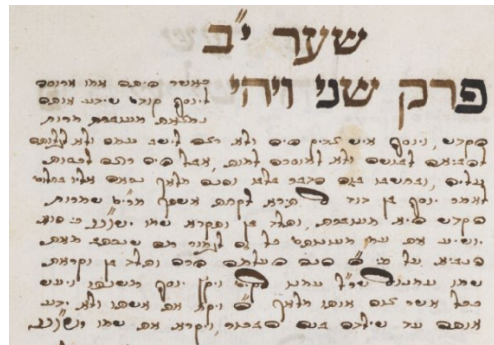


WHO HAS THE KEYS TO BIND AND LOOSE?

Janice F. Baca

Who has the keys to bind and loose according to Matthew 16:19? Does everyone have the keys to bind and loose? Or is it a selected few? Additionally, what is binding and loosening? According to the Hebrew Matthew, these distinctions are clear. Although it may be disappointing to some, it is encouraging that Yehovah trusts his selected ones with the golden keys to his heart.

SHEM TOV MATTHEW



In my analysis, I compared Matthew 16:19 in the Cochin Hebrew Matthew¹ with the Shem Tov Matthew and both Hebrew renderings that are identical. Additionally, the Shem Tov Matthew is argued to have “survived outside of the hegemony of the Roman Church” and keeps the Hebrew tradition.² And, according to my findings, one of the most important variations between the Greek Matthew and the Shem Tov Matthew is in Matthew 23:2-3.

“...The scribes and the Pharisees sit on the seat of Moses; therefore all that **THEY** tell you, do and observe, but do not do according to their deeds;...” Matthew 23:2-3 Greek translation

However, in the Shem Tov Matthew, the Hebrew replaces “**THEY**” with “**HE**” which makes the meaning to obey Moses and not obey the scribes and Pharisees.

ועתה כל אשר יאמר לכם שמרו ועשו ובתקנתיהם ומעשיהם אל תעשו שהם אומרים והם אינם עושים

“And now everything that *he tells you*, keep and do, and do not do their ordinances and deeds do not do which they say, and they do not do.” (emphasis mine)

¹ Bible Hub; Matthew 16:19. Greek Translation. Website: Matthew 16:19 Greek Text Analysis (biblehub.com)

² Jones PhD, Miles R. The Hebrew Gospels: Do They Exist? 2020. pp 19-20.

BIND = FORBID & LOOSE = PERMIT



In Matthew 16:19, the correct translation of the Greek manuscript may be different than what you were originally taught. Consider my updated translation below.

"And I shall give you the keys of the reign of the heavens, and whatever you FORBID/PROHIBIT on earth shall be having been PROHIBITED/FORBIDDEN in the heavens, and whatever you SET FREE/PERMIT on earth shall be having been SET FREE/PERMITTED in the heavens." Matt 16:19 Greek translation

When binding and loosening, we must understand in terms of binding a rope on an enemy, or loosening the ropes of one who has been bound.

THE GREEK REVEALS THE TRUTH

When analyzing the Greek Matthew, we must consider whom Yeshua is speaking to in Matthew 16:15-19.

"He said to them, "And you, who do you say I am?" And Simon Peter answering, said, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living Elohim." And Yeshua answering, said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Son of Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father in the heavens. And I also say *to you* that you are Peter, and on this rock I shall build My assembly, and the gates of She'ol shall not overcome it. *And I shall give you the keys of the reign of the heavens*, and whatever you bind on earth shall be having been bound in the heavens, and whatever you loosen on earth shall be having been loosened in the heavens." Matthew 16:15-19 (emphasis mine)

Notice in verse 15 through 18 Yeshua is speaking directly to Peter proclaiming the Father has revealed a matter to Peter. It is clear, he isn't speaking to the other apostles in these verses. Therefore, when continuing to verse 19, he continues with the blessings that have been bestowed upon Peter. Furthermore, in the Greek the word σοι (soi) meaning "to you" is second person singular.

THE HEBREW REVEALS THE TRUTH



However, consider the Hebrew Matthew from the Cambridge Gospels. This verse in the Cambridge Hebrew Gospels is also identical to the Shem Tov Matthew but is clear whom Yeshua is speaking.

לך אתן מפתחות של שמים וכל מה שאתה אוסר בעולם יהיו אסורים בשמים וכל מה שיתר יהיו מותרים משמים
"I will *give you the keys of heaven* and everything (or whatever) you prohibit (bind as imprison, take captive) in the world (or what is hidden, uncertain, undefined) will be prohibited in heaven and everything else will be permitted from heaven." Cochin Hebrew Matthew 16:19

The Hebrew begins with לך (lecha) meaning “to you” (or belonging to you). The suffix is a **2nd person masculine singular** pronominal suffix. Therefore, it is clear whom Yeshua is speaking – Peter. The suffix clearly indicates this is one man only and not many. If Yeshua were speaking to all the Apostles or all his followers, the word would appear as לכם (lachem), 2nd person masculine plural pronominal suffix.

CONCLUSION



In conclusion, it is essential we understand whom Yeshua was speaking to in Matthew 16:19. Because if Yeshua is speaking to Peter only, then he was not speaking to all the disciples nor was he speaking to all his followers. It is clear in the Greek and in the Hebrew Yeshua spoke directly to Peter. Therefore, only Peter had the authority to bind and loose according to Matthew 16:19.

So, who has the keys to bind and loose? According to scripture, only a select few have the gift of the keys to bind and loose; not all believers. However, whomever is chosen to bear those keys, we can rest assured they know how to use the keys to the kingdom of heaven!

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