

New Testament Lesson # 14  
Thou Art the Christ  
April 1-14  
Matthew 16-17; Mark 9; Luke 9  
By Lenet Hadley Read

- I. Peter came to know Jesus was the Christ through the **power of Revelation** (Matthew 16).
- A. Peter's witness from the Spirit and Jesus' response show the desired method for obtaining truth is: **To have Faith that one can obtain guidance through the Lord and His Spirit!**
  - B. Very often men begin that path, but then lose their faith, and return to their own reasoning, as Peter had earlier begun to walk to Christ on the Sea, but then lost his faith.
  - C. That men too often begin in following faith, but then return to their reasoning, was shown in the events occurring after Israel left Egypt. They were being guided by the Lord. . Remember they had the faith to leave Egypt and to follow Moses into the wilderness. **But as soon as things got hard, they began to cry "It had been better for us in Egypt."**
  - D. This is a symbol for man's tendency to abandon trust in Revelation and to long to return to man's Reasoning. For Egypt was the symbol for the World and Worldly beliefs.
- II. What was foreshadowed then actually happened in reality more than once.
- A. **Christianity began by Revelation.** It began with Christ coming down out of Heaven among men and personally revealing His precious truths. Revelation continued to guide the apostles. Such as Peter's being shown a vision which taught Gentiles were to now be blessed to receive the Gospel.
  - B. But several centuries later, there arose a large development of scholars in Alexandria, Egypt. They began to teach doctrines of the Church, **but not by revelation.**
  - C. They began to teach by man's Reasoning. And that took the Christian Church into the dark waters of false beliefs.
- III. Is not that same struggle continuing in our days, 200 years after the First Vision?
- A. Joseph Smith was the instrument whom the Lord chose to re-reveal His truths, in the Latter-days. And **so Christ's Latter-day Church was again established on Revelation.**
  - B. But even now there are those who lose faith in the revelatory process and return to man's reasoning.
  - C. For example, too many in the church have accepted the theories of Darwin concerning man's origins. This in spite of all the prophets and scriptures have said which refute it.
    - 1. However, there is a **growing body of scientific proof that unguided evolution is impossible.** These come in particular from the evidences of how complex the human cell and body are. **Darwin had no knowledge of cellular structure, and assumed it was simple.**
    - 2. If anyone wants to search for such evidences there are now many sources available. You can find many books listed on Amazon. **They come from believing scientists.**
- IV. Another example of man returning to his reasoning rather than Revelation is the belief in how the Bible came to us. These truths are consistent with the Biblical teachings on man's origins.

- A. **The Pearl of Great Price makes clear that records were kept and then passed down by the earliest of prophets, beginning with Adam.** Yet Gospel Doctrine teachers have been heard to teach the theories of the world. I.e., that the Old Testament [and in some cases even the New Testament] were just oral traditions passed down until finally recorded. (Oral tradition sources they claim are: “E” for those who called God “Elohim”; “J” for those who called God “Jehovah”; and “P” for a source from the Priestly class).
  - 1. For scriptural and other evidences on the true sources of the Old Testament see “A Testament is Established” from *How The Bible Came to Be*, by Lenet Hadley Read in January *Ensign*, 1982; or Chapter One with the same name of *How We Got The Bible*, Read, published by Deseret Book.
- D. And there has been growing evidence that the Biblical record is indeed true. This includes powerful evidence of the complete Unity of the Bible, showing it had to come through the Spirit.  
For evidences on the amazing unity of the whole Bible see “Jehovah, as Bridegroom, Made the Bible into a Cross Shape” on [www.thefinaldaysofawe.com](http://www.thefinaldaysofawe.com). Or see Northrop Frye’s book, *The Great Code*).

V. **The Transfiguration witnessed of the Reality of Communication between God and Man.**

- A. In addition to witnessing of the communication between God the Father and His Son, Peter, Paul and John also saw the Heavens open and Moses and Elijah minister as well.
- B. This was confirmation that the Heavens are not always sealed.
- C. Revelation and the ministry of angels sent from the Heavens are still meant to be the major way the Lord leads His church.

VI. Not only did the Lord establish His Church on Revelation, but He gave Peter the Priesthood Keys to continue to govern His Kingdom (Matthew 16 and 17).

- A. When I visited Rome and St. Peter’s Basilica and stood before the Vatican, I found the whole setting was making the claim “Here are the Keys Christ gave to Peter.”
- B. There were keys carved into the high balustrade surrounding the plaza. And front and center was a statue of Peter --- having at his side a large set of keys.
- C. Recently the Lord guided His prophet, President Russell M. Nelson, to take all of the apostles to Rome for the Rome Temple Dedication, and to have those apostle sit in front of the carved statues of the ancient apostles for a picture.
- D. I felt the Lord was making a very significant statement.
- E. To me a major statement the Lord was making was: **“Here are those holding the Living Keys of my Priesthood!”**
- F. **“And because these true apostles carry my keys, Here is my True Church.”**

VII. **The reality of the work being done testifies of where the Lord’s Priesthood Keys reside.**

- A. How can one know where the Lord’s keys truly reside?
- B. A major way is to look at what the Lord promised would come from their usage:
- C. He said “...the gates of hell shall, not prevail against [My people]” (Matt 16:18).”
- D. Do we realize the significance of “The Gates of Hell shall not prevail against [My People]?”
- E. This means that **the Lord’s Priesthood Keys are to be used to unlock the Gates of Hell!**

F. How and when does that occur?

**G. The Lord's Priesthood Keys unlock the Gates of Hell when they are used for temple baptisms and confirmations done for the deceased. These keys have unlocked Hell's Gates, allowing those so blessed to leave the Spirit Prison and to enter into Paradise where they await additional instruction and further ordinance work for possible further blessings --- to be accepted or rejected by them.**

VIII. While others may claim to have priesthood keys (many Christian Churches do not even try to make that claim. For those becoming their clerical leaders do so through a process of educational training), the proof still lies in the reality of their usage.

A. Another major promise the Savior gave as usage for the keys was:

“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” (Matthew 16: 18-9).

B. So the Savior was making it clear the Keys were given for the purpose of **Sealings**.

C. And where are those keys used to “bind on earth” to eventually be “bound in heaven?”

D. Again it is only in the Holy Temples of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Here couples and even whole families are sealed together, not only for this life, but for all eternity.

E. In truth this extends beyond couples: As Wilford Woodruff said so beautifully in prayer.

“We praise thee [God] that our fathers, from ... the beginning, can be **united with us in indissoluble links, welded by the holy Priesthood, and that as one great family united in thee and cemented by thy power** we shall together stand before thee, and by the power of the atoning blood of the Son be delivered from all evil, be saved and sanctified, exalted and glorified” (Wilford Woodruff, at the dedication of the Salt Lake Temple). (Emphasis added)

IX. These Latter-days are another time when men will be tested as to whether they will “See” (through Revelation) or whether they will return to Blindness, relying more on Man's Reasoning.

A. Those who do not recognize Christ's works of salvation in the Latter-days, are as blind as those who did not recognize His works in the Meridian of Time.

B. On the other hand, those who accept the Restored Gospel, who receive all of its Revealed Truths, will See **marvelous things far beyond the imaginings of man!**

C. The whole foundation of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints began upon the Rock of Revelation --- on the First Vision given to Joseph Smith Jr.

And it continues to do so through our modern day prophet, Russell M. Nelson. That he is guided by revelation is shown not only in his leadership of the church, but that previously as a highly respected Dr., he was guided by revelation to establish new pathways in heart surgery. (See Dallin H. Oaks, “President Russell M. Nelson: Guided, Prepared, Committed, The Ensign, May, 2018.)

**We are extremely blessed to be guided by prophets who still seek the Lord and receive Revelation!**