

Is Peter the First Pope?

Turn to Matthew 16 and let's tackle the Roman Catholic's best support verse.

Debunk their claim in three points:

1. The entire Bible debunks the claim
2. History debunks the claim
3. Peter's confession debunks the Roman Catholic Church's claim

Matthew 16: 13-19

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴ And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." ¹⁵ He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷ And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

There have been 260 popes (more if you count the anti-popes).

You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church: on the Cathedral ceiling along with "I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of heaven."

Three reasons these verses do not support the office of the papacy:

1. Biblically
2. Historically
3. Confessionally

I. The Bible itself debunks the claim:

¹⁸ I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon *this rock* I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

Who is building the church, Jesus or Peter?

Twenty five reasons why Peter is not the pope

25. Jesus was not installing Peter, He was speaking of Himself.

Peter=little rock. Petros. Small stone: masculine.

This rock=boulder. From Petra: feminine, mountain peak or boulder.

The boulder is the confession, not Peter.

Play on words.

The Catholic Church protests because the Latin Vulgate uses Cepha for Peter and the confession.

24: Jesus' phrasing makes it plain that Jesus was making a contrast. that A more clear and natural phrasing from Jesus would have been: "Thou art Peter, and on thee will I build My Church."

23. Jesus disrespects the new Pope just a few verses later.

READ Matthew 16: 21-23. ²¹ From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. ²² Peter (the new Pope) took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid *it*, Lord! This shall never happen to You." ²³ But He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's."

Jesus calls Peter Satan AND an offence, a skandalon, a stumbling block. Hardly the correct way to address the Holy Father.

22. Jesus identifies who the greatest in His kingdom is.

Turn to: Matthew 18: 1.

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

> Why would they ask if they just heard that Peter is the greatest in the kingdom?

> Notice Jesus doesn't scold them: " Who is the greatest, I just said that Peter is the Pope. Honor him."

21. Jesus describes the greatest in the kingdom, and it ain't the office of the Papacy.

Matthew 18: 2

² And He called a child to Himself and set him before them, ³ and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the

kingdom of heaven. ⁴Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

The greatest in the kingdom is the most humble, not the most pompous.

> **Martyr Jan Huss** (1369-1415) painting. For his troubles, he was lied to by the church, imprisoned, and then his goose got cooked....15 minutes.

20. There was that whole denying the Lord three times business (Matthew 26: 69-75). Not very papal.

19. Paul publicly rebuked the Pope in Galatians 2: 11-14:

18. Peter didn't identify himself as the pope when he called himself a bondservant in II Peter 1: 1, and a fellow elder in I Peter 5:1.

He did not call Himself:

- Holy Father
- The chief apostle
- Bishop of Rome
- Supreme Pastor
- His Holiness
- Supreme Pontiff
- Father of Kings
- Vicar of Christ

17. Peter shunned the idea of receiving attention and praise

Acts 3: 12-13

¹² But when Peter saw *this*, he replied to the people, "Men of Israel, why are you amazed at this, or why do you gaze at us, as if by our own power or piety we had made him walk? ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified His servant Jesus,

16. Peter understood who the Rock is:

I Peter 2: 6-7

⁶ For *this* is contained in Scripture:

“BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER *stone*,
AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED.”

⁷ This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve,

“THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED,
THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER *stone*,”

⁸ and,

“A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE”;

for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this *doom* they were also appointed.

15. If the tradition is true Peter was **hung upside down** because he wasn't worthy to die in the same manner as Jesus, he must not have thought of himself as having an elevated status.

14. Even IF Jesus were referring to Peter as the rock, what did Peter preach? The foundation of the church is the apostles teaching about the Christ, not the apostles themselves.

13. Paul thought Jesus is the cornerstone, not Peter.

Ephesians 2: 19- 21.

¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone**, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

12. Paul made it clear AGAIN who the foundation is:

I Cor. 3: 10- 11.

¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation (Peter?), and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. ¹¹ For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

What was the foundation Paul laid? I preached nothing but Christ and Him crucified (I Cor. 2:2).

11. The OT identified the rock as divine, not human.

[Deuteronomy 32:4; Deuteronomy 32:18; 2Samuel 22:3; 2Samuel 23:3; Isaiah 17:10; Habakkuk 1:12, many Psalms, including:

18 "I love You, O LORD, my strength."

²The LORD is my **ro**ck and my fortress and my deliverer,
My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge;
My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

³¹For who is God, but the LORD?

And who is a rock, except our God,

⁴⁶The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock;

And exalted be the God of my salvation,

10. Early church honored the teaching of the apostles, but not the apostles.

Acts 2: 42 ²They were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' **teaching** and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

9. Silence testifies that Peter wasn't a pope.

If Jesus were alluding to the Pope, it is interesting we do not have any verses that describe, let alone define, such an office. Nor do you see a succession plan for an unbroken chain of Popes.

9. Paul defines two offices in church: elders, deacon. Not pope, cardinals.

8. Jesus considered Himself the rock and His teachings the foundation of the church.

Matt. 7: 24

Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the **rock**.

7. OT prophets understood who the rock is:

Isaiah 28:16

Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am laying **in Zion a stone, a tested stone, A costly cornerstone** for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed.

Kind of hard to imagine Is was talking about Peter.

It's hard to imagine that Isaiah had Peter in mind. Clearly the Messiah.

6. Christ did not fight to death against one form of spiritual despotism to put another, if possible worse set of rulers, in its room.

Jesus warred against the work righteous system of the Pharisees, why would He replace it with another work righteous system?

5. All reformers labeled the office of papacy: anti-Christ. If the reformation means anything, then their description of the office of the papacy tells us there is something seriously flawed with the papal office.

Martin Luther (1483 - 1546)

"Nothing else than the kingdom of Babylon and of very Antichrist. For who is the man of sin and the son of perdition, but he who by his teaching and his ordinances increases the sin and perdition of souls in the church; while he yet sits in the church as if he were God? All these conditions have now for many ages been fulfilled by the papal tyranny." (*Martin Luther, First Principles, pp. 196-197*)

4. The Puritans believed the Papacy was anti-Christ.

The Baptist Confession of Faith (1689)

"The Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of the church, in whom, by the appointment of the Father, all power for the calling, institution, order or government of the church, is invested in a supreme and sovereign manner; neither can the Pope of Rome in any sense be head thereof, but is that antichrist, that man of sin, and son of perdition, that exalteth himself in the church against Christ." (*1689 Baptist Confession of Faith*)

Charles Spurgeon believed the office of Papacy was anti-Christ.

"Popery is contrary to Christ's Gospel, and is the Antichrist, and we ought to pray against it. It should be the daily prayer of every believer that Antichrist might be hurled like a millstone into the flood and for Christ, because it wounds Christ, because it robs Christ of His glory, because it puts sacramental efficacy in the place of His atonement, and puts a mere fallible man like ourselves up as the vicar of Christ on earth;

3. Consider the wicked theology that the papal system has concocted

- Indulgences
- Mariology, elevating a sinful human to co-redemptrix
- praying to saints asking for help
- transubstantiation, summoning Jesus to an altar for re-sacrifice.

- totally perverted the Gospel into a system of works

2. It is hard to imagine Jesus would kiss the Pope's Prada slippers or the Holy Father's ring.

- 1. The office of the Papacy robs God of His glory which He will not give to another (Is.42:8).**

II. The horrible history of the Papacy

A Bloody Past

1096 Roman Catholic crusaders slaughter half the Jews in Worms, Germany.

1098 Roman Catholic crusaders slaughter almost all of the inhabitants of the city of Antioch.

1099 Roman Catholic crusaders massacre 70,000 Muslims and Jews when they capture Jerusalem.

1208 - 1226 The Albigensian Crusades in southern France. Roman Catholic crusaders slaughter approximately 20,000 citizens of Beziers, France, on July 22, 1209. By the time the Roman Catholic armies finished their "crusade," almost the entire population of southern France (mostly Albigensian Christians) had been exterminated.

1236 Roman Catholic crusaders slaughter Jews in the Anjou and Poitou regions of western France. The Catholic crusaders trample to death under their horses 3000 Jews who refuse baptism.

1243 Roman Catholic mobs burn alive all the Jews in Berlitz, Germany (near Berlin).

1298 Roman Catholic mobs burn alive all Jews in Rottingen, Germany.

April 26, 1349 Roman Catholic mobs burn to death all Jews in Germersheim, Germany.

1348 - 1349 The Jews are blamed for the bubonic plague. Jews were rounded up [by Roman Catholic mobs] and hanged, burned, and drowned by the thousands in revenge."

1389 Roman Catholic mobs murder 3000 Jews in Prague when they refuse to be baptized.

1481 - 1483 At the direction of the Roman Catholic inquisitors, authorities burn at the stake at least 2000 people during the first two years of the Spanish Inquisition.

1540 - 1570 Roman Catholic armies butcher at least 900,000 Waldensian Christians of all ages during this 30-year period.

1550 - 1560 Roman Catholic troops slaughter at least 250,000 Dutch Protestants via torture, hanging, and burning during this ten-year period.

1553 - 1558 Roman Catholic Queen Mary I of England (aka "bloody Mary") 200 men and woman are burned to death at the sake.

1572 St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre. French Roman Catholic soldiers begin killing Protestants in Paris on the night of August 24, 1572. The soldiers kill at least 10,000 Protestants during the first three days. At least 8000 more Protestants are killed as the slaughter spreads to the countryside.

1618 - 1648 The Thirty Years' War. This bloody, religious war is planned, instigated, and orchestrated by the Roman Catholic Jesuit in an attempt to exterminate all the Protestants in Europe. Many countries in central Europe lose up to half their population.

1641 - 1649 Eight years of Jesuit-instigated Roman Catholic butchery of Irish Protestants claims the lives of at least 100,000 Protestants.

1685 French Roman Catholic soldiers slaughter approximately 500,000 French Protestant Huguenots on the orders of Roman Catholic King Louis 14 of France.

A tawdry past

St. Damascus (366-384), the first to accept the title Pontiff. Many opposed him and no less than 160 of his adversaries were found dead in their precincts. St. Damascus was also titled, "Auriscalpius Matronarum." Ladies' ear scratcher.

Sixtus III (432-440) was accused of debauching a virgin, but he was found innocent because he was allowed to judge his own case as "the judge of all ought to be judged by none."

Pope Honorius reigned from 625 to 638 A.D. He was condemned as a heretic by the Sixth Ecumenical Council (680-681).

* In 769, Pope Stephen IV came to power with the help of an army which conquered the previous Pope. Stephen gave orders for his papal rival to be flogged, have his eyes cut out, have his kneecaps broken, and be imprisoned until he died. Then Pope Stephen sentenced a second man to die a slow, agonizing death. He had pieces of his body cut off every day until he finally died.

Pope Stephen V, 896 through 897 was so aggrieved with his predecessor Pope Formosus, who he felt had wronged him, he decided to get his own back... although Formosus was dead.

He decided to try him for his crimes anyhow, and ordered for his nine-month-old corpse to be exhumed, dressed in sacred papal robes and propped up on a throne in the courtroom.

Clearly he lost the trial, Pope Stephen ordered his reign void, chopped off the three fingers Formosus had used to give blessings and ordered the body to be stripped of its robes and dumped in a cemetery for foreigners.

* Pope Leo V only reigned for one month (July 903). Cardinal Christopher put Leo in prison and became Pope. Then Christopher was put in prison by Cardinal Sergius. Sergius killed Leo and Christopher while they were in prison. He also killed every cardinal who had opposed him.

*Pope John XII reigned from 955 to 964. He was a violent man who turned the Lateran Palace into a brothel. He drank toasts to the devil. When gambling he invoked pagan gods and goddesses. He was killed by a jealous husband while in the act of committing adultery with the man's wife. John XII was just 18 when he became Pope and the "Patrologia Latina," a collection of writings of church leaders, says he made a pretty bad job of the role - invoking demons, murdering and mutilating men, committing arson and gambling.

The church leaders also claimed that he "turned the papal palace into a whorehouse" by committing adultery with numerous women, including two widows and his own niece, as well as his father's long-term girlfriend.

It all came to a sorry end in his early 20s when he died of a stroke - reportedly when in bed with a married woman.

* In 1003, Pope Silvester II was murdered by his successor, Pope John XVII. Seven months later, John was poisoned.

* Pope Benedict VIII reigned from 1012 to 1024. He kept a private force of "pope's men" who were known for torture, maimings, and murder. The Pope personally ordered many assassinations. He enjoyed cutting the tongues out of living men and he had a reputation for blood lust.

* When Benedict VIII died, his brother seized power and became Pope John XIX. He had himself ordained a priest, consecrated as a bishop, and crowned as pope, all in the same day.

* Pope Benedict IX reigned from 1032 to 1044, in 1045, and from 1047 to 1048. He became Pope through bribery. He had sex with men, women and animals. He gave orders for people to be murdered. He also practiced witchcraft and Satanism. The citizens of Rome hated Benedict so much that on two occasions he had to flee from Rome. Benedict sold the papacy to Pope Gregory VI. Benedict filled the Lateran Palace with prostitutes. Pope Victor III wrote of Benedict IX's "rapes, murders and other unspeakable acts. His life as a pope so vile, so foul, so execrable, that I shudder to think of it."

Saint Peter Damian described him as “feasting on immorality” and “a demon from hell in the disguise of a priest,” saying he sponsored orgies and even routinely partook in bestiality.

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*In 1298, Pope Boniface ordered that every man, woman, child and animal in the Italian town of Palestrina be slaughtered. He was known for torture, massacre, and ferocity.

* Pope Clement VI reigned from 1342 to 1352. He ordered the slaughter of an entire Italian town. He lived a life of luxury and extravagance. He openly admitted that he sold church offices and he used threats and bribery to gain power. Clement purchased a French palace which became known as a papal brothel.

* Pope Alexander VI reigned from 1492 to 1503. He was known for murder, bribery and simony (selling offices, named after Simon Magus). He was grossly licentious. On one occasion he required 50 prostitutes to dance naked before him and to engage in sexual acts for his entertainment. He had cardinals killed so that he could confiscate their property and sell their positions to ambitious men.

Today, the Catholic Church claims much of Alexander’s legend is grossly exaggerated, and to be fair, he loved his daughter enough to sleep with her., and reportedly her two brothers also.

He also had four children and scores of mistresses, including the 15 year old Giulia who later bore him more children.

The Catholic Encyclopedia referred to him as “one who for thirty-five years had conducted the affairs of the Roman chancery with rare ability and industry.” They also praised him, as “splendid and energetic” with an amazing sense of justice.

Pope Julius II (1503 through 1513).

Julius enjoyed the company of several mistresses bearing at least one illegitimate daughter. In 1511 a council brought charges of lewd sexual acts against him, calling him a “sodomite covered with shameful ulcers.”

This was the Pope who pressed Michaelangelo to finish the Sistine Chapel before Mike was ready.

No wonder Martin Luther railed against the office of the Papacy!

10) “You are desperate, thorough arch-rascals, murderers, traitors, liars, the very scum of all the most evil people on earth. You are full of all the worst devils in hell – full, full, and so full that you can do nothing but vomit, throw, and blow out devils!” (*From Against the Roman Papacy, an Institution of the Devil, pg. 277 of Luther’s Works, Vol. 41*)

9) “You are like a magician who conjures gold coins into the mouths of silly people, but when they open their mouths they have horse dirt in them.” (*From Against the Roman Papacy, an Institution of the Devil, pg. 264 of Luther’s Works, Vol. 41*)

8) “Everyone can see that such a sentence must have been blown into you by all the existing devils with one breath.”

From Against the Roman Papacy, an Institution of the Devil, pg. 285 of Luther’s Works, Vol. 41

7) “You are the worst rascal of all the rascals on earth!”

From Against the Roman Papacy, an Institution of the Devil, pg. 341 of Luther’s Works, Vol. 41

6) “May God punish you, I say, you shameless, barefaced liar, devil’s mouthpiece, who dares to spit out, before God, before all the angels, before the dear sun, before all the world, your devil’s filth.”

From Against the Roman Papacy, an Institution of the Devil, pg. 349 of Luther’s Works, Vol. 41

5) **“The devil rides you.”**

From Against the Heavenly Prophets, pg. 157 of Luther’s Works, Vol. 40

4) **“For you are an excellent person, as skillful, clever, and versed in Holy Scripture as a cow in a walnut tree or a sow on a harp.”**

From Against Hanswurst, pg. 219 of Luther’s Works, Vol. 41

3) **“Even if the Antichrist appears, what greater evil can he do than what you have done and do daily?”**

From Why the Books of Pope Were Burned, pg. 393 of Luther’s Works, Vol. 31

2) **“You are a brothel-keeper and the devil’s daughter in hell.”**

From On the Councils and the Church, pg. 160 of Luther’s Works, Vol. 41

1) **Can’t read this one.**

III. Peter’s confession debunks the claim

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ (Messiah), the Son of the living God.”

This statement debunks the claim Peter is Pope.

> Peter is not defining Jesus in contemporary terms, but historical terms.

> His answer is not based on his personal observations, his answer is based on his God revealed understanding that Jesus is the fulfillment of all the hopes of the Old Testament.

Peter’s confession is the confession of the entire Old Testament.

We know He is the Christ from the OT. OT types and shadows. He is the fulfillment of history, nation, covenants, prophecies, promises.

Luke 24

Col. 2: 16

John 5: You read...

Ark

Bronze Serpent

Sabbath

Better prophet priest and king

Passover lamb

Jacobs ladder

Surety

Tabernacle

The Rock in the wilderness

God's plan from eternity past was to create a world, send a Savior and be glorified for His amazing grace.

Can you imagine God imagined in eternity past that He was going to build His church on a sinful man?

Can you imagine Jesus suffered and died in order to build a massive, financial, heretical, work righteous system?

The church's one foundation, is Jesus Christ her Lord

She is His new creation, by water and the word.

From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride,

With His own blood He bought her and for her life, He died.