

Matthew 16:13-20 - The King's Identity!

Scriptures:

13 When Jesus came into the region of

Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples,

saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of

Man, am?"

Notes:

'Caesarea Philippi' is about 25 miles north of Galilee. It was on the northern border of Israel and there was a strong Gentile influence including pagan worship practices. It was the site of the worship of the god Pan.

Show picture 'Caesarea Philippi'. The cave on the left was where one of the tributaries that feeds the sea of Galilee started. In the mouth of the cave was a large statue of Pan and it was believed that the cave was the entrance to the underworld. To the right of the cave was large flat stone area where pagan rituals were practiced. In the rock face of the cliff alcoves were carved out where idols of a variety of gods were kept for worship.

Scriptures:

14 So they said, “Some ¹² say John the Baptist,

Notes:

some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of

the prophets.”

Scriptures:

15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I ¹² am?”

Notes:

Scriptures:

16 Simon Peter answered and said, "You are
the Christ, the Son of the living God."

G2198 -

Notes:

Peter answers for all the disciples. Peter's response is not the result of some radical miracle like Jesus' walking on the water. This is not an emotional response brought on by fantastic things Jesus was doing. This is coming from Peter's heart and mind.

God doesn't get emotional about our emotional responses, but He does get emotional about the responses of our faith.

They are walking along with nature and the backdrop of pagan idol worship all around them. When Jesus calmed the storm in () they asked the question, 'Who can this be...?' They don't have that question any more.

The most important question that every human must answer in this life is, 'Who is Jesus?' Our eternity hangs on having the right answer to that question.

Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. That is a fact. But confessing that fact will not save anyone. Only a confession of faith will save someone. We must believe what we say.

Scriptures:

17 Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed

G3107 – happy,
fortunate.

Notes:

This marks a turning point in the gospel. From this point Jesus makes it clear what is coming, talking plainly about His upcoming passion week.

are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood

has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father

G601 - ἀποκαλύπτω
(apokalypō) – Same
word we get
revelation from – it is
transliterated as
apocalypse.

who is in heaven.

Scriptures:

John 10:27-29 - My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.

Psalm 18:1-2 -

I will love You, O LORD, my strength. 2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Psalm 18:31 -

For who is God, except the LORD?
And who is a rock, except our God?

18 And I also say to you that you are Peter,

G4074 - Πέτρος (Petros) – the layer above the bedrock.

and on this rock I will build My church,

G4073 - πέτρα (petra) – bedrock.

G1577 - ἐκκλησία (ekklēsia) – “church (universal) n. — all believers across the world understood as if a singular assembly; sometimes of all believers throughout time.”

and the gates of Hades

shall not prevail against it.

G2729 – be victorious – “to overpower v. — to overcome by superior force.”

Notes:

‘church’ – First occurrence in the New Testament.

“The church is not a building, nor a religious institution, nor an ethnic group, but is the company of the committed, the covenant community where we are brothers and sisters in fellowship with Christ.” (Augsburger, 1982) pages 190-191

The church is the visible expression of Christ as king. There is only one church, and it is not Calvary Chapel French Valley or any other group or denomination. The church is comprised of every person who has put their faith in Christ Jesus and been baptized by His Holy Spirit. The true church has one Head, Christ Jesus.

The rock that Jesus will build His church on is the confession of Peter. The church is a confessing church.

‘the gates of Hades shall not prevail’ – Nothing in this universe, not even the immense power of Satan can destroy Christ’s church. Though Satan might throw all his evil forces at the church and bring persecution, affliction, or distress, he will never prevail over it.

The same truth applies to individual believers. No matter what Satan brings against a true believer, he cannot destroy us (John 10:28-29).

Scriptures:
John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom

of heaven, and whatever you bind on

G1210 - oblige

earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever

you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

G3089 - annul

Notes:

'the keys of the kingdom of heaven' – Some suggest that Peter was made responsible for allowing people into heaven. This is where the idea of Saint Peter standing at the Pearly Gates comes from. It might make for good memes and jokes, but not for good theology. Only Jesus is responsible for letting people into heaven (John 14:6).

'the keys of the kingdom' – It was commonly held that the teachers of the Law held the keys as they interpreted and unlocked the Scriptures through their teaching. Jesus is now handing that role down to Peter and the disciples and all others who would follow. All believers have experienced a time when a teacher of the Word unlocked something about the kingdom of heaven that had been previously hidden from them.

'bind...loose' – this is a call to accountability to be faithful the Head of the church – Jesus. Those called to the work of unlocking the kingdom, must be faithful the truth. Peter and the other apostles were given special dispensation for the early days of the church. We see them exercising the binding and loosing at such times as the council at Jerusalem where they determined that Gentiles did not need to be circumcised.

20 Then He commanded His disciples that

they should tell no one that He was Jesus the

Christ.

[Top of section](#) [Top of chapter](#)