

# Peter

Peter is the disciple in the Bible that I don't really know when I learned about. I knew him as crude and impulsive. I knew that there was a disciple in the Bible that Jesus had said would have to be helped to dress himself and get around as he got older. I also remember that Peter was the apostle that was sent to the circumcision, and Paul was sent to the gentiles.

I probably never realized this because it was something that I took in by osmosis. In 1953, on the grounds of a Franciscan monastery site on the Mount of Olives, workers while digging, uncovered a sepulcher containing ossuaries containing the remains of the first century Christians. One of these ossuaries had the clear inscription Shimon Bar Yonah. This evidence was kept under wraps until 1959 when some diligent people persisted and published it. The reason I probably took this in by osmosis is that it was breaking news for the first ten years of my life. The Catholic Church had other claims about Peter, so this was something that had to be hushed up.

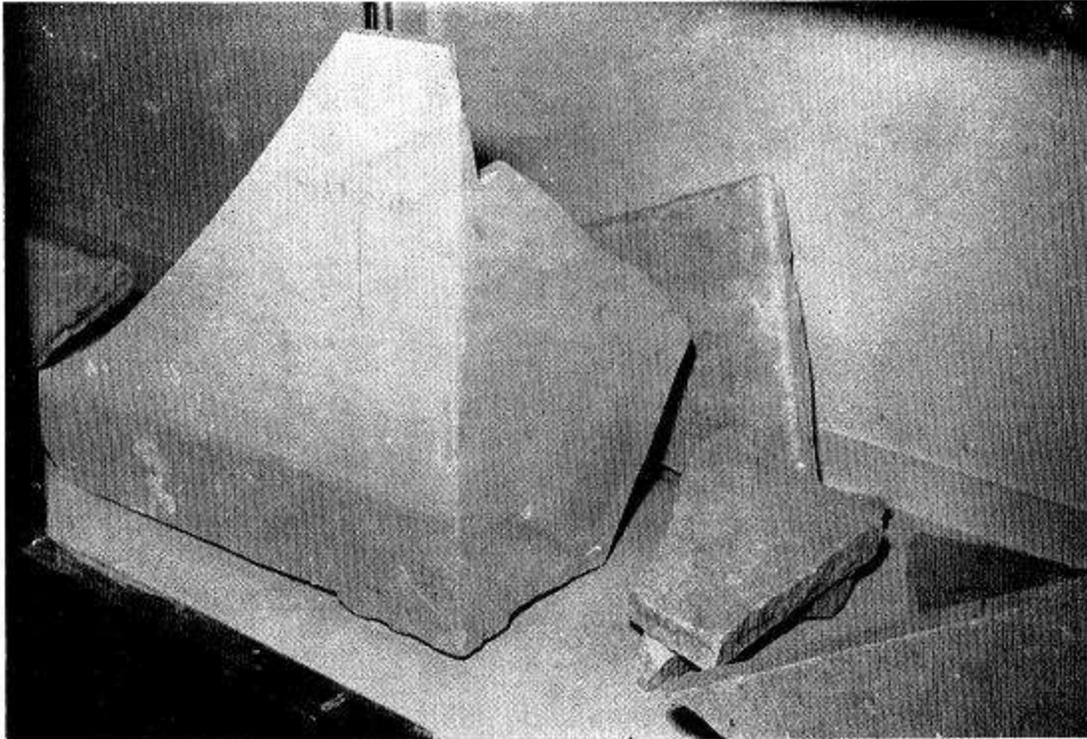
Jesus in Matthew 16:18 tells Peter that he is just a movable piece of rock, while He is the immovable mass of rock upon which the church will be built. In John 21:18 Jesus tells Peter that when he gets old he will no longer be able to dress himself and others will have to provide his mobility. Peter was not much impressed with that, so he asked Jesus what would happen to John. In John 21:22 Jesus replies that it is none of Peter's business whether John is healthy right up until the Lords return. The disciples took it by mistake to mean that John would never die.

In Galatians 2:7 we read that Peter had the apostleship to the circumcision and Paul to the gentiles. The closest recorded travels of Peter to Rome is when in Galatians 2:11 Paul met Peter in Antioch, Turkey. As a follow up to what Jesus said in John 21:18, in 2 Peter 1:14 Peter says that God has shown him that he will soon die. Peter knowing that his mobility would soon be too impaired, did not want to be negligent in recording what we need to know. After Peter had affirmed Paul's ministry in Acts 15, the Bible lies silent as to his whereabouts.

Many stories have been created and put forward as truth, but none provable with the Bible. Most people go back to tradition to arrive at 'truth'. The Bible never does indicate the extent of the disease or cause of Peters immobility in his last years. In 1 Peter 5:12 he indicates that for some unknown reason he does not write the letter by his own hand; it could be just because Silvanus was better at writing. His letters deal a lot with being steadfast through affliction. Peter in 2 Peter 1:13-14 implies that his body is no longer of much use and that the Lord Jesus Christ has shown him that he will soon leave it. It was a breakthrough in 1953 to actually find the remains of Peter in Jerusalem as would be consistent with any records in the Bible.

This information has gradually slipped out of the churches and I don't believe many of this new generation have ever even heard of it. It has been many years since I have heard this from the pulpit. I dug up some old articles to get some pictures.

*The fact is there has never been any credible archeological evidence found in Rome underneath the Vatican that points to Simon Bar Jonah, Simon Peter. And here sits an ossuary discovered at Dominus Flevit bearing his name. So if this is a Judeo-Christian necropolis, it is part of a network of cemeteries and tombs that belonged to the early followers of Jesus, including Jesus' family.*



On this bone-box, or ossuary, is the name written, "Simon Bar Jona" (St. Peter) in Aramaic.



The charcoal inscription reads:  
"Shimon Bar Yonah" which means  
"Simon [Peter] son of Jonah".

Mat 16:17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.**

*Fot. 81.*