

Was Peter “the Rock”?

Question: Was Peter the "rock" on which Jesus will build His church?

Answer: Here are the Scriptures that you are referring to:

Matthew 16:13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He began asking His disciples, saying, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

Matthew 16:14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets."

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

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

Matthew 16:17 And Jesus answered and 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.

Matthew 16:18 "And I also say to you that you are **Peter**, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it."

The Greek word for “Peter” is *petros*, meaning "a pebble."

The Greek word that is used for “rock” is *petra*, meaning "a massive rock" such as bedrock.

Jesus is the Rock, *petra*. Everyone who receives this revelation from the Father like Peter received it—that Jesus is the Son of God (Lord and Savior)—becomes a part of His Church. Jesus is building His Church upon the confession that Jesus is the Son of God.

Christ used the word *petra* when He told the parable of the man building a house upon a rock to illustrate its size.

In Matthew 7:24-25, Jesus said, "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine, and acts upon them, may be compared to a wise man, who built his house upon the **rock** (*petra*). And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and burst against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded upon the **rock** (*petra*)."

Jesus was talking about building upon bedrock, not a pebble.

The apostle Paul tells us that Jesus is the foundation upon which we build our lives. First Corinthians 3:11 says, "For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

The apostle Peter also informed us that every believer is a "stone" and that Jesus Christ is the "cornerstone" or foundation.

1 Peter 2:4-6 says, "And coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected by men, but choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For this is contained in Scripture: 'Behold I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious cornerstone, and he who believes in Him shall not be disappointed.'"

Every believer is a stone in Christ's Church. Peter was not “the rock” but just one of many people who are a part of this spiritual house of worship.