

Visions and Revelations

Message 12: The Apostle Peter (3)—

The Revelations of God

¹⁶Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church” (Matthew 16:16-18a)

- I. The revelation given by the Father—“the Christ, the Son of the living God”
 - A. Revealed to Simon (hearing, obeying) Bar-Jonah (son of a dove)
 - B. “Flesh and blood has not revealed this to you.”
 1. Revealing is an unveiling. Flesh and blood can bring forth seeming revelations that are attractive and seem right, but are of no value, and thus lead to different perceptions and acknowledgements.
 - a. The lust of the pleasure of the flesh causes people to indulge in the sinful world.
 - b. The vanity of the soul causes people to pursue the material world.
 - c. Noble sentiment causes people to pursue the religious world.
 - d. None of these are related to Christ.
 - C. The Father who is in heaven revealed the Christ, the Son of the living God.
 1. “The Christ,” meaning “the anointed One,” the executor of God’s economy.

2. “The Son of the living God,” meaning He is God, self-existing and ever-existing, without father, without mother, without genealogy, without beginning of days, without ending of life (Heb. 7:3), the One who testifies God when He carries out God’s economy.

II. The revelation given by Christ

A. “And I **also** say to you”

1. The Father’s revelation given to Peter was too good and too high, yet Christ’s revelation was still needed.
2. This can be compared to the Father giving us a piece of land, yet it is needed for the Lord to give us a house with its furnishings.
3. “Also” means “in addition”—extending, expanding, and elevating.
4. Therefore, it is not “perfect” or “complete” to have the Father’s revelation alone, knowing only that the Lord is “the Christ, the Son of the living God.” In addition to this revelation from the Father, it is necessary to receive the revelation from Christ. The Father’s revelation is Christ, and Christ’s revelation is the church.

B. “You are Peter” (*petros*, masculine). This is not “*lithos*,” an ordinary stone, but a specific and valuable stone that matches the “rock” (*petra*, feminine).

C. “I will”

1. This is a unique expression in the four Gospels. It unconditionally refers to what the Lord desires, indicates the Lord’s eternal will, speaks out what the Lord is laying hold of, and what the Lord will work and accomplish unto eternity. Only this—the builded church—can satisfy the Lord.

2. “I will” speaks out that Christ is only focused on this thing, which is obtaining “Peters” (*petros*) and building His church on this rock (*petra*). He has creation, redemption, salvation, incarnation, ascension, becoming a life-dispenser, and eventually obtaining the New Jerusalem; all these are only for this one thing, and all His works are only for the accomplishment of this one thing.
3. Religious and individual spiritual things cannot match this. None of these are Christ’s desire.
4. All of Christ’s works are in the principle of “I will.”
 - a. For our salvation, the Lord said, “I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Comforter” (John 14:16)
 - b. For the work, the Lord said, “I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19)
 - c. For the testimony of the church, the Lord said, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up” (John 2:19)
 - d. Yet all these are for the building of the church.
5. “I will” in Greek includes “I shall” with an imminent indication. It is not only one’s will involved, but one’s operation involved.