

The Foundation of the Church

[Matthew 16:18-19](#) “**18** And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not [g]prevail against it. **19** And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth [h]will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

Understanding Kingdom

- Embassy concept - that an embassy is an expansion of the soil and sovereignty of the nation it represents
- Within the confines of the embassy, the embassy operates by a different set of laws and principles
- So then that Embassy becomes a “base of operations” for the nation that it represents

Key Points:

- The church is an expansion of heaven within the earth - operating under heaven’s laws/rules in accordance to Heaven authority - God
- The church is a base of operations for the Kingdom of Heaven

Objective:

- So what does the bible mean when it says “church”?
- What is the CHURCH based on?
- What does the “church” do?

The Question:

13 When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?”

Christ starts with a foundational question: Who do the people of this region say that I am - OR Who am I to them

“region of Caesarea Philippi” - a region that was inundated and consumed by idol worship

- Mt Hermon was long associated with alters for pagan idols
- Caesarea Philippi was a spiritual stronghold

14 So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

The people to whom they gave as an answer were the wrong answer

15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Note: The “you” is plural. is to say “But who do you ALL say that I am” speaking directly to His disciples

The Answer

[Matthew 16:16](#) **16** Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

- Jesus rebukes the wind and the waves [Matthew 14:33](#) **33** Then those who were in the boat [f]came and worshiped Him, saying, “Truly You are the Son of God.””
- Jesus origin is clear - [Matthew 1:23](#) **23** “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”
- [John 18:36-38](#) **36** Jesus answered, “**My kingdom** is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now My kingdom is not from here.” **37** Pilate therefore

said to Him, “Are You a king then?” Jesus answered, “You say *rightly* that **I am a king**. For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice.”

The Response

Matthew 16:17 “**17** Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven.”

- Jesus declared to Peter that this understanding didn’t come through human wisdom or human intellect
- This revelation isn’t visible to everyone.. only to those who will make themselves available to see it
- 1 Corinthians 2:14-15 “**14** These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the [a]Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. **15** But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned.”
- Peter made himself available to revelation that only the Father could give..

The Foundation

Matthew 16:18 “**18** And I also say to you that you are Peter, **and on this rock I will build My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not [g]prevail against it.”

- The rock = is not Peter himself, but the revelation of the truth of who Jesus is
- He is the Christ (Christos) and He is the King
- [Philippians 2:9-11](#) “**9** Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, **10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the

earth, **11** and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

- [1 Peter 2:5-6](#) “**5** you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6** Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.”
- [Acts 2:40-41](#) “**40** And with many other words he testified and exhorted them, saying, “Be saved from this [!]perverse generation.” **41** Then those who [m]gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added *to them*.”
- [Acts 4:10-12](#) “**10** let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. **11** This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’ **12** Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”

Key Points:

Jesus asked His disciples a question about Himself - “Who do You All say that I am” - He does not mention the word “CHURCH” until that question is answered correctly!

Peter’s declaration of the true identity of Christ - His Deity - His Lordship - and His Kingdom is the foundation of the CHURCH

Jesus declared that it is upon this ROCK (those who have opened hearts/minds to see and to receive Christ) HE will build HIS church

The Church is the EKKLESIA - the called out assembly

[Matthew 22:14](#) “For **many are called**, but few **are** chosen.”

[John 1:12-13](#) “**12** But as many as received Him, to them He gave the [e]right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: **13** who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”