

Who Is Jesus?

Special messenger from God connected to the Day of the Lord

- **John the Baptist** – has same message as Jesus: repent for Kingdom of God is near
- **Elijah** – prophesied that he would reappear before the Day of the Lord (Mal 4.5-6)
- **Jeremiah** – prophet who like Jesus was rejected by much of the religious establishment; predicted he would return before Day of the Lord

MATTHEW
16:13-20



Who Is Jesus?

The Messiah the Son of the Living God

- **Messiah** – functional role; person sent by God through whom God would deliver His people and establish His Kingdom on the earth
- **Son of God** – statement of identity; Jesus is divine

MATTHEW
16:13-20



You are Peter and on this Rock I will build My Church

- Jesus is giving Peter a nickname describing his role in the work of God
 - Abram to Abraham – father of many
 - Jacob to Israel – you have struggled with God
- **Peter** = *Petros*
- **Rock** = *petra*
 - In Jesus' spoken language of Aramaic both words = *kepha*
- **Church** (*ekklesia*) – people gathered for a purpose; people gathered together in order to follow Jesus

MATTHEW
16:13-20



Peter's Prominence in the early days of the Church

As a leader—

- Acts 1.15-26: replacing Judas
- Acts 5.1-11: disciplining Ananias and Sapphira
- Acts 8.14-25: affirming believers in Samaria and judging Simon the Sorcerer
- Acts 10.1-11.18: opening door of Church to Gentiles

As a spokesperson/'public face'-

- Acts 2.14-40; 3.11-26 - preaching
- Acts 4.8-12; Acts 5.29-32 – defending apostles/Church before Jewish authorities

MATTHEW
16:13-20



Peter's responsibility/authority extended to all 12 apostles-

- **Matt 18.18** - Truly I tell you, whatever **yall** bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever **yall** loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.
- **Eph 2.19-20**: Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, **built on the foundation of the apostles** and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.
- **Rev 21.14**: The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were **the names of the twelve apostles** of the Lamb.

MATTHEW 16:13-20



I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven

- **Keys** – open/close doors; symbol of authority and responsibility
 - Image is Peter not as gatekeeper (key) but household steward/manager (keys)
- Peter is to ‘manage’ the resources of Kingdom according to the plans and purposes of the Owner/Master (God)

MATTHEW
16:13-20



Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven

Binding/loosing – rabbinic language for prohibiting (binding)/permitting (loosing) certain behaviors; determining what is/isn't acceptable for God's people

Will be bound/loosed – better translated 'will have been bound/loosed'

- Origin of decisions is with God (heaven) which are then announced on earth not vice versa
- More appropriate to idea of Peter as a steward

MATTHEW 16:13-20



Our top priorities:

- **Happiness** – personal fulfillment and comfort
- **Freedom** – being able to live the life we want to live in the way we want to live it
- **Security** – safety from harm/danger

Jesus' top 3 priorities are some version of:

- **Holiness** – not opposed to our happiness, but more concerned about our character
- **His Kingdom** – He does set us free, and that freedom is to be used in service of Him/others
- **The world** – He isn't reckless towards us, but He does want us to live sent and that sent-ness may result in difficulty at times

MATTHEW
16:13-20

