



**(SLIDE #1) "GREAT EVENTS OF THE BIBLE -- PETER'S CONFESSION AND JESUS' PROMISE OF THE CHURCH!"**

**Introduction:**

A. Texts:

1. **(Slide #2)** "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?'<sup>14</sup>So they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.'<sup>15</sup>He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?'<sup>16</sup>Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'**(Slide #3)**<sup>17</sup>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.<sup>18</sup>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 prevail against it.<sup>19</sup>And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.'" Mt. 16:13-19
2. Mk. 8:27-30 "Now Jesus and His disciples went out to the towns of Caesarea Philippi; and on the road He asked His disciples, saying to them, 'Who do men say that I am?'<sup>28</sup>So they answered, 'John the Baptist; but some say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.'<sup>29</sup>He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered and said to Him, 'You are the Christ.'<sup>30</sup>Then He strictly warned them that they should tell no one about Him."
3. Lk. 9:18-20 "And it happened, as He was alone praying, *that* His disciples joined Him, and He asked them, saying, 'Who do the crowds say that I am?'<sup>19</sup>So they answered and said, 'John the Baptist, but some say Elijah; and others say that one of the old prophets has risen again.'<sup>20</sup>He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered and said, 'The Christ of God.'"

B. Time Frame:

1. This is just over two years into the ministry of Jesus.
2. This was not long before His Transfiguration. Mt. 17:1-5

C. Circumstances:

1. Jesus prepared the twelve Apostles for the “Limited Commission;” Mt. 10:1-42; they had fulfilled that mission; then they had returned. Mt. 14:12,13; Mk. 6:30-33; Lk. 9:10,11
2. Jesus had just fed the 4,000 in Galilee on the hills by the Sea of Galilee! Mt. 15:30-39; Mk. 8:1-10
3. At Magadan, the Pharisees and Sadducees came to Jesus demanding a sign from Heaven! He gave them no sign; He simply said that they would receive the sign of Jonah (as Jonah was in the belly of the whale 3 days, Jesus would be in the Tomb for 3 days). Mt. 16:1-4; Mk. 8:11-13
4. When they crossed the Sea of Galilee, they were hungry; they had forgotten to take food. He then cautioned His Disciples to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees! Mt. 16:5-12; Mk. 8:14-21
5. Jesus healed the blind man near Bethsaida. Mk. 8:22-26
6. They then traveled to Caesarea Philippi; there they had the conversation of our text tonight.
  - a. This is north of Galilee.
  - b. As far as is revealed in Scripture, this is as far north as He traveled.

**I. (Slide #4) The Divergent Views About Jesus!**

- A. Jesus Asked His Disciples A Question: “Who Do Men Say That I, The Son Of Man, Am?” 13
1. They have heard all kinds of views from the Jews about who they thought Jesus was.
  2. They heard views across the spectrum!
    - a. Some claimed that he was Beelzebub or one who cast out demons by the power of Beelzebub. Mt. 12:24,27; Mk. 3:22; Lk. 11:15,18,19
    - b. Some declared that he was a prophet of God.
    - c. Many saw Him as just a good man. Jn. 7:12
    - d. Others saw Him as a deceiver! Jn. 7:12; Mt. 27:63; Lk. 23:5
    - e. And He was accused of being “a glutton and a winebibber, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!” Mt. 11:19
    - f. He was known as “the carpenter’s son” Mt. 13:55
    - g. Many were convinced that He WAS “the Son of God”, the Messiah! Mt. 16:16

B. (Slide #5) The Disciples Respond By Giving Answers That Different People Are Holding About Jesus: 14

1. (▶) John the Baptist
  - a. Herod had promoted this concept! Overwhelmed with guilt for having John beheaded, Herod assumed that Jesus was John reincarnate! Mt. 14:1,2
  - b. Others adopted this specious claim.
2. (▶) Elijah
  - a. Why might some equate John with Elijah?
    1. Both were itinerant prophets.
    2. Both were bold, direct, and strongly reprimanded sin!
  - b. For some this would provide a way to explain the miracles that Jesus performed without admitting that He was the promised Messiah!
3. (▶) Jeremiah
  - a. He had lived during the last days of the nation of Judah before it was taken into Babylonian Captivity.
  - b. He was the “weeping prophet of Judah” who called upon the people to repent and to return to God or face destruction! Jesus too was calling Judah to repent!
4. (▶) Another one of the prophets.
  - a. Luke’s account gives some further insight: “So they answered and said, ‘John the Baptist, but some *say* Elijah; and others *say* that one of the old prophets has risen again.’” Lk. 9:19
  - b. Many of these people believed that Jesus was one of the Old Testament prophets reincarnated, just like Herod who believed that Jesus was John the Baptizer reincarnated.

C. View About Jesus Are Not Much Different Today!

1. Moslems and Jews:
  - a. A Prophet!
  - b. Not the Messiah!
  - c. Good Man.
  - d. Fable or Lie!
2. Jesus Seminar!
  - a. “Who Was Jesus?”
    1. Magician
    2. Healer
    3. Revolutionary
    4. Philosopher
    5. Twice married; father of 3 children
    6. They deny many if not all of His miracles.

7. The “Nature Miracles” and the “Raising the Dead” caused the most problems for these people -- They just THOUGHT the people were dead.
- b. “In Search of Jesus”
  1. Secular Sage
  2. Cynic Revolutionary
  3. Mystic Healer
  4. Robert Funk, head of Jesus Seminar; organized in 1985.
    - a. Jewish Socrates
    - b. His goal, “set Jesus free” from the “scriptural and creedal prisons in which we have entombed him. We aspire to no less than to roll away the stone from the door of the rock-cut tomb.”
    - c. Rejects as authentic “the Lord’s Prayer, sayings from the cross, any claims of Jesus to divinity, the virgin birth, most of his miracles and his bodily resurrection.”
    - d. “First stand-up Jewish comic.”
    - e. “Starting a new religion would have been the farthest thing from his mind.”

D. Thus We See That Jesus Has Always Been Questioned And Misunderstood!

## II. (Slide #6) Jesus Asked The Disciples Of Their Understanding About Him! 15

- A. “He Said To Them, ‘But Who Do You Say That I Am?’”
  1. What do you believe?
  2. Who do you think that I am?
- B. Peter’s Impassioned Response: 16
  1. “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
    - a. What a terse, succinct, accurate affirmation!
    - b. Peter had no doubts whatsoever!
  2. That understanding:
    - a. Christ:
      1. “THE ANOINTED One!”
      2. He is the Old Testament prophesied One, “The Messiah!”
    - b. Son of the Living God!
      1. He is not just a son of man!
      2. He is the Son of God!
      3. But observe: He is “the Son of the LIVING God!” He is the TRUE God, NOT AN IDOL!

3. NO MATTER WHAT the world said about Jesus, Peter KNEW who He was!

C. **(Slide #7) Jesus' Commendation Of Peter. 17**

1. "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven."
2. "Blessed"
  - a. Jesus commends Peter for His confession.
  - b. He is to be commended for that affirmation.
3. "Simon Bar-Jonah"
  - a. Today we may know him merely as "Peter."
  - b. He was often called Simon Peter as he is at the beginning of verse 16, in Lk. 5:8, and throughout the Gospel of John.
  - c. Here Jesus calls him "Simon Bar-Jonah."
    1. The meaning of "Simon Bar-Jonah" is "Simon, son of Jonah."
    2. Another example is the opponent of Paul and Barnabas on the island of Cyprus, "Elymas Bar-Jesus." Ac. 13:6,8. His name was Elymas; he was the son of a man named Jesus.
4. You do not invent this belief -- "for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven."
  - a. The idea of Jesus being "the Son of the living God" is not a fable that man invented!
  - b. It is the TRUTH! It was revealed to man by the Holy Spirit through inspired prophets!

**III. (Slide #8) Jesus' Promise To Build The Church! 18**

- A. "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 prevail against it."
- B. Insights Into The Text:
  1. "Peter":
    - a. This is a masculine Greek name.
    - b. It means "a small pebble;" "a stone;" or "a rock."
  2. "Rock" -- giant bedrock; foundational principle
    - a. This is NOT Peter!
    - b. This word is a feminine Greek noun.
    - c. It is on the great foundational Truth that he confessed "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

3. (▶) “I will build My Church!”
  - a. It was not in existence yet!
  - b. Jesus’ prophecy about the Kingdom was not the first prophecy about His Kingdom!
    1. Dn. 2:44 “And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.”
    2. Dn. 7:13,14 “I was watching in the night visions, And behold, *One* like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. <sup>14</sup>Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom *the one* Which shall not be destroyed.”
  - c. So, It was not in existence yet; however, John’s death ended the work of the Forerunner; the time for Christ’s Death and the establishment of His Church was now “at hand.”
4. NOTHING is going to keep It from coming into existence!
  - a. “and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”
  - b. Jesus is stating that He will be killed! However, Crucifixion will not stop Him from His Mission -- He is going to establish His Church; NO enemy -- Satan, the unbelieving Jews, or anyone else can stop His Church from coming into existence!

#### IV. Peter’s Important Role In The Establishment Of the Church! 19

- A. “And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”
- B. Insights Into This Text:
  1. (▶) Keys.
    - a. “you” here is singular -- this is a promise to Peter!
    - b. (Slide #9) Jesus makes another promise to Peter: “I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven.” “Keys” -- you will open the door!
    - c. Compare this with Ac. 2:14 “But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, ‘Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words.’”

2. **(Slide #10)** And Jesus promises Peter inspiration to teach Heaven's Will! -- "whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."
  - a. "whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven"
    1. "Bind"
      - a. Greek: "o} eja;n" -- "whatever"
      - b. "you bind"
        1. This is an aorist tense, subjunctive mood singular Greek verb: "dhvsh/~".
        2. "Whatever you may bind"
        3. The subjunctive mood addresses an action that is possible to happen.
      - c. Singular -- this is a promise to Peter.
    2. "Will be bound in heaven."
      - a. Greek: "e]stai dedemevna ejn oujranoi~"
      - b. "e]stai" is a future tense verb -- "will be"
      - c. "dedemevna" is a perfect tense passive voice participle.
      - d. "will have already been bound and will continue to be bound in Heavens."
    3. This does not mean that Peter is the head of the Church!
    4. This does not mean that Peter would establish doctrine for the N.T. Church.
    5. This is NOT an affirmation that Peter will make spiritual laws that the Godhead will accept!
    6. It is an affirmation that whatever Peter may teach will have already been established or settled in Heaven!
    7. Peter bound faith in Christ, baptism, added to the N.T. Church; and N.T. worship.
    8. Peter was speaking by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, He was going to proclaim the Will of the Godhead that THEY have already established!
  - b. "whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."
    1. "Loose"
      - a. Greek: "o} eja;n" -- "whatever"
      - b. "you loose"
        1. This is an aorist tense, subjunctive mood singular Greek verb: "luvsh/~".
        2. "Whatever you may loose"
        3. The subjunctive mood addresses an action that is possible to happen.
      - c. Singular -- this is a promise to Peter.
    2. "Will be loosed in heaven."
      - a. Greek: "e]stai lelumevnon ejn oujranoi~"
      - b. "e]stai" is a future tense verb -- "will be"
      - c. "lelumevnon" is a perfect tense passive voice singular participle.

- d. “will have already been loosed and will continue to be loosed in Heavens.”
- 3. Peter loosed the Law of Moses; the 10 Commandments; worship on the Sabbath Day, and Circumcision.

C. Later This Same Promise Is Made For All The Apostles!

- 1. Mt. 18:18 “Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

- a. In this chapter, Jesus is speaking to all of the Apostles.
- b. “you” in this passage is plural!
- c. His promise to all of them: “whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven,”
  - 1. This is identical to what he had previously promised to Peter.
  - 2. “whatever you bind will be bound in heaven”
    - a. “whatever” -- “o}sa eja;n
    - b. “you bind”
      - 1. This is an aorist tense, subjunctive mood plural Greek verb: “dhvshte”.
      - 2. “Whatever you may bind”
      - 3. The subjunctive mood addresses an action that is possible to happen.
  - c. Plural -- this is a promise to all of the Apostles.
- 3. “Will be bound in heaven.”
  - a. Greek: “e]stai dedemevna ejn oujranw/”
  - b. “e]stai” is a future tense verb -- “will be”
  - c. “dedemevna” is a perfect tense passive voice participle.
  - d. “will have already been bound and will continue to be bound in Heaven.”
- d. “whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”
  - 1. “Loose”
    - a. Greek: “o}sa eja;n” -- “whatever” (plural)
    - b. “you loose”
      - 1. This is an aorist tense, subjunctive mood singular Greek verb: “lvshte”.
      - 2. “Whatever you may loose”
      - 3. The subjunctive mood addresses an action that is possible to happen.
    - c. Plural -- this is a promise to all of the Apostles.
  - 2. “Will be loosed in heaven.”
    - a. Greek: “e]stai lelumevna ejn oujranw/”
    - b. “e]stai” is a future tense verb -- “will be”
    - c. “lelumevna” is a perfect tense passive voice plural participle.
    - d. “will have already been loosed and will continue to be loosed in Heaven.”

2. Jn. 20:23 “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained.”
  - a. “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them”
    1. Greek: “a[n tinwn” -- “of whom”
    2. “If you forgive the sins”
      - a. “ajfh`te” is a second aorist subjunctive mood plural Greek verb.
      - b. “you may forgive”
    3. “they are forgiven them”
      - a. “ajfevwntai” is a perfect tense, passive voice, subjunctive mood plural Greek verb.
      - b. “they have been forgiven and continue to be forgiven.”
  - b. “if you retain the *sins* of any, they are retained.”
    1. Greek: “a[n tinwn” -- “of whom”
    2. “Retain”
      - a. “krath`te” is a present tense subjunctive mood plural Greek verb.
      - b. “you may retain”
    3. “they are retained”
      - a. “kekravthntai” is a perfect tense passive voice plural Greek verb.
      - b. “they have been retained and continue to be retained.”

## V. (Slide #11) Significant Truths From This Text!

A. (▶) Christ Would Establish HIS Church!

B. (▶) This Eternally Planned Institution Is Now On The Brink Of Existence!

1. Eph. 3:8-12 “To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make all see what *is* the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; <sup>10</sup>to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be **made known by the church** to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*, <sup>11</sup>**according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord**, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.”
2. His Kingdom is truly “at hand!” Mt. 4:17

C. (▶) The Church’s Existence Is Based Upon The Great Truth That Jesus Is The Christ, The Son Of The Living God!

- D. **(Slide #12)** NOTHING, Not Even His Murder, Could Hinder Jesus From Establishing His Kingdom!
  
- E. (▶) The Godhead Made Certain That Their Will Would Be Accurately Taught So Sinners Could Obey Them And Be In The Church!
  
- F. **(Slide #13)** Men Must Seek HIS Church, They Must Not Seek To Establish Their Own Church!
  
- G. (▶) The Church Is NOT Build Upon One Or ANY Apostle; It Is Not Built Upon Any Created Spiritual Being; It Is Not Built Upon Any Man! It Is Built Upon Christ!