

What Peter Knew

Where should I start Kevin? I've spent the better part of the other day thinking about it and now that I've sat down to write it down I can't remember, haha. Peter lived during a time when Judah was expecting the Messiah. Yet, of the candidates of his day, he picked Jesus. Matthew and Mark introduce Peter to us as such:

Matt 4:18-20 (Mark 1:15-18)

18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

20 And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

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Jesus had just started his ministry. Why would Peter and his brother leave everything and up and follow him?

Jer 16:13-16

13 Therefore will I cast you out of this land into a land that ye know not, neither ye nor your fathers; and there shall ye serve other gods day and night; where I will not shew you favour.

14 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be said, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt;

15 But, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers.

16 Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the LORD, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks.

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This sets the stage for the rest of Peter's actions throughout Jesus' ministry. When Jesus said, "Fishers of men," Peter's mind latched onto this prophesy and this is why he and his brother left their nets and followed him. But it was more than that; anybody could have said those words. Luke tells it like this:

Luke 5:1-11

5:1 And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret,

2 And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets.

3 And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.
6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.
7 And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.
8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.
9 For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:
10 And so was also James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon, Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men.
11 And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.
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Now we see that after teaching all day, Jesus performs a miracle. This, at the very least, indicates that he is a prophet. Yet it goes even further than that. John, without going into much detail, records it like this:

John 1:40-42
40 One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.
41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.
42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.
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So, before all that, Peter heard the buzz that there was a Messiah about named Jesus. In any case, when Peter is introduced, he is basically told that he will be fulfilling this prophecy in Jeremiah hence his zeal to establish the Kingdom of God.

At the time of this event, Jer 16:13 had come to pass. Israel, the 10 northern tribes, had already been exiled from the land and Judah, the 2 southern tribes, were exiled to Babylon of which less than 20% returned after that exile. So when Jesus told Peter and Andrew that they were going to be fishers of men, he was also saying that he was going to be regathering Israel from all the nations. However, there were things that had to take place first which the disciples didn't understand until after Jesus rose from the dead.

Let's look at some of the things that Peter did that have been traditionally viewed as irrational and dumb (according to many sermons I've heard on the subject).

Why did Peter ask to construct tents at the transfiguration? (Matt 17, Mark 9, Luke 9:28-36)

Jesus and his disciples were on their way to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast of tabernacles as is required by the Law of Moses (Lev 23:33-43, Ex 23:14-17, tie Luke 9:20 to John 6:68 – 69 to get the timeframe). Though not named so in scripture, along the way they stopped at the Mount of Transfiguration. While there, Moses and Elijah showed up. This reminded Peter of another prophesy.

Zech 4

4:1 And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep,
2 And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof:
3 And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof.
4 So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord?
5 Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord.
6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.
7 Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.
8 Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,
9 The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you.
10 For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth.
11 Then answered I, and said unto him, What are these two olive trees upon the right side of the candlestick and upon the left side thereof?
12 And I answered again, and said unto him, What be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil out of themselves?
13 And he answered me and said, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord.
14 Then said he, These are the two anointed ones, that stand by the LORD of the whole earth.
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Zechariah 4:3 mentions two olive trees. John expounds on who they are in Revelation.

Rev 11:3-6

3 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.
4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth.
5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed.

6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will.

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3: their ministry will be 1260 days

4: they are the ones spoken of in Zach 4

6: Who had power to shut the heavens? (Elijah)

Who turned water into blood and smote the earth with plagues? (Moses)

Zechariah 4:7 ties this prophesy to another in Isaiah.

Isa 40:3-5

3 The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

4 Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

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Peter is a student of scripture; he knows that Jesus is the Messiah as per his declaration the chapter before. But he and the other disciples don't understand until after his resurrection that he came as Yahshua ben Yoseph ha-eved, Jesus the son of Joseph the servant. During Jesus' ministry, they all though he came as Yahshua ben David ha-melech, Jesus the son of David the king.

John tells us in Rev 19:10 that the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy. Peter knew this so everything that Jesus did, he looked to the prophecies about the messiah as a king. When Moses and Elijah appeared, Peter's thoughts went to Zachariah. The prophesy in Zachariah is tied to the prophesy in Isaiah. Step one in Isaiah came to pass; John the Baptists came in the spirit of Elijah. Step 1 had to come to pass and if these were the two witnesses then that means that step 2 was next. After step 2, of course, comes step 3 where the glory of the LORD is revealed. This is what they had been waiting for, expecting and working towards. Whenever Peter performs an action that doesn't seem to make sense, it is usually in light of his view that Jesus had come to establish his kingdom on earth and everything Peter does is an expression of his zeal and love for the Messiah.

So, in Peter's mind this is what was taking place. And since it was Sukkoth, the feast of tabernacles, the logical question was to build tents so Moses and Elijah could celebrate Sukkoth with them. But then the Father pipes up, 'This is my son, listen to him.' See, Peter and the others weren't exactly getting it. Jesus was not there to perform the work of restoration but the work of redemption. But instead of shifting their focus they go back to the prophesy and ask, according the Matthew and Mark, 'Why must Elijah come first?' or what does it mean that Elijah must come first? Jesus established in their hearing before this that Elijah had come so they are trying to figure out what this prophesy might mean; that perhaps they misunderstood what Jesus said earlier. It records hardly a

chapter later in Luke that John and James wanted to call down fire to consume people. This is what the two witnesses do so apparently even after all that they still didn't fully understand.

But Peter's question was very logical even though it didn't make sense in the context of Jesus' ministry at that time. We do the same thing when confronted with a situation where we don't know what to do. Typically we analyze it to try and figure out the most appropriate thing to say. Just as Peter and the other disciples missed the work of redemption when Jesus came the first time, we must be cautious lest we forget that the next time he comes it is to perform the work of restoration.

Zach 5 and on goes into further discourse of events that will happen in the end of days. There was and still is a debate as to who are these two witnesses. Heaven and earth (Deut 30:19), Ephraim and Judah (Ez 37:15-20), and Moses and Elijah (Torah and the Prophets) are the most popular.

When Peter cut off the priest's servant's ear, he was again acting according to the prophecies of Messiah as King.

Most everything Peter and the other disciples did was to establish the kingdom of God according to their understanding of scripture. In the Christian world today, most people have lost sight of what the kingdom of God is and why we are in the nations. Yes, we understand elements of it. But how many sermons about the kingdom of God have you heard that talk about regathering the twelve tribes of Israel? It's all over scripture and the very last recorded question the disciples asked Jesus before he ascended.

Acts 1:6

6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? *1

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Please understand we are not talking about a physical people here but a spiritual people. As Paul says,

Rom 9:6-8

6 Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:

7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.

8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

KJV

Yet they are still manifested as a physical people. It has already happened once so that we can understand what this means. Essentially, that is what the first five books of the Bible are about. They tell us where we came from, how we got here, and where we are going. I will expound.

You've heard it said, "Those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it." That observation is related to the Biblical principle, "What happens to the fathers happens to the sons." Paul is using this principle when he makes his statement in 1 Cor 10:1-10.

I will start with Abraham.

Gen 12:9-13:1

9 And Abram journeyed, going on still toward the south.

10 And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land.

...

14 And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she was very fair.

15 The princes also of Pharaoh saw her, and commended her before Pharaoh: and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.

...

17 And the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife.

18 And Pharaoh called Abram, and said, What is this that thou hast done unto me? why didst thou not tell me that she was thy wife?

19 Why saidst thou, She is my sister? so I might have taken her to me to wife: now therefore behold thy wife, take her, and go thy way.

20 And Pharaoh commanded his men concerning him: and they sent him away, and his wife, and all that he had.

13:1 And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south.

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This is a short summary of what happened hundreds of years later with the nation of Israel with a little more detail.

1. There was a famine in the land (Gen 42:5, Gen 45:6-11).
2. Jacob and his family, seventy persons, went down into Egypt (Gen 46:27-28).
3. Pharaoh enslaved Israel, God's beloved (Ex 1:8-14).
4. God plagued Pharaoh and his house (Egypt) to deliver Israel (Ex 9:14, a good part of Exodus actually).
5. The Egyptian's blessed Israel and a mixed multitude left (not just physical Israel) (Ex 12:33-38). Moses then leads the people to Mt. Sinai where they enter into a marriage covenant with God (Ex 19 & 20).

After that, Israel lives happily ever after, right? Not exactly. After much debauchery and repentance and Baalism . . . well, how bout we take it one step at a time.

1. There was a famine in the land (Deut 28:48-55, Jer 52:7, 2 Kings 6:23-25).

2. Israel and Judah went down into Egypt (2 Kings 17:22, 2 Kings 25:21).
3. Pharaoh enslaves Israel (our world today (requires a study on slavery), will come to a head when the final anti-Messiah is revealed).
4. God plagues Pharaoh and his house (the World) to deliver Israel (Large part of Revelation).
5. A mixed multitude goes to up to Jerusalem, the mountain of God, to enter into a renewed marriage covenant (Is 2:2-3, Jer 31:6-9, Mic 4:1-2, Zech 14:13-19, Jer 31:31-34).

We are in step three today. Israel has been that way since 2 Kings. In Jesus day, only some of Judah was in Israel while the rest were scattered into the nations. They were also in step three. In that day, all Judah pretty much knew this. But Jesus didn't fulfill the prophecies in the way they expected and there were two results. His disciples, all of them, deserted him. Only 120 returned to him after his resurrection (Acts 1:15; $10 \times 12 = 120$; 10 is the number of perfection and twelve is the number for the government of God *2). The religious leaders hated him and, in the end, killed him. Heck, they wouldn't even receive him after he rose from the dead just as Jesus foretold (Luke 16:31, Mat 28:11-15).

Are we doing the same thing today? The Body has all these expectations for Jesus return yet when it doesn't happen the way we expect, how will we respond? This is something that greatly concerns me because, it is plausible, that this is what Paul is referring to in 2 Thes 2:3 when he says a falling away' which is 'divorce' in both Greek and Hebrew.

The reason we are in the nation's today is to fulfill the promise given to Abraham (Gen 22:18). This was expounded up when Jacob went down to Egypt with his family, seventy persons. Egypt represents the world. At that time there were seventy nations according to the descendants of Noah. God is saying that he is sending a representative into every nation to be a witness. The result is that a mixed multitude is saved. Hence why Jacob blesses Ephraim, "...his seed will become a multitude of nations" (Gen 48:20). More literally, "His descendants will become the fullness of the Gentiles." Hence why Paul says:

Rom 11:25-26

25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.

26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob:

KJV

What is this blindness? That is another long story but essential, physical Israel doesn't know who they are anymore. God divorced them and they lost their identity. Yet God never divorced Judah hence why the Jews know who they are today. (Deut 28:64-68, Hos 1:3-11, Jer 3:8)

There is a ton more I could go into on this subject, but the point is that Peter and the other disciples had a very logical reason for the things they asked and did. Peter wasn't impulsive, he was a student of scripture and was boldly acting based upon his understanding of prophecy. We must remember

to not lean on our own understanding but to trust the LORD with all our heart and in our life's path to know him intimately and then he will direct our life's path (Prov 3:5-6) . Based on the cultural upbringing, 'unlearned men' back in that day knew more than most pastors of our day. Yet it seems as though this thought is the license people used to make jest of the disciples and it upsets me.

*1 Jer 16:14-15

14 Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that it shall no more be said, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt;

15 But, The LORD liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the North, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers.

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Also in Deut 30:1-4, Ps 106:47, Is 11:11-13, Is 54:4-8, Is 56:1-8, Is 60:1-5, Jer 23:3, Jer 29:12-14, Jer 31:7-10, Jer 32:37, Ez 11:16-17, Ez 20:34-41, Ex 34:12-13, Ez 36:24, Ez 37,21-22, Mic 2:12, Mic 4:6-7, Zeph 3:18-20. Zeph 10:8-10, Mark 13:26-27, John 11:49-52, and Acts 1:6. I encourage you to take time and read them.

*2 Twelve has to do with the government of God. Any time you see the number 12 in scripture, it is related to this subject.

- 12 sons/ tribes
- 12 chosen disciples
- 12 pearly gates
- 12 wells of water (Ex 15:27)
- 12 pillars (Ex 24:4) which is related to faith which is the foundation of those pillars according to Hebrew linguistics
- 12 loaves of bread in the temple on the table (Lev 24:5) which also represent the word of God
- 12 spies
- 12 stones (Josh 4:8-9)
- 12 thrones (Matt 19:28)
- 12 thousand sealed from each tribe (Rev 7:5-8)
- 12 stars
- 12 sheaves
- 24 elders or 12 sets of two which is the number required to establish an accusation as true