#282 St. Petersburg, the City of Three Names – St. Peter's Sword (St. Petersburg Sword) for Christian *Autocracy*

St. Petersburg, Russia, became known as the "City of Three Names." The three names of St. Petersburg were (1) St. Petersburg, (2) Petrograd, and (3) Leningrad.

In 1703, Russian Tsar Peter the Great founded St. Petersburg and named it after the Apostle Peter, after whom Peter the Great himself was named. Remember, the Russian Empire was a Russian *Orthodox Church* Empire, and thus it would not have been unusual to have a strong religious attachment to the naming of a city. In fact, a city of 400,000 even further north in Russia is named Archangel, after Michael the Archangel.
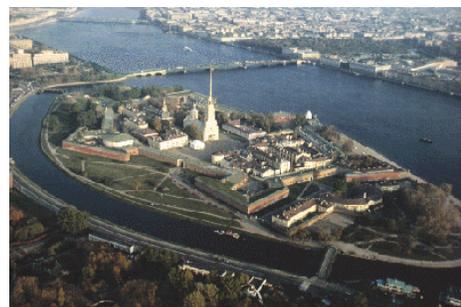
The question we are addressing is . . . When Tsar Peter the Great founded and named St. Petersburg, Russia, was the Lord ordaining that its prophetic history and purpose be reflective of St. Peter of the Sword and the Three Denials, or reflective of St. Peter of the Cross?

Key Understanding #1: The Sword of Christian *Autocracy* marked St. Petersburg from its very beginnings to World War I. St. Petersburg served as the capital of the Orthodox Tsar of Russia for 200 years.

The Neva River at St. Petersburg, 1761

St. Petersburg was founded upon the Christian Autocratic Sword. Peter the Great re-conquered what was called the Ingrian land from Sweden, and there built St. Petersburg. Construction even began during a time of war. The new city's first building was a fortification known today as Peter and Paul Fortress. It was laid down on Zaiachiy (Hare's) Island, just off the right bank of the Neva River, a couple of miles inland from the Gulf. The marshland was drained and the city spread outward from Peter and Paul Fortress. [At the time, the fortress itself was called St. Petersburg, but later became known as Peter and Paul Fortress.] To aid in the building of his new capital of St. Petersburg, Peter forbade the construction of stone buildings in all of Russia outside of St. Petersburg, so that all of the

Peter and Paul Fortress today

stonemasons would come to help build the new city. Serfs aided in the project. According to one estimate, 30,000 died.

St. Petersburg was also a base for Peter's navy. The first person to build a house in St. Petersburg was Cornelius Cruys, commander of Russia's Baltic Fleet.

Admiral Cornelius Cruys

John 18:10-11: Peter drawing the Sword to keep Jesus from going to the Cross

*John 18:10-11 (KJV) THEN SIMON PETER HAVING A SWORD DREW IT, and smote the high priest's servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant's name was Malchus.
11 Then said Jesus unto Peter, Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?*

John 13:37-38: Peter would draw the Sword for Jesus, but not go to the Cross for Jesus

*John 13:37-38 (KJV) Peter said unto him, Lord, why cannot I follow thee now? I will lay down my life for thy sake.
38 Jesus answered him, Wilt thou lay down thy life for my sake? Verily, verily, I say unto thee, THE COCK SHALL NOT CROW, TILL THOU HAST DENIED ME THRICE.*

Key Understanding #2: *St. Petersburg of the sword.* **From its earliest times and throughout its history, St. Petersburg has been tied to a Christianity of St. Peter and the Sword, not of St. Peter and the Cross. Since St. Peter and the Sword are connected to the Three Denials, St. Petersburg became the City of Three Names, and in connection with the Sword.**

The Apostle Peter with a sword