



Article Title— **“Upon Which Rock?”**

Article Category— **Correcting Orthodox Translation Errors**

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Most churchgoers probably know that, while we enjoy just one English-language word for “Love,” the New Testament Greek language has several. Here are five examples:

- > “But I say unto you, **Love**^[G-25] your enemies...” —Matthew 5:43,44
[G-25] Per Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, the original N.T. Greek word for “Love” in that passage is, **αγαπαō**: “1. of persons: to welcome, to entertain, to be fond of, to love dearly; 2. of things: to be well pleased, to be contented at or with a thing.”
- > “But I know you, that ye have not the **Love**^[G-26] of God in you.” —John 5:42
- > “By this shall all [men] know that ye are my disciples, if ye have **Love**^[G-26] one to another.” —John 13:35
[G-26] Per Strong’s, the original N.T. Greek word for “Love” in these two verses is, **αγαπε**: “affection, good will, love, benevolence, brotherly love.”
- > “...Beware of the scribes, which **Love**^[G-2309] to go in long clothing, and love salutations in the marketplaces.” —Mark 12:38
[G-2309] The original Greek word for “Love,” per Strong’s, in these two verses is, **θηλω**: “to will, have in mind, intend; to be resolved or determined, to purpose; to desire, to wish; to like to do a thing, be fond of doing; to take delight in, have pleasure”
- > “[Be] kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly **Love**^[G-5360]...” —Romans 12:10
[G-5360] The original Greek word here is, **philadelphia**: “love of brothers or sisters, brotherly love; in the NT the love which Christians cherish for each other as brethren”
- > “...thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they **Love**^[G-5368] to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets...” —Matthew 6:5
[G-5368] The original Greek word, here, is **phileō**: “to love; to approve of; to like; sanction; to treat affectionately or kindly; to welcome; befriend; to show signs of love; to kiss; to be fond of doing; to be wont; use to do”

Few believers may know that the New Testament Greek language also features multiple words for "Rock." Few scriptures have yielded more confusion and even heresy than the one that records Jesus’ proclamation to Peter about the Rock upon which He would establish His church:

- > “And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” —Matthew 16:18 [KJV]

We studied the renderings of that verse in 14 of the more commonly known Bible versions. Just one of them, the NASB, bothers to distinguish for its readers the critical differences between the rock from which Peter’s name was derived and the Rock upon which Jesus said He would build His church. The NASB makes that distinction via two footnotes:

- > “I also say to you that you are ^[fn1]Peter, and upon this ^[fn2]rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.” —Matthew 16:18 [NASB]
[fn1]“Gr Petros, a stone”
[fn2]“Gr Petra, large rock; bed-rock”

Per the Interlinear[^] texts, what Jesus actually said to Peter at Matthew 16:18 must have confused all (or almost all) of the translators of the Bible into English. Why? Because instead of saying “...on this rock...” Jesus actually said “...on this^[G-3778] THE^[G-3558] ROCK...” in the second part of that verse. They acknowledged the word “this,” but ignored the word “THE” that appears immediately after it in the original texts. See the Interlinear screen capture, below, to confirm that. “This THE ROCK,” you’ll concede, can be none other than our Lord and Savior, Himself!

[^] The Interlinear texts are literal translations from the original Bible languages into English, showing both of those, side-by-side. Although some of these resources are online and easy to access, most believers have never even heard of them. You? I’ve often wondered why our seminary graduates would want to keep an important secret like that to themselves...

I was a successful Bible teacher for a LOT of years—big sanctuary classes.
I knew what my denomination believed and that’s what I taught.
Yes, I should’ve checked it out to make sure it was true.

So why didn’t I do that? Well, maybe I didn’t do that for the same reason that you haven’t really checked out what your denomination teaches.

“In religion and politics, people’s beliefs and convictions are in almost every case gotten at second hand, and without examination.” —Samuel Clemens



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www.scripture4all.org/OnlineInterlinear/NTpdf/mat16.pdf

How do so many Bible “experts” miss that? Here’s the hotlink: www.scripture4all.org/OnlineInterlinear/NTpdf/mat16.pdf

At Deuteronomy 32:1-43 is “**the song of Moses.**” Most believers are NOT familiar with it, or with the significance of it. Verse 31 reads, “For their **rock** [is] not as our **Rock**, even our enemies themselves [being] judges.” About Peter? Not. And, then, there’s this concerning “the song of Moses.” It was written of those who will have overcome the Beast:

- > “And they sing **the song of Moses** the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous [are] thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true [are] thy ways, thou King of saints.” —Revelation 15:3
- > “[He is] **the Rock**, his work [is] perfect: for all his ways [are] judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right [is] he.” —Deuteronomy 32:4
- > “And he said, The LORD [is] **my Rock**, and my fortress, and my deliverer.” —2 Samuel 22:2
- > “To shew that the LORD [is] upright: [he is] **my Rock**, and [there is] no unrighteousness in him.” —Psalm 92:15

While Acts 2 confirms that Peter established the first church, he established it on “this **THE ROCK**,” **the solid Rock**, Christ Jesus. Reminiscent of the Prudential commercial, Peter may’ve had *a piece of the rock*, but he was clearly not “this **THE ROCK**” of Matthew 16:18 in the original texts.

- > “Discernment is telling the difference between right and almost right!” —C. H. Spurgeon
- > “Hyperspirituality is demonstrably ineffective as a tool for discernment. Those who’re blessed with the gift of discernment are simply ‘above average’ in their ability to separate what feels right from what’s scripturally right.” —a **Link™** Bible Research Team colleague

Given the fact that the gates of Hell have observably prevailed against the organized visible church (protestant and catholic), was Peter the first pope?

—T. C. Newsome ^{TC}

PS: Comments? Questions? Scriptural rebuttals? They're all welcome! www.Link1.info/contact-us.
To participate in sensible Bible-related discussions, join us at TC's Friends Club. Here's the hot link:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/136708110091989/>



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