

Peter in Rome

Intro Song: "Lift Your Hands" by Mark Mallett

Intro Prayer:

- For peace through out the earth... may the Holy Spirit call all to conversion, repentance, and holiness!
- For the vicar of Christ on Earth,,, Pope B XVI.... may he courageously proclaim Christ to all the world, strengthen his brother bishops, and lead souls to Christ.
- For a profound season of Lent... to prepare our hearts for the passion of our Lord, his resurrection, and ascension!
- Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Thy faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Thy love.
 - V. Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created.
 - R. And Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.
 - Let us pray. O God, Who didst instruct the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us in the same Spirit to be
 - truly wise, and ever to rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

- **Was Peter in Rome?**
 - Many anti-Catholics who ask this question - does it undermine Primacy of Peter IF he wasn't there?
 - NO - "***Wherever the bishop appears, there let the people be; as wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the Catholic Church.***" — *Letter to the Smyrnaeans* 8 (107 AD)
 - St. Peter could have ended up in Brooklyn and THAT would have been his see!
 - But... this beg's the question... WHY Rome?
 - Why has the Church made Rome it's headquarters

for almost 2000 years?

- With the exception of a small stand of French Bishops who stayed in Avignon France for 70 years!
- At the faithful witness of St. Catherine of Siena in 1376 Pope Gregory XI moved his administration back to Rome in 1377.
- Why not move it to a more relevant city today? Like New York, or Beijing, or London? WHY Rome?
- I not only hope to demonstrate that St. Peter was in Rome when he died, BUT that his being there was a prophecy proclaimed, and written down, hundreds of years before he was ever born!
- **So how do we know he was ever in Rome?**
 - Wasn't St. Paul there by himself - abandoned by all but Luke?
 - **2 Timothy 4:** [9] Do your best to come to me soon. [10] For Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessaloni'ca; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. [11] Luke alone is with me.
 - NO....
 - 2 Timothy was written from Rome but...
 - There was already a Christian Church in Rome well before Paul arrived there under guard!
 - Romans 1:[7] To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ... [13] I want you to know, brethren, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles.
 - Does scripture say "Peter was in Rome"?
 - No.... at least not explicitly
 - There is a cryptic reference to St. Peter in Rome:

- **1 Peter 5:[13]** She who is at **Babylon**, who is likewise chosen, sends you greetings; and so does my son Mark.
- Babylon? How do we know this is Rome and not... well Babylon?
 - We see how Babylon is used metaphorically in Revelation 14:8, for instance, to refer to Rome/ Jerusalem
 - We see some early extra biblical writings using Babylon to refer to Rome:
 - **From C.A. Tract:** Babylon is a code-word for Rome. It is used that way multiple times in works like the *Sibylline Oracles* (5:159f), the *Apocalypse of Baruch* (2:1), and *4 Esdras* (3:1). Eusebius Pamphilius, in *The Chronicle*, composed about A.D. 303, noted that "It is said that Peter's first epistle, in which he makes mention of Mark, was composed at Rome itself; and that he himself indicates this, referring to the city figuratively as Babylon."
- We also have some great early Christian (Fathers) writings adding testimony that Peter WAS in Rome & as a result HIS see is PRIME among equals!
 - **Ignatius of Antioch:** "Not as Peter and Paul did, do I command you [Romans]. They were apostles, and I am a convict" (*Letter to the Romans* 4:3 [**A.D. 110**]).
 - **Dionysius of Corinth:** "You [Pope Soter] have also, by your very admonition, brought together the planting that was made by Peter and Paul at Rome and at Corinth; for both of them alike planted in our Corinth and taught us; and both alike, teaching similarly in Italy, suffered martyrdom at the same time" (*Letter to Pope Soter* [**A.D. 170**], in Eusebius, *History of the Church* 2:25:8).
 - **Irenaeus:** "Matthew also issued among the Hebrews a

written Gospel in their own language, while Peter and Paul were evangelizing in Rome and laying the foundation of the Church" (*Against Heresies*, 3, 1:1 [**A.D. 189**]).

- **Gaius:** "It is recorded that Paul was beheaded in Rome itself, and Peter, likewise, was crucified, during the reign [of the Emperor Nero]. The account is confirmed by the names of Peter and Paul over the cemeteries there, which remain to the present time. And it is confirmed also by a stalwart man of the Church, Gaius by name, who lived in the time of Zephyrinus, bishop of Rome. This Gaius, in a written disputation with Proclus, the leader of the sect of Cataphrygians, says this of the places in which the remains of the aforementioned apostles were deposited: 'I can point out the trophies of the apostles. For if you are willing to go to the Vatican or to the Ostian Way, you will find the trophies of those who founded this Church'" (*Disputation with Proclus* [**A.D. 198**] in Eusebius, *Church History* 2:25:5).
- MORE: http://www.catholic.com/library/Peter_Roman_Residency.asp
- ALSO: http://www.catholic.com/library/Was_Peter_in_Rome.asp
- **We also have the archeological evidence... his tomb!**
 - Rome is the only city who claims his bones!
 - <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/13374a.htm>
 - http://www.vatican.va/various/basiliche/necropoli/scavi_english.html
 - The graffiti on the wall of the tomb dates back to early centuries ... here lies the beloved apostle etc...
- **The Prophecy!**
 - More than the "evidence" to Peter's residence in Rome... is

WHY!

- I submit to you it was the intent of God well before Peter was ever born to be in Rome.
- Daniel 2: 31 - 45
 - Giant Idol
 - Gold Head - Great King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylonian Empire
 - Silver shoulders & arms - Empire of Medo-Persians
 - Bronze loins - Empire of Greeks
 - Iron & Clay - Empire of the Romans!
 - Mixed with other cultures - spread thin becomes weak!
- Daniel 7 - read the whole chapter!
 - 4 Beasts come out of the sea! - Gentile
 - 1 st beast - Lion w/ eagles wings - stood up like a man, give the mind of a man.
 - Great King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylonian Empire - cf Dan. 4:28-37
 - 2nd Beast - Lopsided Bear
 - Empire of Medo-Persians
 - 3rd Beast - Leopard with 4 wings & 4 Heads - FAST
 - Empire of Greek King Alexander
 - 4th Beast - Iron teeth - strong - stamping - DIFFERENT! - 10 Horns!
 - Empire of the Romans!
- What's interesting about this?
 - 4 Beasts = 4 kingdoms
 - in the 4th Kingdom One Like A Son Of Man comes!
 - A small stone that grows to a giant mountain to inhabit ALL the world!
 - **Daniel 7: [13]** I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven here came one like a son of man and he came to the Ancient of Days and was

presented before him. [14] And to him was given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

- What's MORE cool than this? What happens to that 4th Kingdom?
 - **Daniel 7: [23]** "Thus he said: `As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces.
 - [24] As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings.
 - [25] He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, two times, and half a time.
 - [26] But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end.
 - [27] **And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; their kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey them.**
- The SAINTS are given this Kingdom!
 - What is the 4th Kingdom?
 - Rome!
 - So why is the Church of the Messiah in Rome?
 - Because this EVIL Kingdom has been defeated by the Son of Man... and it's Kingdom has been given over to the Saints.... FOREVER!

- **Compare Daniel 7 to the Beast in Revelation 13 & 17**
 - **Rev. 13:[1]** And I saw a beast rising out of the sea, with ten horns and seven heads, with ten diadems upon its horns and a blasphemous name upon its heads.
 - [2] And the beast that I saw was like a leopard, its feet were like a bear's, and its mouth was like a lion's mouth. And to it the dragon gave his power and his throne and great authority.
 - [3] One of its heads seemed to have a mortal wound, but its mortal wound was healed, and the whole earth followed the beast with wonder.
 - [4] Men worshiped the dragon, for he had given his authority to the beast, and they worshiped the beast
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 - **Rev. 17:[3]** And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns.
 - [4] The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and bedecked with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her fornication;
 - [5] and on her forehead was written a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of harlots and of earth's abominations."
 - [6] And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints and the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. When I saw her I marveled greatly.
- **Check out Dr. Barber's book "Coming Soon" & link to Dr. Pitre's notes on this...**
 - 7 Heads = 7 Hills = Rome
 - 7 Heads = 7 Ceaser's
 - [10] they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he comes he must remain only a little while.
 - 6th is Nero (aprox. 68 AD)
 - He committed suicide by sword

- Rome was tossed into chaos & civil war... all thought it would perish! But... it came back!
- 7th is Galba - ruled for only 6 mo.
- 10 Horns - a possible reference to the Herodian rulers of Israel under the power of the Beast - Rome!
- The Whore of Babylon - Jerusalem....
 - Seated upon the Beast who gets its power from the Dragon/ Satan!
 - She sold out!
 - They BOTH Make war on the Lamb Vs. 14 & blood of the myters runs!
 - The Beast turns on her & BURNS her down!
 - [16] And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the harlot; they will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire,
 - Much like how ROME brought it Legions to Jerusalem in 70 AD and slaughtered 1 million people and BURNED it to the ground!
- **So Why ROME?**
 - Because the Son of Man has taken possession of the 4th Kingdom, Rome, and given it to the Saints! His Saints!
 - Peter & Paul were sent to the heart of this Beast to conquer it!
 - When Constantine legalized Christianity... what happened?
 - He moved his throne to Constantinople... leaving Rome to the Saints!

