

# Did the Early Church Believe or Teach that Peter Was the Chief Apostle?

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Based on a misapplication or misunderstanding of Matthew 16:18, many claim that Peter was ordained to be the chief apostle, when in fact Christ was stating it was through his sacrifice that the church could be built (Eph. 2:19-22). There was no position of chief prophet within the Old Covenant, and the New Testament shows there was no position of chief apostle within the New Covenant (Eph. 2:20). If Peter were the chief apostle after the death of Christ, he would have been the one to make the declaration in Acts 15:13-21. Instead, it was made by another apostle, James (Jacob). Following that declaration no decision was considered final until all the apostles, elders, and brethren were in agreement (Ac. 15:22).

This document is the collaborative work of individuals who believe God's truth should be given freely (Mt. 10:8; 1Cor. 2:12; 2Cor.11:7; Rom. 10:14-21) and the message of the one true God should be made available to all nations (Mt. 24:14) as a prerequisite to the return of Jesus Christ as King of kings (Mt. 17:10; 19:17; Mk. 9:11; Lk. 1:17; Rev. 19:11-16).

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