



## Lenten Apologetics Bible Study Series



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## Weekly Topics



- **March 7th**
  - "Why do I need the Church when I have the Bible?"
- **March 14th**
  - *"Is the Papacy in the Bible?"*
- **March 21st**
  - "Why do Catholics Pray to Mary and the Saints?"
- **March 28th**
  - "Is the Eucharist Truly the Body and Blood of Christ?"
- **April 4th**
  - "Is Purgatory in the Bible?"
- **April 11th**
  - "Why the Catholic Church?"



## Is the Papacy in the Bible?



- Jesus and Peter
- Rock, Keys, Binding and Loosing
- Peter as Shepherd of the Flock
- Peter and the Apostles
- Bishop of Rome and Petrine Succession
- Papal Infallibility
- Apostolic Succession

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## Last Supper (Lk 22:14-28)



- After institution of the Eucharist
  - “...him who betrays me is with me on the table”
  - Dispute as to which of them was to be regarded as the greatest
    - “...let the greatest among you become as the youngest”
    - “...and the leader as one who serves”
    - “...I am among you as one who serves”
  - “You are those who have continued with me in my trials;”
  - “...as my Father appointed a kingdom for me, so do I appoint for you that you may eat and drink at my table”

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## Jesus and Peter



- After Jesus, Peter is the person most frequently mentioned in the New Testament (195 times)
  - 114 times in the gospels, 57 times in Acts
- Jesus picked out Peter alone and confided to him a unique role among his followers
  - Rock, keys, power to bind and loose (Mt 16:18-19)
  - Prayed that Peter's faith may not fail; "strengthen your brethren" (Lk 22:31-32)
  - Feed my lambs, tend my sheep, feed my sheep (Jn 21:15-17)

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## Rock, Keys, Binding and Loosing



- Isaiah 22:21-22
  - God promises that he will appoint a new master of the royal household of his people
- Revelation 21:2, 3:7
  - Jesus is the new master of God's household – the "new Jerusalem" (the Church)
- Matthew 16:13-19
  - Jesus gives Simon a new name and mission

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## Caesarea Philippi



- Formerly Paneas after the Greek god Pan
  - Pagan god of sheep and shepherds
- Built by Philip the Tetrarch, named in honor of Caesar Augustus
- Wall of rock 200 feet high and 500 feet long
- Temple dedicated to Caesar and Pan
- Water flowing from rock into Jordan River
- “Bottomless” cave - living sacrifices offered

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## Caesarea Philippi



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## Caesarea Philippi



- False temple built on a false rock to worship a false god
- Jesus used this setting as a backdrop
- True Church built on the true rock to worship the one true God
- Jesus, the Good Shepherd, changes Simon's name to Peter (Rock – Kepha)

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## Name Changes in the Bible



- Defines who a person was and their position in the church
  - Abram (father) to Abraham (father of nations) (Gen 17:5)
  - Sarai to Sarah (Gen 17:15)
  - Jacob to Israel (Gen 32:28)
  - Eliakim to Joakim (2 Kgs 23:34)
  - Simon to Peter (Rock - Kepha) (Mt 16:18)

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## Peter the Rock



- First meeting, Jesus told Simon he shall be called Cephas (Jn 1:19)
- Cephas is transliteration of Kepha (Aramaic)
  - 1 Cor 1:12; 3:22; 9:5; 15:5
  - Gal 1:18; 2:9, 11, 14
- Kepha means “Rock”
  - In OT only God was called a rock except once for Abraham (Is 51:1-2)

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## Peter the Rock (Cont.)



- “Rock” was not used as a proper name
- Kepha (Greek: Petros where we get Peter)
- Gospel of Matthew was originally written in Aramaic/Hebrew and then translated to Greek
- “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” (Mt 27:46)
  - Aramaic for “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

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## Keys to the Kingdom



- Jesus came to fulfill His Father's promise by restoring the kingdom previously established by David (an earthly kingdom) (2 Sam 7:12,14,16; Ps 89:3-4; 1 Chron 17:12,14)
- Jesus' royal pedigree is traced back to King David (Mt 1:1; Lk 3:31)
- Eliakim is given the keys to serve as Prime Minister in Hezekiah's kingdom, and thus the authority to loose and to bind (Is 22:15,19-22)

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## Binding and Loosing



- Disciplinary meaning
  - Bind or condemn people to excommunication
  - Loose or remove them from the penalty
- Doctrinal decisions
  - The right to declare a teaching either licit or prohibited (approve or disapprove)
  - “Loose” or “bind” the consciences of individual community members

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## Binding and Loosing (Cont.)



- Peter received an investiture that conferred on him a power to teach, sanctify, and direct the whole Christian people
- “The power to ‘bind and loose’ connotes the authority to absolve sins, to pronounce doctrinal judgments, and to make disciplinary decision in the Church (CCC 553)
- Related to Jesus’ promise to send the Spirit of truth to the Church (John 14:16-17,26)

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## Strengthen Your Brethren



- Read and discuss Luke 22:31-34
  - “...I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail;”
  - “...and when you have turned again, strengthen your brethren”
  - “...the cock will not crow this day, until you three times deny that you know me.”
- Peter’s faith, despite his fall, cannot fail because it is supported by the efficacious prayer of Jesus
- This prayer is both personal and transferable

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## Peter as Shepherd of the Flock



- Read and discuss John 21:15-17
  - Despite his three denials during our Lord's passion, Christ now confers on Peter the primacy he promised
  - "...the primacy of jurisdiction over the universal Church of God was immediately and directly promised and given to Blessed Peter the Apostle by Christ our Lord. [...] And it was upon Simon Peter alone that Jesus after his resurrection bestowed the jurisdiction of chief pastor and ruler over all his fold..." (Vatican I)

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## Peter and the Apostles



- Peter is the first among the apostles to confess the divinity of Christ  
(Mt 16:16; Mk 8:29; Jn 6:69)
- In the presence of the disciples, Peter asks Jesus about the rule of forgiveness, and recalls Jesus' curse on the fig tree  
(Mt 18:21; Mk 11:21)
- Peter speaks on behalf of the apostles, telling Jesus that they have left everything to follow Him  
(Mt 19:21; Mk 10:28)

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## Peter and the Apostles (Cont.)



- Jesus speaks directly to Peter regarding the parable of the two debtors, and Peter answers on behalf of the disciples (Lk 7:40-50)
- When Jesus asks who touched His garment, Peter answers on behalf of the disciples (Lk 8:45)
- Peter is the only one among the apostles to speak at the Transfiguration of Jesus (Lk 9:33)

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## Peter and the Apostles (Cont.)



- Peter asks Jesus to clarify a parable on behalf of the disciples (Lk 12:41)
- Peter speaks out to the Lord in front of the apostles concerning the washing of feet (Jn 13:6-9)
- When a tax collector approaches Peter for Jesus' tax, Jesus pays the half-shekel tax with one shekel, for both Himself and Peter (Mt 17:24-27)

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## Peter and the Apostles (Cont.)



- Peter initiates the selection of a successor to Judas, and no one questions him  
(Acts 1:15ff)
- Peter is the first to preach the gospel after the descent of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday, which has always been celebrated as the birth of the Church  
(Acts 2:14ff)
- Peter is the first to preach about repentance and baptism in the name of Jesus Christ  
(Acts 2:38)

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## Peter and the Apostles (Cont.)



- Peter is the first to teach that Jesus Christ is the Messiah and that there is no salvation other than through Him  
(Acts 3:12-26; 4:8-12)
- Peter is the first apostle to teach about salvation in Christ for both Jews and Gentiles  
(Acts 10:34-38; 11:1-18)
- Peter is the first to exercise his binding authority by condemning Anaias and Sapphira, resulting in their death  
(Acts 5:3)

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## Peter and the Apostles (Cont.)



- Peter is mentioned first in conferring the sacrament of confirmation (Acts 8:14)
- Peter also binds Simon under pain of sin for requesting to receive the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands (Acts 8:20-23)
- Peter resolves the first doctrinal debate of the Church regarding circumcision at the Church's first Council at Jerusalem (Acts 15:7-12)

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## Bishop of Rome and Petrine Succession



- According to the writings of the Early Church Fathers we can be fairly certain that Peter went to Rome and died there along with St. Paul
  - Tertullian (Jurgens, para 297, Jurgens, para 341 and Jurgens, para 368a)
  - St. Clement of Alexandria (Jurgens, para 439-440)
  - St. Peter of Alexandria (Jurgens, para 611gg)
  - Lactantius (Jurgens, para 647a)
- Peter was the bishop of the Church at Rome and he died there after preaching the gospel for some twenty-five years

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## Bishop of Rome and Petrine Succession (Cont.)



- Peter's successors to the office of the Bishop of the Church at Rome are specifically identified, by name, by Irenaeus
- The early Christian Church recognized that the successors to Peter also held the same primacy of jurisdiction over the whole Church that Christ gave to Peter as the rock and shepherd over His sheep

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## Papal Infallibility



- Infallibility is not the absence of sin (impeccability)
- Infallibility is not a charism that belongs only to the pope (successor to Peter)
- Jesus also promised infallibility to the apostles and their successors the bishops (magisterium of the Church)
  - “He who hears you hears me” (Lk 10:16)
  - “Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven” (Mt 18:18)

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## Papal Infallibility (Cont.)



- It is a charism the pope “enjoys in virtue of his office, when, as the supreme shepherd and teacher of all the faithful, who confirms his brethren in their faith (Lk 22:32), he proclaims by a definitive act some doctrine of faith or morals. Therefore his definitions, of themselves, and not from the consent of the Church, are justly held irreformable, for they are pronounced with the assistance of the Holy Spirit, an assistance promised to him in blessed Peter.” (Vatican II)

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## Papal Infallibility (Cont.)



- Papal Infallibility is implicit in these Petrine texts:
  - “Feed my sheep...” (Jn 21:15-17)
  - “I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail” (Lk 22:32)
  - “...you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it.” (Mt 16:18)

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## Papal Infallibility (Cont.)



- Instruction for the sake of salvation is the main function of the Church
  - Peter and his successors in communion with the apostles and their successors must be able to teach rightly
  - In order to be saved we must know what is to be believed
  - We must have a perfectly steady rock to build upon and to trust as the source of solemn Christian teaching

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## Apostolic Succession



- Jesus Christ intended for His Church to continue teaching the Gospel with His authority until the end of time
- Jesus is like the wise man who built His house (the Church) on a rock (Peter), "...it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock." (Mt 7:24-27)
- He promised the gates of hell would not prevail against His Church (Mt 16:18)

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## Apostolic Succession (Cont.)



- Jesus commanded His followers to take disputes involving religious matters to the Church for resolution (Mt 18:15-18)
  - He would not instruct us to do such a thing if He knew that the Church would soon fall into total apostasy and become corrupted
  - The Church must, out of necessity, always exist in order for Jesus to give such a command

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## Apostolic Succession (Cont.)



- Jesus promised that He would be with His Church until the end of time (Mt 28:19-20)
- St. Paul tells us that the Church is the pillar and ground (bulwark or foundation) of the truth (1 Tim 3:15)
  - These are very strong words used to indicate strength, stability, and permanence.
  - The Church must be a permanent teacher of truth, not a temporary household built upon sand

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## Apostolic Succession (Cont.)



- The Twelve Apostles chose others to be bishops (Greek meaning “an overseer”)
- These bishops were appointed by the Apostles to continue their mission from Christ
- The bishop has the authority and power of Christ to administer all the Sacraments, including ordination

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## Apostolic Succession (Cont.)



- Apostolic Succession was first demonstrated in Acts 1:20-26 when Matthias was chosen to replace Judas
- Every bishop can trace his priesthood authority back through history to one of the Twelve Apostles
- The bishops of the Catholic Church are the successors to the Apostles in a continuous line of apostolic succession

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## Question and Answer



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