

**Reading: Mat 16:13-19**

Jesus asked His disciples, “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” v13, and they gave various replies, v14. Jesus asked them, “Who do you say that I am?”, v15. Peter replied, “**You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God,**” v16. Jesus replied, “Blessed are you Simon, son of John, **for flesh and blood has not revealed this unto you, but My Father who is in heaven,**” v17. Jesus said, “You are Peter, (Greek – petros – a small piece of stone), **and upon this Rock, (Greek – petra – a large mass of rock), I will build My Church,** (Greek ekklesia or assembly – see No 263) **and the gates (or authorities\*), of hell shall not prevail or succeed against it,**” v18. Jesus said, “**I will give unto you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven,** (or Kingdom of God – refer to *Mat 13:11, Lk 8:10* and many other comparable references), and whatsoever you shall bind on earth **shall have been bound in heaven,** and whatsoever you shall loose on earth **shall have been loosed in heaven.**” v19, see *NASB, AMPV*. (The initiative of binding and loosing is in heaven, not on earth. We must be led by the Holy Spirit in all we do, *Rom 8:14*).

\***Gates are authorities.** *Deut 25:7-9, 22:15-18, Ruth 4:1, Jer 26:6-24*. The elders and rulers sat in the gates and exercised authority and rule.

The gates or authorities of hell shall not succeed or prevail against the church or assembly of Jesus Christ.

**The Church will stand against the attacks of the gates or authorities of hell,** and will continue to use the keys of the Kingdom, which have been given to the church to extend the rule and reign of Christ among all peoples. When the communists took over China in 1948 there were about 800,000 believers in that country. In 2004, there are some say, about 80 million believers in China.

**The Keys of the Kingdom are the authorities of the Kingdom of God,** which can be used by the church, to extend and enlarge the rule and reign of Christ through out the Nations. [*Rev 3:7,8, Is 22:22, Ac 13:32*]

The Keys of the Kingdom of God, of the rule of Christ, **are the four Gospels.** [See No 223]

**Matthew is the authority of the King,** the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the Lion of *Rev 4:7*.

**Mark is the authority of the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ,** who is the suffering Servant. This is the Ox of *Rev 4:7*.

**Luke is the authority of the Word,** or truth, or wisdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the Man of *Rev 4:7*.

**John is the authority of the Holy Spirit, anointing of the Lord Jesus Christ.** This is the Eagle of *Rev 4:7*.

[For more detail read “What the Bible is all About,” by Henrietta Mears]. That is, The Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Word of the Lord Jesus Christ and of God, The Spirit of Christ, the Holy Spirit.

**From the human side, the keys of the Kingdom are activated and launched by the whole church coming together as one in Christ,** in: praise, worship and thanksgiving, *Ac 2:46,47, Ac 16:25*, prayer, intercession, supplication, *Ac 1:14, 2:42, 4:24-31*, proclamation of the Word, *Ac 2:36, 3:6, 4:10,20*, preaching of the Gospel, *Ac 2:14, 4:1,4, 5:14,42*. [The whole church in humility, honesty, truth, oneness and fulness of the Holy Spirit.

**The four living creatures or cherubim,** lead the worship of the Lamb, around the throne of God, *Rev 4:6-8, 5:8-14, Ezk 1:5-14, 10:2-22*.

**As we lift up the gates/doors of worship, praise, thanks, gladness, rejoicing, truth, faith and righteousness, the King of Glory comes in.** *Ps 24:7-9*. He is strong and mighty in battle. He is the Lord of Armies. *2Chr 20:21,22*.

**The battle is the Lord’s.** *2Chr 20:15,17,22, 1Sam 17:47, Ac 16:25*.

**The Lord will fight for us.** *Ex 14:14, Deut 1:30, 3:22, Josh 23:10*.

**He has defeated the enemy.** *Heb 2:14, Col 2:15, 1Jn 3:8*.

**He gives us the victory He has won.** *1Cor 15:57, 2Cor 2:14, 1Jn 4:4, Lk 10:19, Rom 8:37*.

The Kingdom of God

The Head Christ	“3 <sup>rd</sup> Heaven” <i>2Cor 12:2, Heb 4:14</i> The heaven of God’s Throne
The Church Christ’s Body <i>Eph 1:22,23</i> The Kingdom of God <i>Col 1:13</i> All in Christ <i>1Cor 15:22</i>	

The Kingdom of Satan

The Head Satan	Heavenly places <i>Eph 6:12, 3:10, 2:2, Dan 10:13,20</i> Satan’s headquarters in the heavenlies
Evil authorities <i>Eph 6:12</i> The Kingdom of darkness <i>Col 1:13</i> All in ADAM <i>1Cor 15:22</i>	Visible heavens, <i>Ac 1:10,11, Heb 4:14</i>

1. The powers of darkness have been totally defeated by Christ, in His death, burial and resurrection, *Eph 1:20-23*.
2. Powers of darkness still have authority over the unsaved, *Eph 2:1-3, 1Jn 5:19, 2Cor 4:4*.
3. The authority of Satan is unable to succeed or prevail against the church, *Mat 16:18*.
4. The church is to take the keys of the Kingdom of God and plunder hell to populate heaven.

**The Church is God's Headquarters, from which He extends His Kingdom rule into all and every nation.**

