

# What Peter Said About Christ

**Intro.** The apostle Peter knew a great deal about Christ. He had the opportunity of following Christ during His earthly ministry, in fact being one of those who we say are of the inner circle. He was able, thus, to observe His life, hear His teachings, witness His miracles, and great works. He also was the man who had the opportunity to preach the first gospel sermon after Christ ascended back to the Father. In that sermon Peter said a number of things concerning Christ that we need to consider. Thus for our study let us look at Acts 2:22-24 “Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: <sup>23</sup>Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: <sup>24</sup>Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.”

## **I. PETER SEES HIM AS THE CHRIST OF THE NATURAL.**

**A. “Jesus of Nazareth, a man.”**

**B. The Docetics of the first century denied the reality of the Lord’s humanity, saying that He only seemed to be, and that there was no true substance to Jesus.**

**C. Peter knew Christ’s humanity.**

1. Christ became man.

- a. Mat. 1:23 “Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”; 1 Tim. 3:16 “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”
- b. John 1:14 “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.”
- c. Acts 3:22-23 “For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. <sup>23</sup>And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.”
- d. Phi. 2:7-8 “But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: <sup>8</sup>And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”
- e. 1 John 1:1-3 “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; <sup>2</sup>(For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) <sup>3</sup>That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.”

2. As man, he went through all that man goes through.

- a. He was born as man, raised as man, lived a man’s life with a true body, was tempted as we are, suffered like we do, and died like all men.
- b. Heb. 2:17-18 “Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.”; Heb. 4:14-16 “Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. <sup>15</sup>For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all

points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. <sup>16</sup>Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

- c. He, thus is able to plead our case to God; 1 John 2:1 “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:”

## II. PETER SEES HIM AS THE CHRIST OF THE SUPERNATURAL.

**A. “A man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you.”**

**B. God witnessed for Christ.**

1. John 5:31-32, 36-38 “If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true. <sup>32</sup>There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true.... <sup>36</sup>But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me. <sup>37</sup>And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape. <sup>38</sup>And ye have not his word abiding in you: for whom he hath sent, him ye believe not.”
2. John 8:18, 54 “I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.... <sup>54</sup>Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God:”

**C. The miracles that Christ performed attested to the fact that He was from God.**

1. John 3:2 “The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.”  
cf. Mat. 12:25, 28 “And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand:... <sup>28</sup>But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you.”
2. John 14:10-11 “Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself; but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. <sup>11</sup>Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works’ sake.”
3. Heb. 2:3-4 “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; <sup>4</sup>God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”

## III. PETER SEES HIM AS THE CHRIST OF PROVIDENCE.

**A. “Delivered up by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God.”**

**B. Even before the world was created God had a plan to save sinful mankind.**

1. Eph. 1:4-5 “According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: <sup>5</sup>Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will,”
2. Tit. 1:2-3 “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; <sup>3</sup>But hath in due times manifested his word through preaching, which is committed unto me according to the commandment of God our Saviour;”
3. 1 Pet. 1:2, 20 “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied....<sup>20</sup>Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,”

**C. He began revealing this plan to us and began setting the stage for its fulfillment.**

1. Gen. 3:15 “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”

2. Gen. 12:1-3 “Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee: <sup>2</sup>And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: <sup>3</sup>And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”
3. 2 Sam. 7:12-17 “And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. <sup>13</sup>He shall build an house for my name, and I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever. <sup>14</sup>I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: <sup>15</sup>But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. <sup>16</sup>And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: thy throne shall be established for ever. <sup>17</sup>According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David.”
4. Isa. 53:
5. Acts 2:25-28 “For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: <sup>26</sup>Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: <sup>27</sup>Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. <sup>28</sup>Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance.”; Psa. 16:8-11 “I have set the Lord always before me: because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. <sup>9</sup>Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. <sup>10</sup>For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. <sup>11</sup>Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”

**D. So in the fullness of time God sent His Son to work out this plan.**

1. Gal. 4:4 “But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,”
2. Eph. 1:10 “That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:”

#### **IV. PETER SEES HIM AS THE CHRIST OF THE CROSS.**

**A. “By wicked hands have crucified and slain.”**

**B. This is the fulfillment of the love of God.**

1. John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”
2. Rom. 5:8 “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

**C. Jesus went willingly to the cross.**

1. John 10:11, 18 “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.... <sup>18</sup>No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.”
2. Mat. 26:53-54 “Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup>But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?”

**D. The cross is no accident, as the premillennialist say, but was planned.**

#### **V. PETER SEES HIM AS THE CHRIST OF GLORY.**

**A. “God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.”**

**B. God exalted Christ.**

1. Rom. 1:4 “And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”
2. Acts 2:32-33 “This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. <sup>33</sup>Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.”
3. Phi. 2:9-11 “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: <sup>10</sup>That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; <sup>11</sup>And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

**C. Exalted to reign on the throne of God or David (they are the same throne).**

1. Acts 2:30 “Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;”; cf. Luke 1:32-33 “He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: <sup>33</sup>And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.”
2. Rev. 3:21 “To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.”
3. Thus making Him both Lord and Christ, Acts 2:36 “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

**Conclusion:** After drawing this vivid picture of Christ, the people were cut to the heart and asked: “What shall we do?” Peter’s response is in Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” Those who received his word were baptized; Acts 2:41 “Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.” Will you, if you have not, respond in the same way and for the same reason as these three thousand souls?