

Peter Was Never in Rome

Fred R. Coulter—March 16, 2013

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services. Today we're going to talk about—what about the new pope. Since there was so much out there that he's supposedly the last one.

On Wednesday I did some Church at Home. I got done with four of the Church at Home segments: *Babylon the Great and Papal Power*. We were just getting ready to go and we got news that the pope was elected. So, we went back, set up the camera, got everything ready to go, and instead of doing #5 Papal Power, the fifth one we did became #1. We got that done and Randy was able to get it edited by Friday night, so it was up online Friday night and we did it on Wednesday. He did really a good job in putting it together because there is an awful lot to do with it.

There are even some more things to do with it, but what we're going to do after we cover some of the things concerning the pope, we're going to look and answer the question: Was Peter ever in Rome? Can we find anything in the Scriptures to indicate that he ever went there? I think we're going to be surprised when we get through the Scriptures and see.

Let's talk a little bit about some of the things of the pope. I was taken aback by his name—Jorge Mario Bergoglio. The press kept saying he wasn't an Italian. That's not quite true because his father moved to Argentina in 1927 from Turin, Italy; so he's an Italian. They can say he's from South America; that's where he was living, but he's really an Italian. So, all the cardinals elected another Italian. There are two things going here.

1. He's the 266th pope, supposedly counting Peter as #1
2. The Malachi prophecy of 1198 said that from that time forward there would be 112 popes. This one is the 112th

When we got news that the pope was elected and then Bonnie brought me a printout of what it was, I looked at him and I knew immediately this could not be the last pope.

1. He's 76
2. The prophecies in Revelation show that all the daughters, meaning all the religions of the world, are going to come back home to Rome

This man is absolutely not the one to do it. Also the final pope is going to be doing miracles. He needs to be as charismatic or more charismatic than John Paul II was. What this does, when this pope dies—he's

already 76 and who knows how long he's going to live—this will give the Catholic Church the opportunity that they have needed.

Between now and the time the last pope comes, they'll increase their reach-out to the other religions of the world. I've mentioned this before, but in case you didn't know it, the pope always sends congratulations to the Hindus for their celebration of Diwali. They have ecumenical outreaches to all other religions.

We were watching on the History Channel the big temples of Ankara that were uncovered in the late 1900s. Now they've got it all cleared off and they're redoing them. They're showing them and how they were built—idols, *idols, idols!* As we were watching them and Jonathan being an architectural draftsman, interested in all of the plans and how they did those things and how sophisticated they were. But the thing that stuck out was this: *every religion in the world has idolatry*, every single one, even the Muslims.

They say they don't have idols, but that special place in Mecca where all the million get around there and they circle around there. It's their lifelong thing to go to Mecca and take the pilgrimage there, guess what's inside that little building? A *black stone!* Whether they realize it or not, they're worshiping a stone and they say they don't have idols.

Then you come to the Jews and they say they don't have idols, but they have all kinds of other things that they have which are idols. The very fact that they go to the Western Wailing Wall to pray, that is their idol. That's one of the key identifying things with all the Babylonian Mystery religions.

Let's talk a little bit about numbers, because this is very interesting. The #13 comes up with this pope in almost everything that is done. Let's come to page 12 in *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order* where we have about the numerics. Let's read what #13 signifies. Of course, this whole system is the rebellion. This whole system will become the apostasy in 2-Thes. 2, which means *a complete removal from God*.

Number 13:

- Associated with rebellion and depravity.
- Used 15 times in the Bible.
- All the names of Satan are divisible by 13.

This is part of the numerology to look to, to follow the fruits.

- Nimrod, the chief rebel after the flood, was the 13th in the line of Ham. In their 13th year of servitude, the kings of the nations rebelled (Gen. 14:4).
- Twelve represents the government of God and 13 represents the governments of men in rebellion against God.

We had 13 colonies. Makes you wonder about that.

- Moses wrote of Israel's 21 rebellions in Deut. 31:27.

That you have been rebellious from the beginning.

- When this scriptural reference is added across (3+1+2+7), you get 13, the number of rebellion.
- Haman the Agagite had a decree signed on the 13th day of the first month that on the 13th day of the 12th month all the Jews in the Persian Empire were to be killed. (Esther 3:8-13).
- Dragon, a symbol for Satan, is found 13 times in Revelation. Satan is behind all rebellion against God.
- Jesus mentions 13 things that are in the hearts of the depraved and rebellious (Mark 7:21-22). In Romans 1, Paul lists 23 things against sinful men; the 13th is haters of God.

Let's see how the #13 comes together with the election of this new pope.

- The white smoke was seen at 7:06, so the numerology there is 7+6 is 13
- He is 76 years old. 7+6 is 13
- Then he was elected on the calendar date: 3/13/13, which sports two 13s of its own, but in numerology: 3/13/2013, you add that up and you get 3+1+3+2+0+1+3 equals 13
- He was announced to be pope precisely at 8:13, Vatican time. That means he was brought out publicly

Dolores was watching some of the news on it and they said normally he is out there within 45 minutes. But when they elect the new pope they have 3 uniforms ready—small, medium and large. I don't know which one he didn't fit into, but he didn't fit into the one that they thought the pope would fit into. So, it took the extra time to adjust it so he could come out. That was exactly at 8:13 p.m.

There are some other things here concerning the #13 that we could cover:

- Satan's name in Hebrew is 13 times 28
- Prince of the power of the air is 13 times 200
- Rev. 13:11, the whole verse is 13 times 4—86

- When you get to Rev. 13, you find that in v 13 it talks about he does great signs and wonders so that he calls fire down from heaven

There's quite a bit concerning the pope that adds to what we already know.

Let's ask the question from Scripture: Was Peter ever in Rome? Let's begin there with the calling of Peter. Remember he has three names:

1. Peter
2. Simon
3. Cephas

This is when Jesus ordained the twelve and gave them authority. Mark 3:16: "Then He chose Simon and added to him the name Peter." Let's see what Peter or Cephas really means. This will help us understand the claim that the Catholics always make, which they say 'on the rock of Peter the Catholic Church was built and Peter came to Rome.'

Let's see what Peter really means and we'll look and see about the situation with Peter. John 1:43: "And he led him... [Andrew led Peter] ...to Jesus. And when He saw him, Jesus said, 'You are Simon, the son of Jona. You shall be called Cephas'... [an Aramaic word] ... (which is, being interpreted, 'a stone')."

Let's come back to Matthew 16 and let's see this Scripture that they repeat over and over. I don't think there is a single Mass that they don't quote this Scripture. We're also then going to investigate some of the things that you could say, the good, the bad and the ugly concerning Peter.

Matthew 16:13: "Now, after coming into the parts of Caesarea Philippi, Jesus questioned His disciples, saying, 'Whom do men declare Me, the Son of man, to be?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But you, whom do you declare Me to be?' Then Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered and said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona... [Bar-Jona means son of Jona] ...for flesh and blood did not reveal it to you, but My Father, Who is in heaven. And I say also to you, that you are Peter... [which means little stone.] ...but upon this Rock... [What is the difference in the Greek? Peter, in the Greek is 'petros'—small stone. Aramaic: Cephas.] ...but upon this Rock...' (vs 1-18). When Jesus said 'this Rock,' He changes the word. It is not 'ho petros'; it is 'he Petra'. That means a giant crag or cliff or rock.

Let's see that we have a New Testament interpretation concerning Christ and telling us exactly who Jesus was before He came in the flesh.

1-Corinthians 10:1: "Now, I do not wish you to be ignorant of *this*, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea. And all were baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea. And *they* all ate the same spiritual meat. And *they* all drank of the same spiritual drink; for they drank from *the* spiritual Rock that followed them. **And that Rock was Christ**" (vs 1-4).

We also find that Jesus is called the Chief Cornerstone. That is a huge, mammoth rock that is so finely cut and finely aligned that when it is set all the rest of the foundation and the building is based upon this huge cornerstone. Here we have identifying Christ as this Rock. Who is the Head of the Church? *Jesus Christ is* (Eph. 1:22).

Dolores just about fell over listening to some of the news when they were talking about the pope and the pope said, 'I'm not the head of the church, Christ is.' But, are there false Christ's? Are there false Jesus'? *Yes, indeed!* So, to say that doesn't indicate they're on their way to the Truth. They will have many more things they would have to get rid of. You would have to virtually demolish everything doctrinally and architecturally of everything they built, because it is all built upon idolatry.

Matthew 16:18: "And I say also to you, that you are Peter... [a little rock] ...but upon this Rock... [Himself] ...I will build My church, and *the gates of the grave shall not prevail against it.*"

If you don't have the book, *The Two Babylons*, by Alexander Hislop, I'm going to mention again, you need to get it and read it. When I was first being called, that was the first book that I read. I was absolutely astonished that every single doctrine the Roman Catholic Church has—and I was never into religion—this book shows clearly it all came from Ancient Babylon and then through the other countries: Egypt, Rome, religions of the Far East, religions of the western hemisphere all come from the same one. They worship the sun-god.

I also want you to think about this, and if you can see a picture of it this will become very interesting. I'm sure you've seen where the pope does the high Mass. They show it in St. Peter's Basilica. There is a copula that rises clear, way up into the heights of St. Peter's Basilica up toward the dome area. Then it has on top of it a little copula top on it. These 4 pillars that go up to hold it up are all serpentine design. They all have bees and flies on them; the lord of the flies, Beelzebub. Guess what is right at the top? *A great sunburst! Sun-worship.*

Verse 19—this is another one that they keep talking about in the Catholic Church: "And I will give to you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven; and whatever you may bind on the earth will have

already been bound in heaven..." It doesn't mean that the pope can come along and sanctify a pagan holiday or a pagan holy day and now name it Christian and now it's okay to observe that day. Doesn't mean that. You cannot do anything contrary to what has already been decreed in heaven—correct? Yes!

"...and whatever you may loose on the earth will have already been loosed in heaven" (v 19). We've got in Appendix Q where you can read about that and what that really means.

What are the keys? *The keys are the understanding of the Word of God!* Not physical keys as the pope has; he has on the back of his cape that he wears the 2 keys that are crossed. Those come from Janus and Cybele, pagan gods. Then the miter that he wears: they were astonished when the Catholics finally got around to getting to Japan that there the emperor, who was supposed to be god manifested in the flesh, wore a *fish-head miter!*

If you watch Church at Home, the one we did on Babylon the Great and Papal Power, you will see that all the cardinals wear those also. Most people don't know it, but the Pontifex Maximus of Ancient Babylon also had a college of cardinals and they were the ones who elected the Pontifex Maximus, which is another name of the pope.

Jesus would build His Church. Did He use Peter in a great way? *Yes, He did!* After Jesus was telling them, 'Look, we're going up to Jerusalem. They're going to kill Me. I'll be ill treated of the priests and the scribes and the Pharisees, but the third day I'll be raised.'

Here's what Peter did—v 22—so it shows the boldness of Peter. Remember also, one of the good things that Peter did was that when Jesus was walking on the way and Peter said, 'Is it You?' He said, 'Yes, it is Me.' *Then bid me to come on the water.* Peter walked on the water a few steps until he looked around and saw all the wind and the waves and everything. He got afraid and started sinking and Jesus said, 'Oh, you of little faith.'

But notice what Peter did here; misplacement of initiative, v 22: "But after taking *Him* aside... [Peter going up to Jesus and taking Him aside. 'Let's have a little talk over here, Lord.] ...Peter personally began to rebuke Him, saying, 'God will be favorable to you, Lord. In no way shall this happen to You.'"

A few verses before He said, v 17: "...'Blessed are you Simon Bar-Jona, for flesh and blood did not reveal *it* to you, but My Father Who is in heaven.'"

Notice what He says of Peter, v 23: "Then He turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind Me, Satan!....

[Why? Satan was there putting some missiles of thoughts in Peter's mind!] ... You are an offense to Me, because your thoughts are not *in accord* with the things of God, but the things of men.” He reaffirmed that everything had to be to Him, not to Peter. He didn’t turn around and say, ‘Look, Peter is the man.’

Verse 24: “And Jesus said to His disciples, ‘If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and let him take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life shall lose it; but whoever will lose his life for My sake shall find it’” (vs 24-25). That’s what it has to be.

Let’s take another look here concerning Peter. Let’s see again another thing, we’ll put in the category of bad, so we’re looking at the good, the bad and the ugly of Peter. They came out to arrest Jesus and He answered those looking for Him, the mob, and Judas was there and betrayed Him with a kiss, and so forth.

John 18:8: “Jesus answered, ‘I told you that I AM. Therefore, if you are seeking Me, allow these to go their way’; so that the saying might be fulfilled which He had said, ‘Of those whom You have given Me, not one of them have I lost.’ Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, and cut off his right ear. And the servant’s name was Malchus” (vs 8-10). I’m sure he wasn’t aiming for the ear. I think he was swinging for the head and the soldier ducked down and it sliced and cut his ear. Then we have in another account that Jesus reached over and healed his ear.

Just kind of put yourself in the soldier’s position, where his ear had been cut off, the One they arrested for doing evil deeds reached over and touched him and his ear was whole. He had to lead Jesus off to Caiaphas and the high priest to be tried and everything. I imagine that he must have many times during that night, looking at Jesus and looking what the priests and Sadducees and everyone were doing, I’ll bet he reached up and touched his ear many times. You just don’t have your ear hacked off and that would be a painful thing, and then have it replaced immediately. And now this man is evil? So, sometimes you wonder what goes on in their minds.

Let’s see some of the good intentions, but bad results of Peter. Luke 22:31 substantiates the problem that Peter had there in taking Satan’s part against Jesus (Matt. 16): “Then the Lord said, ‘Simon, Simon, listen well. Satan has demanded to have you, to sift you as wheat.’” Satan already was preparing for his counterfeit church. What a coup it would have been to get Peter the apostle! He couldn’t get him, and as I explained on other segments of Church at Home, he got Simon Magus

(Acts 8) and he was the one who went to Rome. As we will see, Peter never went to Rome.

Verse 32: “But I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail”; and when you are converted, strengthen your brethren.’ And he said to Him, ‘Lord, I am ready to go with You both to prison and to death.’ But He said, ‘I tell you, Peter, the cock shall in no wise crow today before you have denied knowing Me three times’” (vs 32-34). That was quite a thing there.

Here’s another account of striking with the sword, v 51: “But Jesus answered *and* said, ‘That is enough!’ Then He touched his ear and healed him.” Peter followed Him along; he got into the area where they were judging and trying Him.

Verse 55: “And when they had kindled a fire in *the* middle of the court, and had sat down together, Peter sat among them. And a certain maid saw him sitting by the light; and after looking at him intently, she said, ‘Now this one was with Him.’ But he denied Him, saying, ‘Woman I do not know Him.’ And after a little *while*, another saw him *and* said, ‘You also are *one* of them.’ But Peter said, ‘Man, I am not.’ Now after about an hour had passed, a certain other *man* strongly affirmed, saying, ‘In truth, this one also was with Him, for he is indeed a Galilean.’ And Peter said, ‘Man, I do not know what you are talking about.’ And immediately, while he was yet speaking, the cock crowed. Then the Lord turned *and* looked at Peter... [they looked eyeball to eyeball] ...and Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, ‘Before the cock crows, you shall deny Me three times.’ And Peter went outside and wept bitterly” (vs 55-62).

There we have the good, the bad and the ugly; however, we see that beginning with Acts 2. We’re not going to go through many verses, but we’re going to kind of summarize a little story flow here for you and then what we will do, we will go back and we will look at the chronology that we have in the back of the Bible.

This is why the *Holy Bible in Its Original Order* is so thick and so important. It covers a lot of things you need to know:

1. about the Bible
2. about who wrote it
3. when it was written
4. who canonized it
5. how did we get it today

All of those are in the commentaries and in the appendices. After the appendices we have a whole lot of chronologies and we have broken down the flow of things chronologically, year-by-year. So, we know what happened when the Holy Spirit was given.

Acts 2:14: "Then Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice and spoke out to them: 'Men, Jews, and all those of you who inhabit Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and pay attention to my words.'" Then he gives a very powerful and moving message. Out of the thousands that were there, 3,000 were converted.

Verse 38: "Then Peter said to them, 'Repent and be baptized each one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for *the remission of sins*, and you yourselves shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

Acts 3—Peter and John go into the temple and they heal the man who had been there for years and years, and because of this they were arrested. Let's see what happened here. They were arrested; they were kept overnight in the prison.

Acts 4:5: "Now, it came to pass in the morning *that* their rulers and elders and scribes were assembled together in Jerusalem, And Annas, the high priest, and Caiaphas and John and Alexander, and as many as were of *the* high priest's lineage. And after placing them... [Peter and John] ...in the midst, they inquired, 'By what power or in what name did you do this?'" (vs 5-7).

Here is the good of Peter. Look at what he did, v 8: "Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit... [look at the difference between that and carnality before he was converted] ...said to them, 'Rulers of the people and elders of Israel, If we are examined this day as to a good work done to the infirm man, by what power he has been cured, be it known to you all...'" (vs 8-10).

Remember these are the ones who had Jesus arrested. These are the ones who tried Him the night of the Passover. These are the ones who took Him to Pilate and had Him crucified. These are the ones who spread the story also that the disciples came and stole away His body at night.

Verse 10: "'Be it known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarean, Whom you crucified, *but* Whom God has raised from *the* dead, by Him this *man* stands before you whole. This is the Stone...'" (vs 10-11). Even Peter knew he was not the stone on which the Church would be built. If the first pope didn't know that, that puts everything in great jeopardy—doesn't it?

Verse 11: "This is the Stone that was set at naught by you, the builders, which has become the Head of *the* corner.... [he makes it very, very clear] ...And there is no salvation in any other, for neither is there another name under heaven which has been given among men, by which we must be saved" (vs 11-12). That was quite a thing they went through there.

Let's come to Acts 5 and the case of Ananias and Sapphira. Peter was the one who understood that they promised to give the full price of the sale of the land. They apparently got more than they anticipated and they kept back. Here's a good lesson. Before God, let your yes be *yes* and your no be *no!* Don't change it.

We're thankful that God does not do this to everyone, because we find even the Apostle Paul in writing to the Churches of Ephesus and Colossians told them, 'Don't lie to one another.' They were lying back and forth to one another. Human nature is deceitful and needs to be overcome, so we need those things to help us seek the Truth always. They both died.

Notice what happened as a result of it. Let's see how things gathered momentum with Peter, Acts 5:11: "Then great fear came upon the whole church, and upon all who heard these things. And many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles... [Peter and all of them] ...and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch" (vs 11-12)—right at the temple. Just think what that was like for the chief priests and the Pharisees and all of them.

Verse 13: "And none of the others dared to join them, but the people magnified them; And believers were added all the more to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women), insomuch *that the people were* bringing out the sick into the streets and putting *them* on beds and stretchers, so that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them" (vs 13-15). When it did, it healed them. Can you imagine that?

Verse 16: "And a multitude from the cities round about also came together to Jerusalem, bringing sick ones and those beset by unclean spirits; *and* they were all healed." They were angry. What did they do? *They arrested them!* They put them in the hold.

This is always a good one, I really love this one here, v 19: "But during the night an angel of the Lord came and opened the doors of the prison; and after bringing them out, he said, 'Go and stand in the temple, and speak to the people all the words of his life.' And after hearing *that*, they entered into the temple at dawn and taught. Now, when the high priest and those with him came, they called together the Sanhedrin and all the elderhood of the sons of Israel, and sent to the prison to have them brought. But when the officers came, they did not find them in the prison; and when they returned, they reported, Saying, 'We indeed found the prison locked with all security, and the keepers standing outside in front of the doors; but after opening *them*, we did not find anyone inside'" (vs 19-23).

Right while they were speaking these words, someone came in and said, v 25: "...'Behold, the men whom you put in the prison are standing in the temple and teaching the people.' Then the captain went with the officers *and* brought them without violence... [I imagine they tippy-toed] ...for they feared the people." (vs 25-26). Then you know what happened there. The Sanhedrin got mad.

The high priest stood up and asked them, v 28: "Saying, 'Did we not order you by a direct command not to teach in this name?....'" You need to understand, if you went against the high priest and what he commanded, that was his judgment. You go back and read Deut. 17. If you did that, you were worthy of death.

They went against it; notice what Peter did—here again, the good, v 29: "But Peter and the apostles answered *and* said, 'We are obligated to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus Whom you killed by hanging *Him* on a tree. *Him* has God exalted by His right hand *to be* a Prince and Savior, to give repentance and remission of sins to Israel. And we are His witnesses of these things, as *is* also the Holy Spirit, which God has given to those who obey Him'" (vs 29-32).

This was more than they could handle. They were ready to kill them all. Gamaliel said, 'Be careful you don't fight against God. If you fight against God, you're going to be in trouble. But as other rebellions in the past, if this is not of God it's going to peter away and come to nothing.'

(go to the next track)

Since we're in the book of Acts, let's continue on and we'll get some of the chronology and events that have taken place. Come to the back of the *Holy Bible in Its Original Order*. This is the chronology of the New Testament, Chronology V pg. 1404_[transcribers correction] The years are listed in bold numbers; we also have other chronologies that are important in the Old Testament and so forth.

- **30_{A.D.}**—the Church started
- **32_{A.D.}**—The martyrdom of Stephen; persecution against the Church
- **33_{A.D.}**—Saul was converted
- **34, 35, 36_{A.D.}**—Saul in the Arabian Desert
- **36_{A.D.}**—Saul's first visit to Jerusalem for fifteen days (Acts 9:26-30, Gal. 1:18-20). Barnabas brings Saul to apostles Peter and James. Then they had to send him off to Tarsus.
- **37-38_{A.D.}**—we have Acts 9 and 10 showing that Peter was doing a lot of evangelizing down in southwestern Israel or down in the area of what is called Gaza today and Caesarea.

Then he was up in Lydda and that's when Cornelius, Acts 10, sent for him and he came. He preached and he was amazed that God gave the Holy Spirit to them without being circumcised and commanded that they all be baptized.

What we are going to see is this: the Catholics claim that Peter was in Rome from 41-66_{A.D.} But we are going to find that Peter was nowhere near there. They also claim something very important that we will see. They claim that Peter was the first bishop of the Church in Antioch. That is not true. Here's what happened: Peter came back and explained everything to the circumcision party.

The Jews were still of the mindset that any Gentile, who would come to God, would have to be circumcised. This is why God did this with Cornelius and his household. They were from Italy. They didn't have to be circumcised, though they were baptized, because now circumcision for the New Covenant is circumcision of the heart and mind, not of the flesh. God had to do this to show the leaders of the Church in Jerusalem that He was in charge. Peter explained the whole thing.

Acts 11:17: "Therefore, if God also gave them the same gift that *was given* to us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was *I to dissent*? Do I have the power to forbid God?" The popes say they do.

Notice their reaction, but it never really sunk in. They just acknowledged it. You read through the rest of the book of Acts and when Paul came up there and discovered that he was there, what did they do? *They rioted!* He had to be rescued by the Roman soldiers.

Verse 18—this becomes a very important thing to understand: "And after hearing these things, they were silent; and they glorified God, saying, 'Then to the Gentiles also has God indeed granted repentance unto life.' 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.... [Peter did not do this. Certain ones, certain disciples] ...And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed *and* turned to the Lord. Now the report concerning them was heard in the ears of the church that was in Jerusalem, and they sent out... [Peter? No!] ...they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch" (vs 18-22). You take a look, that's going north out of the area of Palestine.

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, 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" (vs 23-25). Saul was over in Tarsus for a good number of years before he was brought back to Antioch. Antioch became Paul's headquarters.

Last part of Acts 11 talks about Agabus coming down and saying there was going to be a drought. We're going to see that Peter was still in Jerusalem after 41_{A.D.}. He could not have been in Rome. We'll see other things to show from the Scriptures that he was not in Rome. Another very important part there:

- **40-41_{A.D.}**—Epistle of James written

That's a very important thing here because James doesn't mention one thing about Gentiles. This means that this was written to the twelve tribes of Israel scattered abroad before the conversion of Gentiles.

- **41_{A.D.}**—

- 1) Claudius Caesar made Emperor of Rome Jan. 25, 41_{AD}.
- 2) In Antioch, Barnabas and Saul teach for a whole year—summer to summer (Acts 11:26).
- 3) Herod Agrippa I made king of Judea by Claudius in spring 41_{A.D.}, reigning three years until spring 44_{A.D.} when he dies

- **42-43:**

- 1) Most of the apostles leave Jerusalem 42_{A.D.} to preach the Gospel to the lost sheep of the ten tribes of the house Israel scattered in all the world, as Jesus had commanded (Matt. 10:5-23)
- 2) In spring 42_{A.D.} the prophet Agabus comes from Jerusalem and prophesies of coming three-year famine (43-45_{A.D.})

Which brings us to the end of Acts 11.

- **44:**

- 1) In spring 44_{A.D.} food and relief sent to Jerusalem by hands of Barnabas and Saul (Acts 11:30).

Acts 12:1—this becomes important; here we have Peter: "Now, about that time, Herod... [Herod Agrippa we just read about, so this is in 44_{A.D.} before he died] ...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).

Here again, Peter was let out miraculously from jail. After arresting him, putting him in prison, delivering him, to set the soldiers about him, he was

held securely (v 5). The church prayed fervently for him.

Verse 6: "Now, when Herod was about to bring him out, during that night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains; 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" (vs 6-7). There's no problem too great for God.

Verse 8: "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.' And he followed him, going forth, but did not realize that this was really happening by *the* hand of the angel; rather, he thought he was seeing a vision" (vs 8-9).

The long and the short of it is, Peter got out and where did he go? Verse 12: "And *as* he was pondering *this*, he came to the house of Mary, the mother of John who was surnamed Mark... [pay close attention to Mark, because Mark becomes a very important go-between, between Paul and Peter] ...where many were gathered together and were praying."

He knocked on the door, the girl ran, heard it was his voice, thought it was an angel of Peter and ran back and told everyone, 'Peter's knocking outside, you need to let him in.' They all went; they let him in; they were all amazed.

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 and the brethren.'....' This James has to be the brother of Jesus, because the other one was killed.

"...Then he departed and went to another place" (v 17). This is the last we hear of Peter in the book of Acts. Where do you suppose that he went? Almost all the rest of it is the chronology of the Apostle Paul's ministry.

Let's come to the book of Galatians. Here we get something and we see what happened to Peter when he came down to Antioch and how he behaved. We have a little more chronology here in Gal. 1 talking about Paul and his conversion and the fourteen years, and so forth. Then it talks about they're going up to the conference in Jerusalem in 49_{A.D.} and Peter came there. (Acts 15). But there was a private meeting first. This becomes very important to understand.

Here's what Paul wrote concerning the circumcision party, Galatians 2:4: "Now *this* meeting was *private* because of false brethren

brought in secretly, who came in by stealth to spy out our freedom... [a little circumcision-inspection party, spies going around, false brethren] ...in order that they might bring us into bondage; to whom we did not yield in subjection, *not* even for one hour, so that the truth of the Gospel might continue with you. But *the Gospel that I preach did not come from those reputed to be something....*" (vs 4-6).

Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles. He was the one who wrote the Epistle to the Romans, *not Peter*. We're going to see a couple important things in the book of Romans here in just a little bit. When he wrote to them he *did not give any salutation to Peter*, not one.

Remember, the Epistle to the Romans was written in 54_{A.D.} from Corinth. Peter would have been there a long, long time, if he had gone there. Now notice Paul's attitude: "...(Whatever they were does not make any difference to me; God does not accept *the person* of a man)...." (v 6). Not even Peter.

What did He tell Peter when Peter wanted to protect Jesus? He said, 'Get you behind Me, Satan.' "...For those who are of repute conferred nothing upon me. But on the contrary, after seeing that I have been entrusted with the gospel of the uncircumcision, exactly as Peter *had been entrusted with the gospel of the circumcision*" (vs 6-7). Peter was to go to the Jews.

When Peter left Jerusalem in 44_{A.D.} where do you suppose that he went? *He wouldn't go to Italy or to Rome*, because they were the uncircumcised Gentiles. Where were most of the Jews outside of Judea in those days? *In Babylon!* We have that Peter identifies he was in Babylon at the end of the Epistle of 1-Peter.

Verse 8: "(For He Who wrought in Peter for the apostleship of the circumcision... [had he been in Rome. And as the apostle to the circumcision, would not the Jews have known Peter? Yes, indeed! But we'll see that was not so.] ...wrought in me also toward the Gentiles); and after recognizing the grace that was given to me, James and Cephas and John... [Cephas is Peter] ...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" (vs 8-9)—except Peter. *No!*

Verse 10: "*Their only request* was that we remember the poor, which very thing I was also diligent to do. But when Peter came to Antioch... [Probably on one of his trips from Jerusalem to Babylon. Antioch was a logical place to go.] ...I withheld him to *his* face because he was to be condemned. For before certain *ones* came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles...." (vs 10-

12). What do you suppose Peter would have had to have done had he gone to Rome? *He would have to go to the Jews only because he was not to go to the circumcision!* The Jews in Rome would probably not let him have anything to do with the Gentiles. You see the conflict that would have been there, would have been exactly like this. What did Peter do because he was an apostle to the circumcision?

Verse 12: "For before certain *ones* came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles... [Whenever he would come through and visit there he would eat with everybody.] ...However, when they came, he drew back and separated himself *from the Gentiles*, being afraid of those of *the circumcision party*. And the rest of *the Jews* joined him in *this hypocritical act*, insomuch that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy" (vs 12-13). This shows that Peter was never in Rome.

Let's carry this forward and we'll look at some other things, Romans 15:16: "In order that I might be a minister of Jesus Christ unto the Gentiles to perform the Holy service of teaching the gospel of God; so that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by *the* Holy Spirit. Therefore, I have *cause for boasting* in Christ Jesus *as to* the things pertaining to God. For I will not presume to speak about anything that Christ has not worked out by me for *the obedience of the Gentiles*, through word and work. Through *the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit of God*; so that in a circuit from Jerusalem to Illyricum, I have fully preached the Gospel of Christ. **And indeed, I have aspired to preach the Gospel of Christ where the name of Christ was not known, so that I might not build on another's foundation**" (vs 16-20).

If Peter had been in Rome for 13 years, he could not have written this because that would have been Peter's territory. But Peter was to be an apostle to the Jews, so we'll find that he was in Babylon.

You read all through the book of Romans, you find not one mention of Peter. If Peter had been there, Paul would have written 'as Peter has taught you.' There was another Peter who was there, which I cover on Church at Home, called Simon Magus. He did go to Rome in 42_{A.D.}.

Let's see what happened when Paul arrives. He arrived as a prisoner under house arrest. Acts 28:17: "Now, it came to pass *that* after three days... [three days after he got there] ...Paul called together those who were chief among the Jews...." Don't you suppose that if Peter had been in Rome he would have gone to the chief of the Jews, those in charge of the synagogue, those in charge of the Jewish community, because they lived separately from the rest of the Gentiles?

"...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..."' (vs 17-20) What did Paul always say? *To the Jew first, then the Gentiles!* He gets there and in three days—he was there two years—and he called for leading Jews.

"...and speak to *you*; because *it is* for the hope of Israel that I have this chain around *me*.' 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*'" (vs 20-21).

Had Peter been there for about 15 years—44-60_{A.D.}, how do you think the Jews would have answered Paul? They would have said, 'Paul, Peter has been here for a long time. As a matter of fact, we know exactly where he's living. We'll have him come over and talk to you.'

They didn't say, 'We've already heard the Gospel.' Notice what they said, v 22: "'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.' And when they appointed a day *for him to speak*, many came into his lodging to *hear him*; *and* he expounded to them from morning until evening, fully testifying *of* the Kingdom of God and persuading them *of* the things concerning Jesus, both from the law of Moses and *from* the prophets. And some were truly convinced of the things that were spoken, but some did not believe. And they departed in disagreement with one another after Paul had spoken *these* words.... [then he gave them a real witness]: ...'Well did the Holy Spirit speak by Isaiah the prophet to our fathers, Saying, "Go to this people and say, 'In hearing you shall hear, and in no way understand; and in seeing you shall see, but in no way perceive. For the heart of this people has grown fat, and their ears are dull of hearing, and they have closed their eyes; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and should be converted, and I should heal them'""' (vs 22-27).

Peter failed—right? If Peter was there and he was to preach the Gospel to the circumcision and Paul had to give this witness to these Jews in this way, and he surely would have condemned Peter because he did in Gal. 2—didn't he? Yes!

Verse 28: "Be it known to you, that the salvation of God has, therefore, been sent to the Gentiles; and they will hear." Peter was not preaching to the Gentiles at all. Paul confirmed it.

Verse 29: "And after he said these things, the Jews went away with much debate among themselves. And Paul remained two whole years in his own hired house, welcoming all who came to him, Proclaiming the Kingdom of God, and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness, no man forbidding *him*" (vs 29-31). The book of Acts ends abruptly because Paul was released and I'm sure Luke was intending to write more, but never got around to doing it.

1-Peter 5 is probably after Paul was back in prison in Rome the second time. The first part of it he writes to the strangers that were in northern area of what is called Turkey today. This tells us where Peter was.

He finishes his epistle, 1-Peter 5:10: "Now, may the God of all grace, Who has called us unto His eternal glory in Christ Jesus, after *you* have suffered a little while, Himself perfect you, establish, strengthen, *and* settle you. To Him *be* the glory and the power into the ages of eternity. Amen. By Silvanus... [Silvanus was also one that served Paul. At this time there was communication between Paul, who came back in the person again, was arrested, and Peter. This was carried out by Silvanus, and as we will see, Mark.] ...a faithful brother to you, as I reckon, I have written *to you* briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is *the* true grace of God in which you stand. The *church* in Babylon, chosen together with *you*, greets you, *as does* Mark, my son." (vs 10-13).

Where did Peter go when he got out of prison the last time (Acts 12)? *He went to the house of Mark!* Mark was the nephew of Barnabas. Barnabas was a Levite; Mark was a Levite. Mark was used along with Silvanus as secretaries to write the epistles. Paul had Silvanus, he had Luke, and he had others. We're going to see that Mark becomes a very important clue to understand about Peter being in Babylon.

Verse 14: "Greet one another with a kiss of love. Peace *be* with all of you who *are* in Christ Jesus. Amen."

2-Timothy 4—you can read about this also in how the New Testament was canonized—Commentaries 8-10, *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order*—because these are some of the clues. Paul was encouraging Timothy. He gave him all the charges of 1st and 2nd Timothy. He was in prison. He said, 'Everyone in Asia has left me.' He knew that he was going to be offered up.

2-Timothy 4:6: “For I am now ready to be offered... [He didn’t know exactly when it would happen, so he was in Rome again.] ...and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight; I have finished the course; I have kept the faith. From this time forward, a crown of righteousness is laid up for me, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me in that day—and not to me only, but also to all who love His appearing. Be diligent to come to me quickly” (vs 6-9). Where was Timothy? *He was in Ephesus.*

Verse 10: “For Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present age, and has gone to Thessalonica; Crescens, to Galatia; Titus, to Dalmatia. Only Luke is with me. Get Mark *and* bring him with you... [Where did we see Mark the last time? He was in Babylon with Peter, so he came from Babylon to Ephesus.] ...because he is profitable to me for *the ministry of the Word*’ (vs 10-11). He helped Paul do the final details in canonizing and finalizing his epistles.

Did Peter get the Epistles of Paul? What probably happened was this: we find in 1-Peter that he makes no mentions or anything about the epistles of Paul. Let’s see what he says in 2-Peter. What happened was this: Timothy and Mark came quickly over to Paul in Rome. He told them to bring the cloak, bring the papers, bring the velum, because he was finishing the New Testament. He brought that over. Gave it to Timothy and Mark and they took it back to Ephesus. In Ephesus there was what is called a Scriptorium. They were copying, making copies of the Gospels and all the epistles and beginning to assemble what later became the New Testament.

This is why we have what Peter wrote in 2-Peter. So let’s look at two things here. Let’s come to 2-Peter 1 and then we will look at 2-Peter 3. In no way did we find that Peter was ever, ever in Rome. I know that I’ve quoted from some of the sources that say that Peter was in Rome. But you will notice I left those sources out because that is incorrect information.

Notice that Peter was writing here that they were compiling the New Testament. He knew that he was going to die soon. 2-Peter 1:14: “Knowing that shortly the putting off of my tabernacle *will come*, even as our Lord Jesus Christ has signified to me.” Paul was writing, ‘I’m ready to die. Hurry, get over here, bring Mark,’ so he could finish up his epistles.

Peter knew that he was going to die. Where did Peter die? *We don’t know*, but there is stronger evidence that Peter went back to Jerusalem and was crucified there and buried there. Or he was crucified in Babylon and they took his body back to the Mount of Olives for it to be buried there.

In the April letter I’m going to include a 4-pager on the tomb of Peter. It wasn’t at Rome. The bones they found at Rome—because the Vatican was built over a pagan cemetery. No Jew was ever allowed to be buried there and Peter was a Jew. In the Jewish cemeteries in Rome no Gentiles were ever allowed to be buried there. The bones that they found came from several different sections below in the catacombs of St. Peter’s Basilica. I even read one report that one bone was from a chicken.

Verse 15: “But I will make every effort *that*, after my departure, you may always have a *written* remembrance of these things *in order* to practice *them* for yourselves. For we did not follow cleverly concocted myths *as our authority*, when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His magnificent glory. Because He received glory and honor from God the Father when the voice came to Him from the Majestic Glory, ‘This is My Son, the Beloved, in Whom I am well pleased’” (vs 15-17).

Notice what he says concerning what they were doing. He says, ‘We’re going to write this for you.’ Why? *If it’s not written down, everything becomes confused*—doesn’t it? That’s why God had the Old Testament written down. That’s why He had the New Testament written down. He had to get the New Testament finished and He did before the death of John. Here Peter and Paul were killed, probably both near the same time, one either in Babylon or Jerusalem—that being Peter; and the other—Paul—in Rome.

But notice what he says here, v 19: “We also possess the confirmed prophetic Word...” In other words, the inspired Word of God given to us as prophesied in the Old Testament and confirmed by Christ.

“...to which you do well to pay attention, as to a light shining in a dark place... [the world] ...until the day dawns... [the return of Christ] ...and the morning star arises in your hearts... [the resurrection] ...knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture... [He knew he was going to write what would become Scripture.] ...originated as anyone’s own *private* interpretation... [‘I think.’ *No way!*] ...Because prophecy was not brought at any time by human will, but the Holy men of God spoke as they were moved by *the* Holy Spirit” (vs 19-21). They spoke and they wrote. They knew that they had to have this written.

Let’s see what happened. The Epistles of Paul were all taken by Timothy and Mark over to Ephesus to the Scriptorium. They took copies over to Peter, who was in Babylon. Mark came and took them, obviously went back to Babylon.

Notice what Peter writes here, 2-Peter 3:14: “For this reason, beloved, since you are anticipating these things, be diligent, so that you may be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless. And bear in mind that the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation, exactly as our beloved brother Paul... [The one who corrected Peter. He took the correction.] ...according to the wisdom given to him, has also written to you. As *he has* also in all his epistles... [Does this tell us that Peter ended just before he died with all the Epistles of Paul so he could read and understand them? Sounds like it—doesn't it?] ...speaking in them concerning these things; in which are some things *that are* difficult to understand... [that's sure true] ...which the ignorant and unstable are twisting *and distorting*, as *they also twist and distort* the rest of the Scriptures... [the Old Testament] ...to their own destruction” (vs 14-16).

These are quite some verses in here. Notice, Peter was nowhere near Paul. Dr. Martin wrote in his book, *Restoring the Original Bible*, he has a lot of good historical facts in there, but in order to placate the religious people of the world, he put in there that Peter and Paul got together in Rome and were both martyred. *Not so!*

When you get the appendix that was in the *New Testament in Its Original Order* that we published in 2004 and 2007, we have Appendix P_{[transcriber's correction]: Peter's Tomb Recently Discovered in Jerusalem} {where was Peter's tomb?} There is more evidence to support that it was on the Mount of Olives near Jerusalem than anything to do with Rome. So we have unveiled and exposed the main hopes that the Roman Catholic Church was not built upon the Apostle Peter.

- Peter was *not* the first pope
- Peter *never* went to Rome
- Peter was in Babylon

When he died, it was either in Babylon or near Jerusalem.

Stop and think about this, going back to Herod Agrippa, who put Peter in prison. Herod Agrippa was the Roman authority—correct? If Peter left there and went to Rome, don't you think he would have informed the Roman authorities? *and* When he arrived at Rome he would have been arrested and killed there? But if he had gone to Rome instead of Babylon, he would have been forsaking his commission by Christ to be an apostle to the circumcision and all the Italians are uncircumcised; unless a miracle has happened.

This really establishes by the Scripture, by the things that we have covered, that **Peter was never in Rome!** This is why it takes a good deal of digging and understanding and putting Scriptures together. I want you to go through the whole

chronology that we have at the back of the Bible for the New Testament in *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order*. Go through that. These chronologies are very, very accurate. Perhaps the most accurate of any chronological presentation by anyone else.

I hope this helps you answer the question: Where was Peter? Think of the irony of everything that they do with the Roman Catholics when Jesus returns *and the Truth is fully known!*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Mark 3:16
- 2) John 1:43
- 3) Matthew 16:13-18
- 4) 1-Corinthians 10:1-4
- 5) Matthew 16:18-19, 22, 17, 23-25
- 6) John 18:8-10
- 7) Luke 22:31-34, 51, 55-62
- 8) Acts 2:14, 38
- 9) Acts 4:5-12
- 10) Acts 5:11-16, 19-23, 25-26, 28-32
- 11) Acts 11:17-25
- 12) Acts 12:1-3, 6-9, 12, 17
- 13) Galatians 2:4-13
- 14) Romans 15:16-20
- 15) Acts 28:17-31
- 16) 1-Peter 5:10-14
- 17) 2-Timothy 4:6-11
- 18) 2-Peter 1:14-17, 19-21
- 19) 2-Peter 3:14-16

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- 2-Thessalonians 2
- Revelation 13:11
- Ephesians 1:22
- Acts 8, 3
- Deuteronomy 17
- Acts 12:5
- Galatians 1
- Acts 15

Also referenced:

From: *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order* by Fred R. Coulter:

- Commentary: *God's Divine Design of the Holy Bible And Its Numeric Connection—Significance of Biblical Numerics* (pg. 12, #13)
- Appendix O: *Binding and Loosing in the New Testament*
- Chronology: *Part V* (pg. 1404-04)
- Commentaries 8-10

Sermon Series: *Babylon the Great and Papal Power*
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Books:

- *The Two Babylons* by Alexander Hislop
- *Restoring the Original Bible* by Dr. Ernest Martin

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From: *The New Testament in Its Original Order*
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