



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 **2<sup>nd</sup>** 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<sup>'''</sup>  
(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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