

UPON THIS ROCK

Int.

1. Aim: To show several related truths associated with this statement.
2. **Matt. 16:13-19**
3. Caesarea Philippi was a city literally founded upon a rock.
 - a. It was in that area that Jesus asked his disciples the question: "Who do men say that I the Son of man am?"
 - b. It was here that Peter made the statement: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."
 - c. Jesus said: "Upon this rock I will build my church."
4. This is a very important passage of scripture that we must understand.

Discussion

I. **TEXT OF MATTHEW 16:13-20**

A. V. 13

1. Who is Jesus? "Son of Man"
 - a. The world's greatest question
 - b. The son of a carpenter
 - c. But there was something more !
2. They could not account for his power and wisdom

B. V. 14 Different opinions about who Jesus was

1. John the Baptist
 - a. That he was John raised from the dead
 - b. Herod thought Jesus was John raised - Matt. 14:2

2. Elijah or Elias
 - a. Returned to earth again
 - b. Because of the boldness with which he denounced Sin - especially in cleansing the temple
3. Jeremiah
 - a. Weeping prophet - sorrowful tone of His voice
 - b. Jesus wept with the people
4. Or one of the prophets - not less than a prophet

C. V. 15

1. First time Jesus formally asked this question to his disciples - what do you think about me? Am I just a man ?
2. They were now mature enough to answer.

D. V. 16

1. Peter was quick to speak up - always first to answer
2. Two propositions in his answer
 - a. Jesus was the Christ - long expected deliverer the prophets had written about over the centuries
 - b. Son of the Living God -
 - (1) The Jews had not expected the Messiah to be the Son of God
 - (2) This term denoted his Divinity
 - (3) Term Son of David denoted his humanity
 - (4) But Jesus is both human and Divine

- c. Nathaniel was the first to make this confession - John 1:49 "Rabbi, thou art the Son of God;..."

E. V. 17

1. Blessed = happy
2. Simon - Barjona - son of Jona
3. Revealed by God to Him - not learned through human teachers
4. Revealed by God through the teaching and miracles of Jesus

F. V. 18

1. Upon This Rock
 - a. Peter is not the Rock
 - (1) Petros translated "Peter" - a noun, masculine gender, meaning a rock, a piece of rock or stone
 - (2) Word "petra" is translated "Rock" - a noun, feminine gender, the bed-rock, a massive rock or a great ledge - different word from Petros
 - (3) He was to hold the keys - he could not be the foundation and hold the keys in the same figure of speech
 - b. The truth that Peter confessed = is the foundation
 - (1) "Thou art the Christ - the Son of the Living God"
 - (2) If that is false then the church cannot stand !
 - (3) This is the most basic truth about man's redemption !
 - c. If he was going to build the church on Peter he would have said: "Thou art Peter, and on thee I will build my church." - 1 Cor. 3:11

2. "I Will build"
 - a. Future
 - (1) Not yet in existence
 - (2) John the Baptist had been dead for 6 months
 - (3) John the Baptist was not a member of the church, neither did He baptize people into the church
 - b. The church was not built at this time - still in preparatory stage
3. My Church
 - a. 1st time the word Church appears in the N.T. - singular not plural
 - b. The Church belongs to Jesus - he purchased it with his blood - Acts 20:28
 - c. The church is not a denomination
 - d. It existed before denominations came into existence
 - e. No other church is mentioned in the New Testament
 - (1) Eph. 4:4
 - (2) Eph. 1:22-23
 - f. Rom. 16:16
4. Gates of Hell shall not prevail against it
 - a. Hades = place of departed spirits
 - b. Two views as to what this means:
 - (1) Evil power and influence of Satan shall never be able to overthrow the church !
 - (2) Death of Jesus and his entrance into Hades would not prevent his building the church
 - c. Gates = refers to the power

- d. "Jesus simply meant that though he would be crucified, buried, yet he would arise from the dead and build his church; the powers of death or the world, or "The gates of hades" would not be able to hold him in the unseen realm and prevent his coming out and building his church." ¹

G. V. 19

1. I will give unto thee the keys
 - a. Peter was given the responsibility of opening the doors of faith to:
 - (1) Jews = Acts 2 - Pentecost
 - (2) Gentiles = Acts 10 - Cornelius
 - b. Keys - authority to open and close doors
 - c. Same keys for both Jews and Gentiles
 - d. The gates have never been closed - will always remain open

2. Whatsoever bind - loose
 - a. Bind = forbid it - prohibit
 - b. Loose = allow it - permit
 - c. He knew that Peter would be guided in all by the Holy spirit
 - d. Peter would lay down the conditions on which men would be admitted into the kingdom - Church and Kingdom refer to the same thing

¹G.A. Commentary - Boles p. 346

II. THOUGHTS ABOUT "UPON THIS ROCK"

A. Virgin Birth

1. "Thou art the Christ the son of the Living God" - implies Virgin Birth
2. No way Christ could have come to this earth as a human - except virgin birth -
3. John 1:14 - word became flesh
4. Denied by some people - modernist says that it is an impossibility for a child to be born of just the mother - some will laugh at anyone who believes in the virgin birth
 - a. If the virgin birth is not true, then Christ is not supernatural
 - b. His life, his miracles, his sinlessness, and his resurrection are in doubt.
 - c. If we reject the virgin birth then all other things about Christ must be rejected.
5. Bible very clearly teaches the virgin birth
6. Isa. 7:14 "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."
 - a. Sign = what is that sign ?
 - b. Virgin = there will be a virgin conceive and give birth to a son
 - c. Immanuel = means God with us
7. RSV = young woman - that is not a sign, just an ordinary birth - young women have been giving birth to children since the days of Eve - the translators do not believe that Jesus is the Son of God.
8. Matt. 1:22-23 - this is the fulfillment of the prophecy

B. Build My Church

1. If it is viewed from the standpoint of its relationship to the world then it is called the "Church"²
 - a. This means the "Called Out" - Those who are distinct from the world
 - b. Called out from the world by the Gospel - 2 Thes. 2:13,14
 - c. It is the people who make up the church
 - d. Many think that the building is the church:
 - (1) Mormons - built a circular auditorium in Salt Lake City that seats 10,000
 - (2) Acoustics are so perfect that everyone can hear easily.
 - (3) Gospel preacher was touring it one day. One of the Mormon elders told him that God dwells in this building.
 - (4) The preacher quoted Acts 17:24 "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;"
 - e. Misunderstanding about the church and the building:
 - (1) Some will not eat in the church building
 - (2) Comes from a misunderstanding of the word church and the building and confusing the building with the church.
 - f. Jesus said: "My kingdom is not of this world" Jn. 18:26
 - (1) The meeting house is not the church
 - (2) The people make up the church
 - g. So if we are talking about the church in relation to the world is it proper to call it the church or the called out

²Tract "Upon This Rock" by Perry B. Cotham - See file on Church

2. But if we are thinking of it from the **standpoint of government**, it is proper to call it the "Kingdom"
 - a. Christ is the absolute king and all departments of government [legislative, judicial and executive] are vested in him.
 - b. "Church" and "kingdom" are used by Christ in Matt. 16:18,19 in reference to the same institution.
 - c. Lk. 22:29,30 1 Cor. 11:20 Heb. 12:23, 28
 - d. To be in the church of Christ is to be in the kingdom of Christ

3. If the church is spoken of from the **standpoint of its organization**, it is called the "Body"
 - a. Christ is the head
 - b. All Christians are members of this one body -
 - c. Rom. 12:4,5

4. If this institution is viewed from the **standpoint of a family** it is called the "House of God"
 - a. Or the family of the Lord
 - b. All of God's children are members of this family the church.
 - c. 1 Tim. 3:15 Rom. 8:14-17

5. If the church is **described with the worship feature** in mind, it is properly called the "Temple of God"
- a. The church is not a material building, or the meeting house
 - (1) Acts 7:48
 - (2) Acts 17:24
 - b. It is a spiritual temple
 - (1) 1 Cor. 3:16-17 - 1 Cor. 6:19
 - (2) 1 Pet. 2:5
- C. Illustration: A man can be a brother, a husband, a teacher, an American and a Father. He is one man, yet considered from five different relationships.
- D. Summary: The Bible teaches that the church is....
1. That Body of people which has been called out of the world by the gospel....
 2. ...over her Christ rules as head, and here his Spirit dwells.
 3. The church and the saved are one and the same. The saved are the church. The church contains all the saved; all Christians are members of it.

Conclusion

1. Upon this rock "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God" - Jesus built his church
2. We can be members of this church - we must:
 - a. Believe this truth - Repent of our sins
 - b. Confess that Jesus Christ is the Son of God - Rom. 10:9-10
 - c. Be baptized into Christ for the remission of our sins and we will be added to his church.
3. Do you want to become a member of this church that Christ established in Jerusalem nearly 2000 years ago?

Sermon by Arthur Pigman -
Evans Church of Christ
515 Gibbs Road
Evans, Ga. 30809
706-855-1249
arthurpigman@cybrtyme.com