

PRECEPTS FOR LIFE
a Production of
Precept Ministries International
P.O. Box 182218, Chattanooga, TN 37422-7218
1-888-734-7707/ www.preceptsforlife.com

The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

SERIES: Matthew (The King, His Kingdom And Me)

TITLE: Program 28 – Who Do You Say That I Am?

WEDNESDAY

OPEN

If someone were to ask you, “Who is Jesus Christ?” what would you say to them, my friend? Would you give an accurate answer of who He is? I’m standing in the area of Caesarea Philippi. It’s 25 to 30 miles north of the Sea of Galilee. It’s a very special spot. Jesus and His disciples had left the region of the Galilee. And they had come up here, north, almost to the foot of Mount Hermon. And it is here, in this spot, that we have a very, very special declaration; a declaration that you and I need to understand, so that we might know: “Who is Jesus?” and what we have as a result of who He is.

PART ONE

In Matthew chapter 16, in verse 13, it says, “**Now when Jesus came [to] the district of Caesarea Philippi...**,” and once again, you want to double underline in green, “**...when [He] came [to] the district of Caesarea Philippi. He was asking His disciples, ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’ And they said, ‘Some say John the Baptist; and others,**

Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. [And] He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ ” (Matthew 16:13-15) Because it’s what you believe about Jesus Christ that determines where you are going to spend eternity. Is He just another prophet? Is He just another good man? Or is He Elijah who is supposed to come; Elijah, who’s supposed to come before that “...**great and terrible day of the Lord...**,” (Malachi 4:5) Elijah, who’s the messenger of the covenant? (See Malachi 3:10) Who is He?

“[And] Simon Peter answered [and said], ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’” (Matthew 16:16) Where did He say this? He said this in Caesarea Philippi. There are two Caesareas. There’s a Caesarea by the sea. There’s a Caesarea Philippi, because we’re in the district of Herod Philip, one of the sons of Herod the Great, one who was the brother of Herod Antipas that ruled, and was the one that ruled over Jerusalem and, in turn, was going to give Jesus the death penalty. Well, “...**Jesus [answered and] said to him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.’” (Matthew 16:17)** You see, when we have the correct answers about the word of God, and the correct answers about the person of Jesus Christ, it’s a gift that is given to us because, remember, [Isaiah prophesied that they would come, and they would speak. And, that having ears they would hear, but not hear, having eyes they would see, but they would not see.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 6:9-10; Matthew 13:14-15) But He says, “...**to you it has been granted to [understand] the mysteries of the kingdom of [God]....” (Matthew 13:11)** Well to us, also, it has been granted to understand truly who Jesus Christ is. And so, Peter made the right answer. He says, “You are ‘Ho Christos.’ ” “H-o C-h-r-i-s-t-o-s.” It’s another word for the Messiah. “You are the Messiah. You are the promised One. You are the Anointed One.” (See Isaiah 61:1) “...**You are...**,” and this is so important, “...**the Son of the living God.**” (Matthew 16:16) Now listen, if He is the “Son of the living God,” then it means, not only is He the Son of the living God, but He is one with the Father, that He is equal with the Father. (See John 14:9-

11) **“And [so] Jesus [says] to him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven.’ ” (Matthew 16:17)** What I want us to do is I want us to see and understand that the promises of the Messiah would show that Messiah would not be just an ordinary human being, but that Messiah would actually be God in the flesh, God incarnate. (See John 1:14) And so, we need to go back to several scriptures, and I would suggest that you mark them in the margin of your Bible. Just on this trip, I had the privilege of sitting and talking to a Jewish man. And he said, “Honestly,” he said, “the thing that I have a problem with is, I have a problem with the fact that you believe that Jesus is God. Because the “Shema,” Deuteronomy 6:4 says, **“Hear O Israel! The Lord our God is one....” (Deuteronomy 6:4, KJV)** And I said, “Yes, but let’s talk about it a minute. What do you do with Genesis chapter 1, verse 26 and 27? When God said, **“...Let us...,’** plural, **“...make man in Our image...,” (Genesis 1:26)** what do you do in the “Shema” when you say, **“Hear O Israel! The Lord our God...,” “Elohim,” “...is one...,” (Deuteronomy 6:4, KJV)** because, “Elohim,” “h-i-m,” the “i-m” ending implies a plural?” So let’s look at these scriptures and see what God says. The first one is one that is familiar, that we have discussed before, and I want us to go to Isaiah chapter 9, verse 6. In Isaiah chapter 9, verse 6, there’s a promise about the Messiah. There’s a promise about the Anointed One who is to come. In Isaiah 9:6 it says, **“For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders....” (Isaiah 9:6)** He’s going to rule, He’s going to be the head of the kingdom. **“...And His name will be called...,”** listen to what His name shall be called, **“...Wonderful Counselor...,”** now watch the second one, **“Mighty God...,”** these are couplets, **“...Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)** He has just said that this son that is given, this child that is born, one of His names is going to be “Mighty God.” There is only one God and so He is one with the Father. The Son’s name will be also, “Eternal Father.” [So He is the One who has been

from the beginning.] (PARAPHRASE, 1 John 1:1) He is the One **“...Who is...who was and who is to come....” (Revelation 1:8)** He is the “Eternal Father.” So this is one scripture you want to mark in the margin of your Bible. And then, mark Jeremiah chapter 23. And in Jeremiah chapter 23, it’s verses 5 and 6. Let’s listen to it: **“Behold, the days are coming,’ declares the LORD....” (Jeremiah 23:5)** Now, this is a prophecy; a prophecy from the mouth of God. The word for Lord there is all in capitals. And when it’s all in capitals, it’s the most sacred name of God. It’s the most holy name of God. It is “Yehovah,” “Yehovah,” or what we call “Yhwh,” the tetragrammeton. And then we come along and we add the vowels, and we get “Jehovah.” And so it says, **“Behold, the days are coming,’ declares the Lord, ‘when I will raise up for David...,’** now you’ve got to remember, this was long after David was born and reigned and died, **“...I will raise up for David a righteous Branch....” (Jeremiah 23:5)** This is the fulfillment of the Davidic covenant. **“...And He will reign as king and act wisely and do justice and righteousness in the land. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely....” (Jeremiah 23:5-6)** He’s talking about the divided kingdom. In those days you’re going to have both of the kingdoms reunited. And it says that, **“...Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely; and this is His name by which He [shall] be called....”** Now listen, **“...[Jehovah] the LORD...,”** all caps, **“...our righteousness.”** That is “Jehovah,” or “Yahweh,” “Yehovah Tsidkenu,” **“...The LORD our righteousness.” (Jeremiah 23:6)** The Lord is speaking, and the “LORD” in all caps, “Yehovah” is saying, [“I’m going to raise up from David a righteous branch, and Judah will be saved and Israel will dwell securely. And his name will be ‘Yehovah Tsidkenu:’ The LORD our righteousness.”] (PARAPHRASE, Jeremiah 23:5-6) What is He showing us? In another scripture, in Isaiah, He says, **“I am the LORD....” (Isaiah 42:8)** And, [“I will share My glory with no one.”] PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 42:8) The true estimate of who I am, I share with no one. He doesn’t share it with any other man, with any other human being, but He shares it with His Son,

because [the Father and the Son are one.] (PARAPHRASE, John 10:30) And this is what Jesus says in John. [He talks about God being His Father and the Jews pick up stones and they're going to throw them at Him. And He says, "Why are you going to stone Me?" And they say, "Because You blasphemed. Because You're making yourself one with God."]

(PARAPHRASE, John 10:30-33) It's just like John chapter 1: **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."** In the beginning, the Word; the Word was with God, and the Word was God. They are one; one in character. Well the third verse that I want you to write down is Micah chapter 5, verse 2. Now when I say Micah 5, verse 2, then what you have to know is I'm taking you to a familiar passage. I'm taking you to that prophecy about where Messiah would be born. Now He says in verse 2, **"But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth [to] Me to be ruler in Israel...."** Now watch what it says, **"...[For] His goings...are from long ago, from the days of eternity."** (Micah 5:2) Although Messiah would be born, although He would live for approximately 33 and one half years, and then He would die and be raised from the dead and resurrected, [He would be the One who has been from long ago.] (PARAPHRASE, Micah 5:2) He is the One who comes before the Ancient of Days to receive a kingdom. (See Daniel 7:13-14) He is the One who spoke and brought the world into existence. (See John 1:3) He's the One that was there when, in the beginning, when "Elohim," God, in a plural form, created the heavens and the earth. And the Spirit of God moved over the face of the waters. (See Genesis 1:1) This is the One, as we saw in Isaiah 9:6, that bears the title, "Everlasting Father." And you know what? We'll look at it in just a minute.

PART TWO

Do you know, Beloved, what a joy it is for me to stand here in Caesarea Philippi? In this area that was under the rule of Herod Philip, the son of Herod the Great, and to teach you what happened in this very significant

spot. Jesus is in this area with His disciples. As I told you, it's about 25 to 30 miles north of the Sea of Galilee. Simon Peter has just made his famous confession, a confession that was revealed to him, that Jesus is the Christ, "Ho Christos," the Messiah, the "Son of the living God." Now it says, **"And Jesus said to him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Barjona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. I also say to you...,'**" now He's talking to Peter, **"...that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. I will give you...,'**" speaking to Peter, **"...the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven."** (Matthew 16:17-19) Now, when He says, **"...You are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church...,'**" was He saying: "I am going to build My church"? And by the way, this is the first mention in Matthew of His building His church. Is He saying that He's going to build His church on Peter? Peter is "Petros," the "little rock," the smaller rock. But, **"...Upon this rock, I will build my church...,'**" is "Petra," something far greater, some "rock" far more massive. (Matthew 16:18) And so He's saying, "I'm going to build the church upon this massive rock." What is that massive rock? That massive rock is Jesus. It's "Who Jesus is." Remember, the Lord is our Rock. Jesus is equal with the Father. Jesus is the Rock. Now who can best interpret that? I think it would be the one that heard it said. So let's go and see what Peter says when he writes his first epistle, and it's 1 Peter, chapter 2, and this is what, **"You also...,'**" verse 5, **"...as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For this is contained in Scripture: 'Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, and he who believes in him will not be disappointed.'** This precious value, then, is for [those of] you who believe; but for those who disbelieve...,'" if you don't believe that Jesus is the Rock, the "Cornerstone," then he says, **"...for those who disbelieve,**

‘The stone which the builders rejected, this became the very corner stone,’ and, ‘A stone of stumbling...a rock of offense....’ ” (1 Peter 2:5-8)

So what we see is, we see Peter telling us that the “Cornerstone” of the church is the “Petra.” And as we go back to Matthew, and we look at Matthew chapter 16, I want to read it to you again. He Says, “[But] **I also say to you that you are Peter..., “Petros,” “...and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not over[flow] it.”**

(Matthew 16:18) In Ephesians chapter 2, in verse 20, we have another statement about how the church is built. Ephesians 2, verse 20, and it all points to Jesus Christ. It says this, “**Having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone.**”

(Ephesians 2:20) The whole corner, the whole foundation of the church is based on one truth, and that truth, that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the Promised One, the Anointed One, that He is the “Son of God.” And this is what, this is the truth that God builds His church on. When you come to 1 Corinthians chapter 3, verse 11, we see this same thing. And this is what it says, “**For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is [Christ Jesus].” (1 Corinthians 3:11)** It’s awesome Beloved! Now, Christ Jesus is the “Cornerstone.” But what makes up the rest of the foundation? Well what makes up the rest of the foundation, and you may want to mark it right in your Bible, is Revelation chapter 21, verse 4, where it talks about the foundation being the twelve apostles, and Jesus Christ the “Cornerstone.” And He says to Peter, “**I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven....” (Matthew 16:19)** What does that mean? We’ll see that in our next program. But today what I want you to understand is that it was here, right here, at Caesarea Philippi, that that great declaration was made. “**...You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**” **(Matthew 16:16)** And what, Precious One, is God’s precept for life for you today?

First of all, you have to be willing to tell others exactly Who Jesus Christ is. You don’t need to fudge on it. You don’t need to be embarrassed by it. And I’ll tell you why, because it is truth. It is the Word of God, and you and I are

not to be ashamed of Jesus Christ. Remember, Jesus says, “...[Whoever] **confesses Me before men, I will...confess before [the] Father who is in heaven. But whoever denies Me before men, I will...deny...before [the] Father who is in heaven.**” (Matthew 10:32) So you and I have to be willing to confess the truth, and so if they say, “Well what does that mean?” then you have to say, “That means that Jesus is God. That means that He is one with the Father. That means when you see Jesus, you are seeing the Father. That means that when you and I die, and we enter into heaven, we will be there with Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.” What else do you need to know, here at Caesarea Philippi? You need to know and “**...Be ready...to give an answer to every man [who] asks you [the] reason [for] the hope [that dwells with you]....**” (1 Peter 3:15, KJV) You need to be a student of the word of God. You need to be able to back up what you say with the word of God. You need to be able to say, “Well let me show you this scripture. Well, let me show you this scripture. Let me show you this scripture.” You say, “But, Kay, that takes a lot of work, and I’m busy.” My Precious Friend, you have one calling in life. And that calling is to be a follower of Jesus Christ. And if you are a follower of Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ came to reveal the Father. (See Matthew 11:27) You’re here, and you’re here to reveal the Son and to reveal the Father. So you have to be prepared to give an answer. Not your beliefs. Not your denominational doctrine, whatever it is, but “What does the word of God say?” Because, remember this, God says [His word is alive. His word is powerful. His word is “**...sharper than any two-edged sword....**” (Hebrews 4:12) [It does not return to Him void, but it accomplishes the purpose whereunto He has sent it.] (PARAPHRASE, Isaiah 55:11, KJV) So, Precious One, keep studying with me, God’s precepts for life. Learn the book of Matthew. Understand the King who is coming, the Son of God, the Cornerstone of the church that Jesus Christ has built.