

Peter: Prophet and Apostle

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Enoch may well be the first who openly prophesied of things to come and spoke openly to his generation about the things of God. We know Noah was a Prophet. Enoch was a righteous man.

Genesis 5:22-24. ... And Enoch walked with God; and he *was* not, for God took him.

Jude spoke of Enoch:

Jude 1:14-15. Now Enoch ... prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all ..."

There is no such thing as a Prophet of God who lives in sin and who makes no effort to live a righteous life. Prophets of God like *Enoch* are a separated group of men whose purpose in life is to serve God among the people as spiritual advisors. God's Prophets do not seek the rewards of nor the praises of the ungodly. False prophets please the people, not chastising them for their ungodliness and unrighteousness. False prophets are not men of holy character. Apostles are more than "sent" men. They were qualified *before* they were sent!

Peter was prominent on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:14-40. The events of that day "completed the change in Peter himself. He became the trusted guide and intrepid preacher of Christ in Jerusalem and abroad. And now, we hear almost nothing of the name Simon and he is known to us finally as Peter."

Acts 10:5. Now send men to Joppa, and send for Simon, whose surname is Peter.

Acts 10:32. Send therefore to Joppa and call Simon here, whose surname is Peter.

Acts 15:14. Simon has declared how God at the first visited the Gentiles ...

The apostle Peter reveals his character when he replied to the Lord in heaven that he had never eaten anything common or unclean.

Acts 10:14. But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean."

The twelve Apostles of the Lord were faithful men like the Old Testament Prophets of God. These Apostles are the foundation of the Church and we do not need any more. Paul explained it:

Ephesians 2:19-22. Now, therefore, ...having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ... in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

We have not seen Jesus Christ, but we do believe the testimony of the apostles because they are the foundation of the Church. Peter was subject to persecution which arose against the Christians, and Peter was cast into prison. He defended himself and his companions at the bar of the council:

Acts 4:19-20. But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."

There was another fresh outburst of violence against the Christians,

Acts 5:17-21. Then ... [*they*] laid their hands on the apostles and put them in the common prison. But at night an angel of the Lord opened the prison doors and brought them out, and said, "Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life."

During the night they were wonderfully delivered, and they were found in the morning teaching in the temple. Peter defended his fellow apostles and brethren again before the council.

Acts 5:29-32. But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus ... And we are His witnesses ..., and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him."

Acts 8:14-25. Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem ... they sent Peter and John to them, who ... prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. And when Simon [Magus] ... offered them money, saying, "Give me this power also ..."
But Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you..." Then Simon [Magus] answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me ..."

Peter remained for a period, during which he met Paul for the first time since his conversion,

Acts 9:26-30. And when Saul had come to Jerusalem ... So he was with them at Jerusalem, ... they brought him down to Caesarea and sent him out to Tarsus.

Galatians 1:15-18. But when it pleased God ... I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter ...

The Apostle Peter was not the rock upon which the Church was to be built! But which rock was it that Jesus would build his Church?

Matthew 16:13-19. When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi ... Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ... You are Peter [*a stone, a pebble*], and on this rock [*the cornerstone rock which the builders rejected*] I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail ..."

Peter was given the keys of the kingdom. Peter had a lot of common sense; he reminds us,

1 Peter 1:24-25. Because "... The grass withers, ... but the word of the LORD endures forever." Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.

Peter was gentle and also very encouraging in remind us of who we are:

1 Peter 2:9-10. But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation.

Peter reminds us of what's ahead for us:

1 Peter 4:12-14. Beloved, do not think it *strange* concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice....

Peter tells us the purpose of prophecy and how it came about:

2 Peter 1:19-21. And so we have the [*more sure*] prophetic word confirmed ... knowing this first, that *no prophecy* of Scripture is of *any private interpretation*, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke ... by the Holy Spirit.

Peter also reminds us not to give up, to anticipate the return of Jesus Christ:

2 Peter 3:9-10. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Peter focuses our attention on the Heavenly Father:

1 Peter 5:10-11. But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you. To Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.