

PETER'S CONFESSION

By Keith Greer

"He said to them, "But who do you say that I am? Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." {Matthew 16:15,16}

When our Lord came into the region of Caesarea Philippi during His public ministry, He asked His disciples saying, "Who do men say that Jesus, the Son of Man, am?" {Matthew 16:13} Some thought He was John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others, Jeremiah or one of the other prophets. Yet, Peter correctly answered the Lord's question.

Why did Peter answer correctly? In Matthew 10, we have the recording of the choosing of the twelve, and since that time much has transpired. Let us examine those facts Peter knew, that led him to make this great confession.

Concerning their future work, "But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you shall speak;" {Matthew 10:19} We can see this come to pass: "...Did we not strictly command you not to teach in this name? And look, you have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this Man's blood on us! But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men." Acts 5:28,29, Boldness of speech and certainty of the message they preached – because they were led by the Holy Spirit!

John was in prison and heard of the works of Christ. He sent two disciples to ask if He was the coming One, and "Jesus answered and said to them, "Go tell John the things which you hear and see:" {Matthew 11:4} What did they see?

"Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and it was restored as whole as the other." {Matthew 12:13}

"Then one was brought to Him who was demon- possessed, blind and mute; and He healed him, so that the blind and mute man both spoke and saw." {Matthew 12:22}

"For Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." {Matthew 12:40} Read Matthew 28 1-11 to see this promise fulfilled.

"Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes. So they all ate and were filled, and they took up twelve baskets full of the fragments that remained" {Matthew 14:19,20} - the feeding of the five thousand.

"Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me. Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" {John 11:41-43}

“Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us. Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?" (John 14:8,9)

Peter was one who often spoke before he thought. It seems to me that this is one time that he based his answer on sure facts. So many different statements and miracles he had personally witnessed. He knew of what he was speaking.

What about you? Do you believe he was the Son of God? Could you make the same bold confession that Peter made? “Yes, thou art the Christ!” ***