

## That The World May Know – The Death and Resurrection of the Messiah - Session 3: Gates of Hades (Hell)

### Jesus As The Messiah

1. According to the prophet Zechariah, which roles would the Messiah fulfill?  
Deuteronomy 18:18  
Zechariah 6:13
2. After Jesus asked His disciples who people said He was why did He ask His disciples who they thought He was?  
Matthew 16:15  
Mark 8:29
3. What is the significance of Peter's response to Jesus' second question?  
Matthew 16:16  
Mark 8:29
4. After Peter made his profession, what did Jesus do? Why did He pick this moment to begin explaining this?  
Matthew 16:21 – 26
5. What kind of life did Isaiah the prophet predict that Jesus would have?  
Isaiah 53:1 – 12
6. In light of Isaiah 53:1 – 12, why was it so difficult for the people of Jesus' day, including the disciples, to understand what He—the Messiah— was called to do?

### The Meanings of the Rock

1. On what did Jesus promise to build His church?  
Matthew 16:18
2. There are two major viewpoints concerning what Jesus meant by the "rock" upon which He would build His church. What does the Bible say about:
  - a. Peter – who represents all the disciples – being the "rock"?  
Ephesians 2:20 – 21
  - b. Peter's profession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God?  
1 Corinthians 3:10 – 15  
Acts 4:10 – 11
3. What is the significance of the description "this rock"?  
Matthew 16:18
4. The imagery of the "rock" was not new to the disciples.
  - a. On which "rock" was the nation of Israel build? Isaiah 51:1 – 2
  - b. Who is the "rock" whom David praised? How does David describe that "rock"?  
Psalm 18:2 - 3

### The Gates of Hades (Hell)

Hades—originally the Greek god of the underworld—is the name-sake for the place where departed spirits live and was frequently used in the Bible as a synonym for hell or the grave (Psalm 9:17; Psalm 55:15; Psalm 116:3). As Jesus used it in Matthew 16:18, *Hades* seems to refer to the powers of evil that resisted Jesus, including Satan's ultimate weapon—physical death.

1. What did Jesus say His church would have to confront?  
Matthew 16:18
  - a. What did Jesus say would be the outcome?
  - b. How can we be assured of this outcome?  
1 John 3:7 – 8  
John 4:2 – 4
2. What is the significance of the imagery of the "gates" here? Think about what you saw in the video.
3. What was Jesus' method of defeating Satan, sin, and physical death—the "gates of Hades"?  
Matthew 16:1 – 23  
1 Corinthians 15:26 – 28
4. What is the source of our power to confront evil?  
Ephesians 1:17 – 23  
Acts 1:8  
Acts 19:20  
Luke 10:17 – 19  
Ephesians 6:10 – 18  
Hebrews 4:12

## Dead Gods versus the Living God

When the Hebrews entered Canaan, they found a land of farmers who attributed their fertile land to their god—Baal. So the Jews struggled, wondering whether to worship the God who had guided them to the Promised Land, or to honor the fertility god of the land, or to worship both. Today God's people still face the struggle: will we be totally committed to God or will we honor the "gods" of the places we inhabit?

1. What is the difference between the living God and idols such as Pan, the fertility god worshipped in Caesarea Philippi?  
Jeremiah 10:1 – 16
2. Read the following passages of Scripture and note the ways in which God demonstrated His supremacy over Baal:  
Joshua 3:9 – 17  
Judges 5:19 – 21  
1 Kings 17:1  
1 Kings 18:1  
1 Kings 18:21 – 45  
2 Kings 2:8 – 22
3. Impatient to receive their place to live in the Promised Land, the tribe of Dan refused to remain in the territory God had provided and established the city of Dan on Israel's northern border.
  - a. For what was the city of Dan known?  
Judges 18: 1 – 31  
1 Kings 12:25 – 31
  - b. What was the fate of the city of Dan?  
1 Kings 15:20
4. What are some of the "gods" that are worshipped in our culture? In what ways do these gods contrast with the true, living God?

5. In what ways do you see the community of Christians simply coexisting with, rather than confronting, the "gods" of this world?

## The Truth of the Matter

To believe in Jesus (*Yeshua*) is to accept His work of saving sinners from sin and to accept the mission to take on the gates of hell. To believe in Christ (Messiah, *Mashiach*) is to confess that He was chosen and equipped by God for His office as prophet, priest, and king. Jesus accomplished the task He was sent to do by serving others and suffering for them, even unto death. Following Jesus Christ means accepting His command to suffer for Him and to serve others on His behalf. When we engage in the process of believing and following, we are truly Christlike.

## Scripture References

Deuteronomy 12  
Deuteronomy 18  
Joshua 3  
Judges 5  
Judges 18  
1 Kings 12  
1 Kings 15  
1 Kings 17  
1 Kings 18  
2 Kings 2  
Psalm 9  
Psalm 18  
Psalm 55  
Psalm 116  
Isaiah 51  
Isaiah 53  
Jeremiah 10  
Zechariah 6  
Matthew 16  
Mark 8  
Luke 10  
1 John 3  
1 John 4  
Acts 1  
Acts 4  
Acts 19  
1 Corinthians 3  
1 Corinthians 15  
Ephesians 1  
Ephesians 2  
Ephesians 6  
Hebrews 4  
Revelation 7

