

## The Apostle Peter

### Introduction:

1. The apostle Peter wrote two of the New Testament "epistles" [letters].
  - a. 1 Peter 1:1-2
  - b. 2 Peter 1:1
2. These letters must be carefully studied and properly applied because:
  - a. they were written to Christians
  - b. the authority for Peter's teaching came from heaven (Matthew 16:17-19).
3. Before studying Peter's writings, let us review some personal information revealed in the Bible about him.

### Discussion:

#### I. PETER'S BACKGROUND

- A. His given name was "Simon," but he was also called "Peter" (Matthew 4:18).
- B. Jesus named him "Cephas" (John 1:42).
- C. His father was Jona (John 1:42) whose name also appears as "Jonas" (John 21:15).
- D. His brother was Andrew (Matthew 4:18).
- E. He was a fisherman (Matthew 4:18).
- F. He and James and John were partners (Luke 5:10).
- G. He was married (Matthew 8:14).

#### II. PETER'S SERVICE TO THE LORD

- A. Andrew brought him to Jesus (John 1:35-42).
- B. He left his fishing business to follow Jesus (Matthew 4:18-20).
- C. He served Jesus as:
  1. an apostle (Matthew 10:2)
  2. an elder (1 Peter 5:1).
- D. Jesus gave "*the keys of the kingdom*" to him (Matthew 16:19).

#### III. PETER'S ACTIVITIES

- A. During the Lord's ministry:
  1. he walked on the Sea of Galilee (Matthew 14:22-33)
  2. he identified Jesus as God's Son
    - a. Matthew 16:13-16
    - b. John 6:66-69
  3. he denied Jesus (Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75).
- B. Following the Lord's resurrection:
  1. he visited the empty tomb (John 20:1-7)
  2. he saw Jesus by the Sea of Galilee (John 21:1-14)
  3. he was the main spokesman on Pentecost (Acts 2:14)
  4. he healed a man born lame (Acts 3:1-11)
  5. he spoke with courage after he and John were arrested (Acts 4:1-13)
  6. he questioned Ananias and Sapphira when they lied about their gift (Acts 5:1-11)
  7. he brought Dorcas back to life (Acts 9:40)
  8. he taught Cornelius, the first Gentile convert (Acts 10)
  9. he spoke in Jerusalem about the conversion of the Gentiles (Acts 15:7-11).