



The Great Confession
Of Peter the Rock

The Great Confession

Welcome to Jesus Time where we spend time with Jesus in His time and culture.

This event is covered within all 3 of the synoptic Gospels however-

It is Matthew the former tax collector with his fine eye for detail whose rendition is the most complete. This is also Where? & When? Simon is renamed as Peter by Jesus and we learn What? the title of Christ means. The term "Christ" is not a name but a distinction/prophecy given by GOD through Moses.
(Deuteronomy 18:15-19)

As for context:

Jesus has just completed His Ministry in the Northern Gentile regions and upon His return into Galilee- He was met and confronted with a combined effort from each the Pharisees & Sadducees. After Having refuted and refusing them our Lord taking His Apostles in order to deescalate the situation then got back into the boats & again traveled across the Sea of Galilee into Gentile territory.

Jesus eternal Deity now born human often called Himself THE son of man as in I AM is now human. (Messiah/Christ)

✝ Now when Jesus came into the region 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; and still others, Jeremiah, or one of the other prophets."
Matthew 16:13-14 NASB

Caesarea Philippi is at the foot of the snow-capped Mt. Hermon where the river Jordan initiates. So, after sailing across Galilee(Tiberius) and then walking about 25 miles into the area known as Banias today- Jesus and His Apostles, then arrived in the Caesarea Philippi area which was previously renamed by Philip in honor of Caesar Augustus (Octavian) & himself as Governor. Herod the Great's Son. The very same uncle & Great uncle now husband of the deadly dancing Queen Salome of John the Baptist infamy.

Biblical scholars and Bible commentaries alike here emphasize at this place of culture crossroads where the Pagan meets the Holy- that Christ our Lord does not inform but now after a year of presenting His miracles, He finally now demands an answer from those He has appointed as His most trusted leaders: "Who do the people say that I AM?"

Our Lord's Apostles respond to Jesus's question with some people say as Herod Antipas thought that Jesus was John the Baptist restored alive. How foolish was that when John himself was testifying Jesus was Christ! While others were saying Jesus was one of the Old Testament Prophets alive in their time.

We can next imagine that awkward pause- the stillness in the air as the world faded away when the inevitable happened:

✝ He (Jesus) said to them, "But who do you yourselves say that I AM?"

Is this not the quintessential ever all-important question for us all. **Who do you say that I AM?**

✝ Continuing
Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Matthew 16:15-16 NASB

This statement of Faith by Simon/Peter has finally advanced himself including the other Apostles and likewise all those in Christ from consideration to settled conclusion.

So, who is Jesus?

The Holy one of GOD- is GOD, born in human form.

If we say Jesus is Christ our Lord when we confess and believe, then through Him we have eternal life.

(John 3:16)

Question? What does the word/title of “Christ” actually mean.

From the Websters Classic Bible Dictionary: The Anointed Messiah. (Hebrew)

As in the one and only Christ. (Greek)

In a nutshell the Torah GOD’S Word (Old Testament) details the fall of mankind into Sin.

Additionally, within this Biblical historical narrative twas GOD Himself who promised to redeem from broken humanity Who & How? Would human Sinners become GOD’S eternal family.

Did you know?

Jesus was born in the right place & time as Daniel the Prophet was told by the Arch Angel Gabriel?

Additionally, that Jesus impossibly fulfilled the Biblical Justification of regulations to be born Christ?

Say What? It goes like this:

Messiah Christ was promised to be born of King David’s lineage through his son Solomons line.

However, in time because of Sin- Solomons line was rejected by GOD in ever bringing the Messiah.

So, Israel’s elite then thought it was impossible for a true Christ to be born.

In fact; the Rabbis then thought and taught (after GOD rejected the only human line eligible to sit on King David’s Throne) that not one, but two Christ’s would now be needed. (To fulfill the many messianic prophecies)

One each of a suffering servant Joseph type and another like conquering King David.

In order to fulfill all of the different Biblical prophecy concerning Christ/Messiah.

This being Why? to this day the Jewish people still expect 2 coming Messianic figures never realizing that it is one man born human that was is & ever will be eternal Holy and Divine GOD among us coming twice.

(Why? Revelation has an antichrist & false prophet because Israel expects 2 & satan uses Israel’s expectations)

Ok long story short: (In addition to Prophecy of when and where Messiah was to be born & what He would then do)

So, Jesus’s stepfather Joseph- he was of King David’s lineage through King Solomon’s line.

Likewise, Jesus’s mother Mary- she was also of King David’s lineage through David’s son Nathan.

Get that?

Jesus has the legal Law right to King David’s eternal throne through Joseph His human stepfather.

But what about Joseph/Solomons lineage curse of being now legally cut off? (1 Kings 11) (Jeremiah 22)

As a stepson of Joseph- his eldest son, Jesus inherited all of Joseph’s legal rights but not being a blood relative of Joseph, Jesus as Christ was not blood disqualified from being King.

Meaning by Mary- His human birth mother, Jesus also has the blood right to the throne and through his stepfather Joseph Jesus has the legal right. As in what Israel thinks impossible GOD makes so.

(One Messiah, Jesus Christ of King David’s Line yet uncursed but rather Anointed = appointed by & is GOD)

✠ With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible. Matthew 19:26

After the fall of mankind in the Garden of Eden then down through the centuries the Lord spoke to people or through Angels making promises to Faithful proven historically documented individuals.

In Jesus Time Christ/Messiah GOD was to be born human to take the Sins of the world upon Himself.

As in additionally, any Sin against GOD in which all Sin is against GOD because in the end when we Sin no matter how we Sin it is GOD’S rules Law and morality that we have violated.

All Sin must and will be reckoned with. (Matthew 12:36)

GOD IS Mercy & GOD IS Love however GOD is also Just. (2Corinthians 5:10)

Meaning every attribute of GOD, we will be required to be accountable for. (Romans 14:11-12)

So, Messiah Jesus our Christ’s Grace of Pardon (Romans 4:7-8) this means Jesus takes our punishment and redeems us to GOD by His very life’s blood or no. This choice is ours.

This is Why? We need a Living Sinless Savior. (Jesus arising from the dead in His human form proves His sacrifice accepted)

Only someone (human) without Sin can atone for those in Sin & since the Messiah is GOD Himself born human- if Messiah qualifies, if Messiah is willing, only then would His sacrifice as our Christ be acceptable unto HOLY GOD to atone for our Sin. (Scripture requires death as punishment for Sin, Romans 6:23)

Continuing

✝ 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 And 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.

Matthew 16:17-18 NASB

“Church” was a term from a homily (short religious story) in Jess Time of a community of called out ones. Here we also have not only the nucleus of our Faith but including perhaps the largest misunderstanding of our Grace.

Simply put indeed Jesus did reward Simon by renaming him Peter on the spot. (Peter or Petros means rock) However, Peter the man was NOT the foundation of the Church, but rather What? Simon/Peter confessed. His belief as in the “Great Confession.”

That Jesus IS King Christ.

Messiah Divine and Lord that was & is and will be ever more. (Revelation 1:8)

This is the bedrock of our Faith.

Also, it was not unheard of nor uncommon for Jesus to rename people when they come to Faith in HIM.

Simon/Peter ~ Levi/Matthew ~ Magdalene/Watchtower ~ Saul/Paul

Get that?

Just as the Lord transform’s each person from the Soul out when Salvation is ours when we accept Jesus’s Grace of Pardon for our Sin- Then we are in Him & He is in us by the Holy Spirit.

We are Spiritually born again and restored Sinless before and to GOD the Father.

Never forget it Was the Plan of the Great I AM- GOD Jehovah Father to send us King Christ Messiah!

Begotten means unique eternal not created & Divine portion of GOD identified as His Living Word

✝ For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16 KJV

Continuing

✝ 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 gave the disciples strict orders that they were to tell no one that He was the Christ.

Matthew 16:19-20 NASB

Keys of Heaven means our Faith is the key for admitting us into Heaven! (Through Gospel of Christ)

Bound or loosed are people & Sin who either come to Faith by Jesus & His Grace or are bound by GOD’S law. Remember no one had ever been told this before. Not Moses, Not King David, Not Noah- no one ever!

This is the Great Mystery that Scripture says the Angels were ever wondering about. (Various Scriptures) Just How? Sinful humanity could ever be redeemed and then be able to enter into Heaven.

Prior to Jesus; those Faithfully awaiting the birth of Messiah who had died then went into Sheol the abode of the dead in the Earth’s core.

Within Sheol was past tense two destinations. Paradise & Damnation aka Hades/Hell.

Paradise was emptied When? Jesus ascended back into Heaven following His resurrection as He took those in death in Paradise awaiting Messiah/Christ completion of His work. (Ephesians 4:7-8)

Now only Hell as a local jail holding cell remains as Sheol/Hell/Hades.

Those confined within Hades await their final sentencing at the Great White Throne Judgement (Rev.20)

Where the eternal Lake of Fire is for rebellious human Souls and sinful fallen angels alike apart from GOD & Jesus as their Saving Christ.

One final note here notice Jesus again reminded His Apostles meaning they had to teach all those who believed in Him (Disciples) in Jesus Time NOT to admit or state He is THE one and only Christ until His appointed time. Of course, we have the privilege of the Historical Gospels knowing this will occur during Christ our Lord's "Triumphal Entry" into Jerusalem at the beginning His "Pasion Week."

This was when Jesus stated He is Christ. (At the exact date and place as Daniel was foretold)

Likewise, the Book of Revelation which means to "Reveal" will be Jesus's unveiling unto the rebellious.

Ok, let's finish this lesson up- the Remainder of this chapter after confirming that He is indeed THE Christ unto His Apostles- our Lord then informs He will have be refused by Israel's self pious religious elite then to suffer & die the ultimate innocent martyr's death in Jerusalem only to arise 3 days later.

At this Biblical Scholars think Peter shouted out a form of "GOD Forbid!"

When Jesus said He must go to Jerusalem & suffer a humiliating death for those who were to be His.

This was in Jesus Time a shortened common Rabbi expression Peter emotionally blurted out:

"God be merciful to thee; no such thing could should or would ever be."

Of course, Simon now Peter can not comprehend nor accept this as he actual tried to convince Jesus otherwise only to be rebuked that he is thinking only as evil does & not as GOD plans. (Matthew 16:23)

With this lesson being that we must all including Jesus as Christ Himself must trust GOD and His Will.

After Jesus explains for everyone that to be His follower it means to follow His Words and teachings as in giving up our Sinful ways because:

✝ For whoever wants to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. ²⁶For what good will it do a person if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul? Or what will a person give in exchange for his soul? ²⁷For the Son of Man is going to come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and WILL THEN REPAY EVERY PERSON ACCORDING TO HIS DEEDS. Matthew 16:25-27 NASB

Without hours of sermon nor endless lecturing about giving up our Sinful desires for the Lord- Of course, this simply means; " less of me & more of Thee." (Sweet Jesus!)

Jesus then concluded this teaching with a promise!

✝ Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.

Matthew 16:28 NASB

So, all in all this lesson indeed our Lord's Ministry and His very human life- the Divine eternal born a Living sacrifice as our Christ comes down to this:

Who do you say that I AM? (Jesus Christ)