

#695 Dunkirk – Peter as a Rock upon which the Church is built vs. the Church-ill on the Sand, part 3



Matthew 16:16-18 (KJV) 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.

Question: The question was raised at the end of Unsealing [#693](#) of why the Lord would purposely leave such a confusing issue as to whether Jesus Christ or Peter is “*this rock*” in Matthew 16:18.

Key Understanding and Answer: 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. In short, a simple way to look at it is that Jesus Christ is “*the Rock*,” while Peter would become “*a Rock*,” **but not until he understood the Cross vs. the Sword.**

When the Lord said “*that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church*” (Matthew 16:18), Peter did not yet understand the cross – either the cross that Jesus Christ must bear, or his own. This is without question, for soon Jesus was telling Peter in regard to Peter rebuking Jesus about his going to the cross, “*Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men*” (Matthew 16:23). Later, in the same weakened frame of mind, Peter would pick up the sword to defend Jesus Christ at the critical time of his going to the cross. **Peter was not yet a rock.** His “before the cross” sword-carrying foundation was that of a Church-ill on the sand.



Peter’s denial

The above paragraph explains, then, the Lord’s purposeful irony of having “*that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church*”

(Matthew 16:18), followed immediately by “*Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men*” (Matthew 16:23).

The Lord was clarifying that although Peter received the revelation from God that Jesus

was the Christ, the Son of the living God, Peter was not yet a rock, for he knew not the meaning of the cross, either for Jesus Christ or for himself.

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