

Binding & Loosing!!

The following article relates to one of the central debates between Catholicism and Protestantism. At a time when it is considered right to reveal the weaknesses and errors of different church systems to instill into all a need for a One World Religion, we, the people, need to ask ourselves who, what, or which will rule and guide all the other "unified" religions. Since the prospect is great that the Catholic Church will, as it is even told proudly in her own literature, can it be entertained not only that the Catholic Church itself has errors or inconsistencies, but might have more than any Protestant Church in existence? The following article reveals one major inconsistency that hits right at the core of the power of Rome:

Who Is Right?

One of the central debates between Catholicism and Protestantism centers around that famous piece of scripture where Christ told Peter, after Peter affirmed that Christ was the Son of God, the following words:

“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. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” Matthew 16:18, 19.

As we have witnessed throughout the struggles during the period of the Protestant Reformation, to this day, and yet to the end of time, the struggle continues as we can see what is claimed to be the single greatest testifier to the power of the Roman Catholic Church. This is the scripture used probably most often to justify the actions of the Roman Catholic Church in claiming the homage, wealth, allegiance and property of the entire globe. This is used to justify the decisions made which sent millions of people who determined to guide their lives by the Sacred Word into horrible deaths. This is used to justify Catholicism to claim the power to rewrite the principles of the Christian faith, and it is now being used to justify what is now going on behind the scenes as our free society is being methodically and secretly taken apart brick by brick in order to establish a new government which we are told even by Catholic sources, will be a close replica of that form of government which existed before the Protestant Reformation: The Holy Roman Empire.

We therefore ask, What are the issues behind the power Rome claims to herself? Is Catholicism correct in claiming unprecedented power based upon this one scripture? Are Protestants correct therefore in leaving the bosom of the Catholic Church, completely disregarding what this scripture apparently teaches? Let's find out.

First we must establish the fact that Roman Catholics all too often read this scripture at face value. Jesus plainly said, "Thou art Peter." He then stated immediately after, "And upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

There appears to be an obvious meaning at face value here. Why did Christ even refer to Peter's name after Peter stated that Jesus was indeed the Son of God? Stating Peter's name appeared totally irrelevant. Yet after saying, "Thou art Peter," Christ proceeded to state that upon "THIS" rock He (Christ) will build His church. It therefore appears obvious that Peter was that Rock which Christ

referred to. What other rock could He mean? After all, the very name Peter means rock. After all, if Christ was to build His church, it is likely in the custom of English language that He (Christ) the speaker would wind up building His church upon something other than Himself. The person who does the building will more than likely build that building upon something else, because he is too busy building. We do however know and realize that if Christ was going to build His church upon Peter, Christ's church should be called, "Peter's church," and in fact should not be called, "Christians," but "Peterans" or "Petrians."

On the other hand, the Protestants argue that the "rock" that Christ was talking about was not Peter at all, but the very statement Peter made just earlier which sparked the comment Christ made. They argue that the word for Peter's name was "Petros" in the Greek, which actually meant a moveable stone, something resembling a pebble. They claim that Jesus used the word "Petra" for Rock, which meant an immovable stone resembling a boulder. They therefore conclude that the "Rock" upon which Christ said He would build His church is really the truth, which Peter spoke when he said that Christ was the Son of the Living God, and indeed the Saviour of the world (John 4:42). The Christian Church was therefore built upon Christ, and not Peter. Jesus asked His disciples in Matthew 16:13.

"When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?"

The Apostles responded with the following: **"And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets." – verse 14**

Jesus then replied: **"He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?" – verse 15**

Here then is where Peter made that famous quotation after which Jesus told the world upon what He will build His church: **"And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." – verse 16**

Here is where the resulting, and apparently confusing Scripture proceeded: **"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. 19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."**

Yet this scripture in the mouths of the papist is what now justifies even decisions being made by the Catholic Church which clearly contradict the testimony of the Scriptures. This includes all the horrible murders which took place throughout the centuries, which actually places the Catholic Church at the top of the list of organizations which are guilty of shedding blood. It is however, deep in Catholic doctrine that if there ever arises a time when the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church contradicts the scriptures, the teaching of the church is to be believed above and beyond what the Scriptures teach, no matter how plain that biblical teaching may be. Is this assumption, which has had such earth-shattering results, a valid assumption? It is quite obvious that Catholicism and Protestantism have two complete contradictory interpretations. One of them is therefore obviously in error. Which?

Well there is a way to find out the truth about this matter. One way to find out is by examining the Lord's awesome ability to predict the future. We would remember that the Lord predicted before it

happened that a King named "Josiah" would be born after Jeroboam, who would make straight the paths of the Lord (I Kings 13:2).

We would remember that the Lord prophesied the birth of King Cyrus, who was given dominion over the whole and entire globe in his day. When King Cyrus actually saw the writings which predicted his birth, and the words which were spoken by the Lord concerning him before he was born, he was so profoundly moved that he immediately commanded and did everything God's people wanted for the restoration of their estate (2 Chronicles 36).

We would remember the prophecies of Christ in Matthew 24 concerning the destruction of the city of Jerusalem which actually took place in A.D. 70. The city and temple was so well fortified and magnificent in Christ's day that Christ's disciples found it hard to believe what Christ was telling them. Christ's disciples replied to the description of the destruction of Jerusalem Christ had just predicted before them: **"See what manner of stones and what buildings are here!" – Mark 13:1.**

But Christ's words were nonetheless unchanged and emphatic as He replied: **"Verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down." Matthew. 24:2.**

When the time actually arrived, so completely was the city and temple destroyed that indeed there was not a stone left upon another.

When summed up, it becomes crystal clear that the Lord has an absolutely uncanny ability to be able to tell the future: to tell the end from the beginning:

"Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them." Isaiah 42:9.

"Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure." Isaiah 46:9, 10.

Here now is where a terrible problem exists. In the fifth chapter of Matthew, Jesus made these unmistakable and very emphatic words:

"Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 5:17-19.

Do not miss the point here that Christ, through His great ability to foresee into the future, has declared plainly in this particular scripture passage that not one single tittle of the law will pass away. He is stating that it will stand "till heaven and earth pass." He is declaring that's the way it will always be till the end of all things.

Take a look now at a very startling quotation, which we find in a key piece of Catholic authoritative literature: "The pope is of so great authority and power that he can modify, explain or interpret even divine laws. . . . The pope can modify divine law, since his power is not of man, but of God, and he acts as vicegerent of God upon earth." – "Lucius Ferraris, Prompta Bibliotheca, "Papa," art. 2, translated.

Here we therefore see that Rome claims the ability to change the divine law after Christ specifically told us that no change whatsoever would ever take place. The Catholic Church also has claimed the responsibility of changing the fourth commandment regarding the Sabbath of the divine law.

To make the issue even more emphatic, look at this statement from Christ Himself: **"It is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail."** Luke 16:17.

How much more emphatic can we get? Here we see that it is easier to destroy all creation (because it can be recreated) than to destroy the laws that guarantee its order and happiness, but yet the Vatican claims the ability to do just that: change the divine law.

The Catholic Church also has claimed the responsibility of changing the fourth commandment regarding the Sabbath of the divine law. Here are more of her emphatic statements of her ability to do what Christ said He could not do:

"Q. Have you any other way of proving that the Church has power to institute festivals of precept?

A. Had she not such power, she could not have done that in which all modern religionist agree with her;--she could not have substituted the observance of Sunday the first day of the week, for the observance of Saturday the seventh day, a change for which there is no Scriptural authority." – Rev. Stephen Keenan, A Doctrinal Catechism, "On the Obedience Due to the Church," chap. 2, p. 174. (Imprimatur, John Cardinal McCloskey, archbishop of New York).

That is one main reason why so many Protestant denominations interpret the Anti-Christ as the Papacy. In the very prophecy depicting the "little horn" of Daniel 7, three main characteristics that were mentioned concerning this "little horn" was that it would: **". . .speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time."** Daniel 7:25.

Every object in the preceding scripture mentioned pertained to the Lord: "great words against the Most High," "wear out the saints of the Most High," "Think to change times and laws." Obviously there's nothing wrong with states or countries changing the times they honor certain holidays or special days, except if it is a divinely appointed holiday, holy day, or special day.

The quote therefore refers to, in being consistent with the structure of the words, time and laws pertaining to the Most High: He "shall THINK to change times and laws" OF THE MOST HIGH. And all this power to do such things is claimed by Rome out of that one scripture in Matthew 16, the results of which have caused the deaths of millions upon millions—fitting right in line with what the scripture stated when it declared that a certain power would, "wear out the saints of the Most High."

Why therefore would Christ give Rome the ability to alter the divine law, after He has already stated through His awesome ability to see the end from the beginning, that such changes just absolutely WILL NOT HAPPEN!! That is a question all Christians need to ponder very seriously.

Why should Christ give Rome the power to bind and loose, when Christ Himself could foresee that she would use such power to change something which He Himself has already stated would never change till heaven and earth are passed? and yet then persecute to enforce her decrees? Are the heavens still here folks? Is earth still here? You can therefore see why Protestants absolutely could not buy the arguments put forth by Rome where which she claimed control and/or ownership of the world.

Rome's argument is that the Church made the Bible, and not the Bible the Church. The world is therefore supposed to listen to the "spouse of Christ" else be considered a heathen or publican. In actuality the expression, "The church made the Bible, not the bible the church.," is not true. The truth is that the PROPHETS wrote the Bible, NOT THE CHURCH!

At that statement many would probably be scratching their heads, actually thinking that I must be nuts. No, the statement is correct. The church did not create the Bible: the prophets, as far as human instruments are concerned, did.

We can understand more clearly what is meant by this expression through observing one simple scripture most every Christian should be familiar with. It is **Matthew 5:11, 12, which states: "Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."**

After therefore considering that it was the prophets who wrote the Bible, consider first that the prophets were persecuted. Consider secondly who it consistently was that persecuted them. Was it heathen dignitaries or heathen kings or rulers? Who was it that persecuted Elijah, Jeremiah, Micaiah, Isaiah, Zechariah, and others?

The awesome fact is that it was the Church—God's people, which persecuted these prophets, and their lives were often spent singularly and through much opposition defending the purposes of God.

Time and time again and in almost every case, the purposes of God was being challenged by a bureaucracy. It is strange that, after Christ Himself was suffering so much from a bureaucracy in the person of the Jewish Church, that He would, without precedent, confer absolute authority upon what He already foresaw would become the most awesome bureaucracy the planet earth has ever seen.

In the scheme of things we see, nothing has really changed. The truth often pressed itself in obscurity in the past through the Old Testament. We actually today see nothing new at all during the Dark Ages, and most certainly nothing new in the entire New Testament. END

Note: What says the inspired prophet about this? "When he again joined his disciples, he asked them: "Whom do men say that I, the Son of Man, am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist; some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets." Questioning still closer, he inquired, "But whom say ye that I am?" Peter, ever ready to speak, answered for himself and his brethren: "Thou art Christ, the Son of the living God. 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."

Notwithstanding the faith of many had utterly failed, and the power of the priests and rulers was mighty against them, the brave disciple thus boldly declared his belief. Jesus saw, in this acknowledgment, the living principle that would animate the hearts of his believers in coming ages. It is the mysterious working of God's Spirit upon the human heart, that elevates the humblest mind to a knowledge above all earthly wisdom, an acquaintance with the sacred truths of God. Ah, indeed, "blessed art thou, Simon Barjona, for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee."

Jesus continued: "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." The word Peter signifies rolling stone. Christ did not refer to Peter as being the rock upon which he would found his church. His expression, "this

rock," applied to himself as the foundation of the Christian church. In Isaiah 28:16, the same reference is made: "Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion, for a foundation, a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation." It is the same stone to which reference is made in Luke 20:17, 18: "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? Whosoever shall fall upon that stone shall be broken; but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder." Also in Mark 12:10, 11: "And have ye not read this scripture, The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner. This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?"

These texts prove conclusively that Christ is the rock upon which the church is built, and, in his address to Peter, he referred to himself as the rock which is the foundation of the church. He continues:--

"And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of Heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven." The Roman church makes a wrong application of these words of Christ. They claim that he addressed them specially to Peter. Hence he is represented in works of art as carrying a bunch of keys, which is a symbol of trust and authority given to ambassadors and others in high positions.

The words of Christ: "I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of Heaven," were not addressed to Peter alone, but to the disciples, including those who compose the Christian church in all ages. Peter was given no preference nor power above that of the other disciples. Had Jesus delegated any special authority to one of them, we would not find them so frequently contending among themselves as to who should be greatest. They would have at once submitted to the wish of their Master, and paid honor to the one whom he had selected as their head.

But the Roman Catholic church claims that Christ invested Peter with supreme power over the Christian church, and that his successors are divinely authorized to rule the Christian world. In still another place Jesus acknowledges the same power to exist in all the church that is claimed to have been given to Peter alone, upon the authority of the text previously quoted: "Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven; and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven." 3Red 65-67.