

## Was Peter Ever In Rome? IV (Church at Home) Fred R. Coulter

Greetings everyone, this is Fred Coulter. Welcome to Church at Home. Church at Home is sponsored by the Christian Biblical Church of God, and we are dedicated to restoring original Christianity for today.

Was there such a thing as Peter being the first pope? *So far we have found no evidence that that was so from the book of Acts*, and I think by time we're done with these series of segments with Peter ever in Rome, you are going to understand that the entire foundation of Roman Catholicism, and hence Protestantism. Protestantism keeps the same days as Catholicism does, and has no basis for true Christianity whatsoever.

It's going to be just like the Apostle John when he was shown the vision in Rev. 17 of the end-time Babylon the Great, and its great religious system, and its great governmental system.

The Apostle John was stunned and amazed, and I imagine he thought: How could this thing be? Well, *because they*:

- *reject* the Bible
- *reject* the Truth
- *reject* the Old Testament
- *reject* the New Testament

So what we do at Church at Home is we go into the Bible, and we go into true history, and we put it all together. That's why you need the books:

- *The Appointed Times of Jesus the Messiah*
- *The Day Jesus the Christ Died.*

That is going to be outstanding for you to understand the Truth, because most of those who consider themselves Christians really know very little about the Bible, and of the difficult parts of the New Testament. They are completely misled, because they don't know the Truth concerning Judaism. Judaism, as we show in the book—*Judaism: Revelation of Moses or Tradition of Men?*—is not a revelation of Moses, but **a religion of men based upon tradition!**

So, here you have those who claim to be worshipping God and using the Bible, completely ignorant of the Bible, because they reject it and they do not obey God.

Here's a key. Do you want a key to understand the Bible? ***You obey what God says to do!*** If you want an interesting Bible study, if you've

got your Bible on your iPad or on your computer, look up the words:

- obey the voice of the Lord
- obey the voice of God

*What you have in the Bible are the written words of:*

- what God spoke
- what Jesus spoke
- what the apostles spoke and taught

And these are from God! *True Christianity only comes from the Word of God!* It does not come from the traditions of men, because the traditions of men amount to the greatest sin that men can do: **that is, replace the Word of God with their traditions!**

If you don't understand that, you better search it out.

Let's understand here's what Peter said when he first came to Cornelius, and Cornelius bowed down and worshiped him. Peter picked him up and said, 'Stand up, I'm a man like you.' Then he said:

Acts 10:28 is a very important key, and this has to do with Judaism and **not a Law of God.** Here's what Peter told Cornelius:

"... 'You know that it is unlawful for a man who is a Jew...'"

A Jew is one who would be practicing Judaism. *Peter forsook that!*

"...to associate with or come near to anyone of another race. **But God has shown me** that no man should be called common or unclean" (v 28).

- What is common?
- What is unclean?

According to Judaism, a man who is common is one from another nation or a Gentile who embraced Judaism and was circumcised in the flesh. He is common.

In the synagogue, they were called 'those who feared God,' and they sat at the back of the synagogue. The Jews sat up front, the women on one side, and the Gentiles way in the back because they were 'common.'

Now unclean in referring to a man would be a Gentile who was not circumcised in the flesh. They [the Jews] were not to associate with, or talk to, or eat with *anyone who was not circumcised in the flesh!*

That is pure discrimination and racism. So, you need our book concerning Judaism, and the problems in the early New Testament Church were associated with Judaism and the traditions of Judaism, because Catholicism did not happen until the early church fathers started it.

That was the start of it, and that was way after the death of the Apostle John in 100<sub>A.D.</sub> Catholicism got its real start by Emperor Constantine in 325<sub>A.D.</sub> That is nearly 300 years after the founding of the New Testament Church as found in Acts 2 with the giving of the Holy Spirit.

That's longer than the United States being a nation. Think of all the things that have happened to the United States from its beginning to now, and you got a pretty good parallel as to what happened with Christianity from the death of John until 325<sub>A.D.</sub>

So you have from the beginning of the Church nearly 300 years. You have from the death of the Apostle John 225 years. Don't you think a lot of twisting and turning can happen in that length of time? *Yes, indeed!*

Peter said he came without objection, and 'why did you send for me?'

Now notice what Cornelius said. Now let's understand something very important:

- Cornelius was praying to God
- Cornelius was giving alms
- Cornelius was a Gentile of the Italian band who was not circumcised

We'll see the follow-up of this in Acts 11, and this brings us in a chronology as to what really happened to Peter. It's going to become very interesting as we go forward.

Verse 30: "And Cornelius said, 'Four days ago I was fasting until this hour, and *at* the ninth hour I was praying in my house; and suddenly a man stood before me in bright apparel.'"

Now that is a description of an angel. So, God sent an angel to Cornelius. God did not make the differentiation of Judaism concerning physical circumcision. He sent an angel, and what was the message the angel brought to him:

Verse 31: "Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God."

Isn't that interesting, because Judaism says your prayers can't be heard by God unless you are circumcised? So, you see the problem is Judaism, not the Laws of God.

Now let's just add one little thing here. Upon conversion and receiving of the Holy Spirit of God, those who repent and are baptized ***have the circumcision of the heart and mind, which is a higher standard of circumcision!*** So, circumcision has not been done away; ***it has been superseded by a higher standard, because God wants the mind converted,*** not a piece of the flesh uncovered.

Verse 32: "Now then, send to Joppa and call for Simon who is surnamed Peter; he is lodging by *the* sea in *the* house of Simon, a tanner. When he comes, he will speak to you. Therefore, I sent for you at once; and you did well to come. So then, we are all present before God to hear all things that have been commanded you by God" (vs 32-33).

Wow! Here's a whole household. Now, I don't know how many of the 100 soldiers were there, but this was a big crowd of Italians, uncircumcised. What was God doing here, and why is this recorded here? To show that the early New Testament Church and the teachings of Jesus Christ ***reject the traditions of Judaism!***

They were not to be brought into the Church. So God had to show by a miracle and demonstration of power to Peter that that was God's decision. Now Peter was beginning to get it. So, let's see what Peter said here:

Verse 34: "Then Peter opened *his* mouth *and* said, 'Of a truth I perceive that God is not a respecter of persons, but in every nation the one who fears Him and works righteousness is acceptable to Him. The word that He sent to the children of Israel, preaching the Gospel of peace through Jesus Christ (He is Lord of all), you have knowledge of; which declaration came throughout the whole of Judea, beginning from Galilee, after the baptism that John proclaimed" (vs 34-37).

Isn't that interesting? *Everything that was done was well known in Judea:*

- all of the preaching of Jesus
- all of the miracles of Jesus
- all of the preaching and miracles of the apostles in Jerusalem
- their witness before the Sanhedrin and the tremendous number of Jews that believed

Remember the New Testament says to the Jew first, then to the Gentile. So here, God Himself is opening the door to Gentiles to receive the Holy Spirit of God *without* being physically circumcised. ***God had to do this!*** A man could not do it. So, God sent Peter to do this.

As I said earlier, all of these mundane things and histories look like they're not too relevant or

important. But every single word is *God-breathed!* This helps us understand what actually happened

Verse 38: “Concerning Jesus, Who was from Nazareth: how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, because God was with Him. And we are witnesses of all *the* things that He did, both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem. They killed Him by hanging *Him* on a tree. *But* God raised Him up the third day, and showed Him openly” (vs 38-40).

***Nowhere in the Bible does it say*** one night, one day, and one night in the tomb. That’s what you have with a Friday crucifixion of the tradition of Catholicism and Protestantism. That’s why you need the books that I have mentioned:

- The Appointed Times of Jesus the Messiah
- The Day Jesus the Christ Died

*So you be sure and ask for those books if you really want to learn {truthofGod.org}!*

Now you also have to be careful. Whatever you learn from Church At Home and whatever you learn from the Word of God, ***you are responsible to God to act upon that knowledge!*** If you do not, God will take away what you have.

Verse 41: “not to all the people, but to witnesses who had been chosen before by God, to *those of us* who did eat and drink with Him after He had risen from *the* dead. And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to fully testify that it is He Who has been appointed by God *to be* Judge of the living and *the* dead. To Him all the prophets bear witness, *that* everyone who believes in Him receives remission of sins through His name” (vs 41-43). ***There is a summary of the Gospel!***

Now we’re going to see that Peter stayed there for many days afterwards, contrary to the demands of the traditions of Judaism. Remember, in the New Testament we are not dealing with the problems of Protestantism vs Catholicism. We are dealing with the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Old Testament vs Judaism, and their false religion, while still having the Word of God, retained.

Now let’s go on; let’s see that God did a miracle to prove to Peter that God was causing this to be done. It had to be done this way, because, as we will see when we get to the next chapter, those in authority in Jerusalem were still clinging to Judaism, though they believed in Christ.

This was God showing that He’s stripping away all the laws of Judaism from the Holy Word of

God in the Old Testament: the Law, the Prophets and the Psalms. So, God was doing this.

Verse 44: “While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came upon all those who were listening to the message. And the believers from the circumcision were astonished, as many as had come with Peter, that upon the Gentiles also the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out” (vs 44-45).

That was a tremendous thing. Why were those who came with Peter astonished? *The believers from the circumcision still had not weaned themselves away from the laws and traditions of Judaism!*

*God was beginning to reveal that **circumcision is of the heart** and not of the flesh.* Later we will see there was a controversy that some of the Jews still said, ‘You cannot,’ meaning it’s impossible to be saved unless you are circumcised in the flesh. This is why God had to do it this way, to show them!

Now, it’s very interesting. Where is Peter when this took place? *In Caesarea on the west coast of Judea at the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea, 1500 miles from Rome in 38 A.D.!*

Here’s what else happened after they received the Holy Spirit.

Verse 46: “For they heard them speak in *other* languages and magnify God....”

Where did we read of that before? *Acts 2 when the Holy Spirit was poured out*, they began to speak with other languages. What was God showing the apostle Peter?

*Peter finally got to point*, v 47: “Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized, who have also received the Holy Spirit as *we did?*” And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they besought him to remain *for* a number of days” (vs 47-48).

Who did the baptizing? *Those who came with Peter!* Now then, Protestants come along and say, ‘Well today you don’t need to be baptized, because these people received the Holy Spirit before they were baptized,’ ***and they don’t have a clue as to the reason why!***

This was to lay the axe at Judaism and to establish that God is not a respecter of persons and that people can’t come along even as the Jews today say, ‘We are the chosen people.’

Peter stayed with them a number of days, so he was right there eating and drinking with them,

teaching them, showing them about the Word of God.

How long he stayed we don't know—"...a number of days." That could be a week, that could be two weeks; we don't know.

Now notice the uproar that this caused when word got back to Jerusalem:

Acts 11:1: "Now, the apostles and the brethren who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the Word of God."

How did they hear that? Probably one of those that went with Peter went back up to Jerusalem and said:

You'll never believe what happened when we were in Caesarea. These people received the Holy Spirit without being circumcised.

So, let's see what happened:

Verse 2: "And when Peter went up to Jerusalem, those of *the* circumcision disputed with him, saying, 'You went in to men who were uncircumcised and did eat with them'" (vs 2-3).

We're going to see later that that is going to come back and haunt the Apostle Peter later when we get to Gal. 2.

Peter explained everything to them. He explained about the vision. He explained about the letting down of the sheet.

Verse 7—*Peter speaking*: "And I heard a voice say to me, 'Arise, Peter, kill and eat.' But I said, 'In no way, Lord, for nothing common or unclean has ever entered into my mouth'" (vs 7-8).

This means that Peter also now had to set aside the traditions of the Jews because God had showed it to him.

Verse 9: "Then a voice from heaven answered me the second time, *saying*, 'What God has cleansed, you are not to call common.'"

Verse 15: "And when I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came upon them, even as *it* also came upon us in *the* beginning. Then I remembered the word of *the* Lord, how He had said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with *the* Holy Spirit'" (vs 15-16).

Verse 17 *is a key important verse for many reasons*: "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?"

Well that's quite a statement because the pope claims today infallibility so he can defy God;

***another good reason why Peter was not the first pope!*** He submitted to the will of God.

Now they accepted this in Jerusalem and these were known later as the 'circumcision party' and later there were some political things that took place with this. We'll see that later.

Verse 18: "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.'"

No sign clear up through 38<sub>A.D.</sub> that Peter was destined to become the first pope. He was an apostle. He was one of the leading apostles. There was Peter, James, and John, and God did use him to go to the Gentiles concerning Cornelius and those in Caesarea. But the question is:

- Did he ever go to Rome?
- What happened to Peter after this?

We'll cover that in the next segment and you are going to be absolutely amazed.

Once again be sure and visit our other website **cbcg.org** *or* **truthofGod.org** and there we have lots of material for you to download. Many messages, audio and video and be sure and download the things we have on Church At Home {**churchathome.org**} Click on the articles, look though those, download every one of them. Send for our free books. We'll send it to you because"

- we want you to know the Truth of God
- we want you to understand the way of God
- we want you to really understand the things that have happened in the past and the prophecies that are going to happen now and in the future.

Once again thank you for inviting me into your home. So, until next time this is Fred Coulter saying, so long everyone.

Scriptural References:

- 1) Acts 10:28, 30-48
- 2) Acts 11:1-3, 7-9, 15-18

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Revelation 17
- Acts 2
- Galatians 2

Also referenced: {truthofGod.org}

Books:

- The Day That Jesus the Christ Died by Fred R. Coulter

- The Appointed Times of Jesus the Messiah by Fred R. Coulter
- Judaism: Revelation of Moses or Traditions of Men by Philip Neal

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