

The Man with the Keys

Jesus made a very important proclamation in **Matthew 16:18-19**. In these verses, we read about Jesus giving the authority to open the door into the Kingdom of God. It was on the Day of Pentecost in Jerusalem that the Spirit of God was first poured out on believers who had gathered in obedience to the command of Jesus. (**Luke 24:49**) It was the Apostle Peter, the man with the keys, who stood up that day and responded to the question **“What does this mean?” (Acts 2:5-6, 12)**

It was the Apostle Peter that stood up with the rest of the Apostles and explained exactly what was going on. Peter identified this outpouring of the Spirit of God as the fulfillment of the prophecy of the prophet Joel. (**Acts 2:16-18, Joel 2:28-29**)

It was Peter who began telling them about the crucifixion of Jesus. (**Acts 2:22-24, 36-37**) After hearing the anointed preaching of Peter, they were convicted in their hearts and asked the question, what shall we do? Peter, who had been given the authority to open the Kingdom of God by Jesus, told them exactly what they needed to do. (**Acts 2:37-41**)

The Apostle Peter, the man with the keys, preached the first message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ that day in Jerusalem. He used the keys to unlock salvation and redemption to all who choose to believe and obey. Peter told them that day how to be saved; how to be born again. The message Peter spoke that day, was very clear and concise:

Repentance, water baptism by immersion in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sin and receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance.

The Bible tells us that those who gladly received what Peter said were baptized and were added to the church. The number of those who were born again into the Church of Jesus Christ that day was 3,000.

In **Acts chapter 8**, we read how Philip went down into Samaria and preached Christ unto them. (**Acts 8:5**) The Samaritans were a mixed-race people with both Jewish and foreign or Gentile ancestry. They were deeply despised by the mainstream Jews. These Samaritans received and believed the preaching of Philip and witnessed many miracles.

There was great joy in the city of Samaria. (**Acts 8:6-8**) When the Apostles heard that Samaria had received the Word of God, they sent Peter and John to them because they had not received the baptism of the Holy Spirit yet.

The Bible tells us that the Samaritans had only been baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ. When Peter, the man with the keys, prayed for the Samaritans, they received the Holy Spirit. (**Acts 8:14-17**)

We read in **Acts chapter 10**, the account of Cornelius, an Italian Centurion which made him a Gentile. Cornelius was directed by an angel from God to send men to Joppa and call for Peter. (**Acts 10:1-6**)

In the meantime, God gave Peter a vision to prepare him for what was getting ready to happen. (**Acts 10:10-15**) The “unclean Gentiles” were about to receive the Gospel message of salvation. While Peter wondered what this vision actually meant, the men sent from Cornelius arrived at the door. (**Acts 10:17**)

Upon arrival to the house of Cornelius, Peter, the man with the keys, began to preach the Gospel message of Jesus Christ to the household of Cornelius. The preaching of Peter was interrupted by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Peter and all those other believers which came with him were all very astonished because the Gentiles had received the Holy Spirit. The reason they knew that the Gentiles had received the Holy Spirit is because they heard them speak in other tongues just as they did on the Day of Pentecost. (**Acts 10:44-48**) Then Peter, the man with the keys, commanded them to be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ.

In **Acts chapter 11**, we read how Peter had to defend his actions to the rest of the Apostles. They were very upset that Peter had gone into the home of a Gentile. After Peter told them about the vision and about all that happened, they held their peace and glorified God. Now they too realized that God had granted the Gentiles repentance unto life. (**Acts 11:17-18**)

Conclusion

Peter was given the keys to the Kingdom of God by Jesus. Peter used these keys to open the door into the Kingdom of God to the Jews, to the Samaritans, and to the Gentiles. The Jews, on the Day of Pentecost, the Samaritans in **Acts chapter 8**, and the Gentiles in **Acts chapter 10**.

The Samaritans were a group of people with an ethnic mixture of Jewish and “foreign” blood. The “Gentiles” were anyone who had no Jewish blood at all. Therefore, Peter, the man with the keys, opened the door to all nations.

All had to repent, all had to be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and all had to receive the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues.

The spirit of Truth and the spirit of error are determined by accepting or rejecting the words of the Apostles. (**1 John 4:6**) Jesus is the one who gave Peter the keys to the Kingdom of God. We should pay very close attention to exactly what Peter, the man with the keys, said on each occasion.

All of the other Apostles used these same keys throughout the Book of Acts. This Gospel message is eternal; it is everlasting; it never changes. The Kingdom of God is here right now and will be here forever. To be a part of the Kingdom of God, you must do what they did in the beginning.

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