

Footprints of Peter

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from Internet Sources)

Introduction:

- A. Πέτρος Petros; died AD 64 or 67, also known as Simon Peter, one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus Christ.
1. The son of John (or Jonah or Jona), he was from the village of Bethsaida in Galilee. His brother Andrew was also an apostle.
 2. Peter was originally a fisherman, along with his brother Andrew and the sons of Zebedee, James and John.
 3. He was called to be an apostle early in Christ's ministry from among His disciples, and is the first one named, possibly the eldest
 4. He was with Jesus during events witnessed by only himself, James and John, such as the Transfiguration and the Garden prayers.
 5. Peter was the first apostle to confess Jesus as the Messiah, and was the first to deny Him openly, the first to preach baptism into Christ on the day of Pentecost, and the first apostle to unintentionally divide the church over race.
- C. Peter's original name was Shimon or Simeon (Simon in modern English)
1. He was later given the name Peter, a name derived πέτρα (petra) the feminine form of stone.
 2. His name in Aramaic: Šim'ōn Kêfâ. The Syriac or Aramaic word for stone is kepha, which in Greek became Cephas (Greek: Κηφᾶς) and Kepha (Hebrew: כִּפָּא). Both Cephas and Kepha also mean stone
 3. Scholar Rudolf Pesch states that the Aramaic cepha means "stone, ball, clump, clew" and that petros means "small stone, firestone, sling stone, moving boulder"
- D. Jesus called Simon and his brother Andrew to be "fishers of men"
1. Matt. 4:18-19; Mark 1:16-17
 2. Peter owned the boat that Jesus used to preach to the multitudes who were pressing on Him at the shore of Lake Gennesaret - Luke 5:3
 3. Jesus amazes Simon and his companions James and John (Andrew is not mentioned) by telling them to lower their nets, whereupon they catch a huge number of fish. Immediately after this, they follow Him - Luke 5:4-11
 4. Peter returns to fishing after the resurrection of Jesus - John 21:3
- E. The Synoptic Gospels all recount how Peter's mother-in-law was healed by Jesus at their home in Capernaum
1. Matt. 8:14-17; Mark 1:29-31; Luke 4:38, which, coupled with 1Cor. 9:5, clearly depict Peter as a married man.
 2. His wife is unknown in the scriptures, but in Eastern traditions is known as Febronia.
 3. Brethren make too much over the argument that Peter was married, so he couldn't have been the first pope. That rule was not established until 800 years later. The Catholics accept that Peter was married

4. Likewise the rock/stone argument based on Peter's name. If you cannot prove your point from the text and need to resort to definitions of the original text, your argument is weak. The answer to who is the rock is found right in the scriptures

F. Peter's work

1. Peter walked on water for a moment - Matt. 14:28-31
2. Peter is called the apostle of little faith, by Jesus - Matt. 14:31
3. Peter refused to let Jesus wash his feet, but later changed his mind - John 13:2-11
4. When Jesus was arrested, Peter cut off the ear of a servant of the High Priest - John 18:10
5. Peter is the first person to enter the empty tomb - John 20:1-9
6. Peter was the first to see the risen Christ - 1Cor. 15:5
7. Peter had the special charge of being apostle to the Jews, just as Paul was apostle to the Gentiles - Gal. 2:7
8. Peter took lead in selecting a replacement for Judas Iscariot - Acts 1:15
9. He was twice arrested with John and brought before the Sanhedrin - Acts 4:7-22, 5:18-42
10. He undertook missionary journeys to Lydda, Joppa, Caesarea, and Antioch - Acts 9:32 - 10:2; and, according to reliable history, northern Egypt and central Assyria
 - a. He might have visited Corinth; a faction of Cephas existed there
11. He was instrumental in presenting the gospel to the Gentiles for the first time - Acts 10-11
12. Peter was put into prison by King Herod, but was rescued by an angel Acts 12
13. He is believed to have continued to mentor Mark after Paul
14. Peter He wrote two books of the New Testament, 1 & 2 Peter.
 - a. Several other books bear his name: the Acts of Peter, Gospel of Peter, Preaching of Peter, Apocalypse of Peter, and Judgment of Peter, but are universally rejected as apocryphal.

G. Jesus spoke of the death by which Peter would glorify God - John 21:18-19

1. Peter is said to have been crucified in Rome under Emperor Nero.
2. It is traditionally believed that he was crucified upside down at his own request, since he saw himself unworthy to be crucified in the same way as Jesus Christ.
3. Clement of Rome, in his Letter to the Corinthians, written 80–98 AD, speaks of Peter's martyrdom in the following eulogistic terms: "Let us take the noble examples of our own generation. Through jealousy and envy, the greatest and most just pillars of the Church were persecuted, and came even unto death. Peter, through unjust envy, endured not one or two but many labors, and at last, having delivered his testimony, departed unto the place of glory due to him."

H. Often we find ourselves walking in the footprints of Peter instead of Jesus

1. I have often said that I wish I could be more like Paul, but end up acting like Peter

2. Family Circus by Jeff Keane - "Billy likes to Wander"
3. Let's look at an example of one of Peter's wanderings to see if it reflects our own walk

I. PETER STEPS AWAY FROM GOD

- A. Self-confidence - Luke 22:33; 1Cor. 10:12
- B. Relaxation - Luke 22:44-46; Amos 6:1
- C. Desertion - Matt. 26:56; Luke 22:54
- D. Bad company - Luke 22:55; Psalm 1:1; 1Cor. 15:33
- E. Denial and profanity - Luke 22:56-60; Matt. 26:74

II. PETER STEPS BACK TOWARD GOD

- A. Remembered - Luke 22:61; Rev. 3:3
- B. He went out and grieved because he had sinned - Luke 22:62; Mark 14:72
- C. He went back to work - Luke 22:31-32; John 21:15-19

Conclusion:

- A. It is easy to see Peter's sins as well as the sins of others
- B. We must get to the point where we make the same choice as Peter to abandon our sinful choices and return home to God and His children
- C. 1John 1:6 - 2:2