

*Do not accept a child before the age
of six but beginning at six take them and
stuff them with Torah like an ox.*

Talmud

*Above all else we pride ourselves
on the education of our children.*

Josephus Against Apion

May you be covered
in the dust
of your rabbi.

Mishnah

Bet Sefar

- . Ages 5-10
- . Memorize Torah
- . Boys and Girls
- . Usually a local rabbi (synagogue)

Bet Talmud

- . Ages 10-14
- . Memorize Psalms, Prophets, rest of Old Testament
- . Usually only boys
- . Learn the art of Questions and Answers

Bet Midrash

- Ages 14+
- Boys only
- Apply to a rabbinical school (Yoke)
- Best of the Best

Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus poses two questions.

First question: Who do people say ...?

Answers:

- John the Baptist - killed by Herod Matthew 14:1-12
- Elijah - predicted in Malachi 4:5-6
- Jeremiah - Jewish tradition from 2 Maccabees 2:4-8
legend had it that he had hidden the tabernacle, the ark, and altar of incense in a cave and would come to reveal it at "the right time"
- One of the other prophets
- The Prophet - Deuteronomy 18:15,18

Notice that no one is saying He is the Messiah. Apparently Jesus did not match their expectations!

Second Question: What about you? (refocusing)

Who do you say that I am?

Answer: You are the Christ the Son of the living God!

- Peter identifies Jesus as the Messiah
- Peter identifies Jesus as divine
- Emphasis in Greek of definite article 4x

You are the Christ, the Son, of the God, the living One

Key words in the passage

A. On this rock petra verses petros

Three views

- Peter is the rock Ephesians 2:20
- Peters confession is the rock
- Christ is the rock Matthew 7:25 and 21:42

Some helps

- petros means pebble or small loose stone
- petra means bedrock or cliff
- Peters own view 1 Peter 2:4-8

Isaiah 28:16

Psalms 118:22

Isaiah 8:14

Deuteronomy 32:31

B. church - ecclesia

a well used word in Jesus day

- Hebrews used it to describe themselves as God's select people
- Greeks used it to refer to an assembly of freemen
- Caesar used it to refer to town or city of freemen loyal to him
- Jesus used it to refer to His own assembly of believers

C. binding and loosing

refers to a rabbi's interpretation of the text

- binding was forbidding and loosing was permitting
- came from a rabbi who taught with authority ; such a rabbi would say things like "You have heard it said ... but I tell you ..."
- when a rabbi gave his disciples the authority to bind and loose he was said to be giving them the "keys to the kingdom" and this was the responsibility of a scribe not a priest. They were to be His teachers and consistent with heavens directives. Matthew 13:52
- these participles are in the perfect passive which means it has already occurred and has effect into the future. Therefore Peter would bind and loose in the present after the church begins something that was already bound or loosed in the past and continues to remain bound or loosed by God in heaven.

So what does this all mean?

1. Jesus choose you because he knows you can do it!
2. Jesus wants us to develop into witnessing communities that are built on "the rock" using living stones (pebbles) laid down on the edge (cliff) only yards from the gates of hell.