

# The Rock in Scripture

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## Introduction

When I was a boy in Catholic School, from the time I was in the first to the eighth grade, I was taught that Peter became the first Pope in **Matthew 16 (KJV):**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.

Since that was the only Scripture that I was given at the time, I thought that it was pretty clear that, since Peter was the rock upon which Jesus would build the His church, and that Peter had the keys of the kingdom of heaven, Peter was appointed by Jesus to be the head of the church on earth.

My mother was Catholic, but not my dad. My parents divorced when I was about eight years old. I was in the third grade at the time. We used to have to cover our books with grocery bags every year. One of the books was a Bible, but we never read it in class. One day one of the students asked the nun, our teacher, why we had to cover this book because we never read it. The next day the nun, our teacher, had us get the Bible out and we started reading in Genesis. Every day we would read a little. We finally got to about chapter 20 of the book of Exodus and the ten commandments. Then we stopped reading the Bible. But I will always remember that when I would put the Bible away after we read for the day that I felt something. I didn't feel anything when I put my Math book away. But when I put the Bible away in my desk, I felt a peace that I did not understand.

Time passed until about the 5<sup>th</sup> grade when, after the divorce, I had been going to Mass before school every day, since my two brothers and I would ride our bikes to school. I remember wondering where the Bible talked about priests. There was a Bible in the pew where I was sitting one day, and I picked it up and happened to turn to **1 Timothy 4:14** Neglect not the grace that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with imposition of the hands of the priesthood.

This Bible was the Douay-Rheims version at the time. I then turned the page to **1 Timothy 5:17** Let the priests that rule well be esteemed worthy of double honour: especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. 18 For the scripture saith: Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn: and, The labourer is worthy of his reward. 19 Against a priest receive not an accusation, but under two or three witnesses.

I thought to myself, "Oh, there it is! The Scripture speaks of priests right there". My question was answered, I thought.

But then one day I came to Mass and all of the Bibles were gone from the pews. This was just after Vatican II had ended in 1965. I wondered what had happened. About a month or two later I noticed that the Bibles were in the pews again. But they looked different. I opened what I believe was similar to the Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition and turned to **1 Timothy 4:14** Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the elders laid their hands upon you.

And then to **1 Timothy 5:17** Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching; 18 for the scripture says, "You

shall not muzzle an ox when it is treading out the grain,” and, “The laborer deserves his wages.” 19 Never admit any charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses.

I was shocked! How could the Catholic Church, the one true Church, mix up elders with priests, and make a mistake like this? I did not feel that I was old enough to check this out, so I decided that when I was old enough that I would look into it more. I made a promise to myself to find the truth. This did not happen until I was twenty. It was at that time in my life that the truth became important to me.

So I decided to talk with a man who I thought was a Jesus freak. I really didn't think he had any answers, but I thought I could at least rule him out right away by talking with him. We both worked at Lucky Supermarket and he would come into the milk box when we were stocking milk and he would ask everyone if we knew Mr. Jesus. Or if we were in the break room taking a break, he would sit down next to us and ask us if we knew Mr. Jesus. He was a checker and he would shake hands with people coming through his line with a big smile on his face. He would take people out for coffee after work, so I decided one night to go with him. While sipping coffee, I waited for about a half an hour but he didn't say anything. So I asked him, “Aren't you going to give me your spiel?” He said, “I don't have a spiel. You talk.”

I thought he would try to convert me, but he just listened. I didn't know what to say so I just told him a little about myself. I was a student at UCLA and I had grown up in a dysfunctional alcoholic home. My mother was put in a rest home and underwent shock treatments for a year when I was about seven. My dad would take us to visit her, but when he started seeing his secretary and she started spending the night, I knew something was up. When he would take us to visit my mother, we had to wait in the lobby, and if she was “ready” to see us, he would bring her out. But this time I decided that, when he went through the double doors, I would follow him. I waited about five minutes, and then I went through the double doors. I did not know which room they were in, so I stopped at the first room I came to. There was my dad asking my mother for a divorce. I went back out to the lobby. My dad married his secretary, and my mother later married my stepfather, who was an alcoholic. My mother and stepfather would drink, and then fight into the early morning. My dad finally got custody of us when I was in the eighth grade. My dad was a functional alcoholic, and an engineer at Douglas Aircraft, and later McDonald Douglas. When I graduated high school, I went to UCLA and moved into a fraternity.

My Jesus freak friend didn't try to convert me, but he invited me to his church. I couldn't rule him out yet, so I decided to go. I was still a good Catholic and going to Mass every Sunday so that I did not commit a mortal sin by missing Mass through my own fault. I went to his church, which met in a recreation center of an apartment complex. They sat in circles on the floor and people would get up and share. I was not impressed, but when we left and met back at his house, he gave me a parallel New Testament, which had just come out in 1973. I took it back to the fraternity where I was living and started reading it. I told God that I could not just go through the motions. I had to hear from Him in a way that I would know it was Him. I wanted to know the truth.

As I started to read the Gospels, I felt a peace like I felt in the third grade at Catholic School when we read the Bible. I knew Jesus was good, but how could I know this was all true.

As I started reading Romans I could not understand a word it was saying. I realized something was wrong. I heard words like righteousness but I did not understand the context. I decided to make a run for it and kept reading. When I got to Romans 10:8-10, I could not believe my eyes. I had never even heard that Scripture before.

I read as in **Romans 10 (KJV):8** But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; 9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

I felt as though a huge burden was lifted from me. I told the Lord I could do that. I could believe in Jesus. This started me on a journey to know what the Bible actually says. I still went to Mass every Sunday, but I remembered my question in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade, and my promise to find the truth. My struggle now was with Matthew 16:18. My friend at work explained that when Jesus said, “upon this rock I will build my church”, that He pointed to Himself. This helped but it did not resolve it for me. I could not let it go.

One day I decided to visit the Research Library on the UCLA campus. Powel Library was the old one story library. The Research Library was a new building, and several stories high. When I went to check it out I did not want to go through every floor so I just punched a number in the elevator and got off on that floor. As I walked down the aisles they were full of Christian books. Every aisle had nothing but Christian books. I wondered why, as a secular university, they would do this. I went back to my fraternity house and kept struggling with Matthew 16:18.

About a month or two later, I felt the Lord urging me to go back to the Research Library and get a book. So I went back to the Research Library, but I could not remember which floor I had got off on before when I went to check it out. So I just punched a floor again. It turned out it was the same floor I had got off on when I came before, the one with all of the Christian books. As a test, I decided to go down any aisle and pick the first book off the shelf that I saw. As it happened, and evidently as God was leading me, I picked a whole book on Matthew 16:18. The whole book was about this Scripture. I took the book back to the fraternity and read it from cover to cover. I finally found the truth about Matthew 16:18.

## Who Is the Rock?

Who is the rock in Scripture? In the gospel of Matthew, Jesus asked His disciples who do men say that He is, as we read in **Matthew 16 (KJV):** 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? 14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. 15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 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. 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. 20 Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.

Some think that when Jesus said, “That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church”, that He was saying that Peter is the rock upon which He would build His church. That is what I was taught when I was in Catholic School. But let us look at verse 18 in the Greek, with the Greek transliterated, and then translated. All of the references to Greek and Hebrew are from Strong’s Concordance on [blueletterbible.com](http://blueletterbible.com).

καὶ γὰρ δέ σοι λέγω ὅτι σὺ εἶ Πέτρος  
kago de soy lego hati sou eh Petros  
also and to thee I say that thou art a rock (named Peter)

καὶ ἐπὶ ταύτῃ τῇ πέτρᾳ οἰκοδομήσω μου τὴν ἐκκλησίαν  
kai epi tauteh teh petra oykadameso moo ten ekclesian  
and upon this massive rock I will build my church

καὶ πύλαι ᾗδου οὐ κατισχύσουσιν αὐτῆς  
kai poolai adoo oo katiskoosousin owtes  
and gates of hell not prevail against it

So you will notice that Petros is a transliteration of the Greek word **Πέτρος** (pronounced petros), apparently a primary word; a (piece of) rock (larger than [G3037](#)); as a name, Petrus, an apostle:—Peter, rock. Compare [G2786](#).

[G3037](#) refers to the Greek word **λίθος** (pronounced **líthos**), lee'-thos; apparently a primary word; a stone (literally or figuratively):—(mill-, stumbling-)stone.

And [G2786](#) refers to the Greek word **Κηφᾶς** (pronounced **Kēphās**), kay-fas'; of Chaldee origin (compare [H3710](#)); the Rock; Cephas (i.e. Kepha), a surname of Peter:—Cephas.

And [H3710](#) refers to the Hebrew word **קֶפֶז** (pronounced **kēph**), kafe; from [H3721](#); a hollow rock:—rock.

And [H3721](#) refers to the Hebrew word **קָפַח** **kâphaph**, kaw-faf'; a primitive root; to

curve:—bow down (self).

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/g4074/kjv/tr/0-1/>

But the word *petra*, which is a transliteration of the Greek word **πέτρα** (pronounced *petra*), is feminine of the same as G4074; a (mass of) rock (literally or figuratively):—rock.

G4074 refers to the Greek word **Πέτρος** (pronounced *Pétros*), and is the same as *petros* above. <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/g4073/kjv/tr/0-1/>

So our interpretation of this verse should include this information. In verse 13, Jesus asks His disciples. “Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?”

Then in verse 14, His disciples respond, “Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.” And in verse 15 Jesus then asks, “But whom say ye that I am?”

Then in verse 16, Peter responds, “And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus then responds in verse 17, “Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.”

What was revealed to Peter? God the Father revealed to Peter that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Then in verse 18, Jesus continues, “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. 20 Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.”

When Jesus says, “upon this rock”, Matthew uses a different word for rock than the Greek word **Πέτρος** (pronounced *petros*), which means a rock. Instead, Matthew uses the Greek word **πέτρα** (pronounced *petra*), which means a massive rock. So when Jesus said, “upon this rock”, He was pointing to Himself as the massive rock. Jesus is the Christ, the “massive rock”, and the foundation, upon which the Church would be built. And this is what Paul taught in **1 Corinthians 3 (KJV)**: 10 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. 10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. 11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

Jesus Christ is the only foundation. There is no other.

Then we read in Matthew 16:19 that Jesus gives the “keys of the kingdom of heaven” to Peter. And we know that the only “key” into heaven is faith in Jesus Christ, as Jesus explains to Nicodemus in **John 3 (KJV)**: 3 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. 4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye

must be born again. 8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

And Jesus says that this born again experience happens the moment we believe in Him, as we read in **John 5 (KJV):24** Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

Then we continue in Matthew 16:20, and it says, “Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ.”

The whole point of Jesus asking His disciples who men say that He is was for them to understand that He is “Jesus the Christ”, that is, the Messiah. Upon Peter’s testimony to Jesus that “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God” in Matthew 16:16, Jesus was saying, “You got it Peter. And upon this rock, that is, the testimony that I am the Christ, I will build my church”.

The fact that Jesus is the Christ is the central point of the Gospel message. To believe in Jesus is the Gospel message, as Jesus taught in **John 3 (KJV):16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

And so also Paul explains in **Romans 10 (KJV):9** That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

It is interesting that in Matthew 16:17, when Jesus said, “Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven”, Jesus did not say, “Blessed art thou, Peter”, but “Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona”. Jesus had called him Cephas previously, as we read in **John 1 (KJV):40** One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ. 42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

Cephas is the Aramaic word for stone. This is also mentioned in **Mark 3 (KJV):14** And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, 15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils: 16 And Simon he surnamed Peter; 17 And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder: 18 And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite, 19 And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house.

In verse 16, the word “surnamed” in the Greek is ἐπιτίθημι (pronounced epitithēmi), from G1909 and G5087; to impose (in a friendly or hostile sense):—add unto, lade, lay upon, put (up) on, set on (up), + surname, × wound.

This Greek word is derived from two words, G1909, ἐπι (pronounced epi), and means

upon, and from G5087, **τίθημι** (pronounced tithēmi), and means to place.

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/g2007/kjv/tr/0-1/>

“Peter” in the Greek is **Πέτρος** (pronounced petros) and is a masculine noun, whereas “rock” in this verse is **πέτρα** (pronounced petra), and in the Greek is a feminine noun.

The word **πέτρα** (pronounced petra) is also translated “rock” in **Romans 9 (KJV):33** As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumbling stone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

This Scripture is referring to **Isaiah 8 (KJV):13** Sanctify the Lord of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. 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.

Now Jesus also told a parable in **Matthew 21 (KJV):33** Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country: 34 And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. 35 And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. 36 Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. 37 But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. 38 But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. 39 And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him. 40 When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? 41 They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. 42 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes? 43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. 44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

In verse 42, the word “stone” in the Greek is **λίθος** (pronounced lithos), apparently a primary word; a stone (literally or figuratively):—(mill-, stumbling-)stone.

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/g3037/kjv/tr/0-1/>

And in this same verse 42, Jesus is referring to **Psalms 118 (KJV):22** The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. 23 This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

And to **Isaiah 28 (KJV):16** 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: he that believeth shall not make haste.

Peter also realized this, and had this understanding, as he makes mention of this in **1 Peter 2 (KJV):5** Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. 6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. 7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head



of the corner, 8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

The word “stone” in verses 5, 6, 7, and 8 in the Greek is **λίθος** (pronounced lithos), the same word Jesus spoke in the parable in Matthew 21:42 above. And the word “rock” is also in verse 8, which is the Greek word, **πέτρα** (pronounced petra), which is feminine of the same as G4074; a (mass of) rock (literally or figuratively):—rock.

G4074 refers to the Greek word Πέτρος (pronounced Pétros), and is the same as petros above.

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/g4073/kjv/tr/0-1/>

So **πέτρα** (pronounced petra) is not just a rock, but a massive rock. So when we read Matthew 16:18, we understand that Jesus was pointing out Peter as a stone who would be in the building of the Church, which Jesus was going to build upon the massive rock, the foundation of Himself, because He is the Christ, the promised Messiah, the stone which the builders rejected but became the head of the corner.

Now let us see what is the firm foundation in the word of God about who is the Rock.

## The Rock in the Old Testament

The word “rock” is found in **Deuteronomy 32 (KJV)**:1 Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. 2 My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass: 3 Because I will publish the name of the Lord: ascribe ye greatness unto our God. 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.

The Lord is “the Rock” in verse 4, and also in **Deuteronomy 32 (KJV)**:15 But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.

Jeshurun is the Hebrew word, יֵשׁוּרֻן (pronounced Y<sup>e</sup>shurûwn), from H3474; upright; Jeshurun, a symbolic name for Israel:—Jeshurun.

H3474 refers to the Hebrew word, יָשָׁר (pronounced yâshar), yaw-shar'; a primitive root; to be straight or even; figuratively, to be (causatively, to make) right, pleasant, prosperous:—direct, fit, seem good (meet), please (will), be (esteem, go) right (on), bring (look, make, take the) straight (way), be upright(-ly).

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/h3484/kjv/wlc/0-1/>

And the Lord is the rock in the following verses:

**Deuteronomy 32 (KJV)**:18 Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee.

**Deuteronomy 32 (KJV)**:30 How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the Lord had shut them up? 31 For their rock is not as our Rock, even our enemies themselves being judges.

**Deuteronomy 32 (KJV)**:36 For the Lord shall judge his people, and repent himself for his servants, when he seeth that their power is gone, and there is none shut up, or left. 37 And he shall say, Where are their gods, their rock in whom they trusted, 38 Which did eat the fat of their sacrifices, and drank the wine of their drink offerings? let them rise up and help you, and be your protection.

**1 Samuel 2 (KJV)**:2 There is none holy as the Lord: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.

**2 Samuel 22 (KJV)**:1 And David spake unto the Lord the words of this song in the day that the Lord had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul: 2 And he said, The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; 3 The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence. 4 I will call on the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

**2 Samuel 22 (KJV)**:31 As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all them that trust in him. 32 For who is God, save the Lord? and who is a rock, save our God?

The word “buckler” means a shield.

**2 Samuel 22 (KJV):**47 The Lord liveth; and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation.

**2 Samuel 23 (KJV):**1 Now these be the last words of David. David the son of Jesse said, and the man who was raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel, said, 2 The Spirit of the Lord spake by me, and his word was in my tongue. 3 The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God.

**Psalms 18 (KJV):**1 I will love thee, O Lord, my strength. 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. 3 I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

**Psalms 18 (KJV):**31 As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him. 31 For who is God save the Lord? or who is a rock save our God?

**Psalms 18 (KJV):**46 The Lord liveth; and blessed be my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted.

**Psalms 19 (NASB):**14 May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart Be acceptable in Your sight, Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.

**Psalms 28 (KJV):**1 Unto thee will I cry, O Lord my rock; be not silent to me: lest, if thou be silent to me, I become like them that go down into the pit.

**Psalms 31 (KJV):**1 In thee, O Lord, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness. 2 Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: be thou my strong rock, for an house of defense to save me. 3 For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me.

**Psalms 42 (KJV):**8 Yet the Lord will command his lovingkindness in the day time, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the God of my life. 9 I will say unto God my rock, Why hast thou forgotten me? why go I mourning because of the oppression of the enemy? 10 As with a sword in my bones, mine enemies reproach me; while they say daily unto me, Where is thy God? 11 Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.

**Psalms 61 (KJV):**1 Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. 2 From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. 3 For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy. 4 I will abide in thy tabernacle forever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings. Selah.

**Psalms 62 (KJV):**5 My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him. 6 He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defense; I shall not be moved. 7 In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. 8 Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.

**Psalms 71 (KJV):**3 Be thou my strong habitation, whereunto I may continually resort: thou hast given commandment to save me; for thou art my rock and my fortress. 4 Deliver me, O my God, out of the hand of the wicked, out of the hand of the unrighteous and cruel man. 5 For thou art my hope, O Lord God: thou art my trust from my youth.

**Psalm 78 (KJV):**34 When he slew them, then they sought him: and they returned and enquired early after God. 35 And they remembered that God was their rock, and the high God their redeemer.

**Psalm 89 (KJV):**20 I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him: 21 With whom my hand shall be established: mine arm also shall strengthen him. 22 The enemy shall not exact upon him; nor the son of wickedness afflict him. 23 And I will beat down his foes before his face, and plague them that hate him. 24 But my faithfulness and my mercy shall be with him: and in my name shall his horn be exalted. 25 I will set his hand also in the sea, and his right hand in the rivers. 26 He shall cry unto me, Thou art my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.

**Psalm 92 (KJV):**15 To shew that the Lord is upright: he is my rock, and there is no unrighteousness in him.

**Psalm 94 (KJV):**22 But the Lord is my defense; and my God is the rock of my refuge.

**Psalm 95 (KJV):**1 O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.

**Psalm 144 (NASB):**1 Blessed be the Lord, my rock, Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle; 2 My faithfulness and my fortress, My stronghold and my savior, My shield and He in whom I take refuge, Who subdues my people under me.

**Isaiah 17 (KJV):**9 In that day shall his strong cities be as a forsaken bough, and an uppermost branch, which they left because of the children of Israel: and there shall be desolation. 10 Because thou hast forgotten the God of thy salvation, and hast not been mindful of the rock of thy strength, therefore shalt thou plant pleasant plants, and shalt set it with strange slips:

**Isaiah 26 (NASB):**4 Trust in the Lord forever, For in God the Lord, we have an everlasting Rock.

**Isaiah 30 (NASB):**29 You will have songs as in the night when you keep the festival, And gladness of heart as when one marches to the sound of the flute, To go to the mountain of the Lord, to the Rock of Israel.

**Isaiah 33 (NASB):**16 He will dwell on the heights, His refuge will be the impregnable rock; His bread will be given him, His water will be sure. 17 Your eyes will see the King in His beauty; They will see a distant land.

**Isaiah 44 (NASB):**8 Do not tremble and do not be afraid; Have I not long since announced it to you and declared it? And you are My witnesses. Is there any God besides Me, Or is there any other Rock? I know of none.””

**Isaiah 51 (KJV):**1 Harken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the Lord: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.

**Habakkuk 1 (NASB):**12 Are You not from time everlasting, Lord, my God, my Holy One? We will not die. You, Lord, have appointed them to *deliver* judgment; And You, O Rock, have destined them to punish.

## The Rock in the New Testament

**Matthew 7 (KJV):**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.

**Luke 6 (KJV):**47 Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: 48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. 49 But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

**1 Corinthians 10 (KJV):**1 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.

There is no other Rock than Christ. He is my rock and my redeemer. He is the rock of my salvation. His words are the foundation that we are built upon. And He is the foundation that has been laid, as we read again in **1 Corinthians 3 (KJV):**9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. 10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. 11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

In verse 11, there is no “other foundation” than Jesus Christ. In verse 9, we are “God’s building”, and the foundation of our building is Jesus Christ.

## The Chief Corner Stone

Jesus Christ is the chief corner stone, as Peter testified in **1 Peter 2 (KJV):5** Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. 6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. 7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

Peter was not confused about what Jesus said in Matthew 16:18, “That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it”. Peter understood that he was just a “lively stone”, as he called all who are believers in verse 5 above.

And when Peter refers to the chief corner stone, he is only repeating the words of Jesus in **Matthew 21 (KJV):42** Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?

And again, Jesus is referring to **Psalms 118 (KJV):22** The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. 23 This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

And to **Isaiah 28 (KJV):16** 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: he that believeth shall not make haste.

We must remember that Jesus is our redeemer, and He alone is our mediator, as we read in **1 Timothy 2 (KJV):5** For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

## The Stone to Come

Nebuchadnezzar had a dream, as we read in **Daniel 2 (KJV):**31 Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible. 32 This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, 33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay. 34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. 35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

Daniel then gives the interpretation of the dream, as we read in **Daniel 2 (KJV):**36 This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. 37 Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. 38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. Thou art this head of gold. 39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. 40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise. 41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay. 42 And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken. 43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. 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 was able to interpret the dream of Nebuchadnezzar that revealed the whole plan of God for this world. There will be four kingdoms which will arise. But at the end God will “set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed” in verse 44.

Then Daniel had a dream, as we read in **Daniel 7 (KJV):**1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters. 2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. 3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another. 4 The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it. 5 And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the

mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh. 6 After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it. 7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns. 8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things. 9 I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. 10 A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. 11 I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld even till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. 12 As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. 13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

So the four beasts in Daniel's dream are a lion in verse 4, a bear in verse 5, a leopard in verse 6, and last a "fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly".

Daniel then received the interpretation of the dream, as we continue in **Daniel 7 (KJV)**: 15 I Daniel was grieved in my spirit in the midst of my body, and the visions of my head troubled me. 16 I came near unto one of them that stood by, and asked him the truth of all this. So he told me, and made me know the interpretation of the things. 17 These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth. 18 But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever. 19 Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; 20 And of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows. 21 I beheld, and the same horn made war with the saints, and prevailed against them; 22 Until the Ancient of days came, and judgment was given to the saints of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom. 23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces. 24 And the ten horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise: and another shall rise after them; and he shall be diverse from the first, and he shall subdue three kings. 25 And he shall 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. 26 But the judgment shall sit, and they



shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end. 27 And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him. 28 Hitherto is the end of the matter. As for me Daniel, my cogitations much troubled me, and my countenance changed in me: but I kept the matter in my heart.

This dream is similar to the one Nebuchadnezzar had. Again, there will be four kings which will arise, as we read in verse 17 above, “These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth.” Then in verse 18, we read, “But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever.”

Now these first three beasts are also mentioned in **Revelation 13 (KJV)**:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy. 2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

So we understand that the fourth beast in Daniel 7 will be a composite of the first three beasts. We continue to read in **Revelation 13 (KJV)**:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast. 4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him? 5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months. 6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven. 7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations. 8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

This beast, who represents the fourth king and kingdom which shall arise in the earth, will be defeated by the Lord Jesus Christ, as we read in **Revelation 19 (KJV)**:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. 12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. 13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. 15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. 16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, King Of Kings, And Lord Of Lords. 17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; 18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. 19 And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him

that sat on the horse, and against his army. 20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. 21 And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

So, in Daniel 2:45, the stone that “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” of Nebuchadnezzar’s image is the Lord Jesus Christ.

The rock is the Lord Jesus Christ. The chief corner stone is the Lord Jesus Christ. The stone to come is the Lord Jesus Christ. And the head of the Church is the Lord Jesus Christ.

## The Head of the Church

Jesus Christ is the head of the Church, as we read in **Ephesians 1 (KJV):**18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, 19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, 21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: 22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.

Jesus is the head, as we read in **Ephesians 4 (KJV):**15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

Jesus is the head of the Church, as we read in **Ephesians 5 (KJV):**23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

Jesus is the head of the body, the Church, as we read in **Colossians 1 (KJV):**13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: 15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: 17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. 18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

Jesus is the head of all principality and power, as we read in **Colossians 2 (KJV):**8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. 9 For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. 10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

We need to hold fast to the Head, as we read in **Colossians 2 (KJV):**18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, 19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

We must trust in the Lord, as we read in **Proverbs 3 (KJV):**5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

God is love, as we read in **1 John 4 (KJV):**7 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 8 He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.

Above all, He is trustworthy.