

8-25-2024 Sunday Sermon Message
Devotional of the Week: Psalm 91:1-16
Text: Matthew 16:13-18

Title: **Who is "This Rock"? Is it Peter? Is it Christ?**

When the Israelites were in the wilderness and were about to stone Moses for water to drink, God told them to strike the rock:

"⁴ And Moses cried unto the Lord, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.

"⁵ And the Lord said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go.

"⁶ Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel."(Exodus 17:4-6)

The Holy Spirit testified through the Apostle Paul that the rock was Christ:

" 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."(1 Corinthians 10:1-4)

"Striking the Rock" refers to the death of the Christ, and through the death of the Christ and the blood of the Christ, all our sins were taken away so that we were completely freed from sin, and just as water came out when the Rock was struck, so when the Lord was resurrected, He gave the Holy Spirit, the living water, to those who believe in Him.

Jesus spoke of the blessings that come to those who believe in Him:

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

"³⁹ (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive:"(John 7:38-39b)

The Bible testifies that Christ is the Rock:

"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. ...¹⁸ Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee. ...³¹ For their rock is not as our Rock, even our enemies themselves being judges." (Deuteronomy 32:4, 18, 31).

"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."(Psalm 18:2)

"⁵ For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock. ...

"³ For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me. ...² He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings."(Psalm 27:5; 31:3; 40:2)

Finally, Jesus said that He was the Rock and that He would build His Church upon Him:

"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."(Matthew 16:16-18)

"**This rock**" is not Peter, but the Lord Jesus Christ, who was prophesied and testified countless

times through the Bible. The Roman Catholic Church created the doctrine that "this rock" is Peter, and made Peter the first pope. When Jesus told Peter that He would soon die and be buried and rise again on the third day, and Peter told him that this would never happen to you, the Lord said to Peter, "**Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.**"(Matthew 16:22-23).

Peter means a little pebble. But the Christ is the Rock. The Roman Catholic Church built on Peter and became the Church built on Satan. Through the history of the church history, the Roman Catholic persecuting and killing the members of the church in Christ who believed according to the Bible can confirm the fact that the Roman Catholic Church established on Peter is a false church established by Satan. The Church of God, the body of the Lord Jesus of Christ, is the church built on the Rock, but the Roman Catholic Church is a false church built on sand.

Jesus Christ, said to the church that would be built upon Him:

"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:"(Matthew 7:24-28)

The prophet Isaiah prophesied of the Rock, the Christ:

"¹⁴ And he shall be for a sanctuary: but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to

both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

¹⁵ And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken."(Isaiah 8:14-15)

When Jesus Christ, the rock, appeared to the Jews, they were deceived by the hypocrites who belong to the Satan and did not know their Messiah, whom they should believe in, and fell down on the rock, and the Christ, who is the rock, killed Jesus. Even today, those who are built on Satan and deceived by the Roman Catholic Church and follow the pope, who does not believe in the Rock of Christ and claims to be the vicar of the Christ, will be the ones who have stumbled upon the rock, and Christ, the Rock and the Great God, will also be judged when Jesus comes as Judge. God foreshadowed to the prophet Daniel the sight of the Christ, the Rock, judging all the nations who did not believe in Him and stumbled:

"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."(Daniel 2:44-45)

The prophet Isaiah testified of the blessing of those who believe in the Rock that is Christ:

"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."(Isaiah 9:33) Amen! Hallelujah!