

#693 Dunkirk – Peter as a Rock upon which the Church is built vs. the Church-ill on the Sand, part 1

We are examining the fact that the *Church on the Rock* reflects the *cross*-carrying Apostle Peter, while the *Church-ill on the sand* reflects the “before the cross” *sword*-carrying Apostle Peter. The “before the cross” *sword*-carrying Peter illustrates that Peter himself was not yet ready to carry his own cross, which is why he denied Jesus Christ.

Key Understanding: It can be seen that Matthew 7:24 and Matthew 16:18 are to be correlated. Their themes are identical, and the word *rock* is the same.

Matthew 7:24 (KJV) *Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I WILL LIKEN HIM UNTO A WISE MAN, WHICH BUILT HIS HOUSE UPON A ROCK:*
[This represents the Church on a Rock, and even the Rock.]

Matthew 16:18 (KJV) *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.*

Here is the fuller passage of Matthew 16:13-20, Peter’s confession of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Matthew 16:13-20 (KJV) *When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?*

14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

16 And Simon Peter answered and said, THOU ART THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.

17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

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.



Christ's Charge to Peter, Matthew 16:18-19 by Raphael

19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

20 Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.



Note on Matthew 16:18, the Rock. In the Greek, “Peter” is *petros* (“detached stone”) and “rock” is *petra* (“bedrock”). One commentary summarizes the several interpretations of the *bedrock* on which the church is built: (1) Jesus Christ; (2) Peter’s confession of faith in Jesus Christ as the Messiah (v. 16); (3) Jesus Christ’s teaching – one of the great emphases of Matthew’s Gospel; (4) Peter himself, understood in the terms of his role on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2), the Cornelius incident (Acts 10), and his leadership among the apostles. Ephesians 2:20 indicates that the Church is “built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets.”

Don’t miss this: It can certainly be said that, in general, Jesus Christ is “the Rock.” Why would the Lord purposely leave such a confusing issue as to whether Jesus Christ or Peter is “*this rock*” in Matthew 16:18? The proper conclusion is that the Lord meant for the answer to ultimately lie in the theme of the Sword vs. the Cross, and Peter’s association with that. The next two Unsealings will further clarify.

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