

Who is the Rock? (It's not Dwayne Johnson)

Matthew #105

Matthew 16:13-18

Caesarea Philippi is located at the foot of Mount Herman, the highest mountain peak in the Promised Land (not the Philippi in Greece). A massive cliff overshadows the city. According to local legend, the cave there was the entrance to the underworld, or "the gates of Hades".

Jesus asks two questions:

First, "*Who do men/people say that the Son of man is?*" The apostles responded that there were 4 different views:

Second, "*But who do you say that I am?*" Jesus responds to Peter's declaration, by making 5 declarations, let's examine 2 of them today.

1. *Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.* The source of this knowledge was God-divine revelation

2. ¹⁸ *and I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church.* 3 things about that about the claim that Peter was the first pope:

- a) There is no evidence that Peter was the "Bishop of Rome," or even that he had ever been to Rome.
- b) The text says nothing about Peter's successors. **Acts 1:21-22**
- c) There is no evidence that Jesus, or the other apostles, or anyone else for that matter regarded Peter as infallible. **Galatians 2:11**

So, the church would be built not upon Peter, but upon the Messiah; more specifically, upon what Peter had just said about the Messiah: **"You are *the* Messiah, *the* Son, of *the* God, *the* living one."** Upon that confession by Peter, Jesus would build the church.