

MATTHEW 16, PART 5

I) The Keys of the Kingdom

So within Matthew, note the connecting ideas to Isaiah 22 and Revelation: keys of the kingdom, authority, rock, death, foreign power, deposed ruler, newly appointed ruler, opening, and shutting. Indeed, Matthew 16:13-20 tells of this: *the Pharisees had been overrun by the kingdom of Sin, so the apostles would serve as executors of King Jesus, bringing people from death unto life with the keys of the kingdom. Upon this resurrected, Spirit-filled life of Jesus Christ (the rock!) would God establish His temple (1 Pet. 2:4-5 & Eph. 2:19-22).*

II) What is the Rock?

Jesus Christ is the Rock (Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Cor. 10:1-4; 1 Pet. 2:4-10; etc.). The Rock describes both the Lord's rejection by humanity (Mt. 21:42) and the Lord's resurrection by God (Mt. 27:60 & 1 Pet. 2:4-6).

III) How will it be bound & loosed?

How should we translate the verbs "bind" & "loose" in Mt. 16:19?

Option 1: "shall be..." / Earth → Heaven / Peter declares then God confirms.

Option 2: "shall have been..." / Heaven → Earth / God confirms then Peter declares.

Given revelation always works from the revelation of the Father (see Mt.16:17 & 2 Pet. 1:19-21), I think that OPTION 2 makes more sense of the text.

IV) What will be bound & loosed?

Option 1: People (see Mt. 18:15-18 & Jn. 20:23; letting people in & out of the community)

Option 2: Things (see Mt. Mt. 5:19; allowing & forbidding practices)

It seems that the meaning of the text includes both options. The apostles would declare forgiveness of sins to people (Acts 2:38) and declare the instruction within the community (Acts 2:42). No longer would the Pharisees determine who was in the community of God's people or the instruction that would guide them. Rather, the Spirit-empowered apostles would bind & loose with God's authority.

V) Matthew 16:21-23

1. Although Simon received the name *Rock* in Mt. 16:18, what name did he receive in 16:23? What does this name mean?
2. How does the news of 16:21 relate to the rock? Hint: consider Mt. 21:42 & the dual meaning of *Rock*.

V) Matthew 16:24-28

3. How should disciples respond to the kingdom of God (16:24-25)? And that means us!
4. When would this coming occur (16:27-28)?