"The Keys of Death and Hades" (Rev 1:18b-20)

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Truth Matters Church, Inc.

DISCLAIMER



- ™ This will be a very sensitive study
- ™ We will be touching upon the reality of "hell"
- ™ We will be unapologetic about truth, but will do so in love
- Although it is sobering, for believers, it is also insightful and praiseworthy

Scripture Reading

C3

Revelation 1:9-20 (NASB)

9 I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet, 11 saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

Scripture Reading



12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; 13 and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. 14 His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. 15 His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. 16 In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

Scripture Reading

C3

17 When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, 18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. 19 Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things. 20 As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Exposit Rev 1:18b



18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades.

- ₩e covered 18a in our last study
- ™ Today we will cover 18b



- "I have" [Jesus speaking] is in the present tense,
 - At this point in the vision, Jesus already possessed the keys of death and of Hades
- ™ To be technical, Jesus was given these keys prior to 95/96AD
- ™ In fact, the Great Commission account helps narrow the timing a bit more Matthew 28:18-20
 - 18 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
 - Which means, by the time of the Great Commission was given (sometime after Passover AD 30), Jesus already possessed the keys of death and of Hades
- ™ This strikes a cord with another familiar passage, Phi 2...



- If you are wondering when Phi 2 passage was fulfilled (the humiliation and exaltation of Jesus and being bestowed the title of "Lord" (Kurios) this happened *prior to* the His ascension back to heaven in Acts 1:9-11 (40 days post resurrection)
 - Which means, by the time Jesus ascended back to heaven in Acts 1, Jesus already was given all authority in heaven and on earth, including the keys of death and of Hades!
- occurred when He ascended back to His Father in Acts 1:9-11
- ™ But this cannot be true because when Jesus gave the Great Commission He already was given all authority in heaven and on earth

QUESTION: Does anyone want to venture to guess when Jesus was exalted, given all authority in heaven and earth and bestowed the title of "Lord" (Kurios)?

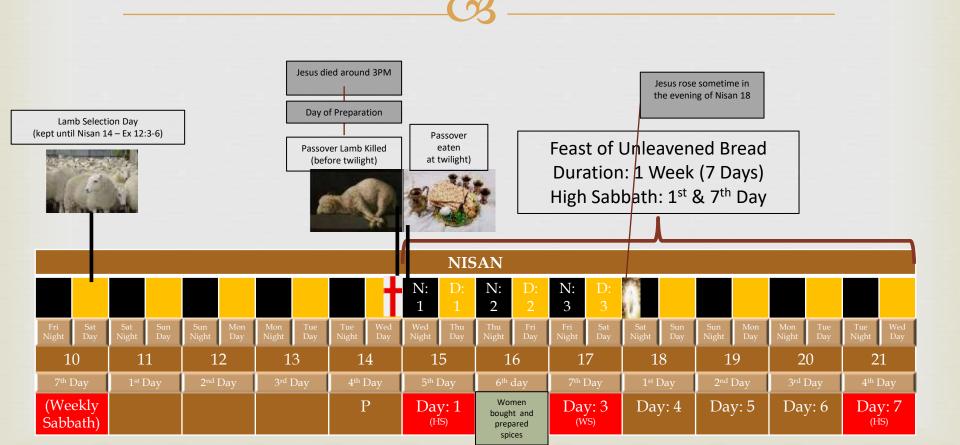
CLUE: Jesus ascended more than 1x after His resurrection



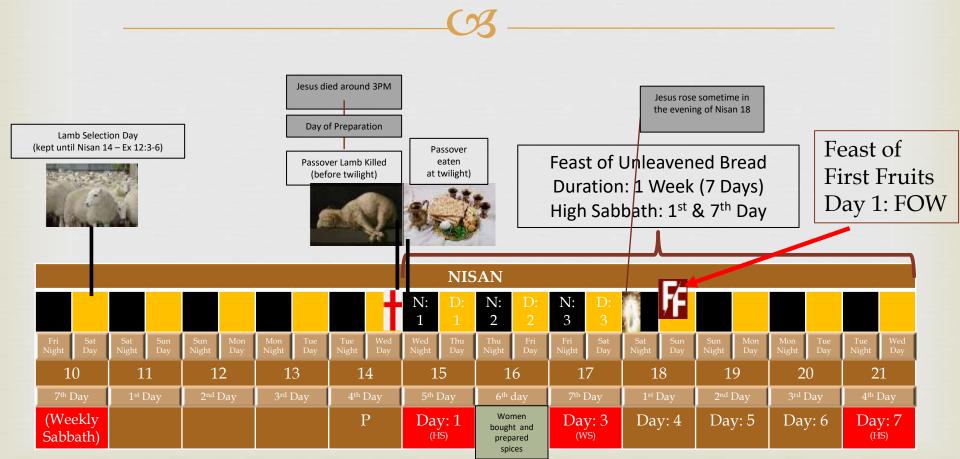
□ During the Feast of First Fruits after Passover AD 30!

™ Here is a slide from our Good Wednesday study...

OT/NT: Passover (Crucifixion) Week



OT/NT: Passover (Crucifixion) Week





 \bowtie Here is the 1st mention of Jesus ascending to His Father:

John 20:11-18 (Mary Magdalene visits the empty tomb)

11 But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb; 12 and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying. 13 And they *said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." 14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. 15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she *said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away." 16 Jesus *said to her, "Mary!" She turned and *said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher).



17 Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'" 18 Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and that He had said these things to her.

- ~ "I ascend to" is rendered "I am ascending to My Father" in NKJV
- □ DEDUCTION: Jesus's humiliation and exaltation recorded in Phi 2 must have occurred when Jesus presented Himself to His Father as the first fruits of being raised from the dead!
- □ Paul alluded to this in 1Corinthians 15...



1 Corinthians 15:20-23

20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep (died). 21 For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming

CASE IN POINT: By the time we get to Rev 18b, and by the time Jesus made this claim to having the keys of death and of Hades, He was given those keys when He was given all power and authority in heaven and on earth by His Father when He presented Himself as the First Fruits offering to His Father on Nisan 18 AD 30!



- "keys" is kleis and comes from root word 'kleilō' which means to shut or close
- The idea behind kleis is not so much that you have keys to have access to something (like house or car)
- ™ But rather the idea and emphasis behind this word is authority to bind and to loose



Matthew 16:13-19

13 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14 And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." 15 He *said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 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. 18 I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it. 19 I will give you the keys (kleis) 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."

Rock or Stone



Matthew 16:13-19

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α 'kleis' is associated with to bind and loose (more on Mt 16)



- ™ 'bind' is 'deō' which means to tie, or imprison, or put in chains
- ☆ 'loose' is 'luō' which is the opposite, to untie, or unbind, or release
- ™ In Mt 16, Jesus asked Peter who do you say that I am
- Reter's confession was "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God"
- ☐ Jesus blessed Peter and goes on to say you are Peter and upon "this rock" I will build my church
 - 😝 Play on words Peter is Petros which means Rock or Stone
 - "this rock" is connected to Peter's confession as to who Jesus is/was
 - SIDE NOTE: The Catholic church took this to mean apostolic succession (Papacy)
 - This is NOT what Jesus intended to say
- - TRUTH: ROE# 4 Must interpret literally. Peter (not the other apostles, not the Pope) will be given the kleis of the kingdom



- ™ Peter's confession as to who Jesus is/was is the foundation upon which Jesus will build His church and the gates of Hades will not overpower it
 - STRUTH: The church (believers) will NOT be overcome by the gates of Hades
- To reward Peter for his true confession, Jesus will give Peter the kleis of the kingdom of heaven
 - We see this play out in Acts
 - Peter was the prominent spokesperson for the apostles and disciples
 - ☑ During Pentecost gave his great sermon; 3k souls were saved that day
 - Those 3k souls were saved because of Peter's confession as to who Jesus was
 - RUTH: People are saved when they believe Peter's confession (testimony of Scripture)

 - Reter even opened the grave so to speak when pronouncing judgment upon Ananias and Sapphira for lying to the Holy Spirit



- What's implied in Mt 16, is Jesus will have the keys (kleis) of the kingdom of heaven (after the First Fruits offering is made by Yeshua)
 - TRUTH: Not only does the Lord Jesus have the kleis of death and hades, but He also has the kleis of the kingdom of heaven by the time of Revelation
- ☑ In Mt 16, Jesus is declaring the church will be built upon Peter's confession and those
 who believe Peter's testimony will prevail against the gate of Hades
 - Use Jesus is declaring He is the rightful possessor of those keys (kleis)
- ₩hat I want us to take away from Mt 16 and tying it back to Rev 1:18b, is kleis is associated with authority to bind and loose
- Representation of the Representation of the



- Concerning Hades, we can spend a series on this topic along, but allow me
 to do an accelerated overview of this topic
- ™ In the OT, the equivalent Hebrew word is Sheol (mentioned 66x)
- ™ In the NT, Hades is mentioned only 10x
- Sheol and Hades depending on context refers to
 - **3** The grave
 - Place of departed souls



As for it's geographic location: It's down:

Matthew 11:23-24 (Jesus denouncing cities where most of His miracles were done)

- 23 And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. 24 Nevertheless I say to you that it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in the day of judgment, than for you."
- still If heaven is up, Hades is down
- Capernaum will descend (come or be brought down) into Hades



Matthew 16:18 (we just ready this)

18 I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

- "gates" is pulē which is used to describe a large door or gate to a city
- Ust like there is a City of Lincoln, City of Rocklin, etc. there is a City of Hades (and citizens of Hades)
- TRUTH: believers are citizens of heaven; unbelievers are citizens of Hades



☐ It's a place of torment and far away from Paradise Luke 16 (Rich Man and Lazarus):

19 "Now there was a rich man, and he habitually dressed in purple and fine linen, joyously living in splendor every day. 20 And a poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, 21 and longing to be fed with the crumbs which were falling from the rich man's table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. 22 Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. 23 In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom.

- NOTE: Abraham's bosom is not a place (the City of Abraham's bosom); when Lazarus died he was taken to where Abraham was and was in his arms not in Hades, but in Paradise



Luke 16:

24 And he (the rich man who died) cried out and said, 'Father Abraham (rich man was a Jew), have mercy on me, and send Lazarus (presumably a poor Jew taken to his father Abraham's bosom) so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.'

- WARNING: some teaching out there that defines hell (Hades) as merely being absent from the presence of God and kind of leaves it there; not fully true!
- Hell (Hades) is a place of burning fire



Luke 16:

25 But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your life you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony. 26 And besides all this, between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.' 27 And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father's house — 28 for I have five brothers—in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.' 29 But Abraham *said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.' 30 But he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!' 31 But he said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.'"

- SIDE TRUTH: Those in Hades can see and speak with those in Paradise, however
- "there is a great chasm fixed" (megas chasma); a great wide space where one cannot cross from Hades → Paradise or vice versa
- RUTH: Once a citizen of Hades, always a citizen of Hades, Hebrews touches on this



Hebrews 9:27-28

27 And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, 28 so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

□ TRUTH: there is NOT a 2nd chance after death; teaching of purgatory is a lie

○ Once we die, we're either a citizen of Hades or a citizen of Paradise (heaven)



Acts 2:25-28 (Peter's Great Sermon quoting David)

25 For David says of Him,

'I SAW THE LORD ALWAYS IN MY PRESENCE;

FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, SO THAT I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN.

26 'THEREFORE MY HEART WAS GLAD AND MY TONGUE EXULTED;

MOREOVER MY FLESH ALSO WILL LIVE IN HOPE;

27 BECAUSE YOU WILL NOT ABANDON MY SOUL TO HADES,

NOR ALLOW YOUR HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.

This was David's prophecy concerning God the Father and Christ

We know this because later in the same chapter...



A Has abandoned souls:

Acts 2:30-32

30 And so, because he [David] was a prophet and knew that GOD HAD SWORN TO HIM WITH AN OATH TO SEAT one OF HIS DESCENDANTS ON HIS THRONE, 31 he [David] looked ahead and spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that HE [JESUS CHRIST] WAS NEITHER ABANDONED TO HADES, NOR DID His flesh SUFFER DECAY. 32 This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses.

- The Father did not abandon Jesus's soul to Hades nor undergo decay
- Instead Jesus was taken to be with His Father in Paradise
 - i.e. thief in the cross; "today you shall be with me in Paradise" − Lk 23:43
- IMPLIED: the Father leaves abandoned souls in Hades (like the Rich Man)
- TRUTH: Election is solely and wholly of the Father "the Potter" as Paul puts it in Rm 9!

C3

There is something mysterious about Hades mentioned during the 4th Seal: Revelation 6:8

8 I looked, and behold, an ashen [pale green] horse; and he who sat on it had the name Death; and Hades was following with him. Authority was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword and with famine and with pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

Os Does anyone want to venture to guess what Hades is here? [DON'T PEEK]

CR CLUE: Death and Hades are both personified



- As I mentioned, both Death and Hades are personified
- \bowtie So in John's vision of the 4th Seal, Hades is not a place, but an angel!
 - 13 How do we know that?
 - "he who sat on the ashen horse" was named "Death"
 - "Hades was following with him [rider on ashen horse]"
 - "authority was given to [the both of] them"
- TRUTH: there are angels who bear these names (Death and Hades) that speak to the reality of these things!
 - Is the grim reaper biblical?
 - ₩ Well if he rides a pale green horse and his name is Death then, yes!



- - 22 Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried.
 - Lazarus was carried by angels to Abraham's side!
 - IMPLIED: the rich man was carried away by angels to Hades!
 - Which angels? Well with insight into the 4th Seal, I would like to suggest to you it was the angels named Death and Hades!
 - IMPLIED: Since Adam, people who died are taken by angels to Paradise (where Abraham and Lazarus were) or Hades (where the rich man is)
 - Did you think your soul didn't need an escort to your eternal abode, well think again



≪ It's contains the dead:

Revelation 20:11-13 (the Great White Throne Judgment)

11 Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. 13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.

"which were in them" we just deduced are the angels named Death and Hades
"unbelievers" are "in Death and Hades"

This is contrasted with believers who are "in Christ" or "in Him"



Castly, it's a temporary holding place:

Revelation 20:14-15 (same Great White Throne Judgment account)

- 14 Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.
- The angel named Death and the angel named Hades were likely Satan's right hand angels who were part of the angelic rebellion
- In Rev 20:10 Satan, the beast, and the false prophet were already thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone
- ☑ In Rev 20:14, the death angel and Hades angel were thrown into the lake of fire too
- TRUTH: "the city of Hades" is not the permanent abode for unredeemed souls; "the city of the Lake of Fire and Brimstone" is (citizens of hell collectively)



- This was a lot, but let's pull this together and tie this to Rev 1:18b
- **What we learned about Hades is:**
 - s It's down
 - It has gates
 - It's a place of agony and flames
 - It's a place of torment and far away from Paradise
 - ☑ It's fixed and final (no 2nd chance after death; can't sneak or break into heaven)
 - Has abandoned souls (the Father left them there)
 - It's the name of one of the angels (Hades angel; Death angel)
 - It's associated with death (is a partner with the Death angel)
 - It contains unredeemed souls
 - It's a temporary holding place (until the lake of fire)
- № Now back to Rev 1:17-18b...



- When Jesus said "17 I am the first and the last, 18 and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades."
 - Jesus among other things is declaring that He like His Father is the first and the last, the very One who rose from the dead never to die again, and His Father gave Him all power and authority in heaven and on earth!
- ™ TRUTH: When Jesus says He has the keys (kleis) of death and of Hades, He is claiming to have authority by His Father to bind and imprison those in them and He has also has authority over all angels (including Death and Hades) to loose and release them to carry out His purposes (including paying retribution to those who dwell on the earth) during the Seal/Trumpet/Bowl judgments!

™ Now onto verse 19...

Exposit Rev 1:19



- 19 Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things.
- "therefore write" John writes what he's commanded to write, and does not write was he's commanded not to write
- "things which you have seen, the things which are, and the things which will take place"
 - Very important for us not to miss this statement
- "thing which you have seen" are concerning "the things which are" + "the things which will take place"
- This statement alone tells us how to view and interpret Revelation
- "the things which are" It was written concerning the state of the 7 churches
- "the things which will take place" after what is fulfilled to the 7 churches, the remaining vision is after them until the very end of the age

Exposit Rev 1:20



20 As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

- ≈ 7 means 7
- 7 stars = 7 angels (not human messengers)
- - "things which are": 7 1st century churches
 - "things which will take place after these things": after what is fulfilled concerning the 7 churches
 - ▼ VERY IMPORTANT! The vision in chapter 4 and beyond cannot take place until what was written concerning the 7 churches is fulfilled in chapters 2-3!

In Closing



- Jesus was given all authority in heaven and on earth by His Father
- - Jesus is Lord over all mankind and all angels
- We learned that not only does Jesus possess the keys (kleis) of the kingdom of heaven, but we also learned that
- ™ The Lord Jesus Christ is the possessor of the keys of death and Hades!

In Closing



- As possessor of the kleis of the kingdom of heaven, through Peter's confession, the church will prevail victorious over death and Hades

 The church winning is as sure as Christ is the Son of God!
- As possessor of the kleis of death and Hades, Jesus has authority to keep abandoned and unredeemed souls bound and imprisoned until the Judgment Day
- Furthermore, as possessor of the kleis of death and Hades, Jesus has authority to bind and loose the angel of death and Hades as part of the global tribulation that will be experienced by the world
 - And since He possesses all authority over the angels, Jesus will Himself cast those who rebelled into the lake of fire at the very end