



A just weight
and balance

are the
LORD'S:

Thus saith the Lord...

- Matthew 16:18

- **And I say also unto thee,
That thou art Peter,
and upon this rock**
- **I will build my church;**
- **and the gates of hell
shall not prevail against it.**

- This famous sentence, which is emblazoned in great letters of gold round the interior of the dome of **St. Peter's at Rome**, has been a center of controversy in the Church for generations.

- Men can build buildings
and men can
build organizations
**but only Jesus Christ
can build the true church.**
- There are churches built by men,
but the only one
approved by God is His church .
 - And here our Lord says,
"I will build My church,"

- The Jews believed that when the **Messiah** came there would be a **great spiritual awakening and revival.**
- They also expected that there would be **a wholesale political takeover of the land of Israel.**

- That the **Messiah** would throw Rome out **and break the Roman yoke** from the neck of the Jews.
- He would establish **a kingdom that would embraced the world.**
- But it **wasn't** going that way.

- We find them at Caesarea Philippi, a small town populated mostly by Gentiles.
- They went there for:
 - Meditation.
 - Instruction.
 - Prayer.
 - Learning

- And all in all,
it looked like
their Messianic dream
of redemption was a failure.

- And they had
put a lot into it.

- And they had
abandoned everything.

- And the promise of it
and the hope of it
was so bright,
- But what was happening
didn't square up
with their
cherished anticipation.

- They were struggling with unfulfilled hopes.
 - They had made a major investment of their lives.
 - All in all it looked like it wasn't going to be what they wanted it to be.
- The rejection and the hostility of the people all around them was not what they had planned.

- The disciples that day must have been wondering why it all seemed to be crashing down around their ears.

- And now Jesus was about to tell them that it was going to get worse.
 - He was going to be killed.
(**Matthew 16:18**).
 - He now reveals
a seemingly impossible plan.
- And so He says to them, "I will build My church,"

- And now,
let me paraphrase,
- "I know it doesn't look very hopeful,
 - I know the plan isn't unfolding the way you thought it would,
 - I know that by all outward appearance it isn't working,
 - but I will build My church and nothing is going to stand in its way, not even the gates of Hades."

- And Jesus is reminding them that you can't always tell by appearance.
 - Do you remember the church at Smyrna?
- And the Lord gave the letter to John to send with the messenger to the church at Smyrna, part of the letter says, "I know your tribulation and your poverty, but you are rich."
 - Couldn't tell by appearance.
 - Smyrna looked poor, it was rich.

- And later on to the church at Laodicea the Lord said,
- **"You say I am rich and increase with goods and have need of nothing and you don't realize you are poor and you are blind and you are naked."**
- **Can't always tell by appearance.**

- The church through its history
has been:
- **Persecuted, Martyred, Rejected,**
 - **Liberalized, apostatized**
- And the poor, ignoble people of God
have looked like losers.
 - But the truth is,
we're not!
 - And here in
this brief passage
the Lord affirms the victory.

- He is saying,
"Peter, I'm going to build My church on the fact that you are telling the truth.
- **And that truth is:**
"I am the Christ, the anointed one!
- **The son of the Living God!"**

- Peter's confession is
The apex of
the New Testament,
 - The apex of
the Old Testament,
- Who is Jesus Christ?
 - He is the Christ,
the Son of the living God.
- That great supreme confession
is the basic reality of Christianity.

- For two years plus our Lord has been moving to this moment,
- Teaching, reteaching,
- Affirming, reaffirming,
 - Building their confidence and their commitment.

- Now, Peter,
on behalf of all of them,
can say

"Thou art the Christ,
the Son of the living God."

- It is a monumental moment
in the ministry of our Lord
and the life of His disciples.

- **There are two questions**
of vital importance
in Matthew's gospel.
 - The **first** is
“Who is Jesus?”
 - And the **2nd** question
is asked by **Pilate**.
- **What then shall I do with Jesus
who is called Christ?**

- **Matthew 16:18**
has long been at
the center of controversy.
- It has always been
difficult to approach it
calmly and without prejudice
in the religious world.
- Let us then try
to find its
true meaning.

- There is a play on words.
 - In Greek Peter is Petros (<G4074>)
 - And a rock is petra (<G4073>).

- **Peter's Aramaic name** was **Kephas** (<H3710>), and that also is the Aramaic for a “**rock**”.
 - In **John 1:42** we are told that his new name is, according to the Greek, **Kephas** (**Cephas**),
 - **Not Petros** (**Peter**).
 - **Kephas** (**Kafe**) is a Greek transliteration of the Aramaic name meaning “**stone**.”

- In either language there is here a play upon words.
 - Peter had made his great discovery and confession,
 - Jesus said to him:
"You are petros
($\langle G4074 \rangle$),
and on this petra
($\langle G4073 \rangle$)
I will build my Church."

- The Lord Jesus has given Peter tremendous praise.

- His use of the word “rock” as a metaphor was not strange or unusual to Jewish thought

- The Rabbis applied the word rock to Abraham.
- They had a saying:
"When the Holy One saw Abraham... ,
he said, 'Lo,
I have discovered
a rock
to found the world upon.'
- Abraham was the rock on which the Jewish nation was founded.

- **Abraham** is described on the O.T. as a **rock**
 - **:1 Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD:**
 - **look unto the rock whence ye are hewn,...**
- **:2 Look unto Abraham your father, (Isaiah 51:1)**

- The Jewish nation was built on a “rock” and that “rock” was Abraham.

- As the Jewish nation was built on a “rock”

- So the church of the New Testament is built on the “rock” of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

- Regrettably,
The “rock” of
the Old Testament
would be the
“rock” of offense
in the New Testament.

- When Paul wrote **Romans 9:33** he had in mind the Old Testament reference to the **“Rock of Offense”**.
- **“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense;... (Romans 9:33).**
- Paul is quoting **Isaiah 28:16** **which says nearly the same thing**

- **And so the LORD says,
"I'm laying a firm foundation
for the city of Zion.**
- **It's a valuable cornerstone
proven to be trustworthy;
no one who trusts it
will ever be disappointed. ”**
(Isaiah 28:16)
(CEV).

- The psalmist speaks of Jesus as
“**The stone that
the builders rejected
has become
the cornerstone**”
(**Psalm 118:22**)
- Which **Jesus** also
quotes about Himself
in
Matthew 21:42.

- **Peter** testified before the rulers, elders, and scribes that **“This Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you, the builders, which has become the cornerstone”** (**Acts 4:11**)
- And these men **knew the Scriptures well enough to know** that this was in reference to Isaiah’s writing (**Isaiah 28:16**).

- **Jesus is the Rock**
“a sure foundation”
(Isaiah 28:16)
- **But of this same Rock**
“Many of them
will stumble;
they will
fall and be broken,
they will be
snared and captured”
(Isaiah 8:15).

- No matter how much you water them, rocks don't grow into rock gardens, but Abraham became a garden because He is blessed by the Lord.
- In the same way Peter is "Blessed" in that his confession has led untold millions to be "sons of God".

- Abraham the rock grows to become a mountain that fills the earth.
- Abraham the rock multiplies to become ”as sand on the seashore”.
(Genesis 32:12)

- Of the kingdom that Jesus built we read:
 - **And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne ...**
- **and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand,**
- **and thousands of thousands;**
(Revelation 5:11)

- Abraham the “rock”
is the prototype
of “Petra” the rock,
on whom Jesus
builds His church,
the household of Abraham.
(Galatians 3:7)

- The confession which Peter made **expresses the foundation**, the rock truth of Christianity,
- **Every doctrine of the church** rests secure on the Divine-human Sonship of our Lord.

- **John 6:63**

**“the words that
I speak unto you,
they are spirit,
and they are life.”**

- That is

- **the confession**

- Peter is making.

- We are all aware
of the importance

- **of sound foundations**

- when building any structure.

- The word rock

<H6697>

is again and again applied to God himself.

- "He is the Rock;
his work is perfect"
(Deuteronomy 32:4).

- **"There is no rock like our God"**
(1 Samuel 2:2).
- **"The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer"**
(2 Samuel 22:2).
- **"Who is a rock, except our God?"**
(Psalms 18:31).

- One thing is clear.
 - To call anyone a “rock” was the greatest of compliments;
 - And no Jew who knew his Old Testament could ever use the phrase without his thoughts turning to God.,
- What then did Jesus mean when in this passage he used the word rock?

- The rock is Peter's statement that Jesus is the **“Son of God”**.
- **On that faith statement** the Church is founded.
 - That fact was to **bring the Lord’s Church into being.**
 - Without that belief the church would have **been impossible.**
- **No foundation, no church!**

- In a serious study of this subject one needs to study Paul's and Peter's valuable insight into the identity of the “rock.”

- **Paul** wrote the Corinthians:
 - **1** For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea;
 - **2** and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea;
 - **3** and all ate the same spiritual food;
 - **4** and all drank the same spiritual drink,
 - for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the **rock** was Christ
(**1 Corinthians 10.1-4**).

- Peter also referred to Christ as the Rock:
- **And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, (1 Peter 2.4).**

- The word “rock” is used 108 times in the Old Testament.

- At least half of the times it referred to Christ.

- Deuteronomy 32:31
**Even our enemies
know that only
our God
is a
Mighty Rock.**
(CEV)

- Given this Scriptural evidence, what are we to make of Jesus' words to Peter?
 - Jesus' statement to Peter was a play on words.
 - He told Peter that he was (a rock)
 - And that on this "rock" that is Jesus (Himself), would build His Church.

- Perhaps the most telling verse is God's declaration of Himself to Isaiah:
- **'Do not tremble and do not be afraid; Have I not long since announced it to you and declared it? And you are My witnesses.**
- **Is there any God besides Me,**
- **Or is there any other Rock?
I know of none^{'''}
(Isaiah 44:8).**

- The Lord **did not** make Peter **the head of the Church**, the body of Christ.
 - **Peter** was a **minister to the Jews**.
 - Peter **never** had **a ministry to Gentiles**.
 - **None of the Twelve** had a ministry to Gentiles.
- Their evangelistic efforts **were confined to Jews** (Acts 2-3; Galatians 2.8).

- The Lord commissioned **Paul** to be **“the apostle of the Gentiles”** (**Romans 11.13**)
- Revealing to Paul the Church, in which Jew and Gentile **were equal in Christ** (**Galatians 3:27-28**).
 - Paul laid the **foundation of the Church.** (**1 Corinthians 3.10-11**)
 - But he **didn't** build it
 - And **neither** did Peter!

- The following translation found in the **Amplified Bible** is simple enough for anyone to understand.

- **Matthew 16:19**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

- **I will give you
the keys
(authority)**

- **of the
kingdom of heaven;**

- **Matthew 16:19**

Amplified Bible (AMP)

- **and whatever
you bind
[forbid]
on earth**
- **will have
[already]**
- **been bound
[forbidden]
in heaven,**

- **Matthew 16:19**
Amplified Bible (AMP)

- **and whatever**
you loose
[permit]
on earth
- **will have**
[already]
been loosed
[permitted]
in heaven.”

**The doors of the church
are open.**

**The Spirit and the Bride
Say
“Come”.**

Revelation 22:17



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