

Was Peter the first Pope?

He was the “rock” upon which the church would be built in Matt. 16:16-19.

He was made Jesus’ “vicar” in Jn. 21:16-17.

Peter was the Chief Bishop in Jerusalem, culminating in his appointment as Pope –
Acts 1, 2

Was Peter the first Pope?

- Was Peter ever the “Chief Bishop”?
 - He was “an elder” – I Pet. 5:1
 - “Sumpresbuteros” – Co-presbyter
 - N.T. example is of a plurality – Acts 20:17, Titus 1:5; Priests? – I Pet. 2:5, 9, Rev. 1:6
 - No one apostle was to have dominion over the others – Matt. 20:25-28
 - Acts 1 & 2 do not show Peter as a chief bishop as the church was not established
 - Acts 15 – ex. of multiple elders overseeing

Was Peter the first Pope?

- Was Peter made Jesus' "vicar" in Jn. 21:16-17?
 - Peter was told to teach and guard new converts and established disciples
 - All apostles were to do this – Matt. 28:18-20
 - Vicar – *“a person who acts in place of another; substitute; a person authorized to perform the functions of another”*
 - Peter was not infallible – Gal. 2:11-14

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- Was Peter the “rock” upon which the church was to be built in Matt. 16:16-19?
 - This is not necessary to infer and does not correspond with other Scriptures
 - Was Peter given keys? He would help in ushering in the kingdom, but the same “keys” are given to all in Matt. 18:18
 - The church was built upon Jesus as Christ
 - Chief cornerstone – Eph. 2:19-22 (all apostles provided foundation on top of Jesus)
 - Head over all things – Eph. 1:22 (Eph. 4:5, 5:25, Col. 1:18, 2:10, 19) Heb. 1:2

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