

#27 Simon Peter | August 26, 2018

The Call and Commission of the Apostles | Matthew 10:1-8

- Peter was first in authority among the apostles, though not first in chronology (vv. 2-4).
- The apostles were 12 men of unique authority and commission, and to consider everyone to be an apostle does not align with either the Gospel record nor the Christian experience.
- The commission of the apostles was-
 - To display Kingdom-like power over **unclean** spirits and to heal **all manner of sickness and disease** (v. 1).
 - Modern faith healers have claimed apostolic authority, but have not displayed it. Their record is dismal. This is authority which was given only to the 12 (v. 1).
 - Strictly limited to the Jewish nation (vv. 6-7).
 - Jesus is the Messiah of Israel, not of the gentiles. He would become the Savior of the gentiles, but He is Messiah of Israel, sitting on the throne of David, the King of Israel.
 - Just as it would make no sense to hold the inauguration of the American President in London, it would make no sense to announce the Messiah to non-Jews.
 - The prophetic plan of the Hebrew Scriptures involved the sending of the Messiah, His rejection and death, His resurrection and ascension, the sending of the Spirit, followed by Israel's acceptance of her Messiah. After all of this, the nations would be saved through Israel's Messiah. Only when Israel rejected the Holy Spirit did God reveal a *mystery* that set aside the Jewish nation and allowed the gentiles salvation through Jesus Christ even before Israel had received the Kingdom (Romans 11:15).
 - In v. 8, the 12 were given five commands: heal, cleanse, raise, cast out, and give. They were given "might and right" to do these things, now they must not hold back. These things were

all subsidiary actions to the proclamation of the Kingdom, which was their primary task.

Peter and the Keys to the Kingdom | Matthew 16:13-20

- Peter's great confession was not a secret revelation to him only, but a recognition of Jesus as the fulfillment of prophetic revelation.
 - Christ as Son of God was proclaimed in Mt. 14.33, as well as by Nathanael very early on (Jn. 1:49), and would be proclaimed by the centurion (Mt. 27:54), furthermore, it was found in Messianic Psalms (Ps. 2:7).
- Jesus did *not* promise to build His assembly *on Peter* (v. 18).
 - Literally, "You are Peter, and upon this, the Rock, I will build my church." Note that Peter is masculine and "the rock" is feminine. The only responsible interpretation is that Christ will build His assembly on the rock, not on Peter.
 - A literal interpretation: "Thou art a rock and upon this the rock I will build my assembly."
- Peter was given **the keys of the kingdom of heaven**, not the keys to the church, salvation, or heaven (v. 19).
 - In Acts 1-12, Peter is undeniably the apostle of authority. What he looses is loosed, what he binds is bound.
 - However, his name is mentioned 57 times from Acts 1-12, and only 1 time beyond chapter 12, where Paul becomes pre-eminent.
 - When aligned with Paul's teaching of the revelation of a new mystery, this "mystery" is solved: Peter is not an apostle to the *church*, but to Israel.
- Peter gives an explanation of the work of Paul in the closing words of his epistles – 2 Peter 3:15-16.

What About Apostolic Succession?

- The office of Judas was clearly (and Biblically) passed on to another man, Matthias. Acts 1:15-26
- The office of James, the first martyred apostle, shows no indication of being replaced.
- Paul clearly saw his impending death, yet never gave any word about apostolic succession.
- It must be concluded that apostolic succession is an idea created long after the apostles themselves were dead.
- Archeological and historical evidence points to Peter's death and burial in Jerusalem, not Rome.