

## MATTHEW 16:18-19

***"Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; whoever humbles himself shall be exalted."***

~Jesus Christ

It is only through true humility that we can properly understand the scriptures (Isa.66:2). It is also only through the practice of true humility (by those for whom pride and lust of office do not spoil) that one can ever be exalted into real offices of service with authority (1 Tim.3:6). Those who prove humble and trustworthy in these little positions we have today, will be the ones overseeing much in the awesome Kingdom of God (Matt.25:23).

Matt.16:18-19 is a passage that is more easily understood when viewed through the eyes of meekness and humility – rather than trying to interpret it as empowering a man (or his perceived successors) to such an extent that they can bind and loose men and things – even subjecting heaven to their will.

Without having to explain the same things already explained in the previous chapter, we will begin by showing the *Hendrickson's Interlinear Bible* literal translation of the following passage:

Matt 16:18 *"And I say also unto you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hades will not prevail against her.*  
19 *And I will give to you the keys of the kingdom of Heaven. And whatever you bind on earth shall occur, having already been bound in heaven. And whatever you may loose on the earth shall be, having been already loosed in heaven."*

Here we see the same translation that we found in Matt.18:18, so the issue of God doing any binding and loosing – not the ministry – (see Chapter 13) will not be dealt with again. But notice some additional information.

The word translated "Peter" is *petros* which in Greek means "small stone." The word translated "rock" is *petra*, which is Greek for a massive rock, a cliff or rock bluff.

Jesus is called the ROCK (1 Cor.10:4). It is Jesus that the church is built upon, not Peter.

But Peter was given the "keys" of the kingdom. What were these keys? Many have thought they were the keys to bind and loose, like the Pope who has images of keys emblazoned

upon the shoulders of his robe. Others have thought it was the Philadelphia “era” of God’s Church that has the power of the keys to open and shut.

Rev 3:7 *"And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, 'He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens'"*

Some “presiding” COG evangelists and ministers have taught and yet teach, that this “key” to open and close is only given to the Philadelphia church (of which they claim to be, of course). They teach that this key is the key to right church government, since David was a king. Other men have even claimed to be apostles, and some leading COG evangelists and ministers have also taught that the key of David was given to them, as the true Philadelphians and that this “key” is the correct understanding of prophecy – i.e., especially concerning the modern identity of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Perhaps many of you will remember being taught these things over the years. I do. Is this key given to this special group of Philadelphians as a symbol of power, like the symbols of the keys the Popes have emblazoned upon their shoulders? What does the Bible say about the key of David?

*“These things says He who is Holy, He who is true, HE WHO HAS THE KEY OF DAVID:...(verse 7)”* Jesus claims **He** is the one to have the key of David, not the church. He says nothing about giving it to the Philadelphia church! That is another thing that has simply been made up. It is another passage that has been misquoted by those seemingly seeking to bolster their own position. So what were the keys Jesus gave to Peter?

**In Luke 11:52 the key is called “the KEY OF KNOWLEDGE.”** It is the key of understanding God’s words, so they can also be properly applied and taught to others. The key of knowledge is the key that unlocks the mystery (Mk.4:11). With the key of knowledge of the truth, Peter would be able to spread the Gospel (good news) of God’s Kingdom to Israel and the whole world. He would be enabled to properly APPLY God’s Statutes and Judgments, and to properly shepherd the Church of God, which is built solidly upon Jesus Christ, our Rock.

**It was Simon Magus who taught that the keys were the power to bind and loose,** and open and close, as he was the priest of the god of doors and hinges. Notice Alexander Hislop’s explanation of these keys in *“The Two Babylons,”* (p.210, p.211).

*“The term Cardinal is derived from Cardo, a hinge. Janus, whose key the Pope bears, was the god of doors and hinges, and was called “...the opener and the shutter.” He continues: “The Pope, therefore, when he set up as the High-priest of Janus, assumed also the ‘jus veriendi cardinis,’ ‘the power of turning the hinge,’ – of opening and shutting in the blasphemous Pagan sense.”*

According to Hislop, and others, it was Simon Magus who was called “Peter-Roma” (the Peter of Rome) the teacher of the pagan book of stone, and priest of Janus.

After the apostle Peter’s rebuke, Simon Magus evidently went to Rome, where he was already well known as the priest of the Book of Stone – the “Peter-Roma,” where he evidently continued to practice and enchant the people with his arrogant claims of preeminence and great power from god, backed up by incredible signs that he performed by witchcraft and sorcery (Acts 8:9-11) – only now he taught it with a mixture of his newly learned religion called “Christianity.” According to Hislop and other historians, he claimed “Peter’s keys” as his keys of power, as he “Christianized” the pagan keys of Janus and Cybele, as emblems of his authority and power in this new fast growing religion he was creating.