

Jesus' Janus Parallelism on PETROS in Matthew 16:18

written by Alfred Persson | November 5, 2021

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In **Matthew 16 18** Simon Peter's name in Greek is *Petros*. According to Oscar Cullmann, Dalman, Billerbeck[1] to name a few, in Jesus' day there was in Aramaic a Jewish proper name[2] meaning "firstborn" that when transliterated into Greek is spelled *petros*. . According to Markus Bockmuehl its currency has been confirmed[3]. I propose the NT evidence

shows this Aramaic *Petros* homonym in Matthew 16:18 exists in Double Entendre using both the Aramaic *Petros-Firstborn* and Greek *Petros-stone* meanings in a *Janus Parallelism*.

In the Palestinian Aramaic version *Evangeliarium Hierosolymitanum* **Matthew 16:18 reads:**

“thou art petros and on this kepha I shall build.”[4]

Kepha is not repeated twice as hypothetical versions of Jesus’ Aramaic suppose.

EVANGELIARIUM HIEROSOLYMITANUM

*Mention may be made here of another Syriac version of the New Testament, the so-called Jerusalem or Palestinian Syriac (Syrhr or Syrhier). This version, hitherto known almost solely from an Evangeliarium in the Vatican of the year 1030, was edited by Count Miniscalchi Erizzo at Verona in 1861–4, and an excellent edition was published in 1892 in Bibliothecae Syriacae a Paulo de Lagarde collectae quae ad philologiam sacram pertinent. And now not only have two fresh manuscripts of this Evangeliarium been discovered on Mount Sinai by J. R. Harris and Mrs. Lewis, and edited by Mrs. Lewis and Mrs. Gibson, but fragments of the Acts and Pauline Epistles have also been found and published, as well as portions of the Old Testament and other Church literature. **The dialect in which these fragments are written is quite different from ordinary Syriac, and may, perhaps, bear a close resemblance to that in which Jesus spoke to His disciples.**”—Nestle, E. (1901). Introduction to the Textual Criticism of the Greek New Testament. (pp. 102–103). London; New York; Edinburgh; Oxford: Williams and Norgate.*

The NT data supports this ancient independent [5] Aramaic text of Christ’s speech if indeed He didn’t speak this particular saying in Greek. It elegantly resolves the alleged “imprecision” of the *petros petra* juxtaposition. [6] **Contrary to scholarly consensus Matthew 16:18 is inauthentic, i.e., the creation of a latter Christian editor; our Greek text is divinely elegant, the best possible translation that conveys the precise *Janus Parallelism* our LORD intended.** It be the later Aramaic versions that incorrectly retranslated the Aramaic *Petros* as *Kepha* because they were laboring under the same *hasty generalization fallacy* of the early Church believing it was the Greek *Petros*. [7]

Our LORD Jesus crafted an asymmetric Janus Parallelism[8] double entendre on the Aramaic/Greek *Petros* homonym using both “first, firstborn” and “kepha stone” meanings combined with a *Qal Wahomer*[9] “lesser to greater” analogy using the Greek words for “stone” and “Rock” *petros* and *petra*.

Transliterated the Aramaic *Petros* becomes a homonym with the Greek *Petros* just like the Hebrew and Aramaic *bath* become the homonym *batos*[10] in Greek. The early Greek speaking church naturally mistook *petros* as Greek

for “stone” and “confirmation bias” has maintained that *hasty generalization fallacy* ever since, despite all the confusion it has caused.

Both the *Janus* and *Qal Wahomer* fit details in the New Testament so perfectly its elegance cannot be denied. *Elegance of this magnitude is characteristic of a sound explanation of the phenomena-correct exegesis:* Matthew 10:2 calls Simon the “First” (See #1 below). John 1:42 use of *petros* and not *lithos* points to Mt. 16:18 (See #2 below); Mark’s uses of the names *Simon* and *Petros* indicates a massive shift to *Petros* after the Matthew 16:18 event (See #3 below); In Galatians [TR] Paul’s switching from *Petros* to *Cephas* and back again to *Petros* is consistent with dual meanings of *Petros* (See #4 below); Romans 10:6-13 is clearly dependent upon Peter being saved in Matthew 16:16-17 (See #5 below); John 20:31 is clearly dependent upon Matthew 16:16-17 (See #6 below). Paul’s allusion to Peter’s faithlessness in 2 Timothy 2:18 implies Peter was saved in Matthew 16:16-17 (See #8 below); The Greek has Jesus speaking TO Peter ABOUT the female Rock, consistent with the Janus (See #9 below); The clear dependency of 1 Peter 2:2-6 on the *Janus* and *Qal Wahomer* in Matthew 16:18 (See #10 below).

Let’s review the classic theory:

“From the beginning it was probably thought of as the Greek equivalent of the Aramaic כֶּפֶס=Κηφᾶς: J 1:42; confer Mt 16:18”- *A Greek-English Lexicon Of The New Testament And Other Early Christian Literature*, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1979), p. 654

The common noun *petros* in Job 30:6 Septuagint translates *kepha* (03710 כֶּפֶס keph).

But the supposition John is translating proper nouns in John 1:42 is a *hasty generalization fallacy*, unhistorically deeming the common nouns *kepha* and Greek *petros* in John 1:42 as proper nouns. The data indicates these became proper nouns later.

However, even if new research contradicts this conclusion (cf. Chrys C. Caragounis, *Peter and the Rock*, (Walter de Gruyter, Berlin, New York, 1990) pp. 9-25.) it does not render the exegesis unsound as both *kepha* and *petros* are used as common nouns in John 1:42 and Mark 3:16 in description. For clarity, I will refer to these as common nouns.

John’s transliteration of *kepha* as Κηφᾶς certainly is a translation. He then explains a *kepha* is a *petros* “stone” in Greek:

“Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation (2059 ἐρμηνεύω hermeneuo), A stone.” (Jn. 1:42 KJV)

If we permit John’s use of 2059 ἐρμηνεύω hermeneuo guide us, John is “interpreting” the meaning of Κηφᾶς (Jn. 1:38, 42; 9:7, not translating it as *petros* (cp. Jn. 1:41 3177 μεθερμηνεύω methermeneuo).

Consistent with both *kepha* and *petros* being common nouns, a translation does not explain what it denotes.

Supporting this Mark groups the epithet *petros* with *boanerges* when nicknaming Simon, James and John:

16 And Simon he surnamed (2007 ἐπιτίθημι *epitithemi*) Peter (πέτρος *petros*);
17 And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed (2007 ἐπιτίθημι *epitithemi*) them Boanerges (βοανηργές *boanerges*), which is, The sons of thunder: (Mk. 3:16-17 KJV)

The same *epitithemi* applies to both, the meaning of these nicknames are added to Simon, James and John. They are not additional proper names.

Therefore, the line connecting John 1:42 and Matthew 16:18 is not from *Cephas/Petros* to *Petros* as proper names, its from *kepha petros* to *petros* as common nouns with Jesus adding *stone* meaning to סֵפֶת, the Aramaic proper name *Petros* Simon already had before he met Jesus:

18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter Petros, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.
19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. (Matt. 4:18-19 KJV)

40 One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's (Petros) brother.
41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.
42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone (petros). (Jn. 1:40-42 KJV)

The Janus in Matthew 16:18 is using BOTH the Aramaic and Greek meanings of the homonym, pivoting on the Aramaic proper name סֵפֶת and Greek *petros* meanings.

Looking back Jesus plays upon the “firstborn” meaning of סֵפֶת *Petros* has become actual, the PeTeR (06363 סֵפֶת) has become the *first* πρῶτος born of the gospel He is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Then pivoting forward in *Qal Wahomer* “light to heavy” analogy between *petros* (kepha-stone) *petra* (rock-mass), Simon is now a smaller version of the massive life giving *petra* having drunk the spiritual drink from the *petra* rock about Christ (cp. 1 Cor. 10:4). Out of “the PeTeR” now flows rivers of living water, speaking the “word of faith” Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God” which if anyone confess publicly, saves them (Rom. 10:9-11; Mt. 10:32; Jo. 20:31).

Peter has become the “first” “lively stone” of the church, who in

temporal finite realm will be saved after Jesus’ resurrection (2 Pet. 2:5; Mt. 16:18-19) as the channel of God’s grace comes into existence as Jesus rises from the dead. But from God’s timeless perspective, Simon was “born again” at that time and his relationship with God changed, therefore Christ gives him a new name, a composite name that shows both Aramaic “firstborn” and Greek “stone” meanings have achieved actuality.

Jesus surnamed Simon *petros* and said to Simon “upon this rock (4073 πέτρα *petra*) [you just confessed] I will build my church.” Matt. 16:18 KJV)

Consistent with this, ancient interpreters believed the rock was ‘this specific point of faith that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God, and upon it Jesus will build His church.’

The Greek speaking Church had lost all knowledge of the Aramaic פֶּטְרוֹס *Petros* That unique Palestinian Aramaic speaking Jewish culture was lost to the Greek speaking church when the Romans dispersed the children of Israel and those knowing it died off. So when they read פֶּטְרוֹס *petros* “stone” in the NT they naturally assumed it was the Greek word for “stone”.

Therefore, all rejection of the text as inauthentic because the *kepha petros petra* wordplay hypothesis results in ambiguity and metaphor incoherence, is unsound. What should be rejected is the hypothesis.

Moreover, it requires a suspension of disbelief a Petrine Party editor—too stupid to simply write PETROS twice or delete the demonstrative pronoun declaring “upon you I will build my church” was smart enough to corrupt every available Bible version on earth.

Confirming the pericope is authentic beyond all reasonable doubt, the Matthew 16:16-19 the event is woven in the very fabric of scripture. For example:

πρῶτος Σίμων ὁ λεγόμενος Πέτρος (Mt. 10:2)

First Simon the one called Peter=*Petros firstborn*. (Compare Billerbeck op. cit.)

4413 πρῶτος *protos*
Meaning: 1) first in time or place – Strong’s Concordance

Protos is not part of a numbering system as no second or third listed. Simon is “the first [in time], the one called “firstborn” [of the Gospel of Christ] from whose belly now flows rivers of living water. Peter’s confession is unique, the direct result of Divine Revelation to him and Jesus confirms this event is special declaring in a Makarism how blessed Peter is (Mt. 16:17)

16. And Simon Peter answered and said, *Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*

17. And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not (ἀποκαλύπτω) revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.** (Matt. 16:16-17 KJV)

Compare the special divine revelation leading to Peter receiving the keys to the kingdom (Mt. 16:19) and Paul's empowerment to preach to the heathen:

15. But **when it pleased God**, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,
16. **To (ἀποκαλύπτω) reveal his Son in me**, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: (Gal. 1:15-16 KJV)

Why was God's revelation of Jesus as "the Christ" superior to that of flesh and blood? Human origin does not bring about the new birth. We see that in Matthew 14:24-33, the confession was from human fear (Mk. 4:40-41). Nathanael's confession human awe (Jo. 1:48-50). Flesh and blood did not reveal Christ in such a way as to change the individual, as it had with Peter. A Makarism indicates paradoxical reversal in circumstance (**3107 μακάριος** makarios, cp. Mt. 5:3-11).

"Simon was now *Barjona*, retaining the Aramaic *βαρ* is Matthew's way of drawing attention to this. In contrast, its Greek when referring to his literal father Σὺ εἶ Σίμων ὁ υἱὸς Ἰωνᾶ. Simon is "after the order of" prophet Jonah" doing as he, having figuratively rose from the dead preaching divine revelation (Jonah 2:1-3:1), which if any believe will be saved (Rom. 10:5-13).

Protos cannot refer to Simon's primacy among the apostles as they were still arguing among themselves who was the greatest after the Matthew 16:18 event Mk. 8:29 cf. Mk. 9:34.

Hence, Peter not the "leader" of the group.

Suggestions it means "first among equals" is meaningless tripe.

The parsimonous reason: Simon is first born because of his publicly confessing the Word of Faith (Rom. 10:9-11) and THAT is why Jesus declares him "blessed," the reversal in his status had begun.

2. "All NT passages using λίθος which are extant in the various Syriac sources, are uniformly rendered with ܠܝܬܗܐ , apart from 'mill-stone', which has a special term in Syriac, ܠܝܬܗܐ ܡܝܠܝܢ ."-Chrys C. Caragounis, Peter and the Rock, (Berlin, NY, Walter de Gruyter, 1990) p. 32.

This indirect evidence of the Aramaic Christ spoke raises the question why John chose *petros* and not *lithos* to denote *kepha*. The most likely reason is allusion to the Janus parallelism on the *petros* homonym in Matthew 16:18.

3. Mark's usage of the names *Simon* and *Petros* confirm the time of Simon's surnaming (Mark 3:16) is at Matthew 16:18.

Simon appears in Mark 1:16, 29, 30, 36 and in Mark 3:16 where *Petros Peter* makes its first appearance, categorizing it with the epithet *Boanerges*. *Petros* makes another appearance in Mark 5:37 where Peter's place among Christ's inner circle was relevant (cf. Mk. 14:33). Except when quoting Christ in Mark 14:37, *Simon* doesn't appear again. Consistent with Simon being surnamed *petros* during Matthew 16:18 event in Mark 8:29 we read "But who do you say that I am?" *Petros Peter* answered "You are the Christ". Then a burst of *Petros* references- (Mark 8:32-33; 9:2,5; 10:28; 11:21; 13:3; 14:29, 33, 37, 54, 66-67, 70, 72; 16:7).

This indicates Jesus put upon (ἐπιτίθημι) the Aramaic *Petros* the Greek meaning of *kepha petros* "stone" at Matthew 16:18. Peter's new name indicated a new relationship in Christ and Mark accordingly begins using it instead of *Simon*.

4. In Galatians [TR] Paul switches from *Petros* (Gal. 1:18; 2:7, 8) to *Cephas* then reverts back to *Petros* (Gal. 2:11, 14) without explaining why. He is listed with two others, James the half brother of the Lord Jesus, and John the disciple whom Jesus loved (John 19:26; 20:2; 21:20). *Cephas* emphasizes Peter's special place just as it does in 1 Corinthians 9:5 "the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas." Paul is astonished Cephas who is among the inner circle of the LORD's apostles, First to drink the grace of God, first to open the door to the Gentiles (Ac. 10:34-35) channeling the living water from massive *petra* Rock that is Christ, to the world—was now so gracelessly a fountain of bile separating himself his fellow Priests in the Royal priesthood.

Therefore, Paul's use of *Cephas* indicates what Paul was visualizing as he wrote, from what he had fallen.

5. Romans 10:6-13 is clearly dependent upon the Matthew 16:16-17 event. Paul speaks of Christ being brought down from heaven and the "word of faith" appearing "even in thy mouth" which is precisely what happened to Peter. The Father divinely revealed Christ's identity and the belief and words appeared in the heart and mouth of Peter (Mt. 16:16-17). Confessing "the Lord Jesus" then is confessing Jesus is "the Christ, the Son of the living God" (cf. Jo. 20:31).

6. "But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." (Jn. 20:31 KJV) Implicit is the Matthew 16:16-19 event where the church is built by believing the *petra* life giving Rock truth He is the Christ the Son of the Living God and upon that belief/public confession the church is built one soul at a time.

7. One must be consistent and follow Christ's lead interpreting the symbols in Matthew 16:16-19 precisely as Jesus did in the wise man parable Matthew 7:24-25. Nothing pertinent to the "apples to apples"

usage of these symbols contradicts that conclusion: 1. Jesus' Divine revelation "These sayings of mine" = Father's divine revelation "Jesus is 'the Christ the Son of God'"; 2. "built his house" = "build my church"; 3. "he built house upon a *petra* rock" = "upon this *petra* rock I will build my church"; 4. "rain...floods...winds beat upon that house and it fell not" = "Gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Some object Matthew 7:24-25 is prophecy. That isn't pertinent to Christ's parallel use of symbol. Also, its clearly wrong as the text is Sermon on the Mount classic two-way Genre (cp. Dt. 30:19). That is how Paul understood it when he reworked the material in Ephesians 6:10-16: 1. "built his upon rock" = "be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might"; 2. "rain...floods...winds" = "spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places"; 3. "it fell not" = "extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one"; 4. "built...upon a *petra*" = "stand firm".

It is consistent we interpret the symbols in Matthew 16:16-19 precisely as Jesus set up Matthew 7:24-25 because Jesus is our only infallible Teaching Authority Mt. 23:8.

8 In 2 Timothy 2:18 Paul alludes to Peter's faithlessness denying Christ thrice (Mt. 26:34, 69-75; Jo. 21:15-17) implies Peter was saved before his denials (Mt. 16:17) as Paul concludes with the *eternal security* of the believer: "If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself. (2 Tim. 2:13 KJV)".

9. Both the grammar and metaphor of Matthew 16:18 (καὶ ἐπὶ ταύτῃ τῇ πέτρᾳ) exclude Peter, the demonstrative has Jesus speaking TO Simon ABOUT this the female *petra* rock. Neither Peter who is called Satan a few verses later (Mt. 16:23) or his confession which he thrice contradicted (Mt. 26:34, 69-75) are "rock like" consistent with the rock metaphor. One can watch a rock their entire life, it won't change.

Both Peter and his confession changed. The only thing "rock like" in this context is the unchanging divine revelation of God the Eternal Son, that He is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Only that unchanging divine truth the Gates of Hell cannot prevail against can be the *petra* from which flows the "spiritual drink" (cf. 1 Cor. 10:4) giving life to the church and so building it "one soul at a time."

10. The obvious dependency of 1 Peter 2:2-6 on the Matthew 16:16-19 the Janus and Qal Wahomer. Peter is speaking to "newborn babes" who have "tasted" the living water of the Lord, and now are "lively stones." Note the Aramaic *kepha* and Greek *petros* *petra* are now *lithos* whether he refers to Christ or the church.

In conclusion, the Asymmetric Janus Parallelism Christ crafted in Matthew 16:18 and which Matthew faithfully preserves restores precision to grammar, syntax and metaphor used. In a word, the text's elegance is restored, its expert weave radiates into the fabric of the NT itself. That is sufficient proof this exegesis is true to the data.

The inelegance manifest in the scholarly consensus making Peter the rock ultimately results in rejecting the context as inauthentic, sufficient proof it is the theory that should be rejected.

Its poorly made, I apologize in advance for the deficiencies in production.

Another Janus in the NT?

Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six. (Rev. 13:18 KJV)

The children of Adonikam, six hundred sixty and six. (Ezr. 2:13) KJV
The children of Adonikam, six hundred threescore and seven. (Neh. 7:18) KJV

John’s riddle is an OT style Janus parallelism:

This type of parallelism hinges on the use of a single word with two different meanings, one of which forms a parallel with what precedes and the other with what follows. Thus, by virtue of a double entendre, the parallelism faces in both directions. Berlin, A. (1992). Parallelism. In D. N. Freedman (Ed.), The Anchor Yale Bible Dictionary (Vol. 5, p. 157). New York: Doubleday.

Whether we “interpret the apposition” with 666 or count forward “as with pebbles”

667-1= 666, 666 points to the same man with the same name “Adonikam”.

There is need for shrewdness here: anyone clever may interpret the number of the beast: (Rev. 13:18 NJB) [11]

John accepted both Ezra 2:13 and Nehemiah 7:18 are correct, therefore he deduced both father and son are named “Adonikam.”

666 is where the Janus pivots, using the two senses of “count” (5585 ψηφίζω psephizo), “interpret”. [12]

“Interpret” the name from the “number OF a man” :

Looking back, we interpret Adonikam’s 666 children make that number OF him.

“Count as with pebbles” to the name who has the “number OF the beast”:

Looking forward, the same Adonikam has the number OF the Beast, 667-1=666 counting from Father Adonikam to firstborn son Adonikam.

Whether we “interpret the apposition” with 666 or count forward “as with pebbles”

667-1= 666, 666 points to the same man with the same name “Adonikam”.

Therefore, name of the Beast = Adonikam.

ENDNOTES

[1]That there was in Aramaic a proper name Petros (H. L. Strack and P. Billerbeck, Kommentar zum NT aus Talmud und Midrasch, 1922 ff., I, 530) which perhaps meant “firstborn” (J. Levy, Neuhebräisches und chaldäisches Wörterbuch über die Talmudim und Midraschim, 1876 f., new imp. 1924, sub voce, פֶּטְרוֹס; Gustav Dalman, Aramäisch-neuhebräisches Wörterbuch, 1901, sub voce) might have influenced the preference for Petros, but this is by no means certain.” -Oscar Cullmann, Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, VI, 101 Footnote 8; Grand Rapids, MI 1968: Eerdmans.

[2]*Petros as a Jewish Name?*

But it remains desirable to ask what Jewish dimensions, if any, this name is likely to have had. And is it conceivable that even the Greek name could have featured in a Hebrew or Aramaic source? It is after all only John 1:42 which, on a certain reading, might be taken to suggest that ‘Peter’ is a *secondary translation* of an existing name *Kēfa’*. It is instructive to note, however, that two verses earlier the evangelist seems to undermine even this conventional assumption of the priority of ‘Cephas’ by referring casually to ‘Simon Peter’ (1:40). Taken at face value, the text implies that it is this Simon, nicknamed Petros, who from now on ‘shall be called Cephas’. All four gospels, indeed, allow for the possibility that Matthew 16 merely affirms and interprets in Aramaic an existing Greek nickname that Peter had all along...See Mark 3:16; Matt. 4:18; Luke 5:8; John 1:40, 42.”- Bockmuehl, Markus. 2004. *Simon Peter’s Names in Jewish Sources*. Journal of Jewish Studies) Vol. 55, p.71

[3] “The currency of Peter’s name is confirmed in Tal Ilan’s identification of three additional first and second-century Palestinian Jewish individuals who bear the name Petros. It is worth noting that the Palestinian Talmud and midrashim repeatedly feature an early Amoraic Rabbi Yose ben Petros, whose father constitutes proof that even this Greek name was by no means unknown in the early rabbinic period.”- Bockmuehl, Markus. 2004. *Simon Peter’s Names in Jewish Sources*. Journal of Jewish Studies 55:71-72

[4] Chrys C. Caragounis, *Peter and the Rock*, (Walter de Gruyter, Berlin, New York, 1990) pp. 34.

[5]The Palestinian version *Evangeliarium Hierosolymitanum* is “independent of other Syriac Versions”-(Chyrs C. Caragounis, *Peter And The Rock*

(Walter de Gruyter, NY, 1990, p. 34).

[6] Citing Aramaic and Syriac evidence Caragounis rejects *kepha* underlies *petros* *petra* in Mt. 16:18 (Chrys C. Caragounis, *Peter and the Rock*, (Walter de Gruyter, Berlin, New York, 1990) pp. 26-43). He argues פֶּטְרוֹס and פֶּטְרָא are just as likely beneath the Greek. However, his evidence for פֶּטְרוֹס appears flawed, he disputes Cullmann: “the Aramaic פֶּטְרוֹס [mount,mountain-Jastrow] corresponds more to the Heb. צֶהָר [Hebrew 02022 צֶהָר, hill, mountain]” rejecting correspondence to 06697 צֶהָר tsuwr (*rock cliff, rocky wall*) concluding as the “Targumin abstain from using פֶּטְרוֹס for פֶּטְרוֹס indicates that פֶּטְרוֹס could not cover semantically the meaning of פֶּטְרוֹס .-Op. cit. pp. 28-29. However, Jastrow agrees with Cullmann.-Jastrow, M. (1903). *A Dictionary of the Targumim, the Talmud Babli and Yerushalmi, and the Midrashic Literature and II* (London; New York: Luzac & Co.; G. P. Putnam’s Sons.), Vol. 1, p. 526. The association is clear. The evidence its not *kepha* twice is unaffected by this flaw. A better candidate is the Aramaic/Greek homonym *petros*. That conclusion manifests maximum parsimony.

[7]

14...There was, on the contrary, as already mentioned (note 12), an Aramaic name פֶּטְרוֹס (Petros), which perhaps is to be connected with פָּטָר (patar) “firstborn.” The theory that the Greek Petros was first derived from it and gave occasion for a false retranslation *Kepha* into Aramaic is quite impossible, in view of the fact that in Paul’s letters *Cephas* is already the usual designation and *Peter* clearly was only a derivation from it.”-PETER Disciple-Apostle-Martyr, by Oscar Cullmann, translated from the German by Floyd V. Filson (Westminister Press, Philadelphia, 1953), pp18-19.

Cullmann’s argument is unhistorical. Apart from John 1:42, the chronological appearance of Peter and Cephas suggests two different people, not derivation. Especially the switch from Peter (Gal. 2:7-8) to Cephas (Gal. 2:9, 11, 14). Cephas appearing after James (Gal. 3:9) is consistent with that thesis. Therefore, Cullmanns argument is unsound.

Given my preference for the “Received Text”, Cullmann’s argument remains unhistorical. Galatians (AD 49-50) written five years before 1 Corinthians *Petros* is the usual designation (Gal. 1:18; 2:7, 8, 11, 14) and *Cephas* appears only in 2:9 [TR]. By then Cephas had assumed a subordinate position to James (Ac. 15:13) which explains being listed after James. Paul’s use of Cephas no doubt was inspired by his astonishment “the Cephas” “lively stone”, the one who first channeled God’s grace to the Gentiles (Ac. 10:48) was now secreting the bile of sectarianism (Gal. 2:11-14).

Unfortunately, the precise *false retranslation hypothesis* Cullmann

rejects is unknown to me, but he failed to make a valid case against the premise. *False retranslation* of the transliterated Aramaic *Petros* would predict many of the anomalies in Syriac translations noted by Caragounis (Chyrs C. Caragounis, *Peter And The Rock* (Walter de Gruyter, NY, 1990, pp. 30-43). It would be odd indeed translators do otherwise, given the universal *hasty generalization* of ܡܬܪܫܐ with *petros* “stone”.

[8] **Janus Parallelism.** This type of parallelism hinges on the use of a single word with two different meanings, one of which forms a parallel with what precedes and the other with what follows. Thus, by virtue of a double entendre, the parallelism faces in both directions. Berlin, A. (1992). Parallelism. In D. N. Freedman (Ed.), *The Anchor Yale Bible Dictionary* (Vol. 5, p. 157). New York: Doubleday.

Not poetry only: Christensen, D. “*Janus Parallelism in Genesis 6:3,*” *Hebrew Studies* 27 (1986) 20–24. Also scroll down to bottom of this post, for the near Janus in Revelation 13:18.

[9] That is, using the logic of a rabbinic “light to heavy” *qal wahomer* argument: You are *Cephas/kepha/petros/lithos* “lively stone” out of whose belly flows rivers of living water because you drank from the massive *petra* Rock of Christ spiritual drink that has given you eternal life.

[10] The Aramaic name Petros ܡܬܪܫܐ is a homonym of Greek πέτρος when transliterated just like the Hebrew BATH (01324 1 ܒܬܐ Ki 7:26, 38 & c.) and Aramaic BATH (01325 ܒܬܐ Ezra 7:22) are spelled the same when these are transliterated: βάτος (943, Lk. 16:6); βάτος (942, Mk 12:26; Lk 6:44; 20:37).

[11] Here is wisdom (4678 σοφία sophia). Let him that hath understanding (3563 νοῦς nous) let him count * 5585 ψηφίζω psephizo) the number of the beast.

Its the same “wisdom...understanding/mind” combination in Rev. 17:9 where critically thinking on the symbols given is required. That cannot occur without Holy Scripture, the book of Daniel:

And here is the mind (3563 νοῦς nous) which hath wisdom(4678 σοφία sophia). (Rev. 17:9 KJV)

Hence the New Jerusalem Bible nails it:

There is need for shrewdness here: anyone clever may interpret the number of the beast: (Rev. 13:18 NJB)

Wisdom is cleverness, shrewdness, the ability to look critically at a problem and see it from various perspectives and discern the wisest way

to proceed:

Since the LXX normally uses σοφία/σοφός for the Hbr. stem סָפָא, in essentials this alone need be considered. The verb סָפַק occurs 26 times (q 18, pi 3, pu 2, hi 1, hitp 2), סָפָא as adj. or noun occurs 135 times, the noun 147 סָפָא times and in the plur. 485 סָפָא times. 73 instances are in the historical books (, (39 סָפָא ,31 סָפָא ,3 סָפָא 41 in the prophets (13 , (16 סָפָא ,24 סָפָא ,1 סָפָא in the Psalms (סָפָא 180 86, (7 סָפָא ,2 סָפָא ,4 in the Wisdom lit. proper (סָפָא ,18 סָפָא 87, (86 סָפָא ,76 and 5 in the other books. Thus about three-fifths of the total may be found in the Wisdom books. It is worth noting that in the historical books the words mostly denote technical or artistic ability or cleverness and knowledge such as the wisdom of Solomon.- Wilckens, U., & Fohrer, G. (1964–). σοφία, σοφός, σοφίζω. G. Kittel, G. W. Bromiley, & G. Friedrich (Eds.), Theological dictionary of the New Testament (electronic ed., Vol. 7, p. 476). Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans.

[12]ψηφίζω...

ψ to add up digits and calculate a total, count (up), calculate, reckon (lit. ‘w. pebbles’) ...

ψ to probe a number for its meaning, interpret, figure out τὸν ἀριθμὸν τοῦ θηρίου Rv 13:18.- TW.-Arndt, W., Danker, F. W., Bauer, W., & Gingrich, F. W. (2000). A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament and other early Christian literature (3rd ed., p. 1098). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Adonikam is the Name of the Beast having 666 meaning
The Asymmetric Janus Parallelism in Daniel 11:35
Riddle of Armageddon Meaning Solved: Solution Hiding in Plain Sight
Save Family and Friends using the keys of the Kingdom: Mt 16:18
What did the apostle John reveal when he said: “It is the last hour”?
Where Is The Judgment Of Fallen Angels?
Where Is The Judgment Of Fallen Angels?
The Coming False Christ and His Followers Revealed

Save Family and Friends using the keys of the Kingdom: Mt 16:18

written by Alfred Persson | November 5, 2021



From the perspective of timeless eternal God (Is. 57:15. 2 Pet. 3:8) Simon was “born again” when he confessed Jesus “is the Christ the Son of the living God (Mt. 16:16; 10:32; Rom. 10:8-9). Those truths are the **keys of the kingdom**.

Jesus confirms this declaring Simon has been wonderfully “blessed” then likening him to the prophet Jonah who figuratively rose from the dead preaching divine revelation (Mt. 16:18-19; Eph. 2:5; Col. 3:1; Rom. 6:4; Jonah 2:1-3:2) Jesus often saw analogies to the prophet Jonah (Mt. 12:39-40; 16:4). Matthew draws attention to this choosing not to translate the Aramaic “Barjona” (ܒܪܝܢܐ), whereas John did when referring to Simon’s literal father (John 1:42 Σίμων ὁ υἱὸς Ἰωάννα).

Keys open doors (Jdg. 3:25; Is. 22:22; Lk. 11:52; Rv. 1:18; 3:7; 9:1; 20:1), Jesus is the door into the kingdom (Jo. 10:7-9; 14:6)—therefore the twin truths “Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God” (Mt. 16:16) are the precise “keys of the kingdom”.

Jesus put into the future giving these keys to Peter (Mt. 16:19) because they didn’t exist at that time. They would come into existence in the future as Jesus rose from the dead (1 Co. 15:21-22. 1 Pet. 3:21).

These keys are part of the channel of God’s grace therefore receiving them is a function of becoming part of that channel of living water (life) to the world, flowing from Christ the *petra/lithos* (1 Cor. 10:4. 1 Pet. 2:2-7).

As Simon is the “Cephas” “first” (Mt. 10:2) of the “lively stones... of the royal priesthood” (1 Pt. 2:5) from whose bellies would flow the same spiritual drink of Christ (Jo. 7:38. 1 Co. 10:4), he prefigures them. Just as Peter received the keys when he became part of the channel of God’s grace, so do all believers. The “binding and loosing” authority must be independent of these keys as they are not mentioned in connection with it in Matthew 18:18-18.

As promised, you have learned the precise knowledge opening the way into heaven and can easily lead family and friends into God’s presence and eternal life. When they believe and confess publicly the LORD Jesus, He confesses them to His Father in heaven and they are saved (Mt. 10:32; Rom. 10:8-13).

Moreover, Matthew 16:16-19 illustrates salvation by grace alone, through faith alone (Eph. 2:5-8). Also Peter illustrates “eternal security”, his denying Christ thrice (Mt. 26:34, 69-75) didn’t cause him to lose his salvation.

Paul alludes to Peter’s example when teaching the eternal security of believers:

If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself. (2 Tim. 2:13 KJV)

These amazing facts became known in Matthew 16:16-19 where our LORD revealed precisely how He would build His church one soul at a time upon that *petra* rock of unchanging life giving truth.

When the Roman Empire destroyed the nation of Israel, knowledge of the precise pivot word Jesus used to illustrate how He would build the church was lost. That unique Palestinian Hebrew and Aramaic Christ and His disciples spoke became unknown to the Greek speaking church. It wasn’t long before their confusion about this context led to sectarian disputes cloaking the Matthew 16:18 event under reams of dispute and controversy about Peter and the Rock.

This writing restores the elegant message Jesus Christ our LORD—YHWH God the Eternal Son Second Person of the Holy Trinity, who was made flesh and walked among us and we beheld His Glory, full of grace and truth—gave to the Church.

ALL who call upon His Name He is the Christ the Son of the Living God as Peter did, believing in their heart and confessing Him publicly WILL BE SAVED (Rom. 10:9-13; Mt. 10:32).

The Aramaic Greek *petros* confirms this:

The Aramaic name Petros ܡܬܪܫܐ is a homonym of Greek πέτρος when transliterated just like the Hebrew BATH (01324 1 ܡܬܪܫܐ Ki 7:26, 38 & c.) and Aramaic BATH (01325 ܡܬܪܫܐ Ezra 7:22) are spelled the same when these are transliterated: βάτος (943, Lk. 16:6); βάτος (942, Mk 12:26; Lk 6:44; 20:37).

Knowledge of this homonym was lost to the church when that unique Aramaic dialect Christ and His disciples spoke was destroyed with the Jewish nation by the Roman Empire. That has caused controversy over the meaning of Matthew 16:18.

This writing restores the original intent of our LORD when He expertly crafted this double entendre on PETROS which we today call a:

Janus Parallelism. This type of parallelism hinges on the use of a single word with two different meanings, one of which forms a parallel with what precedes and the other with what follows. Thus, by virtue of a double entendre, the parallelism faces in both directions. Berlin, A. (1992). Parallelism. In D. N. Freedman (Ed.), The Anchor Yale Bible Dictionary (Vol. 5, p. 157). New York: Doubleday.

Early interpreters thought Peter’s name PETROS was Greek only. They didn’t know in the days of Jesus an Aramaic name ” ܡܬܪܫܐ Peter” when transliterated into Greek becomes πέτρος. Greek speaking Christians unfamiliar with Palestinian Aramaic naturally thought it was Greek “petros” meaning stone.

Proof the homonym exists:

That there was in Aramaic a proper name Petros (H. L. Strack and P. Billerbeck, Kommentar zum NT aus Talmud und Midrasch, 1922 ff., I, 530) which perhaps meant “firstborn” (J. Levy, Neuhebräisches und chaldäisches Wörterbuch über die Talmudim und Midraschim, 1876 f., new imp. 1924, sub voce, ܡܬܪܫܐ; Gustav Dalman, Aramäisch-neuhebräisches Wörterbuch, 1901, sub voce) might have influenced the preference for Petros, but this is by no means certain.” -Oscar Cullmann, Theological Dictionary of the New Testament, VI, 101 Footnote 8; Grand Rapids, MI 1968: Eerdmans.

“The currency of Peter’s name is confirmed in Tal Ilan’s identification

of three additional first and second-century Palestinian Jewish individuals who bear the name Petros. It is worth noting that the Palestinian Talmud and midrashim repeatedly feature an early Amoraic Rabbi Yose ben Petros, whose father constitutes proof that even this Greek name was by no means unknown in the early rabbinic period.”- Bockmuehl, Markus. 2004. *Simon Peter’s Names in Jewish Sources*. *Journal of Jewish Studies* 55:71-72

Note the presumption its Greek, precisely what this writing rejects.

The Aramaic *petros* ܡܬܪܝܐ is connected to the Hebrew ܡܬܪܐ *PaTaR* (Strong’s 06362) from which ܡܬܪܐܐ *PeTeR* (Strong’s 06363) meaning “first”, “firstborn” is derived. (cf. Oscar Cullmann, *PETER*, Westminster Press, Philadelphia 1953, p. 19.)

Its existence is certain. Petros ܡܬܪܝܐ exists in Aramaic texts like the Peshitta (Ac. 1:13. 1 Pt. 1:1. 2 Pt. 1:1; Old Syriac Jn. 1:42), the Three Curetonian Epistles, Saint Ephraim’s Refutations and the Colophons.

The Palestinian version *Evangeliarium Hierosolymitanum* is “independent of other Syriac Versions”-(Chyrs C. Caragounis, *Peter And The Rock* (Walter de Gruyter, NY, 1990, p. 34). There *Petros* appears in Matthew 16:18: “thou art *petros* and on this *kepha* I shall build.” -Chyrs C. Caragounis (op. cit. pp. 34-37).

Many assume this *Petros* is transliterated Greek, but if this independent Palestinian version is closest to the Aramaic Christ and His disciples spoke (Agnes S. Lewis, Margaret D. Gibson, Friedrich Schulthess op. cit. pp. 38-39) then its the Aramaic *Petros* ܡܬܪܝܐ homonym.

The 13th Century Sefer Nitsahon calls Peter “petar chamor”, “firstborn ass” making a pun on his Aramaic name PETROS.

πρῶτος Σίμων ὁ λεγόμενος Πέτρος (Matt. 10:2)
“First Simon the one called Firstborn” (Compare Billerbeck op. cit.)

Petros as a Jewish Name?

But it remains desirable to ask what Jewish dimensions, if any, this name is likely to have had. And is it conceivable that even the Greek name could have featured in a Hebrew or Aramaic source? It is after all only John 1:42 which, on a certain reading, might be taken to suggest that ‘Peter’ is a secondary translation of an existing name Kēfa’. It is instructive to note, however, that two verses earlier the evangelist seems to undermine even this conventional assumption of the priority of ‘Cephas’ by referring casually to ‘Simon Peter’ (1:40). Taken at face value, the text implies that it is this Simon, nicknamed Petros, who from now on ‘shall be called Cephas’. All four gospels, indeed, allow for the possibility that Matthew 16 merely affirms and interprets in Aramaic an existing Greek nickname that Peter had all along...See Mark 3:16; Matt. 4:18; Luke 5:8; John 1:40, 42.”- (Bockmuehl, Markus op.

Or, interprets an existing Aramaic name *petros* Simon already had adding to it the Greek *petros* “stone” meaning to begin the fulfillment of John 1:42 “You will be called Cephas.”

Let’s review the classic theory:

“From the beginning it was probably thought of as the Greek equivalent of the Aramaic כֶּפֶס=Κηφᾶς: J 1:42; confer Mt 16:18”- *A Greek-English Lexicon Of The New Testament And Other Early Christian Literature*, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1979), p. 654

The common noun *petros* in Job 30:6 Septuagint translates *kepha* (03710 כֶּפֶס keph).

But the supposition John is translating proper nouns in John 1:42 is a *hasty generalization fallacy*, unhistorically deeming the common nouns *kepha* and Greek *petros* in John 1:42 as proper nouns. They became proper nouns later.

In support, John’s transliteration of *kepha* as Κηφᾶς certainly is a translation. He then explains a *kepha* is a *petros* “stone” in Greek:

“Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation (2059 ἐρμηνεύω hermeneuo), A stone.” (Jn. 1:42 KJV)

If we permit John’s use of 2059 ἐρμηνεύω hermeneuo guide us, John is “interpreting” the meaning of Κηφᾶς (Jn. 1:38, 42; 9:7), not translating it as *petros* (cp. Jn. 1:41 3177 μεθερμηνεύω methermeneuo).

Consistent with both *kepha* and *petros* being common nouns, a translation does not explain what it denotes.

Supporting this Mark groups the epithet *petros* with *boanerges* when nicknaming Simon, James and John:

16 And Simon he surnamed (2007 ἐπιτίθημι *epitithemi*) Peter (πέτρος *petros*);

17 And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed (2007 ἐπιτίθημι *epitithemi*) them Boanerges (βοανηργές *boanerges*), which is, The sons of thunder: (Mk. 3:16-17 KJV)

The the same *epitithemi* applies to both, the meaning of these nicknames are added to Simon, James and John. The nicknames denote something about them that is true.

So *Petros* in Matthew 16:18 is the Aramaic *Petros* proper noun to which Jesus is adding the Greek *petros* common noun meaning.

So this is where it gets complex. We are dealing with a homonym in Matthew 16:18 which in effect is BOTH a proper noun and a common noun.

THE connecting line from John 1:42 to Matthew 16:18, is not to Cephas as a proper name, its to *petros* as a *kepha* common noun which meaning Jesus added to the Aramaic proper name in His Janus Parallelism.

Let’s walk through it:

The Aramaic *petros* is a proper name Simon had before he met Jesus (Mt. 4:18; Jo. 1:40).

When Jesus surnamed Simon *petros* in Mt. 16:18, he was adding the common noun *petros* meaning of “Cephas Stone.”

Jesus crafted a Janus Parallelism using the homonym *petros*. It’s the pivot word, looking back its the Aramaic proper name *petros* meaning “firstborn”, looking forward it’s the Greek common noun *petros* meaning “stone.”

Mark’s usage of the names *Simon* and *Petros* confirm the time of Simon’s surnaming (Mark 3:16) is at Matthew 16:18.

Simon appears in Mark 1:16, 29, 30, 36 and in Mark 3:16 where *Petros Peter* makes its first appearance, categorizing it with the epithet *Boanerges*. *Petros* makes another appearance in Mark 5:37 where Peter’s place among Christ’s inner circle was relevant (cf. Mk. 14:33). Except when quoting Christ in Mark 14:37, *Simon* doesn’t appear again. Consistent with Simon being surnamed *petros* during Matthew 16:18 event in Mark 8:29 we read “But who do you say that I am?” *Petros Peter* answered “You are the Christ”. Then a burst of *Petros* references- (Mark 8:32-33; 9:2,5; 10:28; 11:21; 13:3; 14:29, 33, 37, 54, 66-67, 70, 72; 16:7).

This indicates Jesus put upon (ἐπιτίθημι) the Aramaic *Petros* the Greek meaning of *kepha petros* “stone” at Matthew 16:18. Peter’s new name indicated a new relationship in Christ and Mark accordingly begins using it instead of *Simon*.

To be clear, while BOTH are names today we must keep the historical progression to interpret correctly. It does not appear either the Aramaic *kepha* or the Greek *petros* were used as Proper Names in the Palestinian Aramaic and Greek Christ and His disciples spoke. Evidently the distribution of the NT Greek text is what established these as proper names later.

However, as the NT indicates Jesus and John used them as common nouns it really doesn’t affect this exegesis if additional data proves they were common and proper nouns at that time. (cf. Chrys C. Caragounis, *Peter and the Rock*, (Walter de Gruyter, Berlin, New York, 1990) pp. 9-25.

When Christ spoke John 1:42 and Matthew 16:18, Simon already had the Aramaic ܫܡܝܢ which in Greek appears as *petros* .

18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter (Petros), and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the

sea: for they were fishers.

19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.
(Matt. 4:18-19 KJV)

40 One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's (Petros) brother.

41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone (petros). (Jn. 1:40-42 KJV)

In Matthew 16:18 Jesus is using BOTH the Aramaic and Greek meanings, pivoting on the Aramaic proper name ܫܡܝܢ *petros* to say Simon is the "first" born of the gospel He is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

Then pivoting forward in *Qal Wahomer* lesser to greater analogy Christ points to the *petros kepha* who has now become a lesser version of the massive life giving *petra* rock that is Christ (1 Cor. 10:4), having drunk of the living water out of "the PeTeR" is flowing rivers of living water, revealing the "word of faith" Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God" which if anyone confess publicly, will save him (Rom. 10:9-11; Mt. 10:32; Jo. 20:31). Peter has become the "first" "lively stone" of the church, who in temporal finite realm will be saved after Jesus' resurrection (2 Pet. 2:5; Mt. 16:18-19) as the channel of God's grace comes into existence as Jesus rises from the dead. But from God's timeless perspective, Simon was "born again" at that time and his relationship with God changed, therefore Christ gives him a new name, a composite name that shows both Aramaic "firstborn" and Greek "kepha stone" meanings have achieved actuality.

Jesus surnamed Simon *petros* and said to Simon "upon this rock (4073 πέτρα *petra*) [you just confessed] I will build my church." (Matt. 16:18 KJV)

Consistent with this, the most ancient interpretation found in the early church fathers is "upon this specific point of faith that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the living God, Jesus built His church."

However, the Greek speaking Church had lost all knowledge of the Aramaic ܫܡܝܢ *Petros* That unique Palestinian Aramaic speaking Jewish culture was lost to the Greek speaking church when the Romans dispersed the children of Israel and those knowing it died off. So when they read ܫܡܝܢ *petros* "stone" in the NT they naturally assumed it was the Greek word for "stone".

Scholars who faithlessly reject this context as authentic are without excuse. Their theory a Petrine Party editor (too stupid to simply write PETROS twice or delete the demonstrative pronoun, yet smart enough to corrupt every available Bible version on earth) is absurd to say the least. Ignoring all the contradiction to the theory is odd, perhaps malicious.

Confirming the pericope is authentic beyond all reasonable doubt, the Matthew 16:16-19 event is woven in the very fabric of scripture. For example:

- 1) Matthew 16:16-19. πρῶτος Σίμων ὁ λεγόμενος Πέτρος (Matt. 10:2) First Simon the one called Peter *Petros* “firstborn”. Hence first in all the apostolic lists (Mt. 10:2-4; Mk. 3:16-19; Lk. 13-16; Ac. 1:13 □□□□□□ Peshitta)
- 2) The use of the *petros* in John (1:42);
- 3) The phenomena the usage of *petros* in Mark after the Matthew 16:18 event;
- 4) Paul’s switch from *Petros* to *Cephas* in Galatians 2:9;
- 5) The clear dependency of the Romans 10:6-13 on the Matthew 16:16-19 context;
- 6) John’s allusion to Matthew 16:16-19 building the church on the specific point of Jesus’ identity in John 20:31);
- 7) The soundness of interpreting Matthew 16:18-19 precisely as our infallible teacher Jesus set up the Sermon on the mount illustration of the wise man building upon the unchanging *petra* truth of Christ’s sayings so the forces of nature could not prevail against that house (Matthew 7:24-25);
- 8) Paul’s allusion to Peter when teaching the eternal security of the believer.
- 9) The demonstrative feminine pronoun “this” has Jesus speaking TO Peter ABOUT “her” the female rock so he cannot be the antecedent.
- 10) The parallels between this event and 1 Peter 2:2-6.
- 11) The Aramaic “Barjona” was retained by Matthew to allude to the Jonah analogy Jesus was referring to which confirms Simon was born again at that time, preaching the divine revelation of God which gives life to the world.

More details:

- 1) πρῶτος Σίμων ὁ λεγόμενος Πέτρος (Matt. 10:2)
“First Simon the one called Firstborn” (Compare Billerbeck op. cit.)
4413 πρῶτος protos {pro’-tos}
Meaning: 1) first in time or place – Strong’s Concordance

Protos is not part of a numbering system as no second or third listed. Simon is “the first [in time], the one called “firstborn” [of the Gospel of Christ] from whose belly now flows rivers of living water. Peter’s confession is unique, the direct result of Divine Revelation and the only one to elicit a Makarism blessing from Jesus (Mt. 16:17 cf. Jo. 1:48-48; Mt. 14:33). *Protos* cannot refer to Simon’s primacy among the apostles as they were still arguing among themselves who was the greatest after the Matthew 16:18 event (Mk. 8:29 cf. Mk. 9:34). That also rules out Peter as “leader” of the group. Suggestions it means “first among equals” seem desperate groping for a reason. The parsimonious reason Simon is first to be born again by the public confession of the Word of Faith and THAT is

why Jesus declares him “blessed.”

2) “All NT passages using λίθος which are extent in the various Syriac sources, are uniformly rendered with ܡܠܬܐ , apart from ‘mill-stone’, which has a special term in Syriac, ܡܠܬܐ ܡܠܬܐ .”-Chrys C. Caragounis, *Peter and the Rock*, (Berlin, NY, Walter de Gruyter, 1990) p. 32. This indirect evidence of the Aramaic Christ spoke raises the question why John chose *petros* and not *lithos* to denote *kepha*. The most likely reason is allusion to the Janus parallelism on the *petros* homonym in Matthew 16:18.

3) Mark’s usage of the names *Simon* and *Petros* confirm the time of Simon’s surnaming (Mark 3:16) is at Matthew 16:18.

Simon appears in Mark 1:16, 29, 30, 36 and in Mark 3:16 where *Petros* *Peter* makes its first appearance, categorizing it with the epithet *Boanerges*. *Petros* makes another appearance in Mark 5:37 where Peter’s place among Christ’s inner circle was relevant (cf. Mk. 14:33). Except when quoting Christ in Mark 14:37, *Simon* doesn’t appear again. Consistent with Simon being surnamed *petros* during Matthew 16:18 event in Mark 8:29 we read “But who do you say that I am?” *Petros* *Peter* answered “You are the Christ”. Then a burst of *Petros* references- (Mark 8:32-33; 9:2,5; 10:28; 11:21; 13:3; 14:29, 33, 37, 54, 66-67, 70, 72; 16:7).

This indicates Jesus put upon (ἐπιτίθημι) the Aramaic *Petros* the Greek meaning of *kepha petros* “stone” at Matthew 16:18. Peter’s new name indicated a new relationship in Christ and Mark accordingly begins using it instead of *Simon*.

The precise wording necessary for the Janus Parallelism and Qal Wahomer is the best explanation why the other gospel writers leave it to Matthew to recount.

4) In Galatians [TR] Paul switches from *Petros* (Gal. 1:18; 2:7, 8) to *Cephas* then reverts back to *Petros* (Gal. 2:11, 14) without explaining why. He is listed with two others, James the half brother of the Lord Jesus, and John the disciple whom Jesus loved (John 19:26; 20:2; 21:20). *Cephas* emphasizes Peter’s special place just as it does in 1 Corinthians 9:5 “the other apostles, the brothers of the Lord, and Cephas.” Paul is astonished Cephas who is among the inner circle of the LORD’s apostles, First to drink the grace of God, first to open the door to the Gentiles (Ac. 10:34-35) channeling the living water from massive *petra* Rock that is Christ, to the world—was now so gracelessly a fountain of bile separating himself his fellow Priests in the Royal priesthood. Hence Paul’s use of Cephas offers insight into what Paul was visualizing as he writes about Peter, from what he had fallen.

KJV Gal. 1:18 Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to see Peter, and abode with him fifteen days.

KJV Gal. 2:7 But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as the gospel of the circumcision

was unto Peter;

KJV Gal. 2:8 (For he that wrought effectually in Peter to the apostleship of the circumcision, the same was mighty in me toward the Gentiles:)

KJV Gal 2:9 And when James, Cephas, and John, who seemed to be pillars, perceived the grace that was given unto me, they gave to me and Barnabas the right hands of fellowship; that we should go unto the heathen, and they unto the circumcision.

KJV Gal. 2:11 But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed.

KJV Gal. 2:14 But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews?

5) Romans 10:6-13 is clearly dependent upon the Matthew 16:16-19 event. Paul speaks of Christ being brought down from heaven and the “word of faith” appearing “even in thy mouth” which is precisely what happened to Peter. The Father divinely revealed Christ’s identity and the belief and words appeared in the heart and mouth of Peter (Mt. 16:16-17). Confessing “the Lord Jesus” then is confessing Jesus is “the Christ, the Son of the living God” (cf. Jo. 20:31).

6) “But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.” (Jn. 20:31 KJV) Implicit is the Matthew 16:16-19 event where the church is built by believing the *petra* life giving Rock truth He is the Christ the Son of the Living God and upon that belief/public confession the church is built one soul at a time.

7) One must interpret Matthew 16:16-19 precisely as Jesus interpreted the wise man parable in Matthew 7:24-25 as these are “apple to apple” contexts sharing symbols in common: 1) Jesus’ Divine revelation “These sayings of mine”, Father’s divine revelation “Jesus is ‘the Christ the Son of God’”; 2) “built his house”, “build my church”; 3) “built his house upon a *petra* rock”, “upon this *petra* rock I will build my church”; 4) “rain...floods...winds beat upon that house and it fell not”, “Gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

Although some interpret the Matthew 7:24-25 prophetically its Sermon on the mount teaching using classic two-way Genre (cf. Dt. 30:19) and is taken as such by Paul who reworked the material in Ephesians 6:10-16 thusly: “built his upon rock”, “be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might”; “rain...floods...winds”, “spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places”; “it fell not”, “extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one”; “built...upon a *petra*”, “stand firm”.

Its consistent we interpret the symbols in Matthew 16:16-19 precisely as Jesus set up Matthew 7:24-25, He is our infallible Teaching Authority (Mt. 23:8).

8) Paul's allusion to Peter's denying Christ thrice (Mt. 26:34, 69-75; Jo. 21:15-17) requires Peter was saved before his denials (Mt. 16:17) to illustrate the *eternal security* of the believer: "If we believe not, yet he abideth faithful: he cannot deny himself. (2 Tim. 2:13 KJV)".

9) Both the grammar and metaphor of Matthew 16:18 (καὶ ἐπὶ ταύτῃ τῇ πέτρᾳ) exclude Peter, the demonstrative has Jesus speaking TO Simon ABOUT this the female *petra* rock. Neither Peter who is called Satan a few verses later (Mt. 16:23) or his confession which he thrice contradicted (Mt. 26:34, 69-75) are "rock like" consistent with the rock metaphor. One can watch a rock their entire life, it won't change. Both Peter and his confession changed. The only thing "rock like" in this context is the unchanging divine revelation of God the Eternal Son, that He is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Only that unchanging divine truth the Gates of Hell cannot prevail against can be the *petra* from which flows the "spiritual drink" (cf. 1 Cor. 10:4) giving life to the church and so building it "one soul at a time."

10) The obvious dependency of the 1 Peter 2:2-6 on the Matthew 16:16-19 event. Peter is speaking to "newborn babes" who have "tasted" the living water of the Lord, and now are "lively stones." Its clear from the usage of the Aramaic *kepha* and the Greek *lithos petros* and the usage of *lithos* to refer to both Christ (the *petra*) and the church that in this regard they are all synonyms.

11) Just as Simon identified Jesus, so now Jesus identifies Simon, He is the Firstborn of the gospel of Christ. In full Makarism declares Simon son *bar* of Jonah, that is "after the order" of Jonah the prophet. Just as Christ saw analogy to His coming death to Jonah's time in the belly of a great fish (Mt. 12:40-41) so now he sees in Simon another analogy to Jonah. Just as he rose up from figurative hell being vomited out onto dry land, and then went and preached the divine revelation of God (which if any man will believe and confess would save him, cf. Jonah 2:1-3:10)—so also Simon is now the preaching the *petra* truth upon which all who believe can have life (John 20:31).

In conclusion, the Asymmetric Janus Parallelism Christ crafted in Matthew 16:18 and which Matthew faithfully preserves restores precision to grammar, syntax and metaphor used. In a word, the text's elegance is restored, its expert weave radiates into the fabric of the NT itself. That is sufficient proof this exegesis is true to the data.

The inelegance manifest in the scholarly consensus which ultimately trashes the context as inauthentic, is sufficient proof God is not speaking through it.

END NOTE

Everything I write is "copy left". If citing, please be accurate. Attribution delineates what is not mine and subject to copyright law.

SDS Abby Hoffman authored a book entitled ***Steal This Book.***

As a former radical turned “Jesus freak”, its among the few sentiments of his I still agree with.

Wanting to share with others is not stealing, its sharing. However, if you have any hesitation, don’t worry—you have my permission to share with all you will.

In the name of Jesus Christ our LORD the Eternal Son of God made flesh, Second Person of the Holy Trinity, I pray you and yours have peace and prosper. Marantha:

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.
21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.
22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. (Rev. 3:20-22 KJV)

Jesus Preached to the Dead

God’s Plan for the Lost

Lazarus and the Rich Man: Can the Rich Man Repent and be Saved?

Preaching to the Dead (Postmortem Evangelism)

What did the apostle John reveal when he said: “It is the last hour”?

Where Is The Judgment Of Fallen Angels?

The Coming False Christ and His Followers Revealed