

Your Name is Peter!

Your Name is Peter!



Yes it is!!

really

Your Name is Peter!

This may come as a surprise to you.

Your (other) name is Peter – and there's no getting away from it.

Your Name is Peter!

**Male or female, black or white,
or anything else, your (other)
name is Peter.**

So let's dig into this

Your Name is Peter!

There is one question that absolutely everyone has to answer, sooner or later.

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**We might ignore the question,
hoping that it will just go
away.**

(It doesn't!)

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**We might refuse to answer it.
But, in a sense, by refusing to
answer it, you are making your
answer!**

in fact

(We'll explore that later)

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Its difficult to over emphasise this. There is one question each person on the planet has to answer, sooner or later.

And yet some are hardly aware the question exists

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So, Peter, are you aware of the question and what is your answer?

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We're going to allow ourselves to look at this question both as a narrative and in a diagram format. That way we will get the full implications of the question and its answer:

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First, a bit of background.



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**1000 years before it happened,
there were clues it was going
to happen**

Let's look at some

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1,000 years before

I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not conceal them from their children, but tell to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wondrous works that He has done. (*Psalm 78:2-4*)

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700 years before

There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this. (*Isaiah 9:7*)

Your Name is Peter!

700 years before

"Behold, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one in whom My soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry out or raise His voice, nor make His voice heard in the street. A bruised reed He will not break and a dimly burning wick He will not extinguish. He will faithfully bring forth justice. "He will not be disheartened or crushed until He has established justice in the earth. And the coastlands will wait expectantly for His law."

Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread out the earth and its offspring, Who gives breath to the people on it - and spirit to those who walk in it. "I am the LORD, I have called You in righteousness. I will also hold You by the hand and watch over You. And I will appoint You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the nations." (*Isaiah 42:1-6*)

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700 years before

"And nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising." (*Isaiah 60:3*)

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700 years before

Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the Arabah. (*Isaiah 35:5-6*)

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700 years before

He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth. (*Isaiah 53:7*)

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700 years before

The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to captives, and freedom to prisoners; to proclaim the favourable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, (*Isaiah 61:1-2*)

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700 years before

Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, and interceded for the transgressors. (*Isaiah 53:12*)

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650 years before

"Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "When I shall raise up for David a righteous Branch; and He will reign as king and act wisely and do justice and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely; and this is His name by which He will be called, 'The LORD our righteousness.'" (*Jeremiah 23:5-6*)

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**You may be getting a clue now
as to what it is we are talking
about!**

**We're not so much talking
about an event, as a person.**

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So what is the big question we cannot avoid?



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Let's pick this up in narrative form.

The scene is set 2000 years ago

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A group of men are together, speaking about the public reputation of one of them.

We pick up the account of this conversation in the Bible:

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Luke chapter 9, verses 18 to 27

Let's read it



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Peter Answers the Key question

¹⁸ Once when Jesus was praying in private and his disciples were with him, he asked them, "Who do the crowds say I am?" ¹⁹ They replied, "Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, that one of the prophets of long ago has come back to life."

²⁰ "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "God's Messiah."

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Jesus speaks about His death

²¹ Jesus strictly warned them not to tell this to anyone.

²² And he said, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life."

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²³ Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. ²⁴ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.

²⁵ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? ²⁶ Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

²⁷ "Truly I tell you, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God."

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The question of Jesus rings in our ears down 2000 years

“what about you, who do YOU say that I am?”

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This question is as relevant today as it was 2000 years ago.

The answer then was costly. When Peter acknowledged Whom Jesus is, it would cost him a great deal:

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It cost him the anger of the local religious authorities

It cost him the anger of the civil powers

It is believed that eventually it cost him his life

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So this was no lightweight question or lightweight answer.

Even today everyone still has to answer that basic question about Jesus. Who do YOU say I am?

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Let's consider for a few moments how people might answer that vital question

But before we do, let's see what's at stake. Jesus made certain claims about Himself:

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“I am the bread of life”

John 6:48

He went on:

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.”

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“Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep”.

John 10:7

He went on:

“I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full”.

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“I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

John 10:7

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“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me”.

John 14:6

You might want to check this out in the gospel of John. The relevant passage is JOHN CHAPTER 14.

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“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener”.

John 15:1

He went on:

“Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing”.

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So we can say that Jesus made some amazing claims about Himself. What He said perplexed some – annoyed others, and made yet others afraid. But what He said also brought LIFE to many.

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Jesus was specific about His mission, as we have seen. Others also made clear observations about Who He is.

You might want to check these out:

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Jesus

I Am

John 6: 48
John 10: 7
John 10: 11
John 11: 25
John 14: 6
John 15: 1

He Is

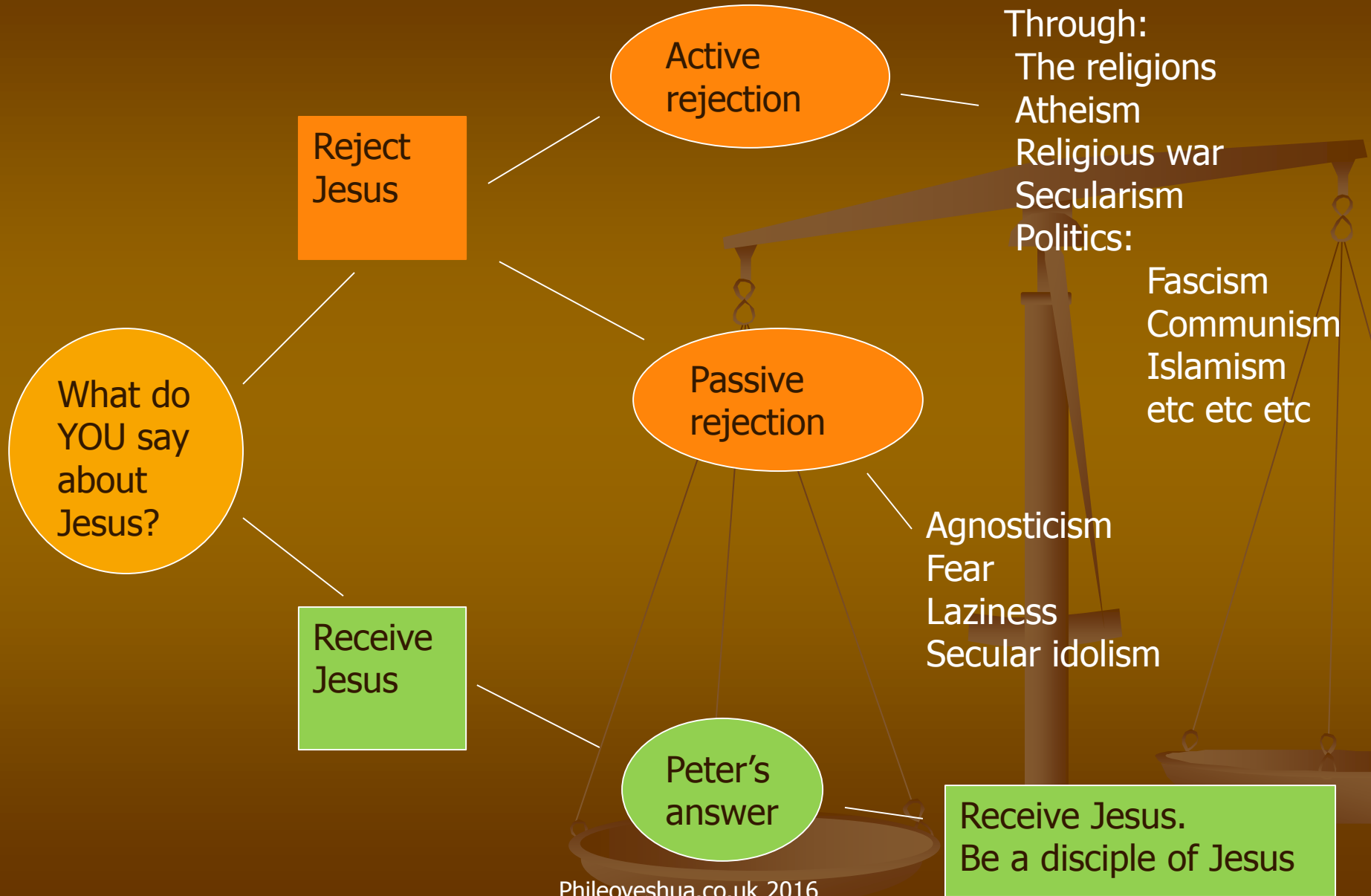
Colossians 1: 15 – 20 (also 13 – 14)
Colossians 2: 9
1 John 1: 7
1 John 2: 2

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**So, the Peter Question remains
“who do YOU say that I am”**

**Let's look at how it might be
answered:**

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Your Name is Peter!

**The next question has to be –
just what is at stake here?
What is the upshot of rejecting
Jesus? And what is the upshot
of receiving Jesus?**

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Really we need to let Jesus speak on this matter. Its too important to leave to others.

So what did Jesus say?

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“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep”.

John 10:11

Mmmm – this is where the rubber really hits the road

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Jesus says that He makes an incalculable sacrifice – and its in YOUR best interests that He does so.

A lot of people don't like this

.....

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We could go on quoting Jesus on this, but now might be a good point at which to invest some research of your own.

Here's a framework:

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Its good news! But not everyone will accept it.

Luke 9: 22; Luke 22: 7-8; Luke 22 14-20; John 12: 7

We are ALL guilty of rebellion against God

Luke 15: 1-7 and 11-24

Jesus

We need to be saved from the inevitable outcome of our rebellion against God

Mathew 9: 12-13; Matthew 13: 5; Luke 18:17

Only Jesus has the power and right to pay our debts to God

Matthew 10: 32-33; Matthew 11: 28-30

Jesus has come for the underdog!

Luke 4: 18-21; Luke 6: 6-11; Luke 6: 27-36

Jesus' invitation is FOR EVERYONE

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It really is **GOOD NEWS!**

died at Passover – why?

Jesus

because He died for us, so the judgement that **must** come **passes-over** the believer, and is laid to Jesus' account

was raised from death, becoming the "first-born" of a new humanity

we are "grafted-in" to His family, so we can be fruitful for Him

we have life with Him, forever

Luke 9:22; Luke 22: 7-8; Luke 22: 14-20; Jon 12: 7

John 1: 7-18 and 27-30
John 12: 47-48

John 11: 25-26
John 20: 21-22

John 14: 25-27

Luke 4: 18-21; Luke 6: 6-11; Luke 6: 27-36

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Some practicalities

following Jesus is not easy

.... but Jesus will see you through the journey!

Jesus

He has gone ahead to prepare a place
for YOU

He promises we will be with Him forever

Don't worry!

Be wise!

Matthew 5: 11-12

John 3:36; John 15:4

John 14: 2-4

John 11:25; John
17:3; Luke 23: 43

Matthew 5: 36;
Matthew 6: 25-34;
Luke 12: 22-34

Matthew 7: 24-29

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**So, Peter, the timeless
question remains**

Who do YOU say that I am?

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What is your answer?

