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## THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM

**Topic:** What are the Keys of the Kingdom? These scriptures are often misunderstood. This misunderstanding causes us to get the wrong meaning.

**Mat 16:13-17:** Jesus asks the disciples, who do people say I am? The answer, some say John the Baptist, some Elias, others Jeremias. Jesus asks the disciples, who do YOU say I am? Simon Peter said, thou art the Christ, the Son of the Living God. Simon Peter is the aggressive one, the one who jumps right up and answers. Jesus blesses Simon for the right answer.

**Vs18:** this verse is often misunderstood. Jesus tells Peter, you are a little rock, but I am the big rock, and I am going to build my church on you, the little rock. This church will be so strong that not even Hades or Satan will be able to topple it. Peter is not the head of the church; rather he is the little rock that the real church is built upon.

**Vs19:** Jesus says He will give Peter the keys to Heaven. You don't just hand out keys to people you don't trust and without instructions. This verse doesn't mean that whoever has these keys can use them anyway he sees fit. These are spiritual keys. They were used 3 times. *The keys were used 3 times: once to open the Kingdom of Heaven to the Jews, next for the Samaritans, and last for the Gentiles.*

**Mat 28:16-20:** some of the disciples still don't believe who Jesus is. Vs 20 is not a good translation from the Greek. It should be "...and I even I am with you always even to the consummation of the age." The command is to go out and teach and baptize the people of the world, and Jesus will be with them.

**Acts 1:4-8:** this is a transitional book from the age of Law to the age of Grace. Jesus tells His disciples to go to Jerusalem and wait on Him, just be patient and don't do anything, and you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days. The disciples ask if Israel will be restored now. No, not yet. Jesus sends them to Samaria to be witnesses. Samaria HATES Jews. The disciples are dumbfounded that the Lord is sending them to people that hate them. Not only is Jesus sending them to Samaria, but also out to the Gentiles, in that order!

**Acts 2:22-24:** *The keys were used 3 times: once to open the Kingdom of Heaven to the Jews, next for the Samaritans, and last for the Gentiles.* Jesus is talking to Israel here, and He did His miracles and wonders and signs like showing His credentials to prove He is the Son of God. God wasn't sleeping on the job – He knew Jesus came to earth, the Jews rejected Him, then they crucified Him, He rose from the dead since it is impossible for Him to stay dead.

**Vs 22:** tells us who He is talking to.

**Vs 38:** Peter introduces the church of the Pentecost to the Jews. This is the first use of the keys, to open the doors of Heaven for the Jews.

**Acts 8:14-25:** Now the disciples are in Samaria, using the keys of Heaven the 2<sup>nd</sup> time to open the doors of Heaven for the Samaritans. Simon was rich, and when he saw them lay hands on people and Holy Spirit go into them, he offered them money so he could have that power, too. Peter told him his money was no good, and that the gift of God cannot be purchased with money. Peter told Simon he needs to get his heart right in the sight of God and pray for forgiveness.

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**Acts 10:34-48: This is the encounter with the Roman centurion, Cornelius, who is also a Gentile. Jews felt that gentiles were unclean, but God showed Peter that they are not unclean. Jesus was getting ready to use the keys for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time to open the Gates of Heaven to the gentiles. All nations that fear God and work with Him are accepted by Him. Peter tells Cornelius the whole story of Jesus and His miracles, the rejection by the Jews, the crucifixion, and the rising from the dead. After Jesus rose from the dead, He ate and drank with the disciples. He commanded us to witness to all that He is the Judge of the quick and the dead. Many Jews were astonished that God is now inviting the Gentiles to become a part of His church. God let the gentiles speak in different languages because the gospel wasn't written then and He had to prove that the Holy Spirit was poured on the gentiles. The Jews only knew what they saw and heard around them. This is the last time the keys to the kingdom of Heaven were used. Peter died eventually and he didn't pass the keys on to anyone else, and the keys were never used again.**