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Keys Of The Kingdom

(Mat 16:15-17 KJV) He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

(Mat 16:19 KJV) And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

The following is a short and introductory discussion of five Kingdom keys. These keys allow a binding and loosing. This is not commanding evil spirits to shut up but the bringing of reconnection between the heavens and the earth. We need the keys of the Kingdom to unlock things to which we can never have access without them. Jesus' promise is that he would give keys of the Kingdom to those who could understand who Jesus is not by the opinions of men but from the voice of the Father.

Jesus in Mathew Chapter sixteen was trying to get His disciples to see beyond the natural. Who is this that stands before them and walks with them? What is their understanding? After the episode with the Pharisees and Sadducees, He tells them to beware of their leaven. The Disciples are thinking naturally, "Is He talking about bread"? What I'm talking about, He says, is not bread but their doctrine.

Like tainted bread to the natural man, Jesus is warning not to be contaminated by their doctrine, *Then understood they how that he bade them... beware of the... the doctrine. (Mat 23:3 KJV) All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.* We will never know who Jesus is from the teachings of religious people. We need a revelation that comes not from man but from the Father. Those who cannot see beyond the exclusions and doctrines of systematic religion will never know who Jesus really is. Those who cannot see beyond the natural into the supernatural will miss the reality of Jesus.

Jesus asks the two questions. The first is interesting in part because of its construction that includes a partial answer within the question; *Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?* Most understand Jesus through the eyes of others. *Whom do men say;* what knowledge do you have about Me that comes from the thoughts and opinions of others? Unfortunately this is the only knowledge of Jesus that many possess. After this He asks, *But whom say ye that I am?* This is what you know of me from others but what is it that you know independent of others? What do you know from God?

(Mat 16:17 KJV) And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

What was Peter's confession that the Father spoke to him about Jesus? *Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.* This is not a unique statement in the sense that Nathanael had spoken in John chapter one that Jesus, *thou art that son of God, thou art the King of Israel* and even the demon in Mark chapter one knew that, *thou art the Holy One of God.* One of the things that made Peter's pronouncement distinct was that in the context of the Pharisees and Sadducees Peter had received a new order. The order of men and religion had their ideas about Jesus but Peter seen not only who Jesus was but the order of father and son. *Thou art the Christ, anointed one, the Son of the living God.* The anointed one was a son of the Father. He was the fleshly generational representation of the Father.

Only in understanding the order is Peter then given Keys to the Kingdom. These keys are not unique to Peter but are for all who understand and walk in this order. The keys are for those who have heard the voice of the Father about the Son. What might these keys be? My wife Karen and I were talking with Ed Sobieski recently about the five 'keys' in scripture and how these relate to the Kingdom of Heaven. He had some interesting insights which are included herein.

There are five spiritual keys mentioned in scripture – the key of David, the key of knowledge, the keys of hell and death and the key of the bottomless pit. Note that these all are not keys *to* but keys of the kingdom. It is not the key to David but the key of David. We think in terms of keys to something but these are keys of something. In other words they are the possession of each area. A key gives authority or power to the possessor to open or utilize whatever the key provides access to. For us to possess these five keys we need to have the authority of five things.

1. The Key of David.

(Isa 22:22 KJV) And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.

(Rev 3:7 KJV) And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth.

There is a key of David and a key of the house of David. David was perhaps the greatest prophet of the Old Testament. His kingship falls in the second dimension order of the Kings. Unable to build the house of God he prepares the materials and provides the plan for its construction. Although he never walked through it's gilded halls or gazed upon the edifice that made it one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, yet he saw it, as it were, afar off. He saw into the third dimension and prepared for his son the things needed. He established a house through which would come the messiah.

Jesus would be called the Son of David. Dimensionally He would be known as the (1), the son of man, (2), the son of David, (3), the son of God. The key of David is a kingdom key. The Pharisees, (modern day religious leaders who preach grace but bind people to their doctrine), could never understand Jesus in His kingdom message because they lacked the key.

(Mat 22:41-46) While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The son of David. He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? If David then call him Lord, how is he his son? And no man was able to answer him a word, neither durst any man from that day forth ask him any more questions.

The Pharisees needed a key to understand the kingdom message of Jesus. They were more interested in upholding their doctrinal and religious position than in gaining kingdom understanding. Out of all the questions that could be asked, Jesus asks them; How can Christ be the son of David? The key of David and the key of the house of David belongs to those who are of David's house. The key of David and his house, anointed by Samuel, comes by understanding and walking in the order of father to son. This is a powerful and first key of the kingdom.

Jesus is David's son even though He was his Lord and came before David because He walked in the alignment of father/son order. Having this key unlocks kingdom order and allows us to see and prepare things to come in future generations. The keys are progressive and this is the first needed. Without it the Kingdom cannot come into proper perspective.

The key of the house of David is the preparation he made for his son. Jesus as the son of David, has the same message or key and likewise prepares a place for His son— us. John 14:1-3; Rev. 21:7. Jesus is the Key to the house of David. If He is in us then we are in the house. Key to the House

2. The Key of Knowledge.

(Luke 11:52 KJV) Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.

The Greek word gnosis from which the word knowledge is taken in this verse, is a knowledge that derives from understanding. As in Athens, much of the present day Church seems to be on a guttural feeding frenzy, either to tell, or to hear some new thing. The natural always mirrors the Spiritual.

Many in Christianity have grown fat on a continuous consumption of more and more knowledge without ever growing in their understanding of who Christ is. This knowledge is not the knowledge of books or the accumulation of facts but the knowledge that comes with the recognition of who Jesus is in greater and greater manifestation.

(1 Cor 15:34 KJV) Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame. Notice the writer does not say they do not have a knowledge about God but of God. The workers of the law had a great knowledge about the God of the Bible, their history and customs but they knew precious little of the God of the Bible, they so ardently and continuously preached. These lawyers have taken away the key of knowledge, yet they continuously taught and studied and

dispensed knowledge. *(Rom 10:2 KJV) For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.*

Jesus pronounces a woe upon these. Their knowledge is knowledge of the law and not of the Spirit. They won't enter in and they hinder those that were entering in. How many times have those drawn and inspired by the Spirit into a Kingdom consciousness been hindered by the rules, regulations and teachings of churches and Christians, who profess a "knowledge of God" but not according to the Spirit. They draw people to their "brand of Christianity", and not to God.

The understanding of who we are in Christ is a powerful, powerful key. *Awake unto righteousness.* To awake unto righteousness and not merely speak about it, but rather like a key, unlocks vast areas of the kingdom. *(1 Cor 2:2 KJV) For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. (1 Cor 1:27b,28) Christ in you, the hope of glory: Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: We need to recognized and understand, (knowledge), Jesus in everything, in every situation, in every person and in ourselves. The key of knowledge taken away in the law must return by grace through righteousness.*

3. The key of hell.

4. The key of death.

(Rev 1:18 KJV) I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

Since these are found together in the same verse we will deal with them together because there is an obvious and important connection between them. The key of hell is the key over torment and punishment. The Christian church has so separated the natural from the spiritual that hell, to most, is some place that those who failed to find Jesus go to upon their death. Hell is not so much a place as it is a dimension. As heaven is also the dimension of the presence of God, which is why we really can experience heaven in earth, so hell is also dimension with a characteristic that it lacks God's presence.

Many are in hell as they walk this planet. Hell, along with other things, has been so spiritualized that it is generally understood only as a place of devil's and pitchforks and burning coals upon the flesh of evil people. Many are living in the reality of hell absent from Jesus. Hell empowered by sin and by the legalists is keeping many in prison but Jesus has come to set the captive free. One of the keys of the kingdom is the key of hell. This key will allow those in the kingdom to set at liberty, through Christ, those imprisoned and tormented.

The key of hell, is a key of healing in the kingdom that requires death, *crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me.* It is necessary to help people who are forgiven of their sin to also be set free from its consequences. Learning how to die a Kingdom death, (not a natural death), and learning how to minister wholeness to the Body requires this key.

I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold... I have the keys of hell and of death. Jesus knew how to die to bring forth life. Death is not a friend but an enemy. Many view death as inevitable and a process of life. It is not part of life but part of the fall and works contrary to life.

Death is an enemy, *(1 Cor 15:26 KJV) The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.* Jesus has this key and it is a key of the kingdom needed to bring forth the kingdom. *(John 11:26 KJV) And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? Do we believe this? Not just spiritually but naturally? Jesus has the words of eternal life. Going from death to life requires a transmutation of our thinking.*

Our thinking is always reflected in our speaking. 529 verses connect word or words with life. *The words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life. (Prov 18:21 KJV) Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.* This key will be given to those who are able to destroy death by imparting life.

5. The key of the bottomless pit.

(Rev 9:1 KJV) And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit.

(Rev 20:1 KJV) And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand.

The key of the bottomless pit is the key of the restoration of all things. It is a bottomless pit – it has no end. It is a pit, a snare a place that is inescapable. In this pit is found all that is opposite the height and high calling of God. God is going to show Himself greater than all things. God is going to reveal the power of His love is greater than all fears, rejection, hatreds and anything else that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.

We look for the earthly manifestation of the Kingdom. *(Luke 21:31 KJV) So likewise ye, when ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand.* All these things that must come to pass

are under the power of one of these five areas accessed by keys of the Kingdom. Five is a number of grace in ministry. These five keys of the kingdom are keys that unlock every area separated from God. These keys give the saints access to the grace and love of God which will manifest the full measure of the Kingdom. These keys only come from the Father above.

In conclusion, there is an order in the restoration of all things.

1. Key of David... .. Key for the house
2. Key of knowledge Key for relationship
- 3-4 Keys of hell, death Key for possibility
5. Key of the bottomless pit Key for closure

The first key, the Key of David opened the 'House.' Jesus was the Door into the House of God. The second key, the Key of Knowledge allowed 'intimate relationship' with the God of the House. The third and fourth keys, the Key of Hell and the Key of Death were given to Peter after he understood the first two keys– that Jesus was not only *the Christ*, but also *the Son of the living God*. Peter was given keys to the kingdom to unlock 'possibility for the ministry of the saints.' Finally, the Key of the Bottomless Pit is for 'closure.' It is the complete overcoming power given to the kingdom of God to reverse the curse.

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