

**Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ  
Revelations at Caesarea Philippi, Part 3  
God's Plan of Redemption**

Last time...Caesarea Philippi, a very worldly and pagan place of worship, is a place of revelation of mysteries of God

- truths kept secret from the foundation of the world now being revealed by God in time
  - transcending realities in heaven and on earth
1. the mystery of Christ, of “God with us”, of the Incarnation
  2. the mystery of the Church
  3. the mystery of God's Plan of Redemption
  4. the mystery of Salvation
  5. the mystery of the Kingdom of God

<u>Mystery</u>	<u>Matt</u>	<u>Mark</u>	<u>Luke</u>
Christ	16:13-17	8:27-30	9:18-21
Church	16:18-19		
God's Plan of Redemption	16:21-23	8:31-33	9:22
Salvation	16:24-27	8:34-38	9:23-26
Kingdom of God	16:28	9:1	9:27

Two weeks ago:

1. the mystery of Christ:  
Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Son of the Living God

Last week:

2. the mystery of the Church
  - built on and by the Rock/Foundation, Jesus Christ
  - unknown in Jewish thinking, not revealed in OT
  - a new work of God based on the new covenant (Jer 31:31-33)
  - a people distinct from Israel
  - those who confess/profess faith/belief/trust in Jesus Christ
  - a spiritual body, not a national or carnal body
  - NOT a building or a denomination or an event, but billions of individuals purchased with the blood of Jesus Christ, whose names are written in heaven

No man has the right to build the Church, much less on a different Foundation and with the wisdom of man

Much like King Ahaz of Judah setting aside the Altar of God (shadow of Jesus) with a replica of the Assyrian altar (2 Kings 16:10-16)

This time...another revelation at Caesarea Philippi

3. the mystery of God's Plan of Redemption

This remains a study where the location is part of the lesson

Caesarea Philippi is 25 miles north of Bethsaida

- at the base of Mount Hermon...a massive rock formation
- site of the headwaters of the Jordan River
- previously known as Paneas or Panium, the center of worship for the Greek god Pan, the lord of the underworld
- site of an immense cavern/cave  
(pagan belief: caves were gateways to the underworld)
- the cave at the rear of the temple was considered the 'Gate of Hades' because it was believed that the lord of the underworld would enter and leave the underworld through it
- the Roman city was originally built by Herod the Great and dedicated to Augustus Caesar (beginning of Caesar worship)
- later enlarged by his son Herod Philip, and dedicated to Tiberius Caesar
- Philip's capitol, at the foot of Mount Hermon, which was known as the 'Rock of the Gods', referring to the many shrines built against it
- a very pagan site on the Via Maris (Egypt to Mesopotamia), the road to Damascus
- was a center of Caesar worship...and all other gods of the nations

And remember, the key, the essentials, to understand the other mysteries revealed at Caesarea Philippi is the dichotomy (separation from, contention between) **flesh** and **Spirit**

We will be in Matt 16, Mark 8, and Luke 9

*The Mystery of God's Plan of Redemption*

## Matt 16

v21 began Jesus to shew...must...suffer...killed...raised again:

The mystery of Christ was revealed to Peter by God the Father  
The mystery of the Church was introduced by Jesus Christ,  
the Builder and Head of the Church and  
the Keyholder of the Kingdom of heaven

Now, Jesus for the first time speaks of the mystery of God's Plan of Redemption  
of fallen man

In keeping with

Gen 18:17 And the LORD said, Shall I hide from Abraham  
(friend of God) that thing which I do

Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord GOD will do nothing, but he revealeth his  
secret unto his servants the prophets

He, the Christ, the Son of the Living God, the Builder of the Church  
Therefore...according to the Scriptures...He

- must...to fulfill all righteousness and the Law and prophets  
(Matt 3:15, Matt 5:17)
- go to Jerusalem
- suffer at the hands of the Sanhedrin, the chief priests, and the  
scribes/Pharisees (i.e. will not defend Himself, Is 53)
- die, be killed (be the atonement for sin as the Father's Lamb and  
Sin Sacrifice (John 1:29, Is 53, Ps 22, Gen 22)
- raised again on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day (the sign of the prophet Jonah)

This is the first time Jesus plainly tells His disciples what God's Plan is;  
it involves the suffering and death of the Christ

Their expectations of the Messiah must be changed from that of the people's  
(Conquering King) to that of God's (Suffering Servant)

expectations of the Messiah by the people

- looking for a king
- throw off the yoke of Rome
- restore the kingdom to Israel

vs

the work/will of His Father

- Servant/Lamb/Sin Sacrifice
- break the yoke of sin and death and Satan
- restore fallen man into right relationship with God

They must know what “Christ” really means and the full extent of the Father’s will He came to do

This will not be the only time Jesus plainly tells His disciples what God’s Plan is; He will 7 times

- |    |                      |  |
|----|----------------------|--|
| 1. | here                 | Caesarea Philippi                                |
| 2. | <u>Matt 17:9</u>     | post-Transfiguration                             |
| 3. | <u>Matt 17:22-23</u> | in Galilee                                       |
| 4. | <u>Luke 17:22-25</u> | in Perea, His 3 <sup>rd</sup> year, final months |
| 5. | <u>Mark 10:32-34</u> | leaving Perea, going to Jerusalem                |
| 6. | <u>Mark 12:1-8</u>   | His Final Week                                   |
| 7. | <u>Luke 22:15-16</u> | His Final Week                                   |

Let’s pause for a moment and attempt to put ourselves in the sandals of the 12

The 12 have never heard anything like what Jesus just told them

For well over a year now, they have heard and watched Jesus of Nazareth

- change water into wine
- heal the son of the nobleman of Capernaum...merely by speaking while 20 miles away in Cana
  
- followed by multitudes of needy people
- made the blind to see
- made the deaf to hear
- made the lame to walk
- made the dumb to speak
- heal every sickness and disease
- raise from the dead Jairus’ daughter and the widow of Nain’s son
  
- cast out who knows how many demons, including 2 dumb demons and an entire Legion in Decapolis
- calmed the wind and the Sea of Galilee...merely with His spoken word
- fed 5000 (besides) with a poor boy’s lunch...and had leftovers
- fed 4000 (besides) with seven loaves and a few fish...and had leftovers
- walked on the Sea of Galilee
  
- taught with authority, unlike the scribes
- confounded the religious leaders
- confounded the people with His parables while explaining all the parables to them
  
- picked them to be His disciples
- sent them out 2x2, giving them power over demons and to heal all illnesses
- they were touching people’s lives, making a difference

Now, at Caesarea Philippi,

- The Father in heaven has revealed to them the mystery of Christ, that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Son of the Living God
- Jesus has revealed to them a new work, a body of people called His Church
- Jesus has revealed He must go to Jerusalem to suffer many things at the hands of the religious leaders, be killed, and raised again on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day

Wait...what?!

Whoa, whoa, whoa!

Timeout!

v22 Peter took Him...rebuke Him...this shall not be:

Peter, usually the first to act and the first to speak, took Jesus aside from the other 11 disciples (but not too far as we shall see)...  
to rebuke/forbid Jesus about v21

Not long ago, in the synagogue at Capernaum when most of the disciples abandoned Jesus because of His hard saying, Peter had boldly said,  
“Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life.  
And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.”

He just repeated that truth in v16

Perhaps minutes later, Peter says

“No!

Perish the thought!

This will NOT happen to You!”

In his flesh, Peter is in shock, horrified, overwhelmed by what Jesus said and he “comes to Jesus’ defense”...  
seeking his will be done vs the Father’s will be done

Did Peter hear and understand **all** what Jesus just said?

Go to Jerusalem, home of His hostile opponents? Yes

Suffer many things at the hands of the national leaders? Yes

Be killed? Yes

Be raised from death unto life on the 3<sup>rd</sup> day? Don’t think so

It seems that the shock of hearing Jesus speak of suffering and dying

- disengaged the ears and minds of the disciples
- their brains went Tilt! and shut down...“the record scratched”
- they did not or could not hear “the rest of the story”

v23 Get thee behind me, Satan:

Peter rebuked Jesus, now Jesus has a stinging rebuke for Peter!

Peter, the “revealer” for God the Father in v16, is now the devil’s spokesman.

At the beginning of His ministry, Jesus was tempted 40 days and 40 nights in the wilderness by Satan.

Satan, in offering Jesus the kingdoms of the world in exchange for His worship, was tempting Jesus to

- do things his way vs the Father’s way
- take the easy and broad way instead of the difficult and narrow way
- without understanding the shadows in Scripture (1 Cor 2:7-8), to escape the Cross and save/spare Himself at the expense of fallen and cursed mankind

Satan hates and opposes the things of God...

“Has God said...” (Gen 3:1)

doubt the Word of God

“Ye shall not surely die.” (Gen 3:4)

deny the Word of God

“ye shall be as God...” (Gen 3:5)

man as lord of his life,  
another gospel

Now, Peter is speaking like Satan

- doubting the Word of God (Gen 22, Ps 22, Is 53, Dan 9:26)
- denying the Word of God...not be so!
- man as the Lord, man’s ways vs God’s ways (Is 55:8-9)

Peter sounds like the counterfeit christ instead of like his Master, the Christ  
As mentioned two weeks ago (mystery of Christ), Peter himself did not fully understand what he said in v16...as we now see

So Jesus rebukes Peter

Get behind Me – not leave (as He commanded Satan), but get behind...  
follow vs lead

Satan – spokesman for the liar, slanderer, deceiver, author of confusion

You are an offense to Me – you are attempting to cause Me to stumble in  
doing My Father’s will

You favor not the things of God

- Spirit
- eternal
- Messiah the Servant to atone for sin and defeat death,  
the salvation of fallen man

but the things of men

- flesh
- temporal
- Messiah the King to overthrow Roman Empire and restore the kingdom to Israel

## **Mark 8**

v31-32a He began to teach...openly:

A turning point in the ministry of Jesus - He begins to plainly, openly teach of God's Plan of Redemption and His ultimate mission of love.

John the Baptist spoke of it, in veiled terms

John 1:29 Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world

Jesus Himself spoke of it in veiled terms

- to Jews who demanded a sign from Him when He cleansed the Temple  
John 2:19 Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up
- to Nicodemus, a Pharisee  
John 3:14-15 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life
- in the synagogue in Capernaum in His Bread of God teaching  
John 6:51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world
- to the Pharisees and Sadducees demanding a sign from heaven  
Matt 16:4 A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas

Now, for the first time to His 12 disciples, at Caesarea Philippi, Jesus teaches of God's Plan of Redemption

- openly, clearly, plainly,
- in no uncertain terms, not in parables

The Son of Man...the synopsis of the Gospel

a clear reference to Dan 7:13-14

vision of Daniel when the Son of Man came before the Ancient of Days to receive His kingdom

MUST

- suffer
- be rejected by the Jews
- be killed/executed
- rise again after 3 days

This is Jesus' 1<sup>st</sup> plain teaching of

1. His death...the Cross
2. His Resurrection

v32b-33 Peter...rebuke...looked on His disciples:

Peter seems to have heard only in part but that which he heard he understood clearly...and objects to God's Plan of Redemption

In Matt's account, Jesus replied to Peter

In Mark's account, Jesus replied to Peter...after He had everyone's attention, for they must all hear and understand His rebuke of Peter

He came to do the Father's will and to please Him,

not to do His own will or man's will and to please Himself or men

## Luke 9

v22 The Son of man must:

Picking up from v21...

Notice that in Luke's account, unlike Matthew's and Mark's, there is no record of Peter rebuking Jesus and Jesus subsequently rebuking Peter

## Application

From Jesus very clear teaching on God's Plan of Redemption and Jesus' stinging rebuke of Peter we learn...there is NO OTHER way for fallen man to be redeemed from death but by God's way!

1 Cor 15:3-4 Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures (before Greek Scriptures)  
He was buried and rose again the 3<sup>rd</sup> day according to the Scriptures

Gal 1:1-12

1 Peter 1:18-21

Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Son of the Living God

Jesus will build His Church upon the immovable Rock

Jesus is the

- Rock...massive and immovable
- Foundation...sure (1 Cor 3:11)

of His Church

Jesus is the Lamb of God, the Father's Sin Sacrifice for the

- sin...wrong-being
- sins...wrong-doing

of Adam's race

The only payment for man's sin that is acceptable to the holy God is...the life of His Son

The fall of man was known by God from before the foundation of the world

God's Plan of Redemption of fallen man was known from before the foundation of the world

Jesus Christ is the Lamb slain from before the foundation of the world (Rev 13:8)

Written in the Lamb's book of life from before the foundation of the world are all those who trust in Jesus to pay for their sins and to make reconciliation with God...  
trust in God's Plan of Redemption

There is NO OTHER way for fallen man to be redeemed from death but by God's way!  
EVERY OTHER way is a lie from the pit of hell

Good News!

Especially "The rest of the story"!!!

1 Cor 15:51-57

The Gospel...forgiveness of sins, eternal life...is an invitation  
Who wants to accept?