

PETER AND THE WRITINGS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM

1. The Apostle Peter

a. New Testament Data

- i. Mentioned 155x in the NT.
- ii. His name was Simon or Simeon; Jesus names him Peter (rock) which is Cephas in Aramaic.
- iii. The brother of Andrew, both fishermen.
- iv. Part of the Inner Circle along with James & John.
- v. Always listed first in the Synoptic Gospels; usually the spokesman for the Twelve. He confesses Jesus to be the Messiah. In Matthew he is the "rock" on which Jesus will build his church. Resists the idea of a suffering Messiah.
- vi. Witnesses the Transfiguration
- vii. Is with Jesus on the Mount of Olives during Jesus' suffering.
- viii. Cuts off the ear of the servant of the High Priest (In John's Gospel)
- ix. Denies Jesus on the night of Jesus' arrest.
- x. Acts impetuously from time to time
 1. Wants to walk on the water to Jesus
 2. Objects to Jesus washing his feet (John)
 3. Jumps out of the boat after the resurrection to get to Jesus on the shore (John)
- xi. Loves Jesus more than the others (John) and is told to feed Jesus' lambs and sheep.
- xii. Peter is pictured as earnest but flawed.
- xiii. In Acts of the Apostles he takes charge of the disciples and has Judas replaced.

- xiv. He is the first "Christian" preacher
- xv. He boldly testifies before the Sanhedrin
- xvi. He lays the groundwork for the mission to the Gentiles.

2. Writings attributed to Peter

a. Non-Canonical

i. *The Acts of Peter* (Late 2nd century)

1. Miracles performed to refute Simon Magus
 - a. The talking dog (p. 142)
 - b. The resurrection of the smoked tuna (P.143)
 - c. The talking Infant (143)
2. Simon and Peter before Roman authorities.
3. Peter gets into trouble for leading people away from marriage to a life of celibacy.
4. Peter is crucified, upside down at his request.
5. Later he appears to friends and chastises them for giving him a lavish and expensive funeral.

ii. *The Apocalypse of Peter* (Middle of 2nd Century)

1. This is one of three apocalypses attributed to Peter.
2. The book opens with Jesus speaking to the twelve about the end of time (as in Mark 13)
3. Jesus then speaks of all souls being brought to be judged.
4. Hell is described in detail and sinners are punished in ways commensurate with their sins pp. 283ff
5. Heaven is described more briefly.
6. The purpose of the book is to motivate people to avoid sin and do good lest they suffer terrible torture forever.

7. This book led to the *Apocalypse of Paul* and ultimately to Dante's *Divine Comedy*.
- iii. *The Gospel of Peter* (early or mid 2nd century)
 1. Only a fragment of this exists.
 2. It begins at Jesus trial and ends abruptly in the middle of an appearance of the Risen Lord.
 3. Note the talking cross and the mission to "the souls in prison".