

Matt. 16:16-19 PETER THE ROCK..GATES OF HADES..KEYS TO THE KINGDOM..BINDING AND LOOSING

Before we look at the verses we need to understand that Yeshua had just finished asking Peter who He (Yeshua), was, and Peter replies as follows:

Matt. 16:16-19 (written in red) **16** *And Simon Peter answered and said, “**Thou are the Messiah, the Son of the living Yah.** 17 And Yeshua answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 Then Yeshua said to Peter: “And I say also unto thee, that thou art **Peter** (Petros, meaning a little pebble or moveable stone), and upon this **rock** (Petra, a huge boulder or bedrock), I will build my church; and the **gates of hades** shall not prevail against it”. 19 “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you shall bind on earth ¹shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you shall loose on earth ¹shall be loosed in heaven.” This is called "the Great Confession" by many.*

Part 1 PETER..PETRA..PETROS (KEPHA) THE ROCK

Let's take a closer look at this. Yeshua used a play on words here. He was in essence saying: “Peter you are a stone, but it is upon this bedrock foundation I will build my church”. The Roman Catholic church, Satan's church, is founded on the idea that Peter was supposedly the first Pope of Rome. Their great Basilica, built by the pagan Constantine, said it was built over Peters grave. They claim Peter was the Pope for 25 years from 42 AD to 67 AD. These dates create problems because we know Peter was at the Jerusalem council about 44AD. as described in Acts 15. Paul joined Peter in about 53AD. in Antioch (Gal 2:11). In about 58AD. Paul wrote his letter to the Believers of Rome and greetings to 27 people there. If Paul was writing a letter to Rome and Peter was Pope don't you think Paul would have sent greetings to his beloved brother, the Pope. The church took Peter, glorified him beyond imagination, and founded a religion based on him and the Queen of Heaven (Semiramis), even though it was clear that Peter never even visited the heathen city of Rome. Then they took a true disciple and associated him with their satanic doctrine and dogma, creating the Roman Catholic Whore.

There's no way Yeshua could have called Peter the rock, that would contradict His own words as per **1Cor 3:11** “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Yeshua”. Also in **Ps. 18:31** “For who is YHVH save Adonai? or who is a rock save our Yahveh?” In the scriptures Peter himself said that Yeshua was the foundation and rock of the church (Eph. 5:23, 1Pet. 2:4-8, 1Cor 3:11, Matt. 18:1). When Yeshua told Peter that He would be the rock upon which the church would be built upon He was speaking symbolically. Peter's name in Hebrew, meant “rock”. Yeshua changed his name to Petra, which meant “chip off a rock, or small pebble”. Why did He do this? Because Yeshua was the cornerstone that Petra was chipped off. Petra was to teach the good news to the people. Yeshua was proud that Peter had heard the holy spirit reveal the truth to him, directly, so He rewarded Peter for his faithfulness. The true church was founded upon Yeshua, He is “the rock of our salvation” like the song say's. Peter was the pebble.

The Roman Catholic Church took this idea of Peter and the rock, isolated it, and have created a Papal leadership out of it. They somehow created a hierarchal chain of leadership based on one verse taken totally out of context. They used a man Peter, an apostle to the Jews in Rome, as a figure of leadership for an entire religion.

Part 2 ROME WAS CALLED BABYLON

At the time of Peter's epistle, Rome was often called Babylon by the Jews. Babylon was a euphemism of the Jews, used to refer to Rome, because of all its pagan practices. For anyone believing in the Catholic idea of Peter being the first pope, it's clear in this verse what Peter thought of the Roman church, never-mind being associated with it in any way. To understand what Peter really thought of Rome all you have to do is look at his statement in **“1Pet. 5:13 *She who is in Babylon, (Rome) chosen together with you, sends you greetings, and [so does] my son, Mark.*”** When Peter wrote this, he was referring to the fellow Believers in Rome. Rome was considered Babylon in ancient times, and as all should know, she is still Babylon, from which we were all told to flee from (Rev. 18:4).

Part 3 GATES OF HADES

Here we see Yeshua standing with His disciples in Caesarea Philippi, near the "Gates of Hades", explaining something that Moses had spoken of many years earlier. This is in reference to **John 5:46-47** (written in RED) ***“For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me. “But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?”***

About 300 years before the time of Yeshua, the Greeks, led by Alexander The Great occupied the land of Israel. The Greeks brought their pagan religions with them. This was commonly known as Greek Mythology. This is where the Jews first learned about polytheism, the belief in many gods. The Greeks practiced their heathen religions among



the Jews for 300 years, right up to the time Yeshua came. Caesarea Philippi was the central focus of all the Greek religions. There, the Greeks built a huge sanctuary for the purpose of offering sacrifices up to Pan, the Greek god. Pan was 1/2 human and 1/2 goat. Pan was thought to roam through the forests playing his flute (hence the name “pan-flute”). It was said that the sound from his flute was so terrible that anyone who heard it would flee in terror. This is the origin of the word “panic” that we still use today.

During this same time, many pagan worshipers carved out caverns in the rock sides of Mt. Hermon. There were sacrificial

altars carved out of the rock for: Zeus, Pan, Aphrodite, and many other pagan deities. These altars were called “Gates”. These carved out sacrificial areas were called “The Gates Of Hades”. This new idea of having many carved out areas dedicated to various gods, caught on with the people and many spent a lot of their time worshipping and offering up sacrifices to the many various Greek gods represented at these gates. The Jews that fell into this demonic trap of that period were called Hellenistic Jews. The term Hellenistic is still commonly used today to describe the oracles of Yah that strayed into paganism.

Remember, in those days, people who performed demonic miracles were considered gods. That is why Sha'ul and Barnabas were treated so royally when they first performed miracles, talked about in **Acts 14:8-13** *At Lystra a man was sitting who had no strength in his feet, lame from his mother's womb, who had never walked. This man was listening to Sha'ul as he spoke, who, when he had fixed his gaze on him and had seen that he had faith to be made well, said with a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he leaped up and [began] to walk. (11) When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they raised their voice, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have become like men and have come down to us." And they [began] calling Barnabas, Zeus, and Sha'ul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. The priest of Zeus, whose [temple] was just outside the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds."*

In Matt. 16:13-18, Yeshua was telling the people that the polytheism of the pagan Greeks would never overtake the monotheism of Israel. He was blatantly proclaiming that this new "Gates Of Hades" religion would not overcome the new movement that was happening among the Jewish people and Israelites who were following the Messiah. To this day, Greek mythological religions still get worshipped by some of the pagans of the world, but nothing has ever stopped the worshipping of the True Messiah Yeshua. Yeshua's prophesy became reality. "The Gates Of Hades" have never overcome the true Believers called apart to serve Yahveh and Yeshua.

In Caesarea there is this place where the Jordan river has water flowing out of this huge rock face. The place was the second branch of the headwaters of the Jordan River. It flowed out from Mt. Hermon. This place was well known as one of the wonders of the world at that time. Yeshua is using this wonder to get His disciples to grasp the wonders of the rock referred to by Moshe. The place where they stood was one of great contrast. One wonder was symbolic of the rock of salvation and one was a symbol of idolatry. In the immediate area there where Yeshua was talking with His disciples, is something else well known to all people at that time. Yeshua used this place to set the foundation of His conversation with Peter, who's name means; rock, or pebble.

He was thematically connecting them; the rock at the headwaters of the Jordan river, and the rock, cornerstone of salvation, in a way that was very obvious. Yah and Yeshua are the rock of salvation is what He was revealing to them. People later called Yeshua the "cornerstone" of the temple, which is the same idea.

We see in Deut 32:4 (Song of Moses) references to Yah as being the "rock of our salvation"? When Moses hit the rock and water came out. This rock of salvation that saved them from dying of thirst, was what Paul was referring to as Yeshua, the rock of our salvation. Yeshua is pointing out that the holy spirit gave this knowledge to Peter (that Yeshua was the rock) who's name means the rock.

Deut. 32:3-4 *"For I proclaim the name of Adonai; Ascribe greatness to our Elohim 4 "The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; An Elohim of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He."* Moses is here making a dramatic proclamation about Yah. In Matt. 16 Peter is making a dramatic proclamation about who Yeshua is. The subject is the "rock". "Upon this rock, I will build My assembly, My community, My Kingdom. His name is "salvation", His name is the "rock of salvation". In Deut. 32 Moses

goes on to say how Israel will forget the rock of their salvation. Yeshua was pointing them to what Moses had said previously.

Peter (Kepha..rock/stone in Aramaic), was simply part of this picture that Yeshua was putting before them. Peter was NOT the main focus, he was simply the physical example used as part of the spiritual connection being made. Peter was being used to tie all these parts together to see the entire message of Yah and Yeshua being the rock of our salvation upon which Peter was part of. Yeshua was using the words of Moses in the past to paint a picture of what was now right in front of them. The picture Moshe painted was now in their midst, standing in front of them directly opposing the Gates of Hades.

Part 4 KEYS TO THE KINGDOM, BINDING AND LOOSING

To understand what the "keys to the kingdom" means we must look back in Mattityahu. **Matt. 12:28** *"But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of Yahveh, then the kingdom of Yah has come upon you"*. **Matt. 18:18** *"Truly I say to you, whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."*



Matt. 16:17-18 *"And Yeshua answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."*

To understand fully what these verses about the keys to the kingdom and binding and loosing mean, we must first familiarize ourselves with Matt. 16:17-18. In first century Hebrew, the terms "binding" and "loosing" were legal terms, used to make determinations in laws pertaining to unclear commands of the Torah. To bind something meant to forbid it. To loose something meant to permit it. For example: the Bible forbids all Believers to work on the Sabbath (Saturday), but does not give us clear instructions as to what would constitute work. Many times the Rabbi's were called upon to settle disputes that would have arisen among the people to determine what would or would not be defined as work. If the Rabbi determined that what was being stated was considered work, he would then "bind", or "forbid" that particular activity from being done on the Sabbath. If he felt the activity was not work then he would "loose", or "permit" the activity. If we read Acts 15:5-20 we will see the depth of the responsibility put on Simon Peter in this regard. Yeshua was saying that whatever Peter would decide would be backed up or approved or accepted in Heaven. So now let's have another look at Matt. 16:16-19 and everything will become clear. **Matt. 16:16-19** *And Simon Peter answered and said, "Thou are the Messiah, the Son of the living Yah. 17 And Yeshua answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. 18 Then Yeshua said to Peter: "And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hades shall not prevail against it". 19 "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you*

shall bind on earth ¹shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you shall loose on earth ¹shall be loosed in heaven."

The "keys to the kingdom" was having the authority as an anointed spirit filled servant of Yah, to declare (proclaim), what was written in the torah to be recognized on earth with the authority of the Most high. Peter the servant, was acting as an agent of Yahveh with the power and authority of Yahveh. What Peter said as an agent (representative) was legally an extension of Yah's authority. The torah/word, is the key to the kingdom, and it's power and authority opens the doors of mystery hinted at throughout the Good Book.

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