

# SIMON PETER

A SERVANT AND APOSTLE (SPECIAL MESSENGER) OF JESUS CHRIST

**Part 1**

**2 PETER**

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How did Peter (Simon Peter) come to follow Jesus? What were the circumstances that made this young married man (18-20 years of age) change everything about his life and impact the lives of people today?

Peter, who was clearly the leader among the apostles/disciples. The gospel writers emphasize this fact by placing his name at the head of each list of apostles (Matt. chapter 10; Mark chapter 3; Luke chapter 6; Acts chapter 1), and including more information about him in the 4 gospels than any person other than Christ.

## **Matthew 10:1-7 AMPC**

*1 And Jesus summoned to Him His twelve disciples and gave them power and authority over unclean spirits, to drive them out, and to cure all kinds of disease and all kinds of weakness\ and infirmity.*

*2 Now these are the names of the twelve apostles (special messengers): **first, Simon, who is called Peter,** and Andrew his brother; James son of Zebedee, and John his brother;*

*3 Philip and Bartholomew [Nathaniel]; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus [Judas, not Iscariot];*

*4 Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him.*

5 Jesus sent out these twelve, charging them, Go nowhere among the Gentiles and do not go into any town of the Samaritans;

6 But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

7 And as you go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand!

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### Mark 3:1-19 AMPC

3 Again Jesus went into a synagogue, and a man was there who had one withered hand *[[a]as the result of accident or disease]*.

2 And [the Pharisees] kept watching Jesus [closely] to see whether He would cure him on the Sabbath, so that they might get a charge to bring against Him *[[b]formally]*.

3 And He said to the man who had the withered hand, Get up *[and stand here]* in the midst.

4 And He said to them, Is it lawful and right on the Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save life or to take it? But they kept silence.

5 And He glanced around at them with vexation and anger, grieved at the hardening of their hearts, and said to the man, Hold out your hand. He held it out, and his hand was *[completely]* restored.

**6 Then the Pharisees went out and immediately held a consultation with the Herodians against Him, how they might [devise some means to] put Him to death.**

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*7 And Jesus retired with His disciples to the lake, and a great throng from Galilee followed Him. Also from Judea*

*8 And from Jerusalem and Idumea and from beyond the Jordan and from about Tyre and Sidon—a vast multitude, hearing all the many things that He was doing, came to Him.*

*9 And He told His disciples to have a little boat in [constant] readiness for Him because of the crowd, lest they press hard upon Him and crush Him.*

*10 For He had healed so many that all who had distressing bodily diseases kept falling upon Him and pressing upon Him in order that they might touch Him.*

*11 And the spirits, the unclean ones, [c]as often as they might see Him, fell down before Him and kept screaming out, You are the Son of God!*

*12 And He charged them strictly and severely under penalty again and again that they should not make Him known.*

13 And He went up on the hillside and called to Him *[[a]for Himself]* **those whom He wanted and chose, and they came to Him.**

14 **And He appointed twelve to [b]continue to be with Him,** and that He might send them out to preach [as apostles or special messengers]

15 And to have authority and power to heal the sick and to drive out demons:

16 **[They were] Simon, and He surnamed [him] Peter;**

17 James son of Zebedee and John the brother of James, and He surnamed them Boanerges, that is, Sons of Thunder;

18 And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew (Nathaniel), and Matthew, and Thomas, and James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus (Judas, not Iscariot), and Simon the Cananaean [also called Zelotes],

19 **And Judas Iscariot, he who betrayed Him.**

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### **Luke 6:1-16 AMPC**

1 One Sabbath while Jesus was passing through the fields of standing grain, it occurred that His disciples picked some of the spikes and ate [of the grain], rubbing it out in their hands.

2 But some of the Pharisees asked them, **Why are you doing what is not permitted to be done on the Sabbath days?**

*3 And Jesus replied to them, saying, **Have you never so much as read what David did** when he was hungry, he and those who were with him?—*

*4 How he went into the house of God and took and ate the [sacred] loaves of the showbread, which it is not permitted for any except only the priests to eat, and also gave to those [who were] with him?*

*5 And He said to them, **The Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.***

**Matthew 23:8-10, 13 AMPC**

8 But you are not to be called rabbi (teacher), for you have one Teacher and you are all brothers.

9 And do not call anyone [in the church] on earth father, for you have one Father, Who is in heaven.

10 And you must not be called masters (leaders), for you have one Master (Leader), the Christ.

13 But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, pretenders (hypocrites)! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces; for you neither enter yourselves, nor do you allow those who are about to go in to do so.

Note: There are 7 “woes” to the religions leaders that Jesus gave in Matthew 23

*6 And it occurred on another Sabbath that when He went into the synagogue and taught, a man was present whose right hand was withered.*

*7 And the scribes and the Pharisees kept watching Jesus to see whether He would [actually] heal on the Sabbath, in order that they might get [some ground for] accusation against Him.*

8 **But He was aware all along of their thoughts,** and He said to the man with the withered hand, Come and stand here in the midst. And he arose and stood there.

9 **Then Jesus said to them, I ask you, is it lawful and right on the Sabbath to do good [[a]also that someone derives advantage from it] or to do evil, to save a life [and [b]make a soul safe] or to destroy it?**

10 Then He glanced around at them all and said to the man, Stretch out your hand! And he did so, and his hand was fully restored [c]like the other one.

11 **But they were filled with lack of understanding and senseless rage and discussed (consulted) with one another what they might do to Jesus.**

12 **Now in those days it occurred that He went up into a mountain to pray, and spent the whole night in prayer to God.**

13 **And when it was day, He summoned His disciples and selected from them twelve, whom He named apostles (special messengers):**

14 **They were Simon, whom He named Peter,** and his brother Andrew; and James and John; and Philip and Bartholomew;

15 And Matthew and Thomas; and James son of Alphaeus, and Simon who was called the Zealot,

16 And Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who became a traitor (a treacherous, basely faithless person).

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## Acts 1:2-17 AMPC

2 Until the day when He ascended, after He through the Holy Spirit had instructed and commanded the apostles (special messengers) whom He had chosen.

3 To them also He showed Himself alive after His passion (His suffering in the garden and on the cross) by [a series of] many convincing demonstrations [unquestionable evidences and infallible proofs], appearing to them during forty days and talking [to them] about the things of the kingdom of God.

4 And while being in their company and eating with them, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised, Of which [He said] you have heard Me speak.

5 For John baptized with water, but not many days from now you shall be baptized with ([a]placed in, introduced into) the Holy Spirit.

6 So when they were assembled, they asked Him, Lord, is this the time when You will reestablish the kingdom and restore it to Israel?

7 He said to them, It is not for you to become acquainted with and know [b]what time brings [the things and events of time and their definite periods] or fixed [c]years and seasons (their critical niche in time), which the Father has appointed (fixed and reserved) by His own choice and authority and personal power.

8 But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth.

9 And when He had said this, even as they were looking [at Him], He was caught up, and a cloud received and carried Him away out of their sight.

10 And while they were gazing intently into heaven as He went, behold, two men [dressed] in white robes suddenly stood beside them,

11 Who said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing into heaven? This same Jesus, Who was caught away and lifted up from among you into heaven, will return in [just] the same way in which you saw Him go into heaven.

12 Then [the disciples] went back to Jerusalem from the hill called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, [only] a Sabbath day's journey (three-quarters of a mile) away.

13 And when they had entered [the city], they mounted [the stairs] to the upper room where they were [[d]indefinitely] staying—Peter and John and James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas [son] of James.

14 All of these with their minds in full agreement devoted themselves steadfastly to prayer, [waiting together] with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

15 Now on one of those days Peter arose among the brethren, the whole number of whom gathered together was about a hundred and twenty.

16 Brethren, he said, it was necessary that the Scripture be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit foretold by the lips of David, about Judas who acted as guide to those who arrested Jesus.

17 For he was counted among us and received [by divine allotment] his portion in this ministry.

## **Here's some more background on Peter or Simon Peter...**

Originally known as Simon (Greek), or Simeon (Hebrew);(Mark 1:16; John 1:40-41). Peter was the son of Jonas (Matt. 16:17), who was also known as John (John 1:42), a member of a family of fishermen who lived in Bethsaida and later in Capernaum.

It was Andrew, Peter's brother, who brought him to Christ (John 1:40-42). Peter was married (Mark 1:29-31) and Paul referenced Peter's wife while in ministry (1 Corinthians 9:5).

### **John 1:40-42 AMPC**

*40 One of the two who heard what John said and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.*

*41 **He first sought out and found his own brother Simon and said to him, We have found (discovered) the Messiah!**—which translated is the Christ (the Anointed One).*

*42 **Andrew then led (brought) Simon to Jesus.** Jesus looked at him and said, You are Simon son of John. You shall be called Cephas—which translated is Peter [Stone].*

### **Mark 1:29-31 AMPC**

*29 And at once He left the synagogue and went into the house of Simon [Peter] and Andrew, accompanied by James and John.*

*30 **Now Simon's mother-in-law [a]had for some time been lying sick with a fever, and at once they told Him about her.***

*31 **And He went up to her and took her by the hand and raised her up; and the fever left her, and she began to wait on them.***

### **1 Corinthians 9:5 AMPC**

***5 Have we not the right also to take along with us a Christian sister as wife, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas (Peter)?***

Peter was a fisherman on the Sea of Galilee, when called to follow Jesus and his brother, Andrew, was a fisherman...When Jesus called Peter, he left his nets and followed Jesus. Jesus renamed him Peter (Greek), or Cephas (Aramaic), both words meaning “stone” or “rock” (John 1:42).

### **John 1:42 AMPC**

***42 Andrew then led (brought) Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, You are Simon son of John. You shall be called Cephas—which translated is Peter [Stone].***

The Lord clearly singled out Peter for special lessons throughout the gospels which we will be looking at doing this series. He was the spokesman for the 12, articulating their thoughts and questions as well as his own.

### **There are many outstanding things about Peter:**

- O This is the same Peter, who was chosen with James and John to carry out special tasks for the Jesus.
- O This is the same Peter, who walked on the water.
- O He is the same Peter, who saw the transfiguration.
- O He is the same Peter, who told Jesus who He was, when people were guessing who Jesus was.
- O He said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

## **John 1 AMPC**

*1 In the beginning [before all time] was the Word ([a]Christ), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God [b]Himself.*

*2 He was present originally with God.*

*3 All things were made and came into existence through Him; and without Him was not even one thing made that has come into being.*

*4 In Him was Life, and the Life was the Light of men.*

*5 And the Light shines on in the darkness, for the darkness has never overpowered it [put it out or absorbed it or appropriated it, and is unreceptive to it].*

*6 There came a man sent from God, whose name was John.*

*7 This man came to witness, that he might testify of the Light, that all men might believe in it [adhere to it, trust it, and rely upon it] through him.*

*8 He was not the Light himself, but came that he might bear witness regarding the Light.*

*9 There it was—the true Light [was then] coming into the world [the genuine, perfect, steadfast Light] that illumines every person.*

*10 He came into the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him [did not know Him].*

*11 He came to that which belonged to Him [to His own—His domain, creation, things, world], and they who were His own did not receive Him and did not welcome Him.*

*12 But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the authority (power, privilege, right) to become the children of God, that is, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name—*

13 Who owe their birth neither to [c]bloods nor to the will of the flesh [that of physical impulse] nor to the will of man [that of a natural father], but to God. [They are born of God!]

14 And the Word (Christ) became flesh (human, incarnate) and tabernacled (fixed His tent of flesh, lived awhile) among us; and we [actually] saw His glory (His honor, His majesty), such glory as an only begotten son receives from his father, full of grace (favor, loving-kindness) and truth.

15 John testified about Him and cried out, This was He of Whom I said, He Who comes after me has priority over me, for He was before me. [He takes rank above me, for He existed before I did. He has advanced before me, because He is my Chief.]

16 For out of His fullness (abundance) we have all received [all had a share and we were all supplied with] one grace after another and spiritual blessing upon spiritual blessing and even favor upon favor and gift [heaped] upon gift.

17 For while the Law was given through Moses, grace ([d]uneared, undeserved favor and spiritual blessing) and truth came through Jesus Christ.

18 No man has ever seen God at any time; the only [e]unique Son, or [f]the only begotten God, Who is in the bosom [in the intimate presence] of the Father, He has declared Him [He has revealed Him and brought Him out where He can be seen; He has interpreted Him and He has made Him known].

19 And this is the testimony of John when the Jews sent priests and Levites to him from Jerusalem to ask him, Who are you?

20 He confessed (admitted the truth) and did not try to conceal it, but acknowledged, I am not the Christ!

21 They asked him, What then? Are you Elijah? And he said, I am not! Are you the Prophet? And he answered, No!

22 Then they said to him, Who are you? Tell us, so that we may give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?

**23 He said, I am the voice of one crying aloud in the wilderness [the voice of one shouting in the desert], Prepare the way of the Lord [level, straighten out, the path of the Lord], as the prophet Isaiah said.**

24 The messengers had been sent from the Pharisees.

25 And they asked him, Why then are you baptizing if you are not the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?

26 John answered them, I [only] baptize [g]in (with) water. **Among you there stands One Whom you do not recognize and with Whom you are not acquainted and of Whom you know nothing.**

27 It is He Who, coming after me, is preferred before me, the string of Whose sandal I am not worthy to unloose.

28 These things occurred in Bethany (Bethabara) across the Jordan [[h]at the Jordan crossing], where John was then baptizing.

**29 The next day John saw Jesus coming to him and said, Look! There is the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world!**

**30 This is He of Whom I said, After me comes a Man Who has priority over me [Who takes rank above me] because He was before me and existed before I did.**

31 And I did not know Him and did not recognize Him [myself]; but it is in order that He should be made manifest and be revealed to Israel [be brought out where we can see Him] that I came baptizing [i]in (with) water.

32 John gave further evidence, saying, I have seen the Spirit descending as a dove out of heaven, and it dwelt on Him [never to depart].

33 And I did not know Him nor recognize Him, but He Who sent me to baptize [j]in (with) water said to me, Upon Him Whom you shall see the Spirit descend and remain, that One is He Who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.

34 And I have seen [that happen—I actually did see it] and my testimony is that this is the Son of God!

35 Again the next day John was standing with two of his disciples,

36 And he looked at Jesus as He walked along, and said, Look! There is the Lamb of God!

37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Him.

38 But Jesus turned, and as He saw them following Him, He said to them, What are you looking for? [And what is it you wish?] And they answered Him, Rabbi—which translated is Teacher—where are You staying?

39 He said to them, Come and see. So they went and saw where He was staying, and they remained with Him [k] that day. It was then about the tenth hour (about four o'clock in the afternoon).

40 One of the two who heard what John said and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

41 He first sought out and found his own brother Simon and said to him, We have found (discovered) the Messiah!—which translated is the Christ (the Anointed One).

42 Andrew then led (brought) Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, You are Simon son of John. You shall be called Cephas—which translated is Peter [Stone].

43 The next day Jesus desired and decided to go into Galilee; and He found Philip and said to him, Join Me as My attendant and follow Me.

44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, of the same city as Andrew and Peter.

45 Philip sought and found Nathanael and told him, We have found (discovered) the One Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote about—Jesus from Nazareth, the [legal] son of Joseph!

46 Nathanael answered him, [Nazareth!] Can anything good come out of Nazareth? Philip replied, Come and see!

47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him and said concerning him, See! Here is an Israelite indeed [a true descendant of Jacob], in whom there is no guile nor deceit nor falsehood nor duplicity!

#### Matthew 24:5 AMPC

5 For many will come in (on the strength of) My name [appropriating the name which belongs to Me], saying, I am the Christ (the Messiah), and they will lead many astray.

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***48 Nathanael said to Jesus, How do You know me? [How is it that You know these things about me?] Jesus answered him, Before [ever] Philip called you, when you were still under the fig tree, I saw you.***

***49 Nathanael answered, Teacher, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!***

*50 Jesus replied, Because I said to you, I saw you beneath the fig tree, do you believe in and rely on and trust in Me? You shall see greater things than this!*

*51 Then He said to him, I assure you, most solemnly I tell you all, you shall see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man!*

**Genesis 28:12-13 AMPC**

**12 And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it!**

13 And behold, the Lord stood over and beside him and said, I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father [forefather] and the God of Isaac; I will give to you and to your descendants the land on which you are lying.



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