



## Matthew 16:13-20

Matt. 16:13 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?”

Matt. 16:14 So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

Matt. 16:15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

Matt. 16:16 Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

Matt. 16:17 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.

Matt. 16:18 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.

Matt. 16:19 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.”

Matt. 16:20 Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

## Observations & Discussion

1. The people living during the time that Jesus was ministering were confused about Jesus' identity (see vs. 13-14). How was Jesus like these other men?

John the Baptist

Elijah

Jeremiah

One of the Prophets

2. What makes Jesus different than all the men mentioned above? Why is your answer so important to Jesus personally and what are the personal consequences of misidentifying Him?

3. The meaning of Jesus' statement in vs. 18 is hotly debated among Christians. Did Jesus mean that Peter would be the foundation upon which Jesus would build His Church as Roman Catholics claim? Or did Jesus mean that the Church would be built on the foundation of Peter's testimony that Jesus is the Christ? Who is the Rock—Peter or Jesus?

Before you answer the questions above read these scriptures and identify the "Rock" and "Foundation" of the Church:

1Cor. 3:10-11

1Peter 2:4-6

Psalm 62:2

Isaiah 44:8

4. Compare Jesus' promise in vs. 18 that "*I will build My Church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it*" with Revelation 13:7. Who are the "saints" Revelation 13 and what does that tell you about Jesus' plan for His Church?