

Was Peter Ever in Rome? V (Church at Home) Fred R. Coulter

Greetings everyone, this is Fred Coulter. Welcome to Church at Home. Church at Home is sponsored by the Christian Biblical Church of God, and we are dedicated to restoring original Christianity for today.

And in studying the Bible and understanding the Bible, what does it say? What does it not say? In understanding the Bible, one of the most frequent errors that people make is this: *They read into it what they believe when they come to it, rather than searching the Scriptures daily as the Bereans did, and proving all things and holding fast to what is good!*

People make their assumptions and then develop their own private little Christianity, *which has nothing to do with God!*

One of the greatest hoaxes that has ever been perpetrated upon those who supposedly believe in Jesus Christ, and that is *that Peter was the first pope, and that he came to Rome in 42 A.D. as the first pope, and that God has built His Church on that man.*

That contradicts what the Bible says. The Bible says Jesus Christ is the Chief Cornerstone. Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church *and no man!* So, the pope cannot be the vicar *or the replacement* of Christ on earth.

Did Peter ever go to Rome? Remember that Peter was a Jew. So, let's see what happened after what we covered in the last segment in Acts 11, after Peter brought the Gospel to the band of Italians and those of Cornelius who were from Italy. He preached the Gospel to them, and they received the Holy Spirit, and then they were baptized.

God had to do this to break the bonds of that belief concerning Judaism, and was later carried over by the Pharisees that it is impossible to be saved unless you are circumcised in the flesh.

Now then, we will see the timing of what Peter did. We came up through about Acts 11, and that was up to about 38 A.D., and someone's going to say, 'Well, how do you know that's an accurate date?'

Well, we're just about ready to get to that point, and then we will see what happened to Peter. Where did he go? *It wasn't Rome!* Now, let's continue on:

Acts 11:19: "Now, those who had been

scattered by the persecution that arose concerning Stephen went through Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to no one except Jews only. But certain men among them who were Cypriots and Cyrenians came to Antioch *and* spoke to the Greeks, preaching the Gospel *of* the Lord Jesus. And *the* hand of *the* Lord was with them, and a great number believed *and* turned to the Lord" (vs 19-21).

Now following through with what God did through Peter, here are Gentiles, Greeks, uncircumcised, *and they believe!* What are you going to do when they believe?

- *Judaism says*, 'Let's take them out and have a circumcision party.'
- *God says*, 'Repent and be baptized and receive the Holy Spirit, and you will receive the circumcision of the heart and mind, which is a higher standard for circumcision [of the flesh].'

Circumcision was not abolished by Christ. Circumcision of the flesh was superseded by circumcision of the heart. We'll talk about that a little later, but let's go on here.

Verse 22: "Now, the report concerning them was heard in the ears of the Church that *was* in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch."

Antioch is up there in Syria. When people go over to Babylon, Antioch is a stopping place before they go east. I want you to keep that in mind.

Verse 23: "When he arrived and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced; and he exhorted *them* all to cleave to the Lord with purpose of heart."

This is important for you to understand. Cleave means to *cleave, become one*. "...cleave to the Lord with purpose of heart," *with a circumcised heart, through baptism and receiving the Holy Spirit!*

It talks about Barnabas a little more here; v 24: "For he was a good man, and was filled with *the* Holy Spirit and with faith. And a large multitude was added to the Lord. Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to seek Saul; and after finding him, he brought him to Antioch. And it came to pass *that for* a whole year they assembled together with the Church and taught a great multitude. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians" (vs 24-26).

Now we're getting a little time flow. Now we're going to get another very important historical verifiable date and year.

Verse 27: "Now, in those days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch; and one from among them, named Agabus, stood up *and* signified by the Spirit *that* there would be a great famine throughout the whole world, which also came to pass under Claudius Caesar" (vs 27-28).

Stop! Claudius Caesar. When was he made Caesar? You can look up in any encyclopedia. You can go online and you will find out that Claudius Caesar was made Emperor of Rome January 25, 41_{A.D.} So we are in 41_{A.D.} Here's what happened:

Verse 29: "And each of the disciples, everyone according as he had prospered, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea; which they also did, sending *it* to the elders by *the* hand of Barnabas and Saul" (vs 29-30).

Now let's notice something else that Claudius Caesar did. Herod Agrippa I was made King of Judea by Claudius in the spring of 41_{A.D.} If you have the chronology, *the chronology of the New Testament proves Peter was never in Rome!*

You follow along with it; we know that the dates are right: 41_{A.D.} and reigning three years until the spring of 44_{A.D.} when he dies.

Let's see why we have in Acts 12 and what this tells us about what happened. *This tells us about Peter and we can find from this that he never went to Rome!* So let's come to Acts the 12th chapter and see this is why you have to put everything together.

You cannot come and read the Bible and think you know it and believe it. *You've got to prove it!* You prove it by the Bible, because the Bible proves itself and it is provable through true history. That's why you need the books:

- The Appointed Times of Jesus the Messiah
- The Day Jesus the Christ Died

You need those to understand what happened in the timing of Jesus' life, and how things came together. Then you also need the book:

- Judaism: A Revelation of Moses or a Religion of Men?

Acts 12:23 "...and he [Herod] was eaten of worms, *and* died."

So, Agrippa was king three years 41-43. Interesting isn't it? Let's see what happened.

Acts 12:1: "Now, about that time, Herod the

king stretched forth *his* hands to persecute some of those of the Church; and he killed James, the brother of John, with the sword. And when he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to take Peter also. (Now, those were *the* Days of Unleavened Bread.)" (vs 1-3).

Sidebar: Everything in the Bible relates time to the Sabbath and the Holy Days of God.

Notice what happened and I really love this account here. This is great!

Verse 4: "And after arresting him, he put *him* in prison, delivering *him* to four sets of four soldiers to guard him with the intent of bringing him out to the people after the Passover *season*."

So, here's Peter in jail and chains and there are 16 soldiers guarding him. Let's see what happened when Herod was about to bring him out and probably to kill him.

Verse 6: "...and guards *standing* before the door were keeping the prison. But suddenly an angel of *the* Lord stood by *him*, and a light shined in the building. And after striking Peter on the side, he roused him, saying, 'Get up! Hurry!' And the chains fell off *his* hands. And the angel said to him, 'Put on your clothes and fasten your sandals.' And he did so. And he said to him, 'Wrap your cloak around *you* and follow me'" (vs 6-8).

So, he followed him and went out past the past the guards the doors automatically open and the iron gates at the end automatically open and Peter escaped. Now Peter thought that it was a vision but he came to himself and realized that it was true.

Verse 11: "And when Peter came to himself, he said, 'Now, I truly understand that *the* Lord sent His angel, and has delivered me from *the* hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews.'"

Verse 12: "And *as* he was pondering *this*, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John who was surnamed Mark."

Verse 13: "Now, when Peter knocked *at* the door of the porch, a damsel named Rhoda came to listen; And when she recognized Peter's voice, she was so excited *that* she did not open *the* door to the porch, but ran in *and* reported *that* Peter was standing in front of the porch. But they said to her, 'You are out of your mind.' Yet, she strongly affirmed *that* it was so. And they said, 'It is his angel.' But Peter continued knocking; and when they opened *the* door and saw him, they were amazed" (vs 13-14).

Verse 17: "Then, motioning to them with his hands to be silent, he related to them how the Lord

had brought him out of the prison. And he said, 'Report these things to James....'

This James is the half brother of Jesus, because James the son of John had already been killed before Peter was put in prison.

“...**Then he departed and went to another place**” (v 17).

Mark that verse *it doesn't say Rome!* Where did he go? Remember, Peter was a fugitive! Peter escaped from a Roman jail! Anywhere the Roman Empire would be, Peter would be a hunted man and they would get him. Where did he go?

Now let's understand something else: the Romans or Italians were Gentiles and were not circumcised. So, let's see what Paul writes concerning Peter's mission as an apostle and we can determine which direction he went to that other place.

Galatians 2:8: “For He [Christ] Who wrought in Peter for *the* apostleship of the circumcision...”

If Peter would have gone to Rome he would have gone to the uncircumcised Gentiles.

Verse 9: “And after recognizing the grace that was given to me, James and Cephas and John—those reputed to be pillars—gave to me and Barnabas *the* right hands of fellowship, *affirming* that we *should go* to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcision.”

All right, Peter left. Where did he go? You need to understand from the book of Acts that something really important happened after Claudius was named Caesar, and this was done in 41_{A.D.}

Now Claudius Caesar made many decrees getting rid of the Jews out of Italy and Rome and restricting the Jews and the other major cities of Egypt and Syria.

Acts 18:1: “Now, after these things, Paul departed from Athens *and* came to Corinth; and *there* he found a certain Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with Priscilla his wife (**because Claudius had ordered all the Jews out of Rome**)....” (vs 1-2).

Now then think of this. If Peter would have gone to Rome he's already late going to Rome because what happened was, as we read in Acts 12 was in 43_{A.D.} and it is claimed by the Catholics that Peter came to Rome in 42_{A.D.}

Wrong, *wrong, wrong! A lie!* He was not there. He was still in Judea and furthermore he was

in prison. Then God let him out of there and he went to another place.

- Where do you suppose that Peter would go since he was an apostle to the circumcision?
- Where were the greatest number of Jews at that time?
- *They were in Babylon beyond the bounds of the Roman Empire!*

There were more Jews in Babylon than there were in Judea or scattered in other areas of the Roman Empire.

So, where do you suppose that Peter would go? *He had to go to those of the circumcision!* That means the Jews in the Diaspora. ***Peter went to Babylon! Peter never went to Rome!***

Now you read the First Epistle of Peter. You read it all the way through and when you come to the end here is what Peter wrote and this identifies where Peter had gone. Went to some other place where the Romans couldn't get him.

1-Peter 5:13: “**The Church in Babylon**, chosen together with *you*, greets you, *as does* Mark, my son”—*in the faith*.

Now you know how those of Catholicism get around this. They say that's just 'a euphemism for Rome.' Of course not! If Peter were in Rome he would have said so.

I will prove it to you. Let's come to the last part of the book of Acts. Now you see Paul was arrested, kept in custody, spent some time in Caesarea, and was there from 58_{A.D.} Two years there in Caesarea before he was sent to Rome, because Paul appealed to Rome and he arrived in Rome in the spring of 61_{A.D.} when Paul arrived in Rome. He was given a house that he could do his sentence in until he could make his appeal to the Roman court.

Acts 28:17. Now remember, this is in 60_{A.D.} That is seven years after Claudius Caesar died.

Verse 17: “Now, it came to pass *that* after three days, Paul called together those who were chief among the Jews. And when they had come together, he said to them, ‘Men *and* brethren, although I have done nothing against the people or the customs of our fathers, I was delivered into the hands of the Romans *as* a prisoner from Jerusalem. After examining me, they desired to let *me* go because there was not one cause of death in me. But when the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar—not as though I had anything to charge against my nation. For this cause then, I have called for you, in order that I might see you and speak to *you*; because *it is* for the hope of Israel that I have this chain around *me*’” (vs 17-20).

Here Paul called them to him, called the leaders of the Jews. Now let's see what their answer was. If Peter had gone to Rome in 42_{A.D.}; and he couldn't have because he was still in the land of Judea in 43_{A.D.} and then he left and we find him in Babylon. He never got to Rome!

But if he had gotten to Rome what would the Jews have said? *'Oh well we've had Peter here for a long time he's taught us all these things we know all about Jesus we're all converted.'* Really?

Verse 21—*here's what the Jews answered Paul*: "Then they said to him, 'We have neither received letters concerning you from Judea, nor have any of the brethren who have arrived reported anything or spoken evil of you. But we would like to hear from you *and to know* what you think, because we are indeed very aware that this sect is everywhere spoken against'" (vs 21-22).

Not a word about Peter! Not a word about Peter! I'll repeat it again. ***Not a word about Peter at Rome!*** So, Paul preached to them. They hadn't heard the Gospel preached to them. If Peter had gone to Rome he would have preached the Gospel, ***but Peter was an apostle to the circumcision, so therefore, he went to Babylon*** to get away from the Roman Empire. He was a wanted criminal who had escaped from the jail of Herod Agrippa-I, who was appointed as king over Judea. He could not go anywhere in the Roman Empire.

He never went to Rome! These Jews did not know anything about it nor had any of the Gentiles heard about it except those who were converted and went to Rome later.

Now we'll cover a couple of more things concerning this in the next segment about what the Apostle Paul taught, and taught to the Romans. ***How that he never acknowledged Peter being in Rome one single time!***

Peter never went to Rome, so how can the so-called largest Christian Church in the world have that as a foundational belief for the reason that they exist because Peter went to Rome? ***That is not true!*** If you believe that ***you have been deceived*** and you know nothing about God.

I hope this helps you come to a greater understanding of what you need to do. If you want to know about God and know about the Bible and know about the Truth you've got to come to God ***His way.***

So, once again thank you for inviting me into your home so until next time this is Fred Coulter saying so long everyone.

Scriptural References:

- 1) Acts 11:19-30
- 2) Acts 12:23, 1-4, 6-8, 11-14, 17
- 3) Galatians 2:8-9
- 4) Acts 18:1-2
- 5) 1 Peter 5:13
- 6) Acts 28:17-22

Also referenced: Books {truthofGod.org}:

- The Appointed Times of Jesus the Messiah by Fred R. Coulter
- The Day Jesus the Christ Died by Fred R. Coulter
- Judaism: A Revelation of Moses or a Religion of Men? by Philip Neal

FRC:bo/po
Transcribed: 12/28/23