

Just as we did on yesterday, again today, we will employ the method of Inductive Bible Study. You will recall that it has a sequence of three components: observation, interpretation, and application.

1. **Observation** answers the question, What does it say? What is the actual content in the text?
2. **Interpretation** answers the question, What does it mean? What was the original intent and meaning of the author.
3. **Application** What does it mean to me and how does it apply to my life.

Observation always comes first. Before we consider what a text means, we must ask what it says. Reading and rereading the text will answer most of the following questions: **who, what, when, where, why, and how.**

Interpretation: The ultimate interpretation question is: **What did God mean by what He said? Every verse in the Bible means only one thing, what the original author intended.**

Application answers the question, how does this passage apply to me? The goal of Bible is not just to gain information but to also experience transformation. **Therefore, interpreting the Bible then includes the six observation questions, the six interpretation questions, and the necessary application of those principles to our daily lives.**

Matthew 16:13 (ESV) Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "**Who do people say that the Son of Man is?**"

Matthew 16:14 (ESV) And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

Matthew 16:15 (ESV) He said to them, "**But who do you say that I am?**"

Matthew 16:16 (ESV) Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Matthew 16:17 (ESV) And Jesus answered him, "**Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.**

Matthew 16:18 (ESV) **And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**

Matthew 16:19 (ESV) **I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.**"

Matthew 16:15 (ESV) He said to them, "But **who do you say that I am?**"

Matthew 16:16 (ESV) Simon Peter replied, "**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**"

Matthew 16:17 (ESV) And Jesus answered him, "**Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven.**"

Peter's words brought a word of commendation from Jesus. Peter was blessed because he had come to a correct conclusion about the person of Christ. Jesus added that this was **not** a conclusion Peter had determined by his own or others' ability. **God, the Father in heaven, had revealed** it to him.

Peter's declaration about the Messiah's person led to a declaration of the Messiah's program. **Peter** (*Petros*) was strong like a rock, but Jesus added that **on this rock** (*petra*,) He would build His church. Because of this change in Greek words, many conservative scholars believe that Jesus is now building His church on Himself. Others hold that the church is built on Peter and the other apostles as the building's foundation stones.

Ephesians 2:20 (ESV) ***built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,***

Revelation 21:14 (ESV) ***And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.***

Still other scholars say that the church is built on Peter's testimony. However, it seems best to understand that Jesus was praising Peter for his accurate statement about Him, **and was introducing His work of building the church on Himself.**

1 Corinthians 3:11 (ESV) ***For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.***

Building His church was a yet-future work of Jesus Christ, for He had not yet started the process. He said, **I will build (future tense) My church**, but **His program for the nation Israel** had to be concluded before another program could be set in motion. This is probably why Jesus said not even the gates of hades would overcome this program. Jews would understand hades' gates to refer to **physical death**. Jesus was thus telling the disciples **His death** would not prevent His work of building the church.

Later (Matthew 16:21) He spoke of His imminent death. He was therefore anticipating His death and His victory over death through the Resurrection.

His church would then begin to be built, starting on the day of Pentecost, and Peter and the other apostles would have important roles in it. He declared that Peter would be given significant authority, the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

A "key" was a sign of authority, for a trusted steward kept the keys to his master's possessions and dispensed them accordingly. (cf. "the keys of death and hades" [Rev. 1:18] and "the key of David" [Rev. 3:7], which Jesus possesses).

Revelation 1:17 (ESV) When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "***Fear not, I am the first and the last,***

Revelation 1:18 (ESV) and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

Peter was told he would possess the keys and be able to bind and loose people. These were decisions Peter was to implement as he received instruction from heaven, for the binding and loosing occurred there first.

Peter simply carried out God's directions. This privilege of binding and loosing was seen in Peter's life as he had the privilege on the day of Pentecost to proclaim the gospel and announce to all those who responded in saving faith that their sins had been forgiven (Acts 2). He was able to do the same thing with the household of Cornelius (Acts 10-11; cf. Acts 15:19-20). ***The same privilege was given all the disciples.***

John 20:21 (ESV) Jesus said to them again, "***Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.***"

John 20:22 (ESV) ***And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.***

John 20:23 (ESV) ***If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.***"

Peter discovered that once he had keys to the kingdom, he could go to the Father in every situation. When he stood to preach before thousands on the day of Pentecost, ***this simple fisherman opened the door to the kingdom for three thousand people*** in one day (Acts 2:41). When he encountered a lame man, ***he used his access to God and His healing power,*** and the man was healed (Acts 3:6). ***When he was imprisoned, Peter discovered*** that the keys of the kingdom could open even the most secure prison door (Acts 12:6-10).

If you are a Christian you, too, have keys to the kingdom of heaven. You do not need an intermediary, for you have an unobstructed access to God. With that access come all the resources you need to face any circumstance. When you are afraid, you have access to God's peace that surpasses comprehension (***Philippians 4:6***). When you have a broken relationship, you have access to the God of reconciliation (***2 Corinthians 5:18–21***). When you meet someone in need, you have access to God's provision for that person. What an incredible privilege to be entrusted with keys to the kingdom of heaven! ***What an incredible responsibility to be entrusted with keys to the kingdom of heaven!***

We stated earlier that over these two days we would employ the method of Inductive Bible Study. We also. Said that it has a sequence of three components: observation, interpretation, and application.

1. ***Observation*** answers the question, What does it say? What is the actual content in the text?
2. ***Interpretation*** answers the question, What does it mean? Our task is to discover ***the original intent and meaning of the author.***
3. ***Application*** answers the questions, ***What does it mean to me and how does it apply to my life.***

WORD STUDY

1. **Zelophehad** (*Zə lō' phə həd*) - Personal name meaning "protection from terror" or "**the kinsman is my protector.**" A Hebrew who wandered in the wilderness with Moses. He had no sons to receive his property and carry on his name, so his daughters pled with Moses to receive a share of inheritance following his death (Num. 26:33; 27:1-4). Despite the inheritance customs that allowed only men to own property, God led Moses to declare the daughters eligible (27:6-7). The only stipulation was that the women had to marry within their own tribe (36:5-9).
2. **Primogeniture:** The right of the firstborn to inherit the headship of the family, carrying with it certain property rights and usually such titles as those of the high-priesthood or kingship. The writings of the Hebrews take for granted the recognition of a doctrine of primogeniture from the earliest times.
- 3.