

THE DIVINE PROMISE, PART 1
(Matthew 16:18)

- I. The FOUNDATION of the Church: “Upon THIS ROCK...” (Matt. 16:18a)
 - A. Catholicism identifies it as PETER as SUPREME Apostle
 1. Was Peter ALONE the FOUNDER of Christianity?
 2. Was Peter made SOVEREIGN over all Christianity?
 3. Did Peter live and die in ROME?
 4. Was Peter’s given AUTHORITY that was TRANSMISSABLE?
 5. Did Peter ACTUALLY transmit authority to the leading official at ROME?
 - B. *More likely*, it is Peter’s DECLARATION (16:16)
 - C. *Most likely*, it is the APOSTLES with Peter taking PRIORITY (cf. Eph. 2:19-22)

- II. The CERTAINTY of the Church: “I WILL BUILD...” (Matt. 16:18a)
 - A. The verb form may refer to FUTURE action, or to CONTINUATION of CURRENT action
 - B. The emphasis is on INEVITABILITY because Christ is the BUILDER

- III. The OWNERSHIP of the Church: “MY...” (Matt. 16:18a)
 - A. Members are united with Him as His BODY (Eph. 4:4,12, 16)
 - B. Members are united with Him as His BRIDE (Eph. 5:25-29)
 - C. Members are united in Him as His FAMILY (Rom. 12:4-5, 10; Gal. 3:26; Eph. 1:5)
 - 1. We are CHRIST’S SIBLINGS (Gal. 3:26; Eph. 1:5; Heb. 2:11)
 - 2. We are ONE ANOTHER’S siblings (Rom. 12:4-5, 10; 14:4)

- IV. The COMMUNITY and CONTINUITY of the Church: “...CHURCH” (Matt. 16:18a)
 - A. It is ESTABLISHED by His CALL (Rom. 8:30)
 - B. It is being GATHERED by His CALL (Acts 2:39)
 - C. It will be ASSEMBLED at His CALL (Heb. 12:23; 1 Thess. 4:16-17)

- V. The INVINCIBILITY of the Church: “...the Gates of Hades Will Not OVERPOWER It” (Matt. 16:18b)
 - A. Christ DELIVERS the CALLED from bondage to SIN
 - B. Christ FREES the CALLED from bondage to DEATH