

The Need for Restoration and Renewal



Part 23 of the series – Three Years That Changed the World

John 21

Timeline of Events After the Crucifixion of Christ

- ✓ Jesus rose from the dead on Sunday morning (the third day)

*“After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. **The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.”** (Matthew 28:1-6)*

- ✓ The women who had followed Jesus went to the tomb and discovered Jesus was missing (Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:1-4, Luke 24:1-3, John 20:1-2)
- ✓ Mary went and told Peter and John (John 20:1-2)
- ✓ The other women who remained at the tomb saw two angels who told them about Jesus rising from the dead (Matthew 28:5-7, Mark 16:5-7, Luke 24:4-8)
- ✓ Peter and John visit Jesus’ tomb (Luke 24:12, John 20:3-10)

Timeline of Events After the Crucifixion of Christ

- ✓ Mary Magdalene returned to the tomb and Jesus appeared to her – this was his **first appearance** (Mark 16:9-11, John 20:11-18)
- ✓ Jesus appeared to the other women; Mary the mother of James, Salome, and Joanna – this was his **second appearance** (Matthew 28:8-10)
- ✓ At some point the Roman guards reported to the religious leaders what they witnessed (the angel who had rolled the stone away) and the religious leaders bribed them to keep quiet as to what they saw (Matthew 28:11-15)
- ✓ Jesus appeared to Peter (I Corinthians 15:5) – this was his **third appearance**
- ✓ **Sometime on Sunday afternoon**, Jesus appeared to two men on the road to Emmaus (Mark 16:12-13, Luke 24:13-32) – this was his **fourth appearance**
- ✓ Later that Sunday evening, two disciples who had journeyed to Emmaus told others that they saw Jesus (Luke 24:13-35)
- ✓ Jesus appeared to 10 apostles in a room (probably the upper room) and Thomas was absent (Luke 24:36-43, John 20:19-25) – this was his **fifth appearance**

Timeline of Events After the Crucifixion of Christ

- ✓ The following Sunday, Jesus appeared to the eleven Apostles, Thomas was there this time and Thomas believed (John 20:26-28) – this was his sixth appearance

Over the next 32 days

- ✓ Jesus appeared to seven disciples by the Sea of Galilee (**this is where John picks up the chronological events**) and performed the miracle of the fish and restores Peter to his place of leadership (John 21:1-23) – this was his seventh appearance
- ✓ Jesus appeared to over 500 people (including the 11 Apostles) at a mountain in Galilee (I Corinthians 15:6, Matthew 28:16-20) – this was his eighth appearance
- ✓ Jesus appears to his half brother James (I Corinthians 15:7) – this was his ninth appearance.
- ✓ At Jerusalem, Jesus again appeared to his disciples (Luke 24:44-49, Acts 1:3-8) – this was his tenth appearance.
- ✓ On the Mount of Olives Jesus ascended into heaven (Acts 1:9-12, Luke 24:50-53)

The time between Jesus' resurrection and his ascension to heaven – he spent 40 days teaching his disciples about the kingdom of God, along with other important things that will take place

*“In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. **He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God**” (Act 1:1-3)*

“On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days, **you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.**”
(Acts 1:4-5)

“Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written. (John 21:25)

“**Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee.** It happened this way: **Simon Peter, Thomas** (also known as Didymus), **Nathanael** from Cana in Galilee, **the sons of Zebedee**, and **two other disciples** were together. “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So, they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.” (John 21:1-3)

- ✓ By this time, the disciples had left Jerusalem and **made their way north to Galilee** just as Jesus commanded them to do:

“Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go” (Matthew 28:16)

“Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go” (Mark 14:28)

“But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’” (Mark 16:7)

- ✓ It appears that not all 11 travelled together as this appearance by Jesus was only to these specific 7 disciples.

“Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: **Simon Peter, Thomas** (also known as Didymus), **Nathanael** from Cana in Galilee, **the sons of Zebedee**, and **two other disciples** were together. “**I’m going out to fish,**” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” So, they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.” (John 21:1-3)

- ✓ While waiting for Jesus on the mountain in the region of Galilee (probably Mount Arbel) at least **seven of the disciples had left and went with Peter to go fishing**
 - Some conclude that Peter grew impatient and decided to do the one thing he knew how to do well as this was his livelihood before meeting Jesus
 - Jesus chose them to be “fishers of men” which was their calling and perhaps the reason they were unsuccessful
- ✓ Regardless, Jesus (whom they didn’t initially recognize) was there at the shore of the Sea of Galilee (also know as the Sea of Chinnereth, Lake of Gennesaret, or Sea of Tiberias) and prepared to teach all of them a valuable lesson.

“Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” “No,” they answered. He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.” (John 21:4-6)

- ✓ Since this was early in the morning it meant that the disciples had been fishing all night and a possible indication that this wasn’t a recreational adventure but a return to Peter’s former trade as a fisherman. Fishing at night was what serious fisherman would do as that is when they would expect to catch fish.
- ✓ The seven disciples were; Peter, James, John (Sons of Zebedee), probably Andrew and Philipp (the unnamed disciples) along with Thomas, and Nathanael.
- ✓ Jesus had predicted the disciple would abandon him (John 16:31-33) and perhaps this decision to choose “wealth in pursuit of business activities” was a slippery slope that needed correction for these who were supposed to be “fishing for men”

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✓ We are told that **they didn’t initially recognize Jesus:**

- It is odd that they didn’t recognize him, and most conclude it may be that Jesus initially chose not to reveal himself to them as their risen Savior and Lord.
- The other possibility is that the early morning hour, along with a long tireless night of fishing might have initially clouded their vision

✓ **Next Jesus does two things** that caused them to recognize who he was:

- He called them **“friends”**
- He told them where to cast their nets to catch fish which was **a good reminder of another miracle** reminding these disciples as to who he was (Luke 5:1-11)

Jesus calls the disciples – (An Interesting Comparison) – Now He commissions them

“One day as Jesus was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret, the people were crowding around him and listening to the word of God. He saw at the water’s edge two boats, left there by the fishermen, who were washing their nets. **He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon**, and asked him to put out a little from shore. Then he sat down and taught the people from the boat. When he had finished speaking, **he said to Simon, “Put out into deep water, and let down the nets for a catch.”** Simon answered, **“Master, we’ve worked hard all night and haven’t caught anything.** But because you say so, I will let down the nets.” **When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break**. So, they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them, and they came and filled both boats so full that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at Jesus’ knees and said, “Go away from me, Lord; I am a sinful man!” For he and all his companions were astonished at the catch of fish they had taken, and so were James and John, the sons of Zebedee, Simon’s partners. **Then Jesus said to Simon, “Don’t be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.”** **So they** pulled their boats up on shore, **left everything and followed him** (Luke 5:1-11)

“Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. “I’m going out to fish,” Simon Peter told them, and they said, “We’ll go with you.” **So, they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.** Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus. He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?” “No,” they answered. He said, **“Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.”** **When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.**

Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, **“It is the Lord!”** **As soon as Simon Peter heard him say, “It is the Lord,”** he wrapped his outer garment around him (for he had taken it off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples followed in the boat, towing the net full of fish, for they were not far from shore, about a hundred yards. When they landed, they saw a fire of burning coals there with fish on it, and some bread.

(John 21:1-9)

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- ✓ The “disciple whom Jesus loved” is John, who immediately recognized this stranger was Jesus as he makes the claim; **“It is the Lord”**.
- ✓ Peter’s acknowledgement of Jesus appears to be one of excitement as he chooses not to wait for the boat to arrive on shore but instead jumps into the water and runs/swims toward Jesus.
- ✓ The remaining 5 disciples landed the boat on shore towing the large catch of fish, but **Jesus had already lit a fire and miraculously provided fish and bread** for the disciples to eat.

“Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish you have just caught.” So Simon Peter climbed back into the boat and dragged the net ashore. It was full of large fish, 153, but even with so many the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” None of the disciples dared ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time Jesus appeared to his disciples after he was raised from the dead.” (John 21:10-14)

- ✓ Jesus had already started cooking breakfast (fish and bread) which he miraculously provided prior to the disciples landing on shore with their catch of fish
- ✓ Jesus then instructs the disciples to bring some of the fish they had caught which he also miraculously provided. The net also was miraculously not torn as perhaps it should have with such a large catch of fish.
- ✓ Counting the fish (much like a rancher counting the heads of cattle in his herd) was a normal process for fisherman so there is probably nothing more to it. The large quantity of fish was enough to sustain them for several days or even sold.

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- ✓ Jesus’ request to come and partake of the food was a call to full fellowship
- ✓ Jesus knew what was in the hearts of his disciples
 - We aren’t specifically told but perhaps the disciples had some regrets for returning to the one thing they knew how to do which was fish and perhaps they felt guilty
 - Regardless, they knew this was Jesus and probably knew a lesson was in the works.
- ✓ John records the appearance of Jesus to his closest disciples for the third time after he had risen from the dead, all **for the purpose of calling them to do his work.**

“When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” Again, Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.” (John 21:15-17)

- ✓ Not that long ago, Peter had denied Jesus while he was sitting beside a fire (John 18:18,25) and now while sitting beside another fire he was restored by the very one that he denied knowing.
- ✓ It is interesting to note that Jesus calls him “Simon son of John” as that was how he referred to him when he first called Peter to follow him:

“And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas” (which, when translated, is Peter) – John 1:42

“When they had finished eating, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” “Yes, Lord,” he said, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my lambs.” Again, Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He answered, “Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Take care of my sheep.” The third time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter was hurt because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” He said, “Lord, you know all things; you know that I love you.” Jesus said, “Feed my sheep.” (John 21:15-17)

- ✓ There were a total of three questions, perhaps intentional and perhaps not but by the time Jesus asks the third question “Do you love me” it seemed that Peter’s recognized the point Jesus was making and it seemed to crush his heart.
- ✓ Although we aren’t specifically told why Jesus asked these three questions in the manner that he did, the assumption is that it may have paralleled the three denials that Peter made as to whether he knew Jesus and or followed him.
- ✓ Perhaps the Lord may have been trying to emphasize to Peter the requirement for “full devotion” to the work he was called to do. Peter may have been lacking in that area.

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- ✓ The first question (“**do you love me more than these**”) was slightly different than the other two but all three were centered around the theme of “**do you love me**”:
 - One possibility is that Jesus is asking; **do you love me more than the pursuit of earthly things** like boats and fishing materials, given his return to his livelihood of being a fisherman.
 - The other possibility is that Jesus is asking Peter, do you love me more than your brothers (the other disciples).

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- ✓ An interesting notation is Jesus’ “specific” use of the Greek word for “love”
 - Jesus’ first two questions involved the use of the Greek word “agapao” which is best understood to be the highest love of the will or implies total commitment
 - Jesus’ third questions involved the use of the Greek word “phileo” which is might have been calling Peter’s total devotion to Jesus into question. This may have been the reason for Peter’s heartbreak as he may have known what Jesus meant

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 - Peters' response on the other hand as it relates to the use of the Greek word for love (Phileo) would be interpreted as a sign of affection and not necessarily meant as an expression of total commitment.
 - Peter knew of the Lord's omniscience (all knowing power) and his response, “you know that I love you” may have been an acknowledgement of that fact.

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- ✓ Jesus’ interaction specifically with Peter seemed to have several purposes:
 - Peter had a unique and crucial role in the days of the early church (Acts 1-12) in which he would be a significant leader of the Apostles and the early church
 - Peter was chosen by Jesus to fill this role (Matthew 16:16-20) and Jesus needed Peter to understand that although he had “temporarily” forsaken Christ, Jesus had not forsaken him.
 - Peter needed to be restored for his own benefit and perhaps for the others as well

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- ✓ Peter was being challenged to abandon everything (this would include any worldly pursuits such as his own fishing business) and follow Jesus with his whole heart

“Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” (Matthew 22:37-40)

- ✓ Further, Jesus was probably instilling into Peter the expected commitment to the ministry he was called to; “Then He said to them, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (Matthew 4:19)

Perhaps Jesus was stressing to Peter where his focus needed to be:

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. **You cannot serve both God and money.”**

The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus. He said to them, “You are the ones who justify yourselves in the eyes of others, but God knows your hearts. What people value highly is detestable in God’s sight.”

(Luke 16:13-15)

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- ✓ Jesus had previously used a lamb or sheep (common to that time and region) to compare their behavior to that of Jesus’ followers.

*“I am the good shepherd; **I know my sheep** and **my sheep know me** just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and **I lay down my life for the sheep.**” (John 10:14-15)*

*“**My sheep listen to my voice**; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand. I and the Father are one.” (John 10:27-30)*

- ✓ The significance of this instruction by Jesus was tied not only to Peter’s restoration but to show his responsibility to care for (like a shepherd/Pastor) for his flock

Evidence of Peter's obedience after his restoration

“Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say” (Acts 2:14)

“Therefore, let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.” When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Peter replied, “**Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.** And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” **Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.** (Acts 2:36-41)

Evidence of Peter's obedience after his restoration

“When Peter saw this, he said to them: **Fellow Israelites, why does this surprise you?** Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus. You handed him over to be killed, and you disowned him before Pilate, though he had decided to let him go. You disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. **We are witnesses of this.** By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has completely healed him, as you can all see.” (Acts 3:12-16)

“To the elders among you, **I appeal as a fellow elder and a witness of Christ's sufferings** who also will share in the glory to be revealed: **Be shepherds of God's flock** that is under your care, watching over them—**not because you must, but because you are willing**, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. **And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away.**” (I Peter 5:1-4)

“Very truly I tell you, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”
(John 21:18-19)

- ✓ This text is much clearer when we recognize what Jesus is speaking about:
 - He is talking of Peter’s future death which is prophetic at this point but comes to fruition some three decades later when Peter will die a martyr's death by crucifixion.
 - The account of Peter’s death is not actually recorded in Scripture but found in the historical writings of Eusebius. The account goes on to say that Peter (at his request) was crucified upside down because he felt unworthy to be crucified in the same manner as Jesus was.
- ✓ Jesus’ command to follow him is precisely what Peter and the others would do

“Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.” (John 12:26)

“Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is going to betray you?”) When Peter saw him, he asked, **“Lord, what about him?”** Jesus answered, **“If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.”** Because of this, the rumor spread among the believers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?” (John 21:20-23)

- ✓ The “disciple whom Jesus loved was John (the author of this Gospel) and Peter wanted to know what was going to happen to his friend
- ✓ Jesus made it clear that it was no concern of Peter’s and his sole focus was on following Jesus – nothing less!
- ✓ Jesus had a unique plan (which would unfold throughout the days of the church) for each of his closest followers. Each of them would have an impact on the world by spreading the gospel. Some would live a short span of time; others would live longer. All would die a martyr's death except for John (according to church tradition)

Other Noteworthy Items as to the remaining life of Peter and the other Apostles

✓ Jesus commands these 11 men to do the following:

“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations**, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, **teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you**; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

“Then He said to them, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.” And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **And you are witnesses of these things**. Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” And He led them out as far as Bethany, and He lifted up His hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while He blessed them, that He was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshiped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.” (Luke 24:44-53)

Other Noteworthy Items as to the remaining life of Peter and the other Apostles

✓ Jesus commands these 11 men to do the following:

“And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and **you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**” Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:4-11)

Other Noteworthy Items as to the remaining life of Peter and the other Apostles

- ✓ Jesus challenged Peter to love him above all else even at the loss of his own life
- ✓ Peter learned that the following Jesus was to be his primary focus and the object of his love. Nothing else was to come between Peter and his service to God.
- ✓ We are told in the Book of Acts that Peter and his fellow Apostles would “turn the world upside down” because of their faithful witness of the Gospel

“But the Jews who were not persuaded, becoming envious, took some of the evil men from the marketplace, and gathering a mob, set all the city in an uproar and attacked the house of Jason, and sought to bring them out to the people. But when they did not find them, they dragged Jason and some brethren to the rulers of the city, crying out, **“These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.”**”

- ✓ Each of the Apostles, except for John died as martyrs because of the love for Jesus Christ and for the truth of the Gospel.

Other Noteworthy Items as to the remaining life of Peter and the other Apostles

- ✓ **Peter** early on was instrumental in preaching to the Jewish community in Jerusalem and probably winning many converts from Judaism to Christianity. In addition, he was a natural leader to the Apostles. He was a bold declarer of the Truth for he made this claim in Acts 4:12; “There is salvation in no one else; there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved”. Peter will travel throughout Judea preaching the gospel and be used by God to heal people. Paul will begin to take the Gospel to the Gentiles, and Peter will affirm this as God’s will (Acts 11). Due to the persecutions, Peter will leave Judea and minister throughout the Middle East and wind up in Rome where he will be martyred. Prior to his death he will influence a young man named Mark who will write the Gospel account of Mark.
- ✓ **Andrew** (according to Church tradition) settled in the foothills of the Caucasus Mountains (modern day Georgia in Russia) where he ministered to the Scythian people. He will also minister in the region of Byzantium (modern day Istanbul, Turkey, and also in Greece, Thrace, and Macedonia. He will die a martyr’s death in Patros (Corinthian Gulf).

Other Noteworthy Items as to the remaining life of Peter and the other Apostles

- ✓ **James (son of Zebedee)** according to the historical accounts of Josephus will leave Jerusalem after the resurrection and ascension. He will then minister in the region of Spain before returning to Jerusalem where he is martyred by King Agrippa I in 44 AD (Acts 12:2).
- ✓ **John** will eventually Pastor the Church in Ephesus and then go on to be an overseer of the “seven churches of Asia”. We have no record of him being martyred.
- ✓ **Phillip** (according to tradition) will minister in the region of Galatia (modern day Turkey) and he will die a martyr's death as well. Some traditions have him being involved in the Apostolic College.
- ✓ **Bartholomew (Nathaniel)** is recorded as ministering in the area of Hierapolis, Laodicea, and Colosse (modern day Turkey). Tradition has him also ministering in India and the region of Armenia (modern day Azerbaijan) where he was eventually beheaded and or skinned alive for his continued preaching of the Gospel.

Other Noteworthy Items as to the remaining life of Peter and the other Apostles

- ✓ **Thomas** has a lot of written about him and difficult to determine what is accurate due to some of the Gnostic writings of the time. The most widely accepted tradition is that he ministered in India and maybe as far as China. He too suffered a martyr's death.
- ✓ **Matthew** ministered in the region of Jerusalem for about 15 years. He then went to Persia for a season and ended up in the region of North Africa where according to tradition he had quite a fulfilling ministry. He was probably martyred somewhere in Egypt. We have him to thank for the concisely penned account of the Life of Christ found in the Gospel according to Matthew.
- ✓ **James (son of Alphaeus)** or sometimes called James the Less, may have spent time in the area of Syria for the Syrian Church claim him as their first bishop. One tradition has him being stoned to death in Jerusalem for preaching the Gospel.
- ✓ **Jude (Thaddaeus)** ministered in the region of Syria, Armenia and the area of Northern Persia (modern day northern Iran).
- ✓ **Simon (the Zealot)** ministered in Britain and Persia

“This is the disciple who testifies to these things and who wrote them down. We know that **his testimony is true.** Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that **even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.”** (John 21:24-25)

- ✓ **John closes his Gospel** (being an eyewitness to the events recorded in his Gospel account) having the authority to declare that what he wrote about Jesus was 100% true

“That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete” (I John 1:1-4)

- ✓ Neither John nor the other Gospel writers could not have captured everything Jesus said or did. What was written was done so under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and contained everything we needed to know

“Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.” (John 20:30-31)