

Chair of Moses -- Chair of Peter



Left: Painting of Moses sitting on the “Chair of Moses” (Mt 23:2). The painter knew what he was doing since he painted it to look just like the one found in the Synagogue in Chorazin.

Right: My son-in-law sitting in the fascimile Chair of Moses which was found here in Chorazin near Capernaum. The original chair is seen below and is currently in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem



Left: Chair of Moses discovered in Chorazin, now housed in the Israel Museum in Jerusalem.

Right: Steve standing at the foot of the Pope’s Chair - the Chair of Peter - which is in the Cathedral of Rome. St. John Lateran Church is the Cathedral of Rome and this is where the Pope’s Chair is today. This is the Mother Church of the World. Rulers in times past had chairs which represented their authority and this is the Pope’s chair. “Ex cathedra” or “from the Chair” refers to the Pope’s authority.



Exodus 18:13 On the morrow Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood about Moses from morning till evening. When Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, "What is this that you are doing for the people? Why do you sit alone, and all the people stand about you from morning till evening?" And Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God; when they have a dispute, they come to me and I decide between a man and his neighbor, and I make them know the statutes of God and his decisions."

In the **Mishna**, we read that the Torah was given to Moses, and then passed on to Joshua and from Joshua to the Judges and the Judges to the Prophets, and the Prophets to the Great Assembly.

Matthew 23:2-3 "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; so practice and observe whatever they tell you, but not what they do; for they preach, but do not practice."

From Peter, Keeper of the Keys: "Many people mistakenly think that St. Peter's is the cathedral of Rome, but that's not the case. The word cathedral means the church with the chair, the cathedra. Every diocese has a bishop, and the bishop has a chair. The cathedra in the cathedral. This is the cathedral of the Bishop of Rome, the Pope. This is the church of St. John Lateran, and as the signs on either side of the entrance remind us, this is not only the mother church of the city, but of the world."

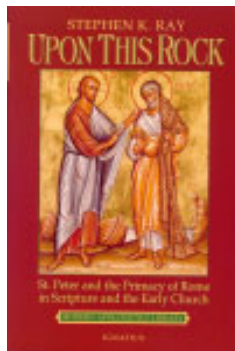
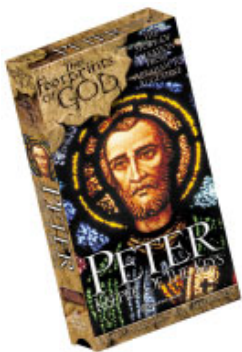
Cyprian of Carthage

"The Lord says to Peter: 'I say to you,' He says, 'that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell will not overcome it. And to you I will give the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatever things you bind on earth shall be bound also in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth, they shall be loosed also in heaven.' And again He says to him after His resurrection: 'Feed my sheep.' On him He builds the Church, and to him He gives the command to feed the sheep; and although He assigns a like power to all the Apostles, yet He founded a single chair, and He established by His own authority a source and an intrinsic reason for that unity. Indeed, the others were that also which Peter was; but a primacy is given to Peter, whereby it is made clear that there is but one Church and one chair. So too, all are shepherds, and the flock is shown to be one, fed by all the Apostles in single-minded accord. If someone does not hold fast to this unity of Peter, can he imagine that he still holds the faith? If he desert the chair of Peter upon whom the Church was built, can he still be confident that he is in the Church?" (Cyprian of Carthage, 251).



Amber Holy Spirit window with twelve radiating sections representing the 12 Apostles. The Holy Spirit floods light into the Church through the Apostles and the Chair of Peter below the window. Below the chair are four doctors of the Church, not supporting the Chair, but acknowledging and honoring it.

The ceremonial Chair of Peter in St. Peter's Basilica. It is said that acacia wood of Peter's 1st century chair is encased in this bronze memorial.



For Steve's DVD and book on Peter, order them from <http://shop.catholic-convert.com/>