

1 & 2 Peter Series

Part 2: Introduction – From The Sea to The Kingdom of God-

Who was The Apostle Peter?.....continued

So tonight we have the same title as from Part 1, so we are carrying on with the subject of "Who was The Apostle Peter?". Part 1 had us looking at the great calling and choosing of this great Apostle Peter, who he really was, and building an insight as to his **character**, his **credentials** and **his authority** as a **called out Apostle of Jesus Christ**.

The main reason for doing this is so when we start in **Chapter 1:1**, (*eventually*) we know that **what** we are reading can be trusted, as we have an insight as to where the Apostle Peter stood in God's eyes, and the eyes of our Lord Jesus Christ. And, therefore where he **should stand** in our eyes as we read the text, he was called to record.

We have already touched on how we received the Biblical text, so I am going to pick it up where we left of the last time we met.

Now the reason again for us taking the time to build on Peter's **character traits**, and of course his **calling**, is that when we do start reading the text, which The Apostle Peter wrote by revelation and the inspiration of God, is that we can put our lives on it, and act it out, and be motivated to action in our lives, by it all.

We are not just reading for the sake of reading, and building our knowledge, it is after all **THE LIVING WORD of God.**

This is not to be for us an academic exercise, say a "tick in the box", that we have covered yet another 2 epistles and then we just move on...."next".

No, I want this to be a life changing exercise for all of us, did you catch the term "changing" there? Virtually any time we learn from the text of scripture there should be some corresponding **change**, and therefore a corresponding **action of obedience** happening in all of our lives.

These epistles of Peter are going to cover subjects that are critical for us to **understand and apply**, not least as we enter into some major **SUFFERING**

for Jesus Christ's name, in the near future possibly. We all have seen suffering to some extent even up to now, but it will deeply intensify, as time moves on.

You should be picking up by now in reading and listening to these epistles, what the main theme of these epistles are, and it is **SUFFERING**, not a term any of us feel comfortable with.

In fact, in life we do everything in our power to **avoid suffering**, but that may change for us as we delve into these books of 1 & 2 Peter and elsewhere in the scriptures.

So as I said, we are going to pick it up where we left of the last time we met.

Now something else about Peter I want to highlight, that Tony and Bill brought out recently in The Hebrew series we are in on Sunday's, and should speak so loudly to us, as to where The Apostle Peter stood in The Lord's eyes.

But not just The Lord's eyes, **but in Satan's eyes as well**. This Apostle in particular had a huge target on his back.

Please turn to **Luke 22**, this record shows us where The Apostle Peter stood in Satan's eyes, it also shows where all the Apostles stood with Satan, right in the centre of his target cross hairs, each of them had a target on their backs.

Just watch what Jesus said in **Luke 22**:

Luke 22:28-34 "You are those who have stood by Me in My trials;

29 and just as My Father has **granted Me a kingdom, I grant you.**

Did you catch the word "**granted**" and "**grant**" there? It is all by God's grace, even for the man Jesus Christ, we must never, ever forget that. This kingdom has been granted to Jesus, because God is God, and Jesus is a man, albeit a truly glorified man.

30 that you may eat and drink at **My** table in **My** kingdom, and **you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.**

What a statement by Jesus here, these Apostles here (*a few, I might add*), have already being granted their future Kingdom job assignment, and it's in the earthly kingdom of Jesus Christ, where they are assigned to administer over the

12 Tribes of Israel. Which of course happens on His return, **NOT** when they died, they are currently stone dead having turned to dust, **until their resurrection to life and NOT before then.**

But just look at the Apostle, Jesus pin points here:

31“**Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded permission to sift you** *(accusative (direct object), second person, plural)* (“you men” in NASB 1995) **like wheat;**

So this happened, and it applied initially, and is referencing **ALL** of the Apostles here, **NOT** just Peter, that’s why “you” is in the accusative **plural, they ALL are the direct object**, yet the Lord goes on in the very next verse to switch it, and now pin-points Peter out in this dialogue, we will see it, so that should speak so loudly to us all, as to the calibre of this great Apostle Peter.

When Satan has you directly in his cross hair target, and pin-pointed out-watch out. Peter is there for a reason, I am sure it was because WHO this man was and his great capabilities. Now it is easy to read over “sift **you all like** Wheat”.

We all know it is a figure of speech, "like" is a clue, wheat traditionally was shaken violently until it was separated, indicating the weaker would be separated out from the strong and what was the true wheat.

This was not a gentle process by any stretch of the imagination, this "sifting" could be seen as a very hostile act that would break them all apart, this is one of Satan's main objectives against the church of Christ, with leadership particularly in focus. "Get them separated, split them up!!"...that's Satan talking.

Do you think Satan has done a good job of this up to now? We have over 40,000 plus different church denominations today, all holding the same Bible, I would say he has for the most part succeeded in dividing the church. A church that is for the most part NOT even teaching what Jesus taught, but rather THE LIE, that you go straight to heaven when you die.

To find a church today in harmony doctrinally, and practically fixed on the **earthly kingdom gospel of Jesus Christ** is exceptionally rare. Just try finding one! Remember the Job series, what did Satan ask permission to do to Job? He asked that He Satan could test Job's faith through extreme suffering,

this is one of Satan's main strategies, and one of his main strengths and His real expertise.

Having said that, not ALL suffering and discipline comes from Satan either, we saw that in Job.

Now, in the very next verse, here in **Luke 22** we see the nominative tense (*tells you who is the subject*) **singular** forms, this highlights the personal nature of this warning, while the plural "you" shows the collective danger to **all the Apostles**.

So the shift in verse 32 is something we need to be aware of, now Jesus makes a personal intercession for **Peter**, Jesus bear in mind, He knows Peter will in the near future, deny Him 3 times, but also that Peter would "turn again" and be greater than Peter ever was before, and boy did Peter live up to that truth or what?

Now this does not mean Jesus did not pray for the other 11 Apostles, but it mentions **His specific intercession for Peter** here:

32 **BUT I have prayed for you** (*second person singular*), **that your faith** (*genitive singular referring to Peter's own faith here*) **may not fail; and you** (*singular*), when once **you** (*singular*) have turned again, **strengthen your brothers.**"

So we see here that despite Satan's threat of "sifting" them all, Jesus here is going to determine the final outcome and focuses on the term "faith", because faith in the nominative tense, so "faith" is treated as the subject, that **MUST** remain active and alive.

The NASB 2020 translation (I am using the 1995 version) adds "you men" in verse 31 to make the tense switch more obvious, may be a footnote on it.

We can underestimate the importance of doing this for the brethren, strengthening them!

33 But he (*Peter*) said to Him, "Lord, with You I am ready to go both to prison and to death!" 34 And He said, "I say to you, Peter, the rooster will not crow today until you have denied three times that you know Me."

The LSB (The Legacy Standard Bible) has it translated this way:

Luke 22:31–33 (LSB) 31 "Simon, Simon, behold, Satan has demanded to sift **all of you** like wheat,

32 but I have **prayed earnestly** (*adds emotional depth*) for **you**, that **your faith may not fail**; and **you**, once **you** have returned, strengthen your brothers."

33 But he said to Him, "Lord, I am ready to go with You both to prison and to death!"

What a heart The Apostle Peter had for the Lord.

The NET Bible translates it this way:

31 "Simon, Simon, pay attention! Satan has demanded to **have you** (*plural*) **all**, to sift **you** (*plural*) like wheat, **32** but I have prayed for **you** (*singular*), Simon, that **your** (*singular*) faith may not fail. When **you** (*singular*) have turned back, strengthen **your** (*singular*) brothers."

Even though "brothers" is plural, the possessive pronoun "your" is singular—indicating Peter's individual responsibility to strengthen the rest of the group.

So Peter was pin pointed by Jesus here as to being the one **He specifically made intercession for**, and that The Apostle Peter having returned, would be the one responsible to strengthen his brothers. Are you getting a feel for the calibre of this great The Apostle Peter and where he stood in Jesus's eyes?

So I would suggest Jesus is alluding to Peter's denial and Peter's restoration here. But lets not miss where Jesus placed him, in terms of Peter's ability to restore the rest of the Apostles. He was one of the strongest of The Apostles I see that clearly from this section.

Now let me touch on a verse I am sure we have all read, in the context of Peter and John's lives:

Acts 4:13 Now as they observed the **confidence** of **Peter and John** and understood that they were **uneducated and untrained men**, they were amazed, and began to recognize them as having **been with Jesus.**

This here is referencing that both of them did not have the appropriate religious training, and letters after their names, the Greek word "**uneducated**" literally means "without letters", it means they didn't have the appropriate rabbinic training, they were "just lay men" in these religious leaders eyes.

Unlike The Apostle Paul of course, who was a "Pharisee of the Pharisee", trained under the great Jewish Scholar Gamalia.

So despite Peter's denials of Jesus coming up, it shows us first that Peter was not perfect, but he repented, and did get back right on track, with Jesus and their mission.

Speaks so loudly to all of us, as to the calibre of leader and man Peter was.

So Peter is adamant he will do anything even to the point of death for The Lord.

It is also in **John 13:36-38**, then we see in **John 21:15-19**, we see Peter's dramatic turnaround, lets read about that turnaround.

Now the context shows the Lord asking Peter, if Peter loved Him, 3 times, and Peter replied in the affirmative every time. "Off course I love you Jesus"!

Then Jesus gave out these famous proclamations to Peter:

John 21:15 Tend My lambs."

John 21:16 Shepherd My sheep.

John 21:17 Tend My sheep.

I will play a song I compiled on this, when we finish tonight.

The main point to gain from this is, where Jesus laid the responsibility for all of this, squarely on Peter's broad shoulders specifically.

John 21:18-25 Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go." 19 Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He *said to him, "Follow Me!" 20 Peter, turning around, *saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; the one who also had leaned back on His bosom at the supper and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?"

21 So Peter seeing him *said to Jesus, "Lord, and what about this man?"

22 Jesus *said to him, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!" 23 Therefore this saying went out among the brethren

that that disciple would not die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but only, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you?"

24 This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and wrote these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they *were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself *would not contain the books that *would be written.

So, this is the man who wrote 1 & 2 Peter, which is 7.8% of the GNT, so already we are seeing Peter is being highlighted as a tremendous leader and Apostle, one we can all trust as we start out in **Chapter 1:1** and following all the way through to the end **2 Peter 3:18**.

The Apostle Peter may have "only" written 2 of the 27 books in the Greek New Testament, yet he was a huge influence on not only the other Apostles, but the whole church of his day, right up to today, in fact, 2026.

Remember, he was a central figure in the book of Acts and has the accolade of preaching the very first declaration of the gospel at Pentecost. WOW!

Peter's calling to the office of Apostle is also recorded in **Matthew: 4:18-20, Mark 1:16-18 and in Chapter 3:13ff. Luke 5:1-11 and John 1:40-42.**

So it is so well documented in the scriptures, for a reason. These references will be in the notes. We will now read the record in **Mark 3**. Please turn there.

Watch out now for the 'ands' here coming up, it is the figure "polysyndeton" we have seen this figure before, in many other teachings.

This as we know is the figure of "many ands": this figure means "much bound together or many conjunctions": there are 18 in 6 verses here: WOW!

So we know God is giving some MAJOR emphasis here as to how important this section is:

Mark 3:13-19 And He *went up on the mountain **and** ***summoned those** **whom He Himself wanted,** **and** they came to Him.

14 **And** He appointed twelve, so that they would be with Him **and** that He could send **them out** to preach, 15 **and to have authority to cast out the demons.**

16 **And He appointed the twelve:** Simon (to whom He gave the name Peter),

(interesting Peter is listed first here, hey we are at 7 "ands" already)

17 **and** James, the son of Zebedee, **and** John the brother of James (to them He gave the name Boanerges, which means, "Sons of Thunder");

Are you gaining an insight into just how tough these guys were? What a nickname: "sons of Thunder", thunder invokes fear, it demands attention, I would suggest these men were on fire for the Lord, we know they were.....

"look out.....the sons of thunder are coming to town!!"

18 **and** Andrew, **and** Philip, **and** Bartholomew, **and** Matthew, **and** Thomas, **and** James the son of Alphaeus, **and** Thaddaeus, **and** Simon the Zealot;

19 **and** Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Him.

*(Bible Works) ... The Apostle Peter occupied a really distinguished place among the Lord's disciples. In the four lists of the apostles found in the New Testament his name stands first (**Mt 10:2-4; Mk 3:16-19; Lk 6:14-16; Acts 1:13**).*

*He is the main figure in the first twelve chapters of the book of Acts. As I said before **it is Peter** that preaches the first Christian sermon (**Acts 2:14**), what an accolade.*

***It is Peter** that opens the door of the gospel to the Gentile world in the house of the Roman soldier, Cornelius, and has the delight of witnessing scenes closely aligned to those of Pentecost at Jerusalem (**Acts 10:44-47**). It was given **to Peter** to pronounce the horrendous sentence on the guilty pair, Ananias and Sapphira, and to rebuke in the power of the Spirit a man called Simon in the book of Acts.*

*This man Simon was the one who had been a practising magician who then turned around wanting the power he saw the Apostles had been given (**Acts 5:1-11; 8:18-23**). In these and other occasions Peter exhibited the authority with which Christ had invested in him (**Mt 16:19**)--an authority bestowed upon*

all the disciples (John 20:22, 23)--the power to bind and to loose. (Bible Works)

Please turn to the Gospel of John Chapter 1:40, we see Peter's first visit with Jesus.

John 1:40-42 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He *found first his own brother Simon and *said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which translated means Christ).

42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus **looked at him and said**, "You are Simon the son of John; you shall be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

Right here was a significant name change for Peter, as it signalled **a new identity and purpose for Peter's life.**

So, the Apostle Peter was a prominent leader within this small group of the twelve apostles. The New Testament gives a more complete picture of Peter than of any other Apostle, with the exception of The Apostle Paul.

The Apostle Peter was a pioneer among the twelve apostles and the early church, breaking ground that the church would later follow.

This is the man who wrote **1 & 2 Peter**, so already we are seeing Peter is being highlighted as a tremendous Apostle, one we can all trust as we start out in **Chapter 1:1** and following, all the way through to **2 Peter 3:18** his last writing.

Peter was also the first apostle to see the risen Lord. As I mentioned earlier, Peter was called and chosen to **reach out to the Jewish nation**, while the Apostle Paul was called and chosen to predominantly **reach out to the Gentile nations.**

Now as an aside, Peter was also married, because the gospels mention that Jesus healed his mother-in-law **Matt. 8:14-15.**

The Apostle Paul later mentioned that Peter took his wife on his missionary travels in **1 Cor. 9:5.** Lets read that one:

1 Corinthians 9:1-5 Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not my work in the Lord? 2 If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

3 My defence to those who examine me is this: 4 Do we not have a right to eat and drink? 5 Do we not have a right to **take along a believing wife**, even as the rest of the apostles and the brothers of the Lord **and Cephas?**

Interesting background, but really has little bearing on Peter's ministry as an Apostle, but interesting nonetheless.

Famously Peter was **the only one** documented as having the faith to walk on water along with The Lord, I have a large framed print on my office wall of that great event, if you want to see it. Iain did a great Grove Music video The Anchor, which I will play when we hit that record.

Hope you are all getting onto SoundCloud that Iain jnr is loading The Grove songs onto. So thankful we have a tool to produce relevant accurate music now.

So Peter is also the **ONLY** Apostle I am aware of who challenged the Lord in the following way, please turn to **Matthew 16**: just one verse but gives us great insight into the boldness and the bravery of this man:

Matthew 16:22 Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, “God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You.”

Do you think that took guts? Peter interestingly was referring to Jesus’ own suffering, that He Jesus **would HAVE TO endure**, but Peter didn’t want Him to suffer it, so he rebuked The Lord Himself.

Some more background as to the central role Peter had among the Apostles:

Peter and John arrived at the same time at Jesus tomb. Yet Peter was the first Apostle to enter into Jesus’s empty tomb. **(John 20:3-6)**

Peter and John were allocated the responsibility of organizing the last supper **(Luke 22:8).**

Peter and John accompanied Jesus to the High Priest place-for His trial that in itself took a lot of bravery. **(John 18:15-16)**

He was among the 3 Apostles who witnessed the incredible **Vision** on the Mount of Transfiguration: **we have to read this: Matthew 17:1ff**

The Apostle Peter and the Apostle John were “joined at the hip”.

Matthew 17:1-8 Six days later Jesus ***took with Him Peter and James and John** his brother, and ***led them up on a high mountain by themselves.**

2 And He was transfigured **before them**; and His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light. 3 And behold, Moses and Elijah **appeared to them, talking with Him.** 4 Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if You wish, I will make three tabernacles here, one for You, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”

5 While he was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and behold, a voice out of the cloud said, “This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!” 6 **When the disciples heard this**, they fell face down to the ground and were terrified.

7 And Jesus came **to them** and touched **them** and said, “Get up, and do not be afraid.” 8 And lifting up their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus Himself alone.

9 As **they** were coming down from the mountain, Jesus commanded **them**,
(Peter, James and John in verse 1) saying, "Tell **the vision** to no one until the
Son of Man has risen from the dead."

So these 3 Apostles kept this a secret until after Jesus' resurrection from the
dead. Do you think that was easy, I would suggest NOT?!

So what was seen was in fact exactly what it states in the text "**A VISION**", it
is not that Moses and Elijah were alive in heaven or anywhere else, but they
appeared to them Peter, James and John, in this vision AS alive, these
dead men appeared to be alive and talking to **ONLY** Jesus it specifically states.

Peter, James and John were the ones usually mentioned during significant events.

Now is our Sovereign God very capable of raising Moses and Elijah from the
dead for a short time? Well of course He is, but lets NOT "go beyond what is
written" right here, it states a "VISION", so I would not go further than what is
written. Moses and Elijah are both dead until they are resurrected on Jesus's
return, what they saw here was a vision, IF we strictly go by what is written.

So that is what I wanted to further cover on the calling of the great Apostle Peter. Which now has prepared us to delve into the Peter's epistles of **1 & 2 Peter**.

So next time we meet we will be in **1 Peter Chapter 1:1ff**, now we should have a different attitude as we read the text having seen the central part The Apostle Peter played in the church, and where he stood in The Lord's eyes..

So the text that he was divinely inspired to write, should now take on and play a central role in our Christian faith, and journey, as we look into the central role **suffering** plays in all of our journeys.

I have already sent out the audios for 1&2 Peter, so we can listen to at least some of the text while on the move, and I want to challenge us all to read the text daily, at a minimum the Chapter we are in.

There will be massive benefit in us all doing that as we move through the text. We also have the overview Charts on the web site and I have sent them as well. So that will be our working document for us throughout the series, so have it handy either print a copy or have it on your device. **AMEN**

Play: "Feed My Sheep" 6.02