

**THE LIFE OF PETER
THE APOSTLE**

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The Life of Peter the Apostle by William A. Alcott

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WILLIAM A. ALCOTT

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Calling of Peter. See chapter iv.

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LIFE
OF
PETER THE APOSTLE.

BY WILLIAM A. ALCOTT.

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by the Committee of Publication.

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551
Peter
Alcott

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PREFACE.

THE Holy Scriptures are a great store-house of biography; much of which is, and ever has been highly interesting to the young. The great difficulty is in leading them to a proper method of studying it. The best method with which I am acquainted is to study, chiefly, the Bible itself, comparing Scripture with Scripture; and having at hand for occasional consultation a good "Harmony," a Bible Dictionary, and one or more of the best Commentaries. As a merely *intellectual* exercise, I know of none which is more happily calculated to discipline the mental powers than this; while it is not only useful in this respect, but pleasant and agreeable, and especially valuable on account of its moral influence and tendency. To eat and drink with those holy, self-denying men, whose history fills so many pages of the Bible—to travel with them, and enjoy their conversation—and above all, to sympathize with them, though in imagination only, is an exercise of no common importance or interest.

It was, at one time, my intention to add to what is here presented, several circumstances of the life

of Peter, which, though not found in the Sacred Volume, are believed by many profane writers; and which are certainly very interesting. But on further reflection, it was thought unsafe to expose the young mind to the danger of confounding what is at best doubtful with what is of unquestionable authenticity: they were therefore omitted.

If this little volume should not prove a means of leading the reader to study, with increased interest, the life of Peter in the Scriptures themselves;—if he should rest contented with that view of his character, which is, at best, but an imperfect one, the ends which I had in view in preparing it will not be answered. True, it may be read, as I trust, with *some* advantage, considered as a mere piece of biography. Still, if it have no higher effect,—if it advance no young mind, nor draw any young heart—with the Divine Blessing—towards the Author and Source of life, light, and immortality, the study of it is, at most, “of the earth, earthy.”

That it may subserve a nobler purpose, however,—that it may lead parents, and children, and teachers, and especially the teachers and members of Sabbath schools and Bible classes, to a more earnest, patient, and laborious investigation of Scripture, and Scripture character, and thus prove useful to the Church and to the world, is the hearty wish of

THE AUTHOR.

CONTENTS.

	Page.
Introduction,	9
CHAPTER I.	
Peter's Birth and Education,	12
CHAPTER II.	
Peter's early Life,	22
CHAPTER III.	
Peter's introduction to the Savior,	26
CHAPTER IV.	
A miracle. Peter called to be a Disciple,	29
CHAPTER V.	
Peter's first Mission,	33
CHAPTER VI.	
Walking on the Water,	42
CHAPTER VII.	
Peter's friendship to Jesus,	50
CHAPTER VIII.	
Was not Peter the first Pope ?	51
CHAPTER IX.	
Peter's Rashness,	53

	CHAPTER X.	
His Enthusiasm,		54
	CHAPTER XI.	
Miracle of the Fish,		56
	CHAPTER XII.	
Want of Humility,		58
	CHAPTER XIII.	
About Forgiveness,		62
	CHAPTER XIV.	
The Resurrection of Lazarus,		66
	CHAPTER XV.	
Peter's anxiety to learn,		69
	CHAPTER XVI.	
Preparation for the Passover,		73
	CHAPTER XVII.	
Washing Feet,		75
	CHAPTER XVIII.	
Fall of Peter foretold,		78
	CHAPTER XIX.	
Peter's fall foretold the third time,		82
	CHAPTER XX.	
The Garden of Gethsemane,		84
	CHAPTER XXI.	
Cutting off an Ear. The Desertion,		88
	CHAPTER XXII.	
Peter's Denial and subsequent Repentance,		91