

SIMON, HE SURNAMED PETER

PERSONAL INFORMATION:



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Nickname/Other:

Simon Bar-Jona (Simon, son of Jona, Mt 16:17; Jn 1:42) Symeon (Hebrew),

Simon (Greek) = “God has heard.”

Peter (Greek) = stone or rock.

Cephas (Aramaic) which translates to Peter (Greek) “stone.” (Joh 1:42; 1Co 1:12; 1Co 3:22; 1Co 9:5; 1Co 15:5; Ga 2:9)

General Information:

Hometown/Region: Bethsaida “the city of Andrew and Peter” (Jn 1:42-44)

Lived in Capernaum (Mt 8:5-14)

Fisherman by trade (Mt 4:18). Partners with James & John, and Andrew.

Family: Father - Jonas/John (Mt 16:17; Jn 1:42). Wife - Married (Mt 8:14; 1 Cor 9:5). Brother – Andrew (Mt 4:18)

MINISTRY INFORMATION:

Major Accomplishments during Jesus’ Ministry:

Andrew introduced Peter to Jesus (Jn 1:42-44)

¹ Apostle St. Peter, Museo de El Greco, Toledo

Jesus changed his name to Peter from Simon. (Mk 3:16; Jn 1:42)

Called by Jesus to be a “fisher of men” and left everything to follow Him (Mt 4:19; Lk 5:11))

Jesus healed his mother-in-law (Mt 8:14)

Peter is often singled out and the rest are mentioned as a group with him (Mk 1:36).

He also acts as a spokesman. In Luke 12 he asks Jesus about the meaning of a parable. In Matthew 16 he affirms Jesus as the Messiah, and then in chapter 19 he reminds Jesus of the sacrifices made by the apostles as a group.

He is often the first to act as well. Matthew 14 records Peter’s attempt to meet Jesus on the water, even though he loses heart midway.

Peter, James and John were with Jesus when Christ was transfigured [Christ’s divinity revealed] (Mk 9:2-8)

Jesus sent Peter & John ahead of him to prepare the upper room for the Passover meal (Lk 22:8)

Peter was armed with a sword on the night of Jesus betrayal and used it to protect Jesus. (Mt 26:51)

First to proclaim Jesus as the Christ, the son of the Living God. (Mt 16:16)

He was in the “inner circle” with Andrew, James and John. (Mk 5:37, 9:2; 13:3; 14:33; Mt 26:37)

Jesus took Peter, James, John with Him in the Garden of Eden (Mt 26:36-46)

Denied Jesus three (3) times as Jesus prophesied (Mt 26:69-74)

Like the others, he deserted Jesus during Jesus’ trials and crucifixion.

In John chapter 21, Jesus questions Peter’s love and admonishing him to “feed my sheep.”

Major Accomplishments after Jesus’ Ministry:

Leader of the Apostles

While waiting on Jesus at the sea of Tiberias, he and six (6) other disciples went fishing. (Jn 21:2)

Preached the first “Gospel” message in Acts 2.

One of the “pillars” of the Jerusalem church, along with James and John. (Galatians 2:9)

Leader of the church at Jerusalem (15 years, Acts 1-12) until James, the brother of Christ, took over

Missionary to the Jews and Gentiles (to a lesser extent). Preached, healed and ministered to both Gentile and Jew after Pentecost. (Acts 2-12)

Herod imprisoned him for preaching and while imprisoned, an angel of the LORD rescued him (Acts 12:3-19)

Credited with providing the material for the Gospel of Mark, which Mark wrote down, plus two epistles by his name (1 & 2 Peter)

Peter traveled to Rome near the end of his ministry and probably martyred there.

Manner of Death:

Peter may have been crucified during the reign of Nero in Rome.

No biblical reference is made to the manner of death that Peter was given. Historically, it is said that Peter was sentenced to death and he asked to be crucified upside down

Writings

Two epistles by his name: 1st, 2nd Peter

Scripture References:

Mt 4:18; 8:14; 10:2,4; 13:55; 14:28-29; 15:15; 16:16-18,22-23; 17:1,4,24-26; 18:21; 19:27; 26:33,35,37,40,58,69,73,75; Mk 1:16,29-30,36; 3:16, 5:37; 8:29,32-33; 9:2,5; 10:28; 11:21; 13:3; 14:29,33,37,54,66-67,70,72; 16:7; Lu 4:38; 5:3-5,8,10; 6:14; 7:40,43-44; 8:45,51; 9:20,28,32-33; 12:41; 18:28; 22:8,31,34,54-55,58,60-62; 24:12,34; Joh 1:40-42,44; 6:8,68; 13:6,8-9,24,26,37; 18:10-11,15-18,25-27; 20:2-4,6; 21:2-3,7,11,15-17,20-21; Ac 1:13,15; 2:14,37-38; 3:1,3-4,6,11-12; 4:8,13,19; 5:3,8-9,15,29; 8:13-14,18,20,24; 9:32,34,38-40; 10:5,9,13-14,17-19,21,23,25-26,32,34,44-46; 11:2,4,7,13; 12:3,5-7,11,13-14,16,18; 15:7; 1Co 1:12; 3:22; 9:5; 15:5; Ga 1:18; 2:7-9,11,14; 1Pe 1:1; 2Pe 1:1

Strongest Character Traits:

Impulsive – he would do things without considering the cost. i.e., walking on the water (Mt 14:28)

Weak – denied Jesus three times when confronted (Mt 26:69-74)

Hot tempered – cut off the ear of Malchus when Jesus was being arrested (Jn 18:10)

Compassionate – When confronted by his sin, he wept bitterly and repented (Mt 26:75)

Perceptive and Discerning – He realized that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God (Mt 16:16)

Slow to Understand – even though Jesus talked about being arrested and killed, Peter was slow to grasp the truth of what must take place with Jesus (Mt 16:21-23)

Unstoppable after Pentecost – Peter's courage for taking the Gospel to the world was unwavering (Acts 5:27-30)

