Rock*

Matthew 16:13-18 (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.
(18) For 'Simon,' Jesus uses the Greek word for a small rock (Petros) and for 'rock' (petra) meaning a boulder. This was by design. It is the Petros (Peter the small stone) declaring the petra (the foundational belief of the Christian Church). Jesus built and continues to build His church on that rock solid truth that He is the Christ, the Son of God. Acts 8:37 is one proof of that truth. Simeon (Simeon ,i.e., "hearing"), is a common Jewish name. He was the son of Jona (Matt. 16:17), but his mother is nowhere named in Scripture. He had a younger brother called Andrew, who first brought him to Jesus (John 1:40-42). His native town was Bethsaida, on the western coast of the Sea of Galilee, to which also Philip belonged. Here he was brought up by the shores of the Sea of Galilee, and was trained to the occupation of a fisherman. Simon and his brother doubtless enjoyed all the advantages of a religious training, and were early instructed in an acquaintance with the Scriptures and with the great prophecies regarding the coming of the Messiah. They most likely did not enjoy any special training in the study of the law under any of the

rabbis. When Peter appeared before the Sanhedrin, he looked like an "unlearned man" (Acts 4:13). Simon was a Galilean, and he was that out and out...The Galileans had a marked character of their own. They had a reputation for an independence and energy which often ran into turbulence. They were at the same time of a franker and more transparent disposition than their brethren in the south. In all these respects, in bluntness, headiness, and simplicity, Simon was a genuine Galilean. Jesus at once recognized Simon, and declared that hereafter he would be called Cephas, an Aramaic name corresponding to the Greek Petros--from which is derived the name Peter, which means "a mass of rock detached from the living rock." (NET BIBLE). *That would imply the nearness to Christ that Peter would achieve, not that the church would be built on a detached rock. The name change was not for foundational purposes of the Church, but that so firm was Simon's faith that Jesus gave him the name of Cephas. When Christ said,* "upon this rock I will build my Church," *He was speaking of something of greater importance, not of Cephas, a detachment from the living rock. The clue that Christ was referring to something of greater importance is the confession that Peter, declared. "Thou art the Christ, the* ***Son of the living God****." This is the rock of whom Christ referred. Back in the Old Testament there is clear evidence as to whom a Rock is referring to. Let's turn to;*

Deuteronomy 32:1-4 (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.

Moses ben Maimon, in his valuable work, Moreh Nebochim, observes that the word (צור tsur) which is ordinarily translated rock, signifies origin, fountain, first cause, etc., and in this way it should be translated here: "He is the first principle, His work is perfect." As He is the cause of all things, He must be infinitely perfect; and consequently all His works must be perfect in their respective kinds. As is the cause, so must the effect be. King David put his trust in the rock of refuge for sensible sinners to flee into for shelter and safety from the wrath and justice of God, and from every enemy.
He shall cry unto me, **Thou art my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation** (Psalm 89:26). *Peter is not that rock. Christ did not build the Church of Christ upon flesh that in the end turns to dust, but upon that which will endure. The Rock that Christ would build his Church upon is the confession of Cephas the stone,* Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. *A church of flesh will not endure the judgment day. Remember the words that Jesus said?* Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up (Matt 15:13). *Now let's turn to some old testament prophecies of the Kingdom of Christ in;*
Daniel 7:13-14 (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.
Daniel 2:31-44 (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 threshingfloors; 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.
(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.

The first kingdom symbolic of gold *is Babylon. Daniel gave king Nebuchadnezzar the interpretation of the dream as follows: You, O king, are the king of kings, to whom the God of heaven has given the kingdom, the power, the strength and the glory; and wherever the sons of men dwell, or the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky, He has given them into your hand and has caused you to rule over them all. You are the head of gold.*

The second kingdom symbolic of silver *is Persia. The prophecy foretold that a kingdom inferior to Babylon will conquer it, just as silver is inferior to gold. Medo-Persia conquered the Babylonian empire in 539 BC and ruled until 331 BC, when it was conquered by the Greek army of Alexander the Great.*

In WW2 Persia sided with Germany and at the request of Hilter's government changed its name to Iran.

The third kingdom symbolic of brass *is Greece. Alexander the Great, the Macedonian king defeated his Persian colleague Darius III. Darius fled to Ecbatana in Media, and Alexander occupied Babylon, the imperial capital Susa, and the Persian capital Persepolis, and was henceforth proclaimed king of Asia. After the death of the Macedonian king and conqueror, Alexander the Great in 323, his kingdom was divided. In Asia the Macedonian commanders who served Alexander fought each other for power. Perdiccas and Meleager were murdered, Antigonus rose to control most of Asia, but his growth of power brought the other Macedonian generals in coalition against him. He was killed in battle and the Macedonian Empire split into four main kingdoms - the one of Seleucus (Asia), Ptolemy (Egypt), Lysimachus (Thrace), and Antipater's son Cassander (Macedonia, including Greece).*

The fourth kingdom symbolic of iron *is Rome. It is during the days of the fourth kingdom that God would set up a Kingdom that shall stand for ever. The fourth kingdom is symbolic of iron and just as iron can break anything, so too, this kingdom*

will be renowned for its harshness and it shall break into pieces and bruise whatever comes in it's way. The Roman armies conquered the Greeks in 164 BC and until today, the Roman empire is referred to as the Iron Monarchy, due to the ruthless and bloody battles fought against those that did not submit to it. The kingdom of God that would never be destroyed cannot be referring to an earthly or fleshly kingdom, but to a heavenly kingdom. The rock that shatters the statue can only be referring to Jesus Christ,who, after Peter had made the confession, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God, *Jesus answered,* 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 (Mat 16:18). *Peter was not the stone that was cut out of the mountain without hands, that Stone was the Son of God. There can be no doubt the Roman Empire was in power when the Son of God came to set up His Kingdom; turn to;*

Matthew 27:1-2 (1) When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death:

(2) And when they had bound him, they led him away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

Pontius Pilate was the governor of Judea at the time of the Crucifixion of Jesus; he was an official of the Roman Empire, to which the Jewish nation was in subjection to at that time. According to the Gospels, Pilate did not consider Jesus guilty and desired to release him. Under pressure from the crowds in Jerusalem, however, Pilate sentenced Jesus to death on the cross, having first washed his hands to indicate his lack of responsibility for Jesus' fate. There is further proof of the Roman Empire in power at this time; But they cried out, Away with him, away with him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Shall I crucify your King? The chief priests answered, **We have no king but Caesar** (Jo 19:15). *And listen to this;* And when we came to **Rome**, the centurion delivered the prisoners to the

captain of the guard: but Paul was suffered to dwell by himself with a soldier that kept him (Acts 28:16). *Scripture has indicated this would happen in the days during the reign of the fourth kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar's dream as interpreted by Daniel. That fourth kingdom was Rome.*
Matthew 21:42 refers to Jesus as the cornerstone of the church,
Matthew 7:24 refers to Jesus as a rock,
1 Corinthians 3:11 says; Jesus is the foundation,
Psalm 18:2 says; The Lord is my rock,
Psalm 18:31 says; And who is a rock, except our God?
There is the view that in the dream of Nebuchadnezzar, God used symbols that were familiar to him. The pagan view of time was a cyclic event that was characterized by a succession of metals from gold to iron. As the ages passed, morality, wisdom, and life span decreased. That time would deteriorate from a golden age to an age of less value according to this view. Nonetheless according to prophecy in God's word, He sent His Son into the iron kingdom to establish a new Kingdom that will withstand the gates of hell and time. However there is something else interesting about the image, the feet of iron and clay mixed. Could it be that one foot may be symbolic of the religious leg of Rome that succeeded in the west? It too became a monarchy fashioned after the empire of Rome ruled by a monarch. It became the supreme power in the world and reigned in the dark ages but was finally subdued by the power of God's word. It has lost it's supreme power in our age but still has a large following. The religious leg of Rome was also like the Empire of Rome in that it ruled with a fist of iron. Many atrocities were committed against the faithful by this religious leg until its power base was broken up. Could the other foot have been the political leg of Rome that succeeded in the east with its capital in Constantinople? It was also brought to naught like the other;
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 threshingfloors; 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 (Dan 2:35). *The Church of Christ today is small and throughout history has taken the brunt of man's furry. But this also was prophesied, turn to;*

Revelation 12:1-6 (1) And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars:
(2) And she being with child cried, travailing in birth, and pained to be delivered.
(3) And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads.
(4) And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.
(5) And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne.
(6) And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred and threescore days.

{*From Halley's Bible Handbook, 23rd edition*. The woman about to give birth to a child, seems, up to verse 5, to represent Israel; and, from verse 6 onward, to represent the Church. The Hebrew Nation, nurtured of God, through long centuries, for the purpose of bringing Christ into the world, is here personified as a Queen, in Heavenly Glory, giving birth to the Child of the Ages. The Child was Christ, the Messiah. Satan was waiting to devour Him at birth. This seems like a reference to Herod's effort to kill Christ as a babe. The dragon is identified as the devil, satan, the old serpent. He had already

been mentioned as persecuting the Churches of Smyrna and Pergamum, and he, or one of his angels, from the abyss, as king of the army of demon locusts, and murderer of the Two Witnesses. Red may symbolize his murderous nature.**}** *Sometimes prophecy is hard to understand, but in Rev 12:1-6, it's undoubtedly the persecuted Church through the ages and in particular the dark ages. The point I want to make here is that an entity built upon a rock is the only thing that could have withstood the many atrocities committed against Her. Persecution began early in a religious nature by jealous priests who tried to suppress the gospel, they said;* But that it spread no further among the people, let us straitly threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name (Acts 4:17). **{***From MARTYRS MIRROR;* Nero caused the city of Rome to be set on fire, and ascended a certain tower without, where he, beholding it, began to sing, Troy is on fire. After this was done he cast the blame on the Christians, saying that they had done it; for, when the Romans, very much agitated on account of the immeasurable damage and the dire calamities which had sprung from this conflagration, began to murmur greatly, he, in order to shield himself, and to wreak his prejudiced hatred upon the Christians, put the whole blame on them. For this reason there were proclaimed immediately, in the name of the Emperor, throughout the whole known world (then under the monarchy of the Romans), bloody decrees against the Christians, that they should everywhere be put to death. The contents of these decrees were as follows, "If any one confesses that he is a Christian, he shall be put to death, without further trial, as a convicted enemy of mankind."**}** *Jesus said;* For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it (Mark 8:35). *But if Christ is so firm a foundation that not even the gates of hell can prevail against that which is built upon it, how very foolish, careless and imprudent are they who forsake this foundation, and build*

upon, and trust in, the vain things of this world! Certainly everything under the sun, yea, all which our eyes behold, is vain and transitory. Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher, all is vanity (Eccl. 1:2). *How vain are the sinful and evil things which God has forbidden, and concerning which He has warned us in His word, that we should have nothing to do with them! How great will be the fall who build upon these forbidden vanities! If we suffer damage, and complain, when a material house or building falls, because its foundation is not firm, how much greater loss will be sustained, and what greater reason to lament, who will fall both in soul and body, without ever being able to rise again!* Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. (Luke 6:22) *Brethren, one lump or two? The Church of Christ is apostolic not because of succession of persons, but on account of the doctrine, since She holds the doctrine of the apostles delivered to them by the Holy Spirit. Only those who first believe the testimony of God, and by faith repent of their sins, and confess Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and are intelligently baptized into His death, have the full and explicit testimony of God assuring them of pardon. It is hardly necessary here to remark, that as the disciples of Christ are declared to be in a pardoned, justified, sanctified, reconciled, adopted, and saved state, they are the only persons in such a state.*

Are you ready for a change of state, from sinner to saved? Then by faith come repenting, confess Jesus Christ and be baptized into Him for remission of sins. Also prayer requests will be taken for other reasons. Please come while we persuade with song.

This message approved by
Jack Warford
a minister for Christ

The message 'Rock' presented to;

Matthew 16.18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter (Petros), and upon this rock (petra) I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
At this point Jesus uses the Greek word for a small rock (Petros) and for a large rock (petra) instead of the Aramaic based Cephas (a stone). This was by design. It is the Petros (the man) declaring the petra (the foundational belief of the Christian Church). It is this belief that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of the living God that will stand against hell and gain salvation. Everything rests on these two points.

4074 Pétros (a masculine noun) – properly, a stone (pebble), such as a small rock found along a pathway. 4074 /Pétros ("small stone") then stands in contrast to 4073 /pétra ("cliff, boulder," Abbott-Smith).

"4074 (Pétros) is an isolated rock and 4073 (pétra) is a cliff" (TDNT, 3, 100). "4074 (Pétros) always means a stone . . . such as a man may throw, . . . versus 4073 (pétra), a projecting rock, cliff" (S. Zodhiates, Dict).

NET BIBLE
Jesus at once recognized Simon, and declared that hereafter he would be called Cephas, an Aramaic name corresponding to the Greek Petros, which means "a mass of rock detached from the living rock." The Aramaic name does not occur again, but the name Peter gradually displaces the old name Simon, though our Lord himself always uses the name Simon when addressing him (Matt. 17:25; Mark 14:37; Luke 22:31, comp. 21:15-17).

So what I see is that Jesus pointed to Peter and said " You are Peter (meaning little stone)" and then pointing to Himself and saying "On This Rock (meaning massive stone), I will build my Church." If the Church is not built on Jesus Christ then it is nothing. If there is any conspiracy, I believe that it is on the side of the Catholic Church. If you think not, then I suggest that you look at how the leaders of the Catholic Church live, and then look at the poor of the world whom they will not help. Look at how Jesus and the Apostles lived and compare with the way that the leaders of the Catholic church live today, in rich splendor. They certainly are not living as Jesus did. Jesus washed the feet of His disciples, I think that you would play hell trying to get the Pope, or the Cardinals to wash your feet. They do not serve, they rule. You bow down to them and kiss their hands. And if you do not, they call you a heretic.
Rev. Jack Barr (from; Question on Peter as stone or rock)