



Matt. 16:16-18 PETER THE ROCK..GATES OF HADES

(written in red) Yeshua had just finished asking Peter who He (Yeshua), was, and Peter replied: *And Simon Peter answered and said, "Thou art the Messiah, the Son of the living Yah. Then Yeshua said to Peter: "And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter (Petros, meaning a little pebble or moveable stone), and upon this rock (Petra, a huge boulder or bedrock), I will build my church; and the gates of hades shall not prevail against it". Verse 16 is called "the Great Confession".*

Part 1 Let's take a closer look at this. Yeshua used a play on words here. He was in essence saying: *"Peter you are a stone, but it is upon this bedrock foundation I will build my church".* There's no way Yeshua could have called Peter the rock, that would contradict His own words as per **1Cor 3:11** *"For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Yeshua".* Also in **Ps. 18:31** *"For who is YHVH save Adonai? or who is a rock save our Yahveh?"* The Roman Catholic church is founded on the idea that Peter was the first Pope of Rome, and their great Basilica, built by the pagan Constantine, was said it was built over Peters grave. They claim Peter was the Pope for 25 years from 42 AD to 67 AD. These dates create problems because we know Peter was at the Jerusalem council about 44AD. as described in Acts 15. Paul joined Peter in about 53AD. in Antioch (Gal 2:11). In about 58AD. Paul wrote his letter to the Believers of Rome and greetings to 27 people there. If Paul was writing a letter to Rome and Peter was Pope don't you think Paul would have sent greetings to his beloved brother, the Pope. The church took Peter,

glorified him beyond imagination, and founded a religion based on him and the Queen of Heaven (Semiramus), even though it was clear that Peter never even visited the heathen city of Rome. In the scriptures Peter himself said that Yeshua was the foundation and rock of the church (Eph. 5:23, 1Pet. 2:4-8, 1Cor 3:11, Matt. 18:1). When Yeshua told Peter that He would be the rock upon which the church would be built upon He was speaking symbolically. Peter's name in Hebrew, meant "rock". Yeshua changed his name to Petra, which meant "chip off a rock, or small pebble". Why did He do this? Because Yeshua was the cornerstone that Petra was chipped off. Petra was to teach the good news to the people. Yeshua was proud that Peter had heard the holy spirit reveal the truth to him, directly, so He rewarded Peter for his faithfulness. The true church was founded upon Yeshua, He is "the rock of our salvation" like the song say's. Peter was the pebble.

The Roman Catholic Church took this idea of Peter and the rock, isolated it, and have created a Papal leadership out of it. They somehow created a hierarchal chain of leadership based on one verse taken totally out of context. They used a man Peter, an apostle to the Jews in Rome, as a figure of leadership for an entire religion. To understand what Peter really thought of Rome, look at the 1Pet. 5:13 explanation.

PART TWO Here we see Yeshua standing with His disciples in Caesarea Philippi, explaining something that Moses had spoken of many years earlier. This is in reference to **John 5:46-47** (written in RED) ***"For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me. "But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"***

About 300 years before the time of Yeshua, the Greeks, led by Alexander The Great occupied the land of Israel. The Greeks brought their pagan religions with them. This was commonly known as Greek Mythology. This is where the Jews first learned about polytheism, the belief in many gods. The Greeks practiced their heathen religions among the Jews for 300 years, right up to the time Yeshua came. Caesarea Philippi was the central focus of all the Greek religions. There, the Greeks built a huge sanctuary for the purpose of offering sacrifices up to Pan, the Greek god. Pan was 1/2 human and 1/2 goat. Pan was thought to roam threw the forests playing his flute (hence the name "pan-flute"). It was said that the sound from his flute was so terrible that anyone who heard it would flee in terror. This is the origin of the word "panic" that we still use today.

During this same time, many pagan worshipers carved out caverns in the rock sides of Mt. Hermon. There were sacrificial alters carved out of the rock for: Zeus, Pan, Aphradite, and many other pagan deities. These alters were called "Gates". These carved out sacrificial areas were called "The Gates Of Hades". This new idea of having many carved out areas dedicated to various gods, caught on with the people and many spent a lot of their time worshipping and offering up sacrifices to the many various Greek gods represented at these gates. The Jews that fell into this demonic trap of that period were called Hellenistic Jews. The term Hellenistic is still commonly used today to describe the oracles of Yah that strayed into paganism.

Remember, in those days, people who performed demonic miracles were considered gods. That is why Sha'ul and Barnabas were treated so royally when they first performed miracles, talked about in **Acts 14:8-13** ***At Lystra a man was sitting who had no strength in his feet, lame from his mother's womb, who had never walked. This man was***

listening to Sha'ul as he spoke, who, when he had fixed his gaze on him and had seen that he had faith to be made well, said with a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he leaped up and [began] to walk. (11) When the crowds saw what Paul had done, they raised their voice, saying in the Lycaonian language, "The gods have become like men and have come down to us." And they [began] calling Barnabas, Zeus, and Sha'ul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. The priest of Zeus, whose [temple] was just outside the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates, and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds."

In Matt. 16:13-18, Yeshua was telling the people that the polytheism of the pagan Greeks would never overtake the monotheism of Israel. He was blatantly proclaiming that this new "Gates Of Hades" religion would not overcome the new movement that was happening among the Jewish people and Israelites who were following the Messiah. To this day, Greek mythological religions still get worshipped by some of the pagans of the world, but nothing has ever stopped the worshipping of the True Messiah Yeshua. Yeshua's prophesy became reality. "The Gates Of Hades" have never overcome the true Believers called apart to serve Yahveh and Yeshua.

In the immediate area there where Yeshua was talking with His disciples, is something else well known to all people at that time. Yeshua used this place to set the foundation of His conversation with Peter, who's name means; rock, or pebble.

In Caesarea there is this place where the Jordan river has water flowing out of this huge rock face. The place was the second branch of the headwaters of the Jordan River. It flowed out from Mt. Hermon. This place was well known as one of the wonders of the world at that time. Yeshua is using this wonder to get His disciples to grasp the wonders of the rock referred to by Moshe. The place where they stood was one of great contrast. One wonder was symbolic of the rock of salvation and one was a symbol of idolatry.

He was thematically connecting them; the rock at the headwaters of the Jordan river, and the rock, cornerstone of salvation, in a way that was very obvious. Yah and Yeshua are the rock of salvation is what He was revealing to them. People later called Yeshua the "cornerstone" of the temple, which is the same idea.

Deut 32:4 (Song of Moses) references to Yah as being the "rock of our salvation"? When Moses hit the rock and water came out. This rock of salvation that saved them from dying of thirst, was what Paul was referring to as Yeshua, the rock of our salvation. Yeshua is pointing out that the holy spirit gave this knowledge to Peter (that Yeshua was the rock) who's name means the rock.

Deut. 32:3-4 *"For I proclaim the name of the LORD; Ascribe greatness to our God! 4 "The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He."* Moses is here making a dramatic proclamation about Yah. In Matt. 16 Peter is making a dramatic proclamation about who Yeshua is. The subject is the "rock". "Upon this rock, I will build My assembly, My community, My Kingdom. His name is "salvation", His name is the "rock of salvation". In Deut. 32 Moses goes on to say how Israel will forget the rock of their salvation. Yeshua was pointing them to what Moses had said previously.

Peter was simply part of this picture that Yeshua was putting before them. Peter was NOT the main focus, he was simply used as part of the spiritual connection being made.

Peter was being used to tie all these parts together to see the entire message of Yah and Yeshua being the rock of our salvation upon which Peter was part of. Yeshua was using the words of Moses in the past to paint a picture of what was now right in front of them. The picture Moshe painted was now in their midst.
(Mar 15/16) Jerry Hennig