

DAVID TATE



WHO WAS SIMON PETER?



SIMON PETER

IN THE

THE CHOSEN

**SIMON PETER
ACCORDING TO**

THE BIBLE

BIOGRAPHICAL INFO

NAME: SHIMON/SIMON (שמעון) – “he has heard”

NICKNAME(S):

Gk. PETROS/PETER (Πέτρος) – “rock, stone” (Jn 1:40-42)

Ar. CEPHAS/KEPHAS (כִּיפָא) – “rock, stone” (Jn 1:40-42)

FATHER: JOHN (Jn 1:42; 21:15, 16, 17)/**JONAH** (Mt 16:17)

MOTHER: ???

SIBLING(S): ANDREW (Mt 4:18; 10:2; Mk 1:16; Lk 6:14; Jn 1:40; 6:8)

SPOUSE: ??? (Mt 8:14-15; Mk 1:29-31; Lk 4:38-39; 1 Co 9:5)

HOMETOWN: BETHSAIDA (Jn 1:44)

PLACE OF RESIDENCE: CAPERNAUM (Mt 8:14; Mk 1:29)

EDUCATION: LIMITED (Ac 4:13)

LANGUAGE: ARAMAIC (likely understood Greek and Hebrew as well)

OCCUPATION: FISHERMAN (Mt 4:18-22; Mk 1:16-20; Lk 5:1-11)



HOW OLD WAS PETER?

HOW OLD WERE THE DISCIPLES?

- Jesus was around 30 when he began his ministry (Lk 3:23), the typical age for a rabbi.
- Students were usually younger than their rabbis. Jesus refers to them as “little children” (Mt 10:42; 11:25).
- Education ended between ages 12-15. Some disciples were already practicing trades (i.e. Lk 5:1-11; Mt 9:9).
- As far as we know, Simon was the only married one at the time (Mt 8:14-15; Mk 1:29-31; Lk 4:38-39) at the beginning of Jesus’ ministry; the average age for marriage was 18.
- As far as we know, by the third year of Jesus’ ministry, Simon was the only one who had to pay the temple tax (Mt 17:24-27), which began at age 20 (Ex 30:14).

Most of the disciples were likely young teenagers at the time they began following Christ.

Peter was likely in early adulthood (~18-21) at the time he began following Christ.

PETER'S CHARACTER

NEGATIVE

- **Impulsive** (Mt 14:28-31; 17:4; Jn 18:10-11)
- **Contradictory** (Mt 14:28-31; 16:13-23)
- **Teacher's pet** (Mt 17:4; Jn 13:1-11)
- **Proud** (Mt 26:33; Lk 22:33; Jn 13:37)
- **Fearful** (Mt 26:69-75; Gal 2:11-14)
- **Weak in flesh** (Mk 14:37-42; Mk 14:66-72)

POSITIVE

- **Man of action** (Jn 20:2-7; Ac 2:14-40)
- **Willing to learn** (Jn 21:15-19; Ac 10)
- **Committed** (Mk 10:28; Jn 6:68-69; 13:9; Ac 5:29)
- **Humble** (Lk 5:8; 1 Pe 5:6)
- **Bold** (Ac 4:13; Ac 5:29; 1 Pe 4:12-19)
- **Strong in spirit** (Mk 14:38; Ac 2-5)



PETER IN THE GOSPELS

FIRST ENCOUNTER: Peter was introduced to Jesus by his brother Andrew, who encountered Christ while following John the Baptist (Jn 1:40-42).

CALLING: Jesus called Peter to follow him and be a 'fisher of men' after miraculously filling his nets with fish (Mt 4:18-22; Mk 1:16-20; Lk 5:1-11).

LIFE AS A DISCIPLE:

- Peter belonged to the inner circle of Christ's followers, along with the Sons of Zebedee. They were uniquely present at certain key moments:
 1. The Healing of Jairus' Daughter (Mk 5:37; Lk 8:51)
 2. The Transfiguration (Mt 17:1; Mk 9:2; Lk 9:28; 2 Pe 1:16-18)
 3. The Agony in Gethsemane (Mt 26:37; Mk 14:33)
- Peter is often seen as the leader and spokesman for the Twelve.
 - He was the first to speak up (Lk 8:45; Jn 13:6)
 - He spoke up on behalf of the group (Mt 16:16; Mk 10:28; Lk 12:41; Jn 6:68-69)
 - He is mentioned first in every list (Mt 10:2; Mk 3:16; Lk 6:14; Ac 1:13)
 - He mentioned most often (110 times in Gospels; 181 times in entire NT)
- Peter grasped Jesus' identity as Son of God (Mt 16:16; Mk 8:29; Lk 9:20).



PETER IN THE GOSPELS (CONT.)

FAILURE:

- **The greatest failure of Peter's life was without-a-doubt the night that Christ was arrested:**
 1. He failed to impress Christ (twice) during the foot-washing incident (Jn 13:1-11).
 2. He proudly vowed his unwavering devotion on the same night he would deny Christ (Mt 26:30-35; Mk 14:26-31; Lk 22:31-34; Jn 13:37-38).
 3. He fell asleep (three times) when Jesus asked him to watch over him while he prayed (Mt 26:36-46; Mk 14:32-42; Lk 22:39-46).
 4. He was rebuked by Jesus for trying to defend him at his arrest (Mt 26:51-56a; Mk 14:47-49; Lk 22:50-53; Jn 18:10-11).
 5. He fled with all the other disciples (Mt 26:56b; Mk 14:50).
 6. He denied Christ three times, just as Christ had predicted (Mt 26:69-75a; Mk 14:66-72; Lk 22:54-61; Jn 18:15-18, 25-27).
 7. He fled for a second time, and is not mentioned again until the resurrection (Mt 26:75b; Lk 22:62).

RESTORATION:

- Peter was the first one to go inside the tomb once he hears it is empty (Jn 20:1-7).
- Peter was the first apostle visited by Jesus post-resurrection (Lk 24:34; 1 Co 15:3-5).
- Peter was restored and recommissioned by Jesus (Jn 21:15-17).
- Peter was told that he would one day die for his faith (Jn 21:18-22).

PETER IN ACTS

Peter is the main character of Acts 1-15.

- He takes charge of finding a replacement for Judas (Ac 1:12-26)
- He gives the first sermon at Pentecost (Ac 2:11-41)
- He heals a lame beggar (Ac 3:1-10)
- He preaches in the temple (Ac 3:11-26)
- He testifies boldly concerning Jesus (Ac 4:1-22; 5:29)
- He executes judgment and performs many miracles (Ac 5:1-16)
- He rejoices in suffering for Christ (Ac 5:41-42)
- He is present when the Spirit falls on the Samaritans (Ac 8:9-25)
- He heals paralyzed Aeneas at Lydda (Ac 9:32-35)
- He resurrects Tabitha at Joppa (Ac 9:36-43)
- He welcomes the first Gentile followers into the Way (Ac 10:1-11:18)
- He is arrested and miraculously freed from prison (Ac 12:1-19)
- He defends Gentile inclusion within the church (Ac 15:6-11)





TRAVELS

1. **Jerusalem** (Ac 1:4-5:42)
2. **Samaria** (Ac 8:14-24)
3. **Jerusalem** (Ac 8:25)
4. **Lydda** (Ac 9:32-35)
5. **Joppa** (Ac 9:36-10:23)
6. **Caesarea** (Ac 10:24-48)
7. **Jerusalem** (Ac 11:1-12:17a)
8. **Another place...** (Ac 12:17b)
9. **Jerusalem** (Ac 15:6-11)

PETER IN THE EPISTLES

- Paul references Peter as a means of proving a few different points to the Corinthian church (**1 Co 1:12; 3:22; 9:5; 15:5**).
- Paul refers to Peter as a “pillar” of the church (**Gal 2:9**).
- Paul publicly confronted Peter over his hypocrisy concerning Gentiles (**Gal 2:11-14**).
- Peter wrote two books of the Bible: **1 Peter** and **2 Peter**.



**SIMON PETER
ACCORDING TO**

TRADITION



TRAVELS

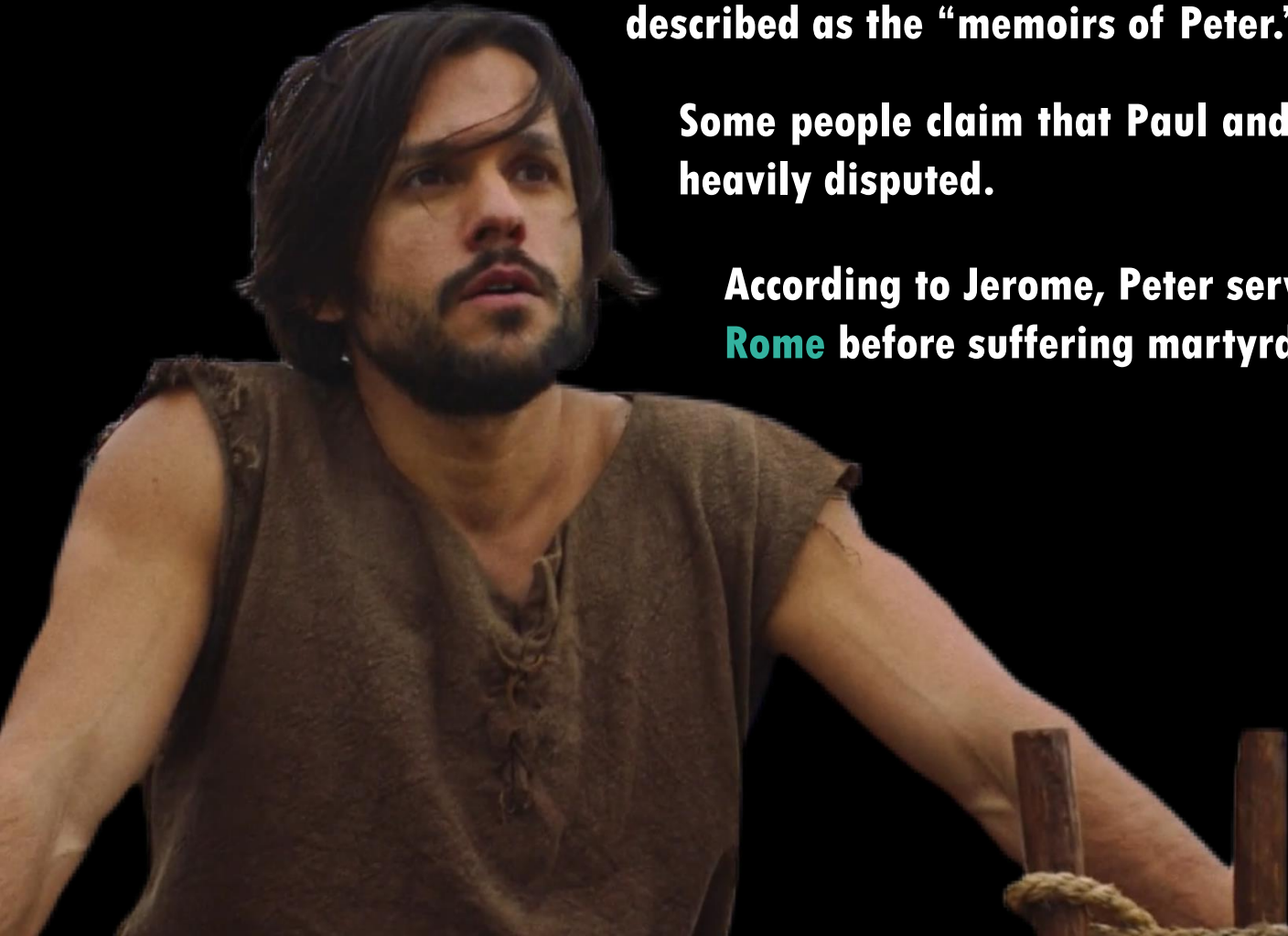
1. **Antioch** (Gal 2:11-14)
2. **Corinth** (1 Co 1:12; 9:5; Eusebius, *Church History* 2.25.4)
3. **Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia** (1 Pe 1:2; Jerome's *On Illustrious Men* 1)
4. **Rome** (1 Pe 5:13; Eusebius' *Church History* 2.14.16; Jerome's *On Illustrious Men* 1)

VARIOUS TRADITIONS

The **Gospel of Mark**, written by Peter's travelling companion John Mark, has been described as the "memoirs of Peter."

Some people claim that Paul and Peter both founded **the church in Rome**, but this is heavily disputed.

According to Jerome, Peter served as both the **bishop of Antioch** and the **bishop of Rome** before suffering martyrdom (*On Illustrious Men* 1).



THE FATE OF SIMON PETER

The Bible affirms Peter will die a martyr's death.

¹⁸Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will **stretch out your hands**, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” ¹⁹(This he said to show **by what kind of death** he was to glorify God.) And after saying this he said to him, “Follow me.”

John 21:18-19

Early church tradition universally affirms Peter died a martyr's death in Rome.

- **1 Clement 5:4 (AD 95-96):** “There was Peter who by reason of unrighteous jealousy endured not one not one but many labors, and thus having borne his testimony **went to his appointed place of glory.**”
- **Ignatius, Letter to the Smyrneans 3:2 (early 2nd cent.):** “For this cause (the physical resurrection of Christ) also [Peter and the apostles] **despised death**, and were found its conquerors.”
- **Apocalypse of Peter 14:4-6 (c. AD 135):** “...I have shown you, Peter, and I have explained everything. And go into the city ruling over the west, and **drink the cup which I have promised you** at the hands of the son of the One who is in Hades...”
- **Eusebius, Church History 2.25.4 (4th cent.):** “And that [Peter and Paul] both **suffered martyrdom** at the same time is stated by Dionysius, bishop of Corinth [c. AD 170], in his epistle to the Romans...”

HOW DID PETER DIE?

Peter was most likely crucified in Rome at the hands of Nero, somewhere between AD 64-67.

- John 21:18-19 (1st cent.)
- Tertullian, *Against Heresies* 36; *Scorpiace* 15 (c. AD 208)
- Traditionally, it is asserted that Peter was crucified upside-down.
 - *Acts of Peter* 36.7-8 (2nd cent.)
 - Eusebius, *Church History* 3.1 (4th cent.)
 - Jerome, *On Illustrious Men* 1 (4th cent.)

SEAN McDOWELL'S CONCLUSIONS:

1. THE MARTYRDOM OF PETER – the highest possible probability
2. THE CRUCIFIXION OF PETER – very probably true
3. PETER WAS IN ROME – very probably true
4. MARTYRDOM DURING THE REIGN OF NERO, AD 64-67 – more probable than not



WHERE IS PETER BURIED?



While the burial location of many of the apostles is questionable at best, we have good reason to believe that Peter's remains are actually found in the traditional sight at St. Peter's Basilica.