

Matthew 16:13–20 ESV

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

BACKGROUND

LOCATION

PICTURE OF CAESAREA PHILIPPI MAP

CAESAREA PHILIPPI

- Roughly 25-30 miles north of the **Sea of Galilee** (14-hour walk)
 - › Why would Jesus travel out of the way to have this conversation?
- Overlooked the **Jordan Valley**
- At the base of **Mount Hermon**

MOUNT HERMON

- Supplied abundant water to the region
- Lush Groves and Vegetation
- Strategic Military Location
- **C.P.** was the **Administrative capital of the region**

HISTORY

- Used to be called Panium, after the Greek god Pan

IMAGE OF PAN

Pan was the Greek god of forests and deserted places, as well as flocks and shepherds.

According to narrative at his temple, Pan was one of the few gods who could cross into Hades and return to earth.

As a result, this location was recognized as the **gate of hades**

- Around 20 B.C. Antiochus the Great gave the district to Herod the Great. Herod passed it onto his Son Philip. Philip renamed the city to Caesarea Philippi.

REGION OF BASHAN & THE GATES OF HADES

- Territory located east of the Jordan river and up to Mount Herman
- 2.5 tribes of Israel conquered and settled in this region (Asher, Gad, Half Tribe of Manasseh)
- Region was ruled by two kings, Sihon & Og, both of which descended from Giant clans
- Region had two capitals, Ashtaroth & Edrei

Ashtaroth: plural of Ashtoreth the goddess of sexual pleasure

Edrei: means mighty; strength

Mythological texts had these two capitals as the dwelling place for the god Molech.

Molech is most commonly known as the god of child sacrifice

- Bashan was commonly believed to be the **gateway to the underworld** - a dwelling place for the dead
- Today, this area is known as Banias, the Arabic form of Panias

RECAP

- Jesus took his disciples on a 14-hour field trip to make a claim in the boldest of ways
- Jesus was specifically coming to the place the the known world knew to be a place of the gods, contrasting himself with the false gods.
- The area was commonly known as the dwelling place of the dead & specifically that the gates of Hell were located here

WHO DO YOU SAY?

Matthew 16:13–15 *ESV*

¹³ Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴ And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵ He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

WE NEED REVELATION

Who do you say that Jesus is?

we could probably go around this room and get dozens of different answers, which is not bad...I do believe Jesus has many different facets of himself...BUT is your revelation of Jesus from Man or from God?

Matthew 16:16–17 *ESV*

¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.

SUPERNATURAL REVELATION

Flesh and Blood did not reveal this to Peter

Jesus starts by asking what “flesh & blood” says about Him

He then turns to asking His followers what **they** say about Him

- › How much of scripture do we know for ourselves **vs.** how much do we know because someone said it to us?

Psalm 34:8 ESV

8 Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

1 Corinthians 15:50 ESV

⁵⁰ I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

In Galatians, Paul is writing about his revelation of Jesus...

- He was a zealous Jew, He was a Jew among Jews!

Galatians 1:15–16 ESV

¹⁵ But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and who called me by his grace, ¹⁶ was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not immediately consult with anyone;

Galatians 1:18 ESV

¹⁸ Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and remained with him fifteen days.

When Paul got the revelation of Jesus, he pondered these things in his heart for **three years** before talking to someone about them!

Mary pondering the great things of this baby she just birthed – *may I remind you that Mary was most likely 17!*

Luke 2:19 ESV

¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

GETTING REVELATION

1. Get on our face, alone with God
2. Ponder the revelation in your heart

I am guilty of taking a partial revelation and pulling out the oven too soon. No one wants undercooked cake.

THE REVELATION

Matthew 16:16 ESV

¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Christ: The Greek word used here, *christos*, meaning “Christ,” “Messiah,” or “anointed one,” is equivalent to the Hebrew, *mashiach*, which primarily describes kings in the OT

Son of the Living God: remember where they are standing – at the “gates of Hell,” surrounded by walls, altars, idols full of false gods.

› Have we received this revelation? Do we desire this revelation?

REVELATION BRINGS CHANGE

Matthew 16:17–19 ESV

¹⁷ And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”

STILL HUMAN, BUT OPEN TO GOD

Jesus calls out to Simon’s humanity - son of Jonah

Honors Simon’s ability to stop and hear the voice of the Father

Simon – meaning “hearing”

DEFINES & PROPHECIES OVER PETER

Jesus now calls him Peter...

Peter - greek *petros*, meaning piece of rock (think handheld rock)

Rock - greek *petra*, large rock

Jesus is saying that Peter is a piece of the whole thing - the whole thing being His Church

Church - greek *ekklesia*, meaning “a calling out” or “religious assembly”

We are meeting part of that, we are a religious gathering, but I'm concerned that we are living in partial revelation and have not stepped into the called out part of our identity as the Church of Jesus.

Jesus says, "I will build **my church**" meaning that ultimately, JESUS IS RESPONSIBLE FOR BUILDING HIS CHURCH.

Ephesians 2:20 **ESV**

²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

We are all stones in the building of the church, yet Jesus is the **chief cornerstone**.

The stone that holds it all together!

GATES OF HELL WON'T PREVAIL

Remember, Jesus is standing at the "Gates of Hell" when He makes this statement.

Gates are defensive!

- › If Hell is on the defense, what does that make us?

THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

Matthew 16:19 **ESV**

¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

KEYS ARE AUTHORITY

If you have been given keys, you've been entrusted to "lock" and "unlock" something.

- › What have you **unlocked** with your authority?
- › What have you **locked** with your authority?

THE GATEKEEPERS AUTHORITY

We have been given the power and authority to help people cross the the gates of death & destruction, into the gates of Heaven, everlasting life!!

Through the preaching of the gospel, we are helping people transfer from death to life!

BINDING & LOOSING

SECURITY CHECKPOINT IMAGE

The rabbis in Jesus day used the terms “binding” and “loosing” to denote decisions about what **was** and **was not** permitted.

Notice: the **parallel** between what is **loosed & bound** in **Heaven and Earth**

WISDOM & DISCERNMENT

Jesus charges his disciples not to reveal that He is the Christ.

- going back to the ability to know that when God reveals something to us, we must bathe it in prayer and use discernment on when (and if) to release the revelation to the body.

Look at how quickly things can change...

Matthew 16:21–23 ESV

²¹ From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. ²² And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.” ²³ But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

The moment that Jesus begins to share the **balance of the gospel**, Peter stands up to correct Jesus.

We get excited about the building and the rock and the church...but we forget the cost associated with the “building”

We like, **Jesus the Conquering King**, but struggle with **Jesus the Suffering Servant**

He’s both!

| If we are not careful we can lose sight of the balance of the gospel.

Sneak Peak: next week we will pick right up here and continue on with Jesus teaching after this moment. There's a cost associated with following Jesus.

CLOSING

- a. what is your revelation of Jesus?
- b. are you walking in the authority of the kingdom?
- c. what are you willing to do?