

THE MASTER AT CAESAREA PHILIPPI

Matt. 16:13-21

INTRODUCTION:

1. Caesarea Philippi was on the Side of Mount Hermon.
 - A. Hermon is snow-capped and Damascus is not far from this site.
 - B. It is presently called Banyias.
2. Our Master was the best-known person in Palestine by this time.
3. The Jewish Nation was rife with expectations of The Messiah.
 - A. God was to send a New King to save them from their enemies.

I. SIX PASSAGES FROM THE APOSTLE PAUL DESCRIBE GOD'S INTENTIONS:

- A. 1 Cor. 2:7-8: "But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which God ordained before the ages for our glory, which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory."
- B. Eph. 1:4: "Just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love."
- C. Eph. 3:9: "And to make all people 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."
- D. Col. 1:26-27: "The mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory."
- E. 2 Tim. 1:9: "Who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began."
- F. Titus 1:1-2: "Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of

the truth which is according to godliness, in hope of eternal life which God, who cannot lie, promised before time began.”

II. IN THE CONTEXT OF GOD’S PLAN, JESUS NOW BEGINS TO REVEAL HIS MISSION.

A. The Common Man of Palestine Had a High Regard for Him.

1. Some said John the Baptist, some Elijah, some Jeremiah.

Others said, “or one of the other prophets.”

2. For Four Hundred Years, there had been No Prophet - No word from God. Not until John began to preach.

- a. Matt. 16:13-21: “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?’ So they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ And Simon Peter answered and said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’ 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. 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. 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.’ Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ. From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.”

B. Peter: “YOU ARE THE CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.”

1. Our Master accepted this affirmation as being true.
 - a. It is the basic reason for His having come.
 - b. It is this fundamental truth which makes our salvation sure.

(1) Jesus actually claimed God's Sonship.

(a) Such blasphemy if that isn't true.

C. A Number of Premises Are Laid Down in Matthew 16:13-21:

1. Jesus was held in High Esteem by the Masses.
2. The Apostles confirmed their belief in His Messiahship.
3. Jesus accepted this affirmation.
4. Upon this fundamental truth (Rock) He would build His Church.
 - a. $\frac{\text{ΠΕΤΡΟΣ}}{\text{PETROS}}$ and $\frac{\text{ΠΕΤΡΑ}}{\text{PETRA}}$
masc. noun fem. noun
5. He promised to build Only One Church.
6. It was to be HIS Church.
7. The verb tense was Future Time. (Will Build).
8. He used the terms Kingdom and Church interchangeably.
 - a. While they do not mean the same thing, the two words do refer to the same institution - the church the body of Christ.
9. He gave the keys to the Kingdom to Peter.
 - a. Matt 16:18 - makes it plain that all of the apostles had the keys.
 - b. By the apostles' preaching the door of the kingdom would be open to all men.
10. Verse 21, he states: "From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and *be killed*, and be raised again the third day."
11. The Apostles were instructed to tell no one.

III. THE APOSTLES USED THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES TO PROVE CHRIST'S SONSHIP.

A. Peter On Solomon's Porch:

Acts 3:17-18; 20:24: "Yet now, brethren, I know that you did it in ignorance, as did also your rulers, but those things which God foretold by the mouth of all His prophets, that the Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. ... And that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before, ... Yes, and all the prophets, from Samuel and those who follow, as many as have spoken, have also foretold these days."

B. Peter at Cornelius' House:

Acts 10:43: "To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins."

C. Paul at Antioch of Pisidia:

Acts 13:27-29: "For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know Him, nor even the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled them in condemning Him. And though they found no cause for death in Him, they asked Pilate that He should be put to death. Now when they had fulfilled all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb."

D. Paul at Thessalonica:

Acts 17:2-3: "Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, 'This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.'"

E. Paul in Prison at Rome:

Acts 28:23: "So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at his lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening."

1. In John 5:39 - Jesus had told the Jews, "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me."

2. New Testament preachers made it plain that Salvation could come Only through Jesus of Nazareth - whom they said was THE MESSIAH - THE CHRIST.

CONCLUSION:

1. If The Early Church Had a Creed, It Would Have Said:

“If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.”

(Romans 10:9-10)