

From Red Rock Christian Church Bulletin
(February 2009)



This bulletin contained an insert with five questions, including:

* Upon what did Jesus say He was going to build His Church ?

The answers for these questions were provided on the opposite page:

* This Rock (Peter)
(Mat 16:18)
Antares Peter

But that's not the right answer...

Rejecting Catholic Doctrine

The doctrine of the Papal Succession and the Primacy of Peter depends on a Roman Catholic interpretation of Matthew 16:15-18, which pretends to substitute Peter (*Petros*) as the Rock (*petra*.) In order to support this position, they claim that the original words were spoken in Aramaic, and imply that the Greek texts are simply mistranslations of the original meaning.

108 MY CATHOLIC FAITH



When Our Lord said to Peter, "And I will give thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven," He clearly meant: "I will give you supreme authority over My Church. You shall be My representative."
The true test of loyalty to Christ is not only to believe in Him and worship Him, but to honor and obey the representatives He has chosen. Our Lord chose St. Peter as His Vicar.
It is rebellion against Christ to say to Him: "I will worship You, but I will not recognize Your representative." This is what Christians do, who deny the authority of the successor of Peter.

50. The Primacy of Peter

From this excerpt from "My Catholic Faith: A Manual of Religion" you can see that the Papacy takes Christ's title of the Rock and applies it to Peter. They further claim that all Christians who reject Rome and its popes are in rebellion to Christ.

However, the Church is built upon Jesus Christ, the son of God, our Rock and Salvation, not upon Peter, Paul, nor any other mortal man.

[Acts 5:29](#)

(29) Then Peter and the *other* apostles answered and said, **We ought to obey God rather than men.**

Who is “this Rock?”

Matthew 16:15-18

(15) He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

(16) And **Simon Peter** answered and said, Thou art the Christ, **the Son of the living God.**

(17) And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

(18) And I say also unto thee, That thou art **Peter**, and upon this **rock** I will **build my church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

“**Peter**”: Greek Πέτρος, also Petros, pronounced *pet'-ros*

“**rock**”: Greek πέτρα, also petra, pronounced *pet'-ra*

Jesus did not promise to build his church upon Peter. The KJV English does not say this, and neither do the Greek manuscripts. This is a Catholic doctrine (see previous scan from “My Catholic Faith.”) God recorded this passage using different words for “Peter” and “this rock.” Although Jesus may have used body language (such as pointing or other gestures) to convey meaning, **what scriptures** might Peter and the disciples associate with this statement?

The Old Testament scriptures named God as the Rock

(Deuteronomy 32:4) **He is the Rock**, his work *is* perfect: for all his ways *are* judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right *is* he.

(Deuteronomy 32:15) But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered *with fatness*; then **he forsook God** *which* made him, **and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.**

(Deuteronomy 32:18) **Of the Rock** *that* begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee.

(1 Samuel 2:2) *There is* none holy as the LORD: for *there is* none beside thee: **neither is there any rock like our God.**

(2 Samuel 22:3) **The God of my rock**; in him will I trust: *he is* my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence.

(2 Samuel 22:32) For who *is* God, save the LORD? **and who is a rock, save our God?**

(2 Samuel 22:47) The LORD liveth; **and blessed *be* my rock**; and **exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation.**

(2 Samuel 23:3) The God of Israel said, **the Rock of Israel spake to me**, He that ruleth over men *must be* just, ruling in the fear of God.

(Psalms 18:2) **The LORD is my rock**, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, *and* my high tower.

(Psalms 18:31) For who *is* God save the LORD? **or who is a rock save our God?**

(Psalms 18:46) **The LORD liveth; and blessed *be* my rock**; and let the God of my salvation be exalted.

(Psalms 42:9) **I will say unto God my rock**, Why hast thou forgotten me? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?

(Psalms 62:7) **In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.**

(Psalms 78:35) **And they remembered that God was their rock**, and the high God their redeemer.

(Psalms 89:26) He shall cry unto me, **Thou art my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.**

(Psalms 94:22) But the LORD is my defence; **and my God is the rock of my refuge.**

(Isaiah 17:10) Because thou hast forgotten **the God of thy salvation, and hast not been mindful of the rock of thy strength**, therefore shalt thou plant pleasant plants, and shalt set it with strange slips:

These passages clearly show that God is not only the Rock, He is Our Rock, the Rock of Israel, the Rock of Salvation, the Rock of our Strength, and **that there is no other Rock**. These clear references can be found throughout the entire Old Testament (including the law, the prophets, and the psalms!)

Luke 24:44-45

(44) And he said unto them, These *are* the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the **law of Moses**, and *in* the **prophets**, and *in* the **psalms, concerning me.**

(45) Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

The New Testament also identifies the Rock

Matthew 7:24-29

- (24) Therefore **whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them**, I will liken him unto a wise man, which **built** his house **upon a rock**:
- (25) And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded **upon a rock**.
- (26) And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:
- (27) And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.
- (28) And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were **astonished at his doctrine**:
- (29) For he taught them **as *one* having authority**, and not as the scribes.

Luke 6:46-49

- (46) And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?
- (47) **Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them**, I will shew you to whom he is like:
- (48) He is like a man which **built** an house, and digged deep, **and laid the foundation on a rock**: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.
- (49) But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

Peter and the other disciples would have already have heard the parable of the house on the rock, and the shifting sands! They later recognized this symbolism after the resurrection as well!

Romans 9:31-33

- (31) But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.
- (32) Wherefore? Because *they sought it* not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone;
- (33) As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion **a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him** shall not be ashamed.

1 Corinthians 10:1-4

- (1) Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;
- (2) And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;
- (3) And did all eat the same spiritual meat;
- (4) And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for **they drank of that spiritual Rock** that followed them: **and that Rock was Christ**.

Peter names the Chief Corner Stone as the Rock

1 Peter 2:6-8

- (6) Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, **I lay in Sion a chief corner stone**, elect, precious: **and he that believeth on him** shall not be confounded.
- (7) Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, **the stone which the builders disallowed**, the same is made the head of the corner,
- (8) And a stone of stumbling, **and a rock of offence**, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

I think that this quotation from Peter demonstrates that Peter was under no delusion as to the identity of the Rock. Neither was he confused as to the foundation of the Church, as he names **Jesus as the chief corner stone**. The corner stone must be placed first, and **the building is built upon that Rock**.

Ephesians 2:19-20

- (19) Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;
- (20) And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone**;

The Chief Corner Stone: the New Testament quotes the Old

Matthew 21:42-44

- (42) Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, **The stone which the builders rejected**, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?
- (43) Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.
- (44) **And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken**: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

Mark 12:10

- (10) And have ye not read this scripture; **The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner**:

Luke 20:17

- (17) And he beheld them, and said, What is this then that is written, **The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner?**

Psalms 118:22

- (22) **The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.**

Here Peter and John both name Jesus as the Chief Corner Stone

Acts 4:10-13

- (10) Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of **Jesus Christ** of Nazareth, **whom ye crucified**, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole.
- (11) **This is the stone** which was set at nought of you builders, **which is become the head of the corner**.
- (12) Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.
- (13) Now when they saw **the boldness of Peter and John**, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

Where is Peter right now? Has Peter conquered hell yet?

Matthew 16:18

- (18) And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; **and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it**.

Acts 2:31-32

- (31) He seeing this before spake of **the resurrection of Christ**, that **his soul was not left in hell**, neither his flesh did see corruption.
- (32) **This Jesus hath God raised up**, whereof we all are witnesses.

Revelation 1:17-18

- (17) And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:
- (18) **I am he that liveth**, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; **and have the keys of hell and of death**.

Revelation 20:13

- (13) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; **and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them**: and they were judged every man according to their works.

Daniel 2:44-45

- (44) And in the days of these kings **shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom**, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but it shall break in pieces and consume* all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.
- (45) Forasmuch as thou sawest **that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands**, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: **and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure**.

How important is this Symbol?

Numbers 20:7-12

- (7) And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
- (8) Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and **speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water**, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.
- (9) And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him.
- (10) And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?
- (11) And Moses lifted up his hand, and **with his rod he smote the rock twice**: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts *also*.
- (12) And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, **therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.**

This transgression was serious enough that God did not allow Aaron and Moses to lead Israel into the Promised Land. I think that the symbolism here might be a little bit important, and as we have seen, the power of Roman Catholicism rests on the interpretation of this symbol. **This should not be taken lightly.**

Broken vs. Annihilated

Matthew 21:44

- (44) And whosoever shall fall on this stone **shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.**

Luke 20:18

- (18) Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; **but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.**

Psalms 34:18

- (18) The LORD *is* nigh unto them that are of a **broken heart**; and saveth such as be of a **contrite spirit**.

Psalms 51:17

- (17) The sacrifices of God *are* a **broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart**, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Psalms 147:3

- (3) He healeth the **broken in heart**, and bindeth up their wounds.

The Rock is the Source of Living Waters

Isaiah 48:21

(21) And they thirsted not *when* he led them through the deserts: **he caused the waters to flow out of the rock for them:** he clave the rock also, and the waters gushed out.

Jeremiah 17:13

(13) O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, *and* they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because **they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters.**

John 7:37-38

(37) In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, **If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.**

(38) He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

Jeremiah 2:13

(13) For my people have committed two evils; **they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters,** *and* hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water.

Revelation 21:6

(6) And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. **I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.**

Revelation 22:16-17

(16) I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, *and* the bright and morning star.

(17) And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. **And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.**

Jesus alone is the Rock

Isaiah 61:1-2, 42:7-8

- (1) The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; **he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted**, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are* bound;
- (2) To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;
- (7) To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, *and* them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.
- (8) **I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another**, neither my praise to graven images.

Was God giving his Name or his Glory to Peter?

Isaiah 48:11-12

- (11) For mine own sake, *even* for mine own sake, will I do *it*: for how should *my name* be polluted? **and I will not give my glory unto another.**
- (12) Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I *am* he; I *am* the first, I also *am* the last.

Jesus did name Simon, but he called him Peter (*Petros*) which is not the same as the rock (*petra*) of Matthew 16:18. Simon was named Peter (*Petros*) and Christ is the Rock (*petra*.) There is a difference, as these examples demonstrate:

Luke 6:13-14

- (13) And when it was day, he called *unto him* his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;
- (14) Simon, (**whom he also named Peter**,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew,

Luke 6:14

- (14) σιμωνα ον και ωνομασεν **πετρον** και ανδρεαν τον αδελφον αυτου
ιακωβον και ιωαννην φιλιππον και βαρθολομαιον

1 Corinthians 10:4

- (4) And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual **Rock** that followed them: and that **Rock** was Christ.

1 Corinthians 10:4

- (4) και παντες το αυτο πομα πνευματικον επιον επινον γαρ εκ πνευματικης ακολουθουσης **πετρας** η δε **πετρα** ην ο χριστος

Conclusion

Matthew 16:15-18

(15) He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

(16) And **Simon Peter** answered and said, Thou art the Christ, **the Son of the living God.**

(17) And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed *it* unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

(18) And I say also unto thee, That thou art **Peter**, and upon this **rock** I will **build my church**; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

In context, Peter has identified Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus confirmed that Peter answered correctly. **God is also called the Rock** in at least seventeen (17) separate locations in the Old Testament, not counting references to the “stone that the builders rejected.”

The Authorized Version translates *petros* as Peter and *petra* as rock. The inspired Greek texts used two different words, and likewise the KJV English translation also translated it as two different words.

It is the argument of Roman Catholicism that the Greek texts are merely mistranslations of a vocal “original Aramaic.” The King James never translates *Petros* as “rock” but always as “Peter” or “stone” (see John 1:42). **The scriptures plainly show that only Jesus is the Rock.**

Christ is also the chief cornerstone, the stone which the builders rejected. This reference to the rock is given in the context of building.

Jesus further identifies this rock when he says “the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” Jesus alone has conquered Death and Hell, He has already risen, and He alone is said to have the keys of Death and Hell! Many people apply this part towards the church, but it certainly seems to apply **to the Rock.**

John 2:19-22

(19) Jesus answered and said unto them, **Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.**

(20) Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?

(21) But he spake of the temple of his body.

(22) When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

Peter never identified himself as the rock. Jesus is the Rock, and the church is built on nothing less. Rather, we say “**That Rock was Christ.**” (I Corinthians 10:4).



60 Second Public Service Announcement JR-004

“Sham Rocks”

Music Intro and Background: “On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand”

An Irish street preacher was boldly proclaiming the gospel to a gathering crowd when a man too long at a whiskey bottle hollered, “Hey, preacher, what’s a **shamrock?**” The preacher tried to pay the man no mind, but the ruffian persisted in interrupting: “Preacher, what’s a **shamrock?**” Without missing a beat, the man of God inserted into the flow of his message, “*On Christ the solid Rock I stand - all other rocks are sham rocks.*”

Since 1961 Joy Ranch Home for Children in Woodlawn, VA has stood on **the solid Rock of Jesus Christ**, and has endeavored to help over 5000 hurting youth and needy children learn that all other ground is sinking sand, and **all other rocks** are, indeed **sham rocks!** You can stand with Joy Ranch and help make a lasting difference in the life of a child through your prayers, assistance, by scheduling a presentation at your church, or by donating on line at joyranch.org.

Music fades...

Suggested Local Tag Line: You can call Joy Ranch at (276) 236-5578, or visit at 813 Joy Ranch Rd. just off of Hwy 58 in Woodlawn, Virginia.