

# *The Sound of* *Many Waters*

**Many Waters** is a weekly article written by Ron Cipic, lead pastor of Grand River Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan. To comment or ask a question about this piece, write to Pastor Ron at [pastors@grandriverchurch.org](mailto:pastors@grandriverchurch.org). Related Scripture verses for further study are cited at the end of this piece.

## **The Rock of Revelation**

Jesus asked His disciples this question: "Who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 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. And I 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."

The name "Peter" means "a rock." When Jesus said, "And I say to you that you are Peter...", He was affirming that the one named "Peter" by natural birth would become a "living stone" by spiritual birth. Jesus went on to say that "on this rock I will build My church..." The word "rock" in this case refers to the entire rock, what *Strong's Concordance* calls "the mass of rock," not just a piece of it, not just one stone, but "the rock" from which "a rock" is taken. The rock in mass refers to the revelation given all true believers by the Father; that is, Jesus is Christ (King) and God. When a person truly believes in Jesus Christ, he or she becomes a "living stone" joined together with other stones to form the "rock of revelation."

Jesus makes an astounding claim about this rock: "the gates of hell will not prevail against it." The believing church is offensive, and it will not fail. This believing church is the church that thinks and acts as if Jesus is Lord, no matter what the

circumstances look like. This church has the mind of Christ, because He has baptized her in His Spirit, and she shares His very nature and therefore His way of thinking.

It wasn't long after Jesus had called Peter "a rock" that He turned around and called him "Satan." Jesus had revealed to his disciples that He would soon be crucified in Jerusalem and that He would rise from the dead on the third day. Peter's response to the Lord's words was to rebuke Him and say "this shall not happen to You!" Jesus responded, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men."

Peter had answered the Lord's question well. But when God's eternal plan to die on the Cross was revealed, it messed with Peter's paradigm of how things should go. So he rebuked the Lord and attempted to talk Him out of going to the Cross. It is presumption and pride to think that you can tell Almighty God what to do. That's exactly what Peter tried to do. He questioned Jesus' Lordship. Accordingly, Jesus rebuked him for being a mouthpiece of Satanic influence. In a stunning turn around, Peter went from star pupil to class dunce in the same day.

It is one thing to know and follow Jesus as a friend, teacher, miracle worker, but it is an entirely different thing to know and follow Him as the Christ. If He's Lord, He's Lord of all. He's Lord when we understand. He's still Lord when we don't. Peter's faith would be proven again after the Last Supper. Again, he would fail the test. But after the death and resurrection of the Christ, Peter would become "a rock" in more than name only. *RC*

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Study Verses: Mt. 16:13-28; Eph. 2:19-22; 1 Pe. 2:4-10;

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