Who Do You Say That I Am?
Seeing and Delighting in Jesus through an Expositional Journey through the **Gospel of Matthew**
171- The Father's Revelation of the Son- Part 3

Church November 15, 2026

Matthew 16:13-20
13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"
14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets."
15 He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"
16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
17 And Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.
18 I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.
19 I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."
20 Then He warned the disciples that they should tell no one that He was the Christ.

To the Glory of God the Father; God the Son;
and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Now last Time, I told you that what makes this Passage so Important- is what BOTH the Apostle Peter and the Lord Christ said here. So, the *primary* Issue that the Apostle Matthew wanted to address- as he was "moved" by God the Holy Spirit to write this Book- is:

WHO is Jesus?

… but the *secondary* Issue is:

WHO do <u>WE</u> say Jesus is?

… the *third* Issue is:

On WHAT/WHO is Jesus building His Church?

… while the *fourth* Issue is: WHAT did Jesus mean when He said,

"… I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it."?

… and those are the four Issues I'm covering in this small mini-series on **Matthew 16**.

Now last Time, we saw that back in the 1st Century, in Israel- "Messianic Fervor" was at an all-Time High. And from nearly the 2nd Century BC- to that very Day as Jesus was talking with His Disciples- there had already been numerous people, who rose up- claiming to be the Messiah; who had gathered hundreds of other Jews together to engage the occupying Roman Army- to remove them from the Land that God gave to them.

And one-by- one- they had ALL failed! And while Rome was already planning to bring about "Total War" against that "vassal State"- the Jewish people knew that God was "moving" and something radical, dramatic, and earthshaking was about to occur. And several well- known Rabbis at that Time- began to teach that Old Testament Prophets like Jeremiah; or Elijah; or even Daniel were going to rise up and lead the Jews to Victory. And I also showed you where in the Old Testament they made that Connection.

And so, as more and more people began to acknowledge that Jesus was the Messiah- they began to equate the Lord with one of those Prophets. And so, when Jesus asked the Disciples,

Who do people say that the Son of Man is?

… they replied,

Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.

… and of course, the ONLY Reason they said that- was because they had been deceived and led astray by the Scribes and Pharisees.
… but then Jesus turned to the Men He had chosen out of the larger Group of "Followers" and He asked them,

"But who do <u>you</u> say that I am?"

We have to understand, that while *many* of the Jews, who were following Jesus around- receiving His Healing; His Feeding; His Miracles; and having demons cast out of them- that *many* of them were saved. They had believed in Jesus and they had been saved. And that was, indeed, a glorious Miracle.

But Jesus had called those Men- the Disciples- the Apostles- to be saved- yes! But because those Men were saved- when Jesus ascended back into Heaven- they would then NOT simply build Buildings- they would *establish* Christianity; set up the Church on the Earth; and they would serve as the "*finishing part*" of the very "Foundation" of both Christianity as well as the Church! Please look at **Ephesians 2:14-22:**

14 For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,
15 by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace,
16 and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.
17 AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR;
18 for through Him we both have our access in one Spirit to the Father.
19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household,
20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone,
21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord,
22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Now this Passage has to do with just HOW- both the "chosen ones", who operated under the partial Revelation of God (the Old Covenant/Law of Moses), who were, *primarily*, Jews AND the "chosen ones", who will operate under the final, full, and completed Revelation of God (the New Covenant), who will be *primarily* Gentiles, can now become ONE!

And this goes back to the unpopular Truth that there is ONLY one, single Religion revealed in ALL 66 Books of the Holy Bible. It is very common today to hear people talk about how "*Judaism*" is in the Old Testament while "*Christianity*" is in the New. Or they will refer to a "*Judeo-Christian Ethic or Morality*" that *dominates* Western Civilization. But that is utter Nonsense.

What you have in the Bible is the worship of the one, true, and living God under the *partial* Revelation in the 39 Books of the Old Testament (Covenant); AND the worship of the very SAME one, true, and living God- under the *final, full, and completed* Revelation- in the 27 Books of the New! It is the SAME God! And ALL that changed is that the Revelation of God became MORE Precise; MORE Clear; and FULFILLED!

So, as a Result of God Almighty taking on human Flesh; and as a Result of that God/Man:

1. Loving His Father- *perfectly*
2. Loving His Neighbor as Himself- *perfectly*

… Jesus obeyed ALL of the Tenets and Commandments and Statutes and Ordinances of the Old Covenant (the Law of Moses)- which means Jesus lived perfectly Sinless- in EVERY Aspect- for 33-1/2 Years!

And in doing that- Jesus *earned* spotless Righteousness! And that meant that the ENTIRETY of the *partial* Revelation of the Law of Moses or the Old Covenant was totally and completely FULFILLED! And now that the Old Covenant has been fulfilled, **Hebrew 8:13** says,

When He said, "A new covenant," He has made the first obsolete. But whatever is becoming obsolete and growing old is ready to disappear.

And because that is True; AND because God didn't stop with that *inferior* Covenant- but, through Jesus, brought about an infinitely *superior* Covenant; based on infinitely *superior* Promises; sealed with an infinitely *superior* Sacrifice; offered by an infinitely *superior* High Priest- EVERYONE WHO BELIEVES IN JESUS (Jew or Gentile) now
has Access to the Father so, all of them may be "**reconciled to God**"! (**Romans 5:10; 2Corinthioans 5:20**)

And so, in the glorious New Covenant- God the Holy Spirit sovereignly *unveils* the Minds of unworthy Rebels (BOTH Jews and Gentiles)- who are then "made Able" to "see" or "behold" the very "*Shekinah Glory*" of God! **2Corinthians 4:4b; 5&6** says,

… the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as

Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, "Light shall shine out of darkness," is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

So, it is in, by, and through us "*seeing*" this supreme Revelation of God- in Christ- that…

- ALL our Sins are Forgiven
- The Righteousness of Jesus is imputed to us
- We are made "Fit for Heaven"
- We are *indwelled* and *empowered* by God the Holy Spirit to *continue* to believe; *continue* to repent; *continue* to hope; *continue* to change; *continue* to obey; and to *continue* to love

… and that is True with BOTH Jews and Gentiles!

But then, in **Ephesians 2:14,** the Apostle *infallibly* wrote,

For He Himself [Jesus] **is our peace, who made <u>both groups</u>** [Jews and Gentiles] **into <u>one</u> and <u>broke down the barrier of the dividing wall</u>,**

But just HOW did Jesus "**break down the Barrier of the "Dividing Wall**"?

by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He might <u>make the two into one new man</u>, thus establishing peace, (Ephesians 2:15)

… and WHAT will be the Result of Jesus doing all this? Paul said that Jesus…
… might [will] **reconcile them <u>both</u> in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.**

And then, to *verify* that this was ALWAYS God's Plan, from the very Beginning- Paul then quoted from both **Isaiah 52:7** as well as **Isaiah 57:14-21** when he wrote,

AND HE CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR;

… where the "**PEACE**" God preached *represents* "*Peace with God*"- meaning we have been "forgiven" of ALL Sin and we have been made "fit for Heaven"! And

where the ones, who were "**FAR AWAY**" *represent* the Gentiles; and the ones, who were "**NEAR**" represent the Jews! And that's when the Apostle said,

for through Him [Jesus] **<u>we both</u>** [Jews and Gentiles] **have our access in <u>one</u> Spirit to the Father.**

… and so, what is the Conclusion to the Matter?

So then you [believing Gentiles] **are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints** [believing Jews**], and are of God's household** [the one, holy, universal, apostolic Church]**, having been built on the <u>foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone</u>, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. (Ephesians 2:19-22)**

Now please notice that the Apostle wrote- that, through Jesus, the *believing* Gentiles are **no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints** [believing Jews**], and are of God's household** [the one, holy, universal, apostolic Church]! And then Paul said the Church is

… built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone

Now in most all ancient Literature- the Group or Person who is listed FIRST- is either the most Important or the one that the Writer wants to give Attention to. And in **Ephesians 2:20** Paul listed the Apostles FIRST- even though the Prophets operated *before* them! And that shows that the Apostles *completed or finished* what the Prophets *began*.

Yet Paul did NOT *eliminate* the Old Testament Prophets from the Discussion. He is simply saying that the New Testament Apostles *finished* what the Old Testament Prophets *started*!

And this is the Logic that was used by the Leaders of the visible Church- over 1800 years ago- when they were debating about whether we even need the Old Testament any longer. But as they carefully examined this Passage in **Ephesians**- they saw that if they didn't include the complete Old Testament in the "*Canon of sacred Scripture*"- then the New Testament Scriptures and the Christian Church- would *lose* half of its Foundation!

So, the Foundation of the Church and Christianity is BOTH the Old Testament Prophets- which represents the 39 Books of the Old Covenant AND the

New Testament Apostles- which represents the 27 Books of the New Covenant. So, the Foundation is what the Old Testament Prophets and New Testament Apostles wrote down in Scripture- as God the Holy Spirit "moved" upon them.

And then Paul wrote that Jesus is the one, sure "Foundation" or the "*Corner Stone*" that *undergirds* BOTH the OT Prophets as well as the NT Apostles. And that means that Jesus is the Corner Stone of the entire 66 Books of the Holy Bible!

But this Passage is NOT talking about just the *physical* Men. It is also NOT referring to any Office or Position or Status that a Man may have in what they call a "Church". In this Passage- the "Prophets" simply *represent* how God was partially revealed to Man under the Old Covenant- which is the 39 Books of the OT. And the Apostles simply *represent* how God has been finally and fully and completely revealed to Man in the 27 Books of the NT! Okay! Now please look at what the unknown Writer said in **Hebrews 1:1&2:**

1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways,
2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things through whom also He made the world.

So, "long ago" the one, true, and living God spoke TO the "Old Testament Fathers" **IN** the Prophets. So, the Prophets were the Vehicles; the Mediators, under the Old Covenant, by which God's Word came to the "Jewish Fathers" that we now have preserved in the 39 Books of the OT.

But then "**in these last days**"- which means the Timeframe in which the Man, who wrote the **Epistle to the Hebrews** was alive- this very SAME one, true, and living God has spoken to those Men who were chosen to write the 27 Books of the NT **IN** the "incarnate Christ"; "God's Son"; "Yahweh with a Body"- "Jesus, the Christ"! So, the Writer said:

1. The OT Prophets= the 39 Books of the Old Testament
2. The NT Apostles= the 27 Books of the New Testament

… which is WHY we need BOTH the Old and New Testaments!

But because the Apostles *represent* Jesus Himself- that makes them and what they wrote to be *superior* to the Prophets and what they wrote! And THAT is WHY the Apostles come *before* the Prophets as the two parts of the "Foundation" of the Church! So, the Apostles are *superior* because Jesus is *superior*!

Now in the remainder of **Hebrews 1** (verses 3-14)- the Writer quotes from **Psalm 2:7; 2Samuel 7:14; 1Chronicles 17:13; Deuteronomy 32:43; Psalm 97:7; Psalm 104:4; Psalm 45:6&7; Psalm 102:25-27**; and **Psalm 110:1** to prove to his

original Jewish Readers that it has ALWAYS been True that Jesus is infinitely *superior* to the Angels. But WHY did this Writer go to such lengths to prove that?

This Book *begins* by the Writer telling the Reader that the Revelation of the New Covenant in Jesus is the final, full, and completed Revelation of God to Man- because it comes directly from Jesus and NOT the Prophets! But what does that have to do with Jesus being superior to the Angels? **Galatians 3:19** says,

Why the Law [of Moses- the Old Covenant] **then? It was added because of transgressions, <u>having been ordained through angels</u> by <u>the agency of a mediator</u>** [Prophets]**, until the seed would come to whom the promise had been made** [Jesus]**.**

So, the Law of Moses or the Old Covenant was "**ordained through angels"** through or by **"the agency of a mediator"-** which was the Prophets. But the Mediator of the New Covenant (and the 27 Books of the NT) is JESUS! And the rest of **Hebrews 1** says that Jesus is infinitely *superior* to the Angels! So, the NT Books finish what the OT Books began! And that is WHY the Apostles are *superior* to the Prophets.

But because Paul said that Jesus was the "Corner Stone" of the ENTIRE Foundation- that shows us that Jesus is also the "Corner Stone" of the OT Prophets! And that proves that the entire 66 Books of the Holy Bible teach about only ONE Religion- where Jesus Himself is the Highest and the Best Glory!

So, the ultimate Goal was *always* Jesus! And so, EVERYTHING in the Old Testament Books were written to bring the Jew to Jesus! And EVERYTHING in the New Testament Books were written to bring BOTH the Jews AND the Gentiles to Jesus! Because BOTH the OT Jews as well as the NT Gentiles MUST come to Jesus! And that means that NEITHER Prophets nor the Apostles are the Highest or the Best! Because BOTH the Old Testament Prophets as well as the New Testament Apostles *worship* Jesus! And Angels worship Jesus! And ALL of Humanity will bow before Jesus- because He is Lord! The Lost WILL bow- because they will be *forced* to bow! But those whom God has saved; and who love what both the Prophets and the Apostles infallibly wrote- we bow- because He has changed us! And so, we *delight* to bow before Him!

Now the ONLY Difference between the Prophets and the Apostles is that the Prophets loved and served and obeyed and followed Jesus- from a Distance- in Shadows; Types; Symbols; and Figures. While the Apostles *saw* God's Glory- Jesus Christ- with their natural Eyes- because Immanuel was HERE! And so, those Men *literally* touched the incarnate God; And they listened to the God/Man as His Lips moved; and they physically and literally walked with Yahweh with a Body!

And this is WHY it is such a horrible Insult; a Degradation; and a Sin- for *anyone* to equate Jesus with one of the Old Testament Prophets! And as much as

some wish to make themselves feel better because they *imagine* they are giving Jesus a Compliment- they aren't!

Because as great as they were- the Prophets were ALL Sinners, who *needed* Grace. But Jesus is perfectly Sinless and the One who *dispenses* Grace! They were called by God to do what they did. But Jesus IS the God, who called them! The Prophets ALL needed Salvation. Jesus IS the Salvation. The Prophets were part of God's House- but Jesus IS the House!

But then, in **Matthew 16:15**- Jesus looked at the Disciples and asked,

But who do <u>you</u> say that I am?

… which is the $64,000 Big Kahuna Question of all Questions.

Now it is very Common to hear Protestant Leaders say that Peter was simply *another* Apostle- just "one among several others". And then they always teach that ALL of the Apostles were on the same Level. But that is simply NOT True. The Apostles belonged to three different Groups.

Group 1: <u>Peter</u>, James, John, Andrew
Group 2: <u>Philip</u>, Bartholomew (Nathaniel), Matthew, Thomas
Group 3: <u>James</u> the Less (son of Alphaeus), Simon the Zealot, Judas (Thaddaeus) son of James, Judas Iscariot

… and the *first* Name in each Group signified the Leader and Spokesman of that Group; while Peter was the unquestioned Leader of them ALL.

But what is also True, that far too many People want to either *ignore or minimize*- is that each Group differed in their "Closeness" or their "Intimacy" with Jesus. Group 1 was the MOST Intimate with Jesus and were the ones who were always found either right with Jesus or close at hand. And Peter, James, and John were, by far, Closer to Jesus and were allowed Access to Jesus far more often than even Andrew- even though he was in Group 1.

But even though it is NOT True- People try to portray the Apostles as basically being all the Same. And they do that- so as to make a clear Distinction between what the Bible actually says and what Rome teaches.

But that is a terrible Mistake. Because we should want what the Bible *actually says*- infinitely MORE than we want to *disprove* what somebody else is teaching. Because if what somebody or some Group

teaches about a particular Subject- is True- if it is Biblical- then our Response should simply be, "*Amen!*"- even if those People or that Group are dead Wrong about other things.

I have joined hands, many Times, with both Catholics and Mormons- two Groups I passionately *disagree* with- in order to help stop Abortion on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. But as I grasped their hand- I told them- *"You may protest Abortion with me; you may fight against this great Evil with me; and you may even go to Jail with me- if we get arrested. But you will NOT be in Heaven with me!"*

We Protestants love to talk about how much we admire and love and study and research God's Word. But when God's Word *confirms* or *back up* what a particular Group teaches- who are NOT Orthodox; who are NOT biblical- at best, many just *ignore* it. And some actually *minimize* or even *reject* what the Bible clearly and repeatedly says- all because they don't want to look like they are agreeing with that Cult or Group.

The Truth is that Peter was the "PROTON" of the Apostles! Peter was FIRST! In EVERY List of the Apostles, that is recorded in the Bible, Peter's Name is *always* FIRST!

Now that does NOT mean that Peter was "better" than the other Apostles; or more- spiritual; or more- godly; or that he was closer to Jesus; or that God loved Peter MORE – than the other Apostles. NO!!!

But it DOES mean that Peter was FIRST and was the *unquestioned* Leader as well as the *official* Spokesman of ALL the Apostles- at the Beginning; and maybe even until they all died!

Now the Reason I'm "crawfishing" a bit here- is because when God called Saul of Tarsus- AFTER Jesus had already ascended back into Heaven- he began to teach things that even Peter said,

… regard the patience of our Lord as salvation; just as also our beloved brother Paul, according to the wisdom given him, wrote to you, as also in all his letters, speaking in them of these things, <u>in which are some things hard to understand</u>, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction. (2Peter 3:15b&16)

… now that, by itself, does NOT mean that Paul ended up as the Leader or was holding a Position among the Apostles that was higher than Peter. But it DOES mean that Paul had so much Credibility and his Knowledge of the Old Testament and his Ability to use the Teaching of the Old Testament to prove the New- was *unsurpassed* by anyone- including Peter! And Paul himself said,

… I consider myself not in the least inferior to the most eminent apostles. (2Corinthians 11:5b)

… and while it is True that Peter saw the *transfigured* Christ- in all His Majesty; Glory; and Kingdom (**Matthew 17; Mark 9; Luke 9**)- it was Paul who said…

12 Boasting is necessary, though it is not profitable; but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord.
2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a man was caught up to the third heaven.
3 And I know how such a man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows—
4 was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak. (2Corinthians 12:1-4)

… which shows how both Visions and being "Caught Away" and seeing things that a normal Person was "not permitted to speak"- was NOT all that Unusual for Paul!

Paul is also the one, who even took Peter to task- when Peter would *ignore* the Gentile Believers when the Jewish Authorities were in Town; and then after they left- he would minister again to the Gentiles. And so, in **Galatians 2:11-14,** Paul said,

11 But when Cephas [Peter][1] **came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned.**
12 For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision.
13 The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy.
14 But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, "If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how is it that you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?"

… and, finally, Paul is the ONLY Man, in the entire Bible, besides John, who said,

Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ. (1Corinthians 11:1)

[1] "*Cephas*" came from the Aramaic Name for "Peter" (*Kefa)*- which was used interchangeably with the Greek Name, for "Peter" (*Petros:* a Rock or Stone).

… here, Paul was saying that HOW he lived his normal daily Life; as well as WHAT he believed; and WHAT he taught- was Correct and proved that he was in "Right Standing" with God. And so, if anyone wanted to be in that same "Right Standing"- they should be an Imitator of him.

Now that is an amazing Statement! But it was NOT Paul being Arrogant or Self-righteous- because it was True! Yet other than John, no other Apostle said that- *including* Peter.[2]

So, the Apostle Paul was a "once-in-a- Lifetime" Man, who was highly educated; very articulate; very gifted; and was able to understand deep and profound Truths and then explain them in such a Way that, most of the Time, even a child could understand.

And with his Pedigree and Background and his Connections- Paul *could have* been either the "High Priest" in Jerusalem or the "Emperor" in Rome! But God called him to be a despised; hated; and mocked Apostle, who suffered more intense Persecution than anyone in the Bible- besides Jesus!

And God called him to write MORE Books in the New Testament than anyone else! And in those Books- Paul explained very clearly and completely- HOW the Birth; Life; Death; Resurrection; Ascension; and the ongoing Ministry of "Ruling and Reigning" as well as interceding on behalf of the Redeemed- by Jesus- was not merely *predicted* in the Old Covenant Writings- but was always in *perfect Accord* with those Books!

Yet, when assembling the Men, who would be *part* of the Foundation of the Church- Jesus chose a Fisherman to be their Leader- the Proton; the Spokesman; a very Impulsive; Quick-tempered Man, who was NOT formally educated; and was probably Illiterate his entire Life. And though his Name in Hebrew was, "*Shimon*"- Jesus called Him
either, "*Kepa*" or "*Sim on Kepa*" or even "*Sim on Cephas*", in ancient Aramaic.

So, after hearing how Confused; and how Wrong; and how Uninformed; the Jewish People of the 1st Century were about Him- Jesus then turned to the Men He has called as His own "*Shahlia*"; His "*Messengers*"; or His "*Apostles*". And Jesus asked them, *"Who do **YOU** say I am?"* And the "*Official Spokesman and Leader of the Twelve*" said- with absolutely NO Hesitation or Apology:

"Ata hu ha-Mashiach, ben Elohim chayim"

… which was later translated in Koine Greek as,

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[2] **1John 1:3**

"Soo ey ho Khris-TOS ho hwee-OS too theh-OO too DZOHN-tos"

… and that phrase was then translated into Latin as:

Tu es Christus Filius Dei vivi

… but it wasn't until the 10th Century AD- almost 1,000 years AFTER Peter spoke those words and the Apostle wrote it in Hebrew- that Matthew's Gospel Record- along with the other three- were translated into "*Old English*" as part of the "*West Saxon Gospels*" (also known as the "*Wessex Gospels"*).

The first *printed* English Translation of the **Gospel of Matthew** from the Hebrew/Greek/Latin text- wasn't published until **1526** as part of the "*Tyndale New Testament"* by William Tyndale. And then, finally, Peter's Response in **Matthew 16:16** would read in English:

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

… which is called the "*Great Confession*"!

Peter said, *"You, Jesus, are the long-awaited Messiah that the Old Testament Prophets said would come! And that means You are also the 'Son of the living God!'"*

Yet from Adam to Peter- NO individual Jew called God, "*Father*" or that they were God's "Son". In places like **Exodus 4:22** and **Deuteronomy 32:6**- God IS called *"Father"* to Isreal in a *covenantal* or *national* Sense- but NOT in a *personal* or *individual* Sense. So, when Jesus called God, "*Father*" it was in a very *new, unique*, and *individual* Way- that NOBODY had ever done before.

Old Testament Passages like **Numbers 23:19** ("**God is not a man, that he should lie**") means that God is NOT a mortal, finite human Being. So, from the Perspective of the Jewish Leaders, a Flesh-and-Blood Man, standing in front of them, claiming *unique, shared* Divine Identity and Equality with Yahweh- *violated* everything they had ever known or believed! And so, they simply accused Jesus of Blasphemy!

But 600 years before Jesus was born the Prophet said this in **Isaiah 7:14**,

… Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel… (Isaiah 7:14b)

… and in Hebrew, the Name, "*Immanu-El*" means: *"God with us".*

So, the Promise of that Name means that God is going to "*dwell with Man"* and *"be like Man"*! So, while ALL of the false, Man-made Religions of the World teach that "*Man can become a god*"- the one, single true Religion says that "*God became a Man*"!

And so, Jesus addressed the Accusation of the Scribes and Pharisees by pointing out that the Scriptures used the title "gods" or "sons of the Most High" in a lower or *representative* Sense (such as in **Psalm 82:6**), arguing that if the inspired and infallible OT Scriptures used such Language- then their Accusation against Him- for being sent by the Father; that God was His Father and that He was the Father's Son- was Correct!

Now the Reason this matters- is because *whatever* is True- MUST NOT conflict with *everything* else that's True. And the Old Testament is True. And so, *whatever* the New Testament teaches CANNOT *violate* what the Old Testament teaches.

Now the Teaching of the New Covenant FULFILLS the Old- but it NEVER *violates* it! And that is WHY Paul and the other Writers- used Old Covenant Passages to *prove* New Covenant Truth!

And so, Jesus being God does NOT violate ANYTHING in the Old Testament! God being ONE in His Substance/Essence/ or Nature and also being eternally manifested in three distinct Persons of God the Father; God the Son; and God the Holy Spirit DOES NOT violate ANYTHING in the Old Testament! And believing Gentiles being "Fellow-Heirs" with believing Jews for the Abrahamic Covenant does NOT violate ANYTHING in the Old Testament![3] And Peter's Confession that Jesus is the Christ- the Son of the living God DOES NOT violate ANYTHING the Old Testament! And that is WHY Jesus responded to what Peter said by saying,

… "Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven. (Matthew 16:17b-19)

… which is what we will examine next Time.

Amen! Let's pray.

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[3] **Galatians 3**

Delighting in God Ministries, Inc. PO Box 147 Saucier, Mississippi 39574. www.delightingingod.life

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your Pace. *Soli Deo Gloria!* To the Glory of God alone.