Pope because he was **married**. This celibacy doctrine for priests has always been the standard for the R.C.C. However, Peter was married and his wife often travelled **with** him.

Matthew 8:14 - And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever.

Luke 4:38 - And he arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her.

I Corinthians 9:5 - Have we not power to lead about a sister, a wife, as well as other apostles, and *as* the brethren of the Lord, and Cephas?

I Timothy 4:1-3 - Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; 1Tim. 4:2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; 1Tim. 4:3 Forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

2. I believe Peter was in **literal** Babylon with his wife. So what was Peter doing in Babylon? Remember, at the Jerusalem Council in Acts 15 (**24** years after Pentecost), it was agreed that Peter and the 11 would go to the **Jewish** population. Paul would go to the Gentiles - each with his own distinctive message.

Galatians 2:7-9 - But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as *the gospel* of the circumcision *was* unto Peter; Gal. 2:8 (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:) Gal. 2:9 And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we *should go* unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

*One of the heaviest Jewish populations, at that time, was in Babylon (captivity?) and that is **why** Peter was there.

3. Peter said he was at Babylon and that should be **good** enough for us all.
4. One of the reasons Paul wanted to go to Rome was so he might have the privilege to build a work for Christ and His Body Church. This was so that he also would **not** build upon another man's work.

**In other words, Peter was not in Rome. If he were, then Paul would be building on [another man's foundation].

5. The city of Rome is mentioned only **9** times in the N.T., and not **one** time is Peter mentioned in those references. Nor did Peter **ever** mention Rome in either of his two epistles.

*However, when Paul journeyed to that city it is recorded in minute **detail** in Acts 27-28.

D. Other Biblical arguments that contradict Peter's presence ever being in Rome.

*It's claimed by the R.C.C. that Peter served as the head of the church from A.D. 42-64.

Answers:

1. Paul was converted approximately in A.D. **36** or **37**. Paul says he went to see Peter **3** years after his salvation. That places the date close to A.D. 40. So Peter is **in Jerusalem** in A.D. 40.

2. Peter made a missionary journey to Lydia-Joppa-and Caesarea in Acts 9-11. When he returned to Jerusalem he was **imprisoned** under Herod Agrippa's orders.

Josephus (historian) records Agrippa died in the fourth year of the reign of Claudius. That is late A.D. 45 and Peter is **still in Jerusalem - now there is a discrepancy with tradition that Peter had already been in Rome for 3 years.

3. In Galatians 2:1, **14** years after his first visit to Peter, Paul again went up to Jerusalem to see Peter. Now note: In Galatians 1:8, it says after 3 years (after his conversion) Paul went to see Peter for 15 days. Then in Gal. 2:1-2, 7-9, it says Paul went up to Jerusalem to tell of his gospel and Peter is **still** there!

*This brings us up to A.D. **54!** **Remember Rome's claim of A.D. 42-64. They say Peter had been serving as Pope at this time at least **12** years!

4. In A.D. 58, Paul wrote the Book of Romans. In the last chapter he greets **27** people by name, but there is **no** mention of Peter. That would be **un**thinkable for Paul not to mention the first head - Pope of the Church - ***if true***. The fact is, Peter was **not** in Rome but in Babylon as he said.

5. Paul said: Romans 15:20 - Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation:

*But according to the R.C.C., Peter had been there 16+ years establishing Christianity. (**Untrue**).

6. Just before Paul's death in A.D. 67 in Rome, he said only Luke was with him and **no** Christian man stood with him (II Tim. 4:11, 16). If Peter was Pope, no doubt he had influenced many others. Where were they (or even one person) to help and encourage Paul?

7. The best reason, or argument, of all is when Peter and the other apostles saw the grace given to Paul (Gal. 2:9) and they **disc**erned the **dist**inct apostleship and message given to Paul to the Gentiles and Jews.

a. *The apostles **clearly** comprehended that the commission the Lord had given them was now on hold. What they did not know was the duration of this **time**. They only knew they were no longer commissioned to go to all the world. They now would go **only**-exclusively to the Jews - and Paul to the Gentiles-pagans.

Galatians 2:7-9 - But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision was unto Peter; Gal. 2:8 (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:) Gal. 2:9 And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

b. *Note: Rome was the **Gentile head**quarters of the known world and Peter would have had no cause to go there. But Paul would have every reason to go there to fulfill the commission given to him by Christ - (Acts 9:15 - But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:).

8. One final thought. Peter was not the foundation the Church was built upon. But understand, neither was Paul! Note Paul's own words.

I Corinthians 3:10-11 - According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. 1Cor. 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Questions?:

1. What is the difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant?
2. When does the New Covenant begin and what then was Acts 2-7?
3. What do you think was the best reason for proving the first Pope was not Peter?
4. Why was Paul so important in our discussion in this lesson?
5. Do you see/understand in this lesson why it is vital to take the literal view ("It means what it says") interpretation of the Scriptures?