

Chapter 4



The Authority of the Ekklesia

The primary scripture passage that serves as a foundation for this entire book is found in Matthew 16:13-19. This passage is where Jesus took his disciples to the foot of Mount Hermon for a teaching moment. An extraordinary revelation took place there with the disciples. This passage reads:



“When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, ‘Who do men say that I, the son of man, am?’ So, they answered, ‘Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ He said to them, ‘But who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered and said, ‘You are the Christ, the son of the living God.’” Jesus answered and said unto him.

‘Blessed are you, Simon bar Jonah for flesh and blood is not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my Ekklesia, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it, and I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’” Matthew 16:13

-19 NKJV

We're going to look specifically at the last part of verse 18 and verse 19, where we find four words. We are going to drill down into them to get a little bit more of an understanding of these words. One of them is “gates.” The gates of Hades are talked about. The second one is “keys,” the third is “binding,” and the fourth is “loosing.” These four words will be our focus in this chapter.

Jesus said the Gates of Hades would not prevail against the Ekklesia. So, what are the gates of Hades? First of all, we need to know what gates are. Most of the cities in biblical times were walled cities. For example, Jerusalem had a wall built around it. Jericho had a wall built around it. Since they had walls built around them, there had to be a gateway for entry into the city. Gates were a fundamental concept in the culture of those times. Much like what we have today in what we call gated communities. In those types of communities, there are single or limited entry points. Gates are entryways.

They are spiritual portals through which the enemy can pour his junk or slime into our culture and world. This is what is happening today. It's a spiritual dynamic that takes place. When you think about gates in the spiritual realm, they are like spiritual portals. A portal from the dark side into our culture or our world.

There were several gates at Mount Hermon. The largest of these was the gate of Hades. Hades was a demon god. There was a real hole in the wall, in the

What Are The Gates of Hades?



"And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My Ekklesia, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it" Matt 16:18 NKJV

- Gates are entryways: Spiritual Portals

The Gates of Hades at Caesarea Philippi

The place of human sacrifice = death

One of three brothers:

Zeus: sky

Poseidon: sea

Hades god of the underworld & death

rock into which people sacrificed their babies. This was a physical hole in the mountain that could be seen with the eyes, but it was also a spiritual portal through which spiritual and dark transactions took place. Here in Cesaria Phi-

lippi, Mount Hermon, they sacrificed their babies to Hades, the god of death.

Hades was one of three prominent gods in their culture at that time. The first of the three you may have heard of. This is Zeus, the god of the Sky. The second one is Poseidon, the god of the sea. The third one was Hades. He was the god of the underworld and the god of the dead. They had breeders. Women who would have babies off the record. These breeders produced babies just for sacrifice. They went to the temple area to have a religious ceremony and to throw their baby into the pit. There's an underground river flowing through, and the baby would land in the river and be drowned and be taken away. They were sacrificing these newborn babies to Hades, the god of death. This god of death is still functioning in our culture and world today.

Destroying The Gates of Hades



Three headed dog, key gate of death

The Ekklesia has been given authority over death, grave, all evil

“Behold, I give you the **authority** to trample on serpents and scorpions, and **over all the power** of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.” Luke 10:19 NKJV

“Shall not prevail” = will not stand

The Church is on the defensive...

The Ekklesia is on the offensive!

II Corinthians 10:3-5

The gate of Hades existed in Caesarea Philippi. We have gates that exist in our world today. The gate of Hades and the gates we face today can be destroyed, and the Ekklesia is to stand up against them.

An artist has rendered Hades as a strange-looking figure. With him, he has a three-headed dog held by chains in one hand, and in his other hand, he holds a staff. It is believed that the staff in his hand represents the key to the gate of death. To this day, Hades is worshipped in some places. This statue that this artist created is being sold to people even today.

The Ekklesia has been given the authority over death, the grave, and all evil. Luke 10:19 says, "Behold I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

Look at the word "authority." That word in the original language is "exousia." The word "power" in the original language is "dunamas." Two separate words can be defined like this: let's say that a state trooper pulls up behind you. He's in a marked car. He's got lights flashing on the roof. He gets out of the car and walks up beside you. You notice he has a uniform on, and he has a badge that says Indiana State trooper.

All that is the authority: the car, the lights, the uniform, and the badge. They are all the authority. All of that says the entire legal

system of Indiana is standing behind that man standing at your window. He has great authority. The state's legal system is behind what he will talk to you about. So, let's say he asked you for your driver's license and insurance card, and you decide to say, "No. I'm not going to give you my driver's license or my insurance card", and you start to pull away. At that point, the state trooper reaches down to his holster and pulls out his Glock 9 mil. and shoots the tires out on your car. At that point, he resorted to his power. Authority is one thing; power is another.



The word “power” is “dunamis” in the original language. We get our English word “dynamite” from that word. So, the Bible is telling us Jesus himself is speaking here in Luke 10. Jesus says he has given you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions. It doesn't matter what power the enemy manifests. We have authority over it. We've been lifted to where we are seated with Christ in the heavenly places (the 3rd heaven), so we have all authority. Jesus had been given all authority, and He gave it to the disciples. There is no authority left for the enemy. He doesn't have any authority at all. It doesn't matter at what level you are doing spiritual warfare; the devil doesn't have any authority. We have all of it. When we walk in that authority, nothing is going to hurt us. This authority means that the gates of Hades shall not prevail against us as we are His Ekklesia. This means that evil shall not prevail or stand. The gates of death cannot stand up against the Ekklesia.



The church has interpreted the idea that the gates of Hades will not stand against us entirely differently. The church has interpreted it in a defensive mode. I've heard church leaders, deacons, and board members say, “we are going to keep the lights on and the door open until Jesus comes back, no matter what happens.” That is a defensive posture. “The gates of hell are not going to shut us down!” That's their attitude.

Jesus is not teaching his Ekklesia to take a defensive posture. What's being taught is that the Ekklesia is to be on the offensive. If it goes on offense, the gates of hell will not be able to stand against us. We, the Ekklesia, are going to tear down the gates. We're going to take them apart and open the way so that people can walk into the Kingdom of God. They can walk into life instead of death. This is precisely what the Ekklesia is supposed to be doing.

In 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, The Passion Translation, we read, “For although we live in the natural realm, we don't wage a military campaign employing human weapons, using manipulation to achieve our aims. Instead, our spiritual weapons are energized with divine power to effectively dismantle the defenses behind which people hide. We can demolish every deceptive fantasy that opposes God and break through every arrogant attitude raised in defiance of the true knowledge of God. Like prisoners of war, we capture every thought



and insist that it bow in obedience to the Anointed One. Since we are armed with such great and dynamic weaponry, we stand ready to punish any trace of rebellion as soon as you choose complete obedience.” We have great and mighty weapons. They’re not defensive. They are offensive

weapons. They are capable of tearing down the strongholds of the enemy. We are the Ekklesia that God is raising in our day.

The Ekklesia is rising and has identified seven gates in our culture through which the enemy has been live streaming his garbage into our lives, families, cities, counties, and neighborhoods. The Ekklesia is rising into that battle to tear down, demolish, and destroy those gates. To identify the strong man to take him captive, get him out of there, and put righteous people in local leadership positions.

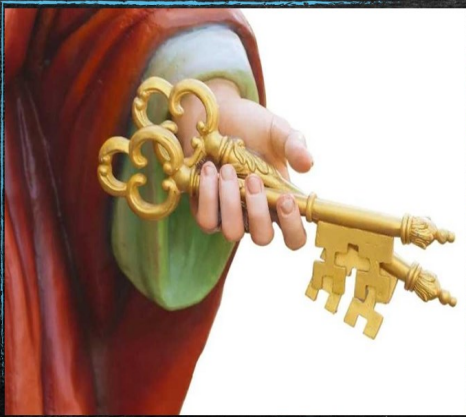


Those seven gates are religion, family, education, government, media, arts and entertainment, and business. All seven of those areas are gates through which the enemy has been live streaming his evil into our culture, our lives, our homes, our families, our neighborhoods, our churches, our schools, and every area of business and community. God is raising the Ekklesia to go to war and capture those gates. The Bible says that the gates shall not prevail.

The Ekklesia will win and overcome the battle because he's given us authority. All authority on heaven and earth has been given. If all authority has been given to us, there is zero authority left for the enemy. He is a squatter with no rights and no authority. It says in Matthew 16:19, "I'll give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

What do we use to open a gate? What is it that he has given to us? There are special occasions sometimes when a city mayor wants to honor someone.

The Authority Given By Christ



"And I will give you the **keys** of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you **bind** on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you **loose** on earth will be loosed in heaven." Matt 16:19 NKJV

In a ceremony, the mayor presents the keys to the city where he presides. You have been given authority there in that city. Not only has God given His Ekklesia authority, but He also presents His Ekklesia with keys. What keys are we talking about here?

What are the keys of the Kingdom of heaven? He said, "I'll give you the keys." First, they represent the God-given authority that we have already discussed.

In the previous chapter, we discussed that the church is a primarily, first of all a building, an institution, a denomination, or worship service or the clergy. The hierarchy that's called church. Christ did not give the keys to the Kingdom of heaven to the church. They do not have the keys. He didn't give the keys to a building or a denomination. He gave the keys to the Ekklesia, because the Ekklesia is the ruling council of the government of the Kingdom of heaven on earth. That's who has the keys. Not the church.

I want you to understand this because you are the Ekklesia of Christ. You're not the church. You need to say that; why don't you say that out loud with me right now? "I am not the church. I am Ekklesia." Would you say that with me again? "I am not the church." If you don't know who you are, you cannot walk in what you have. If you don't have your identity, you can't walk in who you are. You can't walk in what he's given to you. You see, this is a change of identity.

We need to have a new identity. We are the Ekklesia of Christ. You need to stand in front of the mirror, look at yourself and say, "I am the Ekklesia of Christ. I



am part of the ruling council of the government of the Kingdom of heaven here on earth. That's who I am." When you get that settled into your spirit, you begin to walk in the authority He has given you. When you know who you are, you can walk in what you have.

Keys are plural. There are all kinds of keys. Let me illustrate that for you. Keys are very different in our culture; for example, I have a key to my Dodge truck. We have a similar one to the Honda. It has a start button on it. You can sit in the house and push a button, and the car starts. That is a key. Well, there are other keys. I have another kind of key, one we are most familiar with. But we have a key here in our house that is a long series of numbers that gives us access to the Wi-Fi. Another key might be a plastic card. If you go to a hotel and check in, they will provide you with a plastic card, and you insert it or hold it up



to a little device on a door that opens up your hotel door. There are many kinds of keys. You will learn more about these keys and how to use them as you read this book.

Notice that it says the keys of heaven. not to heaven. These keys are keys of heaven. In other words, they are for unlocking all the treasures and all the blessings of heaven that are coming down and being opened by the Ekklesia. They are heaven’s keys that have been given to us. Just imagine that God has entrusted us with the keys. He wants to provide us with the keys to the car. Do you remember when you were a teenager and got the vehicle’s keys? Your mom and dad handed you the keys to the car because they trusted you. God has entrusted to us the keys of heaven. To unlock heaven. He also wants us to open the gates of Hades and set people free. He wants humanity to have an opportunity to enjoy life, walk into God’s Kingdom, and advance His kingdom.

In Matthew 23:13, Jesus is talking to the Pharisees. They were the religious people of his day, and he was working them over. He said woe to the Pharisees, woe, woe, woe, several times. When we come to verse 13, it says, “Woe to the Pharisees,” because not only do you not enter into the Kingdom, but you're preventing other people from entering the Kingdom. That's what religion does. Religion prevents people from entering the Kingdom. Church itself is preventing people from entering the kingdom. Because when you come to church, you're joining a church, you're joining in membership, in an organization, an institution, or a denomination, and that's not the kingdom.

Churches are standing in the way of advancing the Kingdom of God. When thinking about heaven, do you believe there are sections of heaven set up for the Baptist, the Lutheran, or the Methodists? That's not heaven. Those denominational sections don't exist there. When we pray, let your Kingdom come, and your will be done on earth just like it is in heaven. We will begin to see churches, institutions, and organizations dissolve. These things that men have built are under the judgment of God. The system is under judgment; I am not talking about the people. Jesus wants to be the head of his body, removing the middleman that we call the church and opening up the Kingdom.




Not only has God given us the keys, but he has also given us the power to bind and to loose. So what does it mean to bind? We will talk about binding first. "Bind" comes from the Greek word "deow." If you have a Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, it's number 121. It means to bind, be in bonds, knit, tie, or wind. The word "bind" or "wind" comes from the idea that if someone were taken prisoner, they would take a cord or a rope and wind it around their wrist and bind them up. Bind them with a cord, winding the cord around the

wrist, similar to handcuffs.

Binding something means that it is forbidden or not allowed.

This word has its roots as a rabbinical word, and they used it to pass

What Does It Mean To "Bind"?



Bind = deow : Strong's #1210 to bind, be in bonds, knit, tie, wind

A Rabbinic word that has to do with "forbidding"

The EKKlesia of Christ has the authority and the power to no longer permit, what heaven will not allow, in their region

This is implementing the policy, lifestyle, and culture of the King

judgment upon behavior or activity that someone was doing. They were saying "no" to the behavior and forbidding it. I like this illustration from my family. When my grandchildren were young, they would come to our house for a visit. At home, they were allowed to do certain things I wouldn't permit at our house. For example, they might wipe their hands on the towel in a bathroom and give it a toss, and it lands on the floor, in the tub, or somewhere where it doesn't belong. Also, they might be jumping up and down on the couch, thinking it's a trampoline. I would pull them aside and talk to them and say, "Look, now I know that you are allowed to do that at home, and you might do that at your mother and father's house, but right now, you're in grandpa's house, and at grandpa's house that's not acceptable behavior. We don't do that. That is forbidden behavior." This is what It means to bind. It is to forbid something from continuing.

The Ekklesia of Christ has the authority and the power to no longer permit in your community what heaven will not allow. Things are happening on earth, in our nations, and in regions that we don't have to be put up with. Let me ask you a couple of questions. Is abortion allowed in heaven? Do you think heaven is happy with abortion? Is it allowed there? I'd say no, it's not. Killing babies is not permitted in heaven. What about transgenderism? The Bible says that he made us male and female. Is transgenderism part of heaven? Is homosexual marriage allowed in heaven? The Bible says that a man will leave his mother and father and cleave to his wife. That means one man and one woman; that's marriage. Do you think heaven is OK with crack houses, pornography, and prostitution? How about child sex trafficking and abusing children? Is heaven OK with that? Listen to me. Why are we allowing it in our neighborhood if it's not allowed in heaven? When we've been given the authority to stop it.

We have been given the authority to say, "no, not anymore!". "This is no longer going to happen. It's not allowed." "I AM the Ekklesia of Christ, and He has given me the authority to say this is no longer allowed." "We bind it, and we forbid it from continuing in our community." This praying and ministry are implementing the policy, the lifestyle, and the culture of our King. This is considering heaven and realizing what happens or does not happen in heaven. This is praying, "Let your Kingdom come, your will be done here on earth as it is in heaven.." When we do this, our neighborhoods begin to look more like heaven.

What do you think about cancer? Is cancer in heaven? The Ekklesia that I began here in the city where I live had a vision, several dreams, and a prophetic word from the Lord. In those visions and dreams, it was revealed that our region would become a cancer-free zone. We had a prophetic word that someone would be driving on the freeway coming through town who has leukemia. When someone goes through town, they will be instantly healed. They drive out to the other side of the city, and they no longer have cancer because they drive through a cancer-free zone. That's what we're praying for. We're forbidding cancer in our community because it's forbidden in heaven.

What does it mean to loose? Well, it's just the opposite of binding. "Loose" in the Greek language means to loosen. If you have a Strong's Concordance, you can look it up at number 3089. Loosen, break up, destroy, dissolve, unloose, melt, or put off. It's like breaking things free, to let things open up. In Jewish culture, the rabbis used it as a word for permitting. Someone might be charged with doing something wrong and brought before the council. They would consider the matter, talk about it, and decide. Say, "No, this guy, he's not doing anything wrong. What he's doing is permitted in our cul-

What Does It Mean To "Loose"?



Loose = lusas Strong's #3089 to loosen, break up, destroy, dissolve, un-loose, melt, put off

Rabbinical use has to do with "permitting"

The Ekklesia of Christ has been given the authority to loose in their region what Heaven has loosed.

This is implementing the policy, lifestyle, and culture of the King!

ture and our society." "There is no punishment; this is permitted" To them, it was like giving a thumbs up. It is permitting something to be done. They are allowing it. This is the meaning of the word loose.

The Ekklesia of Christ has been given the authority to loose in their region whatever heaven has loosed. This is exciting. This is fun. We know this is true because the supernatural is loosed in heaven. It needs to be loosed in our communities, and we have been given the authority and the commission to loose it.

Angels are active in heaven. Are they engaged in your region and community? The Ekklesia of Christ has the authority and the power to loose angels because they are loosed in heaven. They are active. Isn't that great? We have the authority to loose them, to call forth the armies of heaven. The heavenly host and to loose them into situations in our community where we're praying for things to be done.

You have been given authority to pray for a crack house to close down. Loose the armies of heaven and bring them into the situation. Let heaven's army join with the army of God here on earth. We can loose them in the community. This is implementing the policy, lifestyle, and culture of the King. It's saying, "Let your Kingdom come your will be done on earth." We want all the Ekklesia to operate in the power of God.

Are all the gifts active in your community? They should be. The Holy Spirit is loosed in heaven. The Holy Spirit needs to be loosed in your community, and you've been given the authority and the power to loose because He is loosed in heaven. The gifts of the Holy Spirit should be Loosed to the Ekklesia and body of believers in your community.

To bind and loose effectively, It is essential to hear from the King Himself. We need to know he has not given us the authority to willey- nilley implement our will. He told us to pray, "Let your Kingdom come, and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven." We can't just go around binding and losing according to our will. Trying to make our culture or city, our neighborhood, looks more like we want it to be. That would be witchcraft. We're not practicing or talking about witchcraft when talking about binding and loosing.

This is about hearing from heaven and considering heaven first. Hearing from the King and implementing from the King what He's telling us to implement. This is how this worked in Roman culture. The emperor would set rules or laws about the lifestyle of a community, and they would send that through a courier to the local Ekklesia. It was then up to the local Ekklesia to implement it, to be like the adjudicators of that policy. To put it into place.

The church is a broken system because it is not implementing what the King wants. The communication comes down, and the church looks at itself, watches the program on the platform, goes home, eats meatloaf and potatoes, and nothing changes. The communities look like hell on earth rather than heaven on earth. God's Ekklesia, like the Ekklesia of Rome, was charged with that responsibility and the authority to implement what the King said.

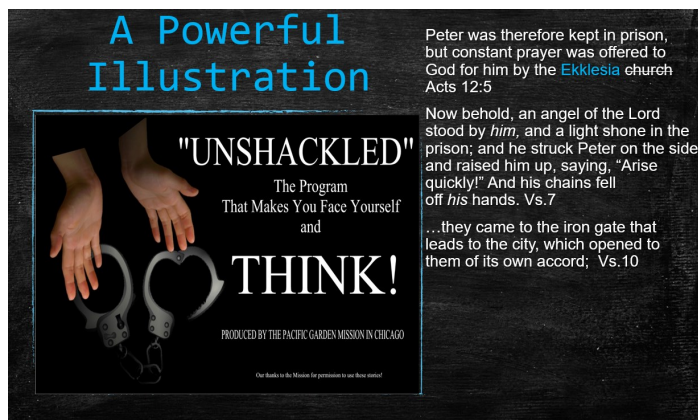
We need to listen to the King. Consider heaven and see what has been loosed there. Consider heaven and see what's not there: sickness, disease, divorce, child sex trafficking. We need to start binding those things up and forbidding those things from being in our community. The Amplified Bible makes it even more apparent. It says, "I give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind, that is, (declared to be improper and unlawful) here on earth, must be what is already bound in heaven; and whatever you loose (that is declared lawful on earth) must be what is already loosed in heaven.

It all starts with heaven, with the King and us getting our orders from Him. This is why we must learn how to hear God's voice and act accordingly because the King is still alive, and He's still speaking to us and wants His will to be done here on earth. He wants the world to be colonized to look more like heaven. He has put us

in the position and given us the authority and responsibility to implement what he wants to be done in heaven here on earth.

I'll give you a powerful illustration of this. When I was a little boy, I listened to radio dramas. I listened to The Lone

Ranger, Hop along Cassidy, Dick Tracy, and other similar shows. One of the neatest ones that I listened to was called Unshackled. It was produced by the Pacific Garden Rescue Mission in Chicago. As far as I know, it is still on the air today. It's the longest-running radio drama on the air.



The radio drama airs stories of people bound up in addictions, alcoholism, drugs, etc., and how these addictions ruined their lives. They would share how people's prayers for these addicted would help them to become unshackled. This is why Unshackled became the title of the radio program.

There is a powerful story in the Bible in Acts chapter 12. In Acts chapter 12, Herod beheaded James because he wouldn't say Herod was Lord. He could only say, "Jesus is Lord." Herod saw that the people liked what he did to John. They cheered it, and Herod's popularity rose. Because of the effects that Herod saw due to the treatment of John, he decided to put Peter in prison.

In Acts chapter 12:5, it says, "Peter was therefore kept in prison, but constant prayer was offered to God for him by the Ekklesia."

The Ekklesia met in a home, praying and saying, "Peter be loosed in Jesus' name." They engaged the Angels of heaven and said, "Father send forth the Angels." The army of heaven sent them forth to loose Peter from this imprisonment and that is precisely what happened.

The word says, "An Angel of the Lord stood by him, and a light shone in prison; and he struck Peter on the side and raised him, saying, 'Arise quickly!' And his chains fell off. He was loosed." They engaged heaven's Angel armies, and he was loosed. The word says, "They walked past two sets of guards out of prison itself and came to an iron gate." The gate of the city opened all by itself. The gates of Hades shall not prevail against the Ekklesia. They walked up to the gate by the anointing, power, and supernatural gifting and anointing of God. They didn't even say a word. The Angel didn't even touch it. The gate opened right in front of them, and Peter walked out. He went to the house where they were meeting. It was Mary's house where the Ekklesia was meeting. He knocked on the door. A servant girl came to the door and said, Oh, it's Peter. He's loose; he's loose. Then she went back in and told them he was loose, and they said, oh no, he's not loose. That's probably just his Angel standing at the door.

What I find remarkable is this. Angelic appearances were so common in the Ekklesia, the early Ekklesia, that they readily thought that what was standing at the door was Peter's Angel. A Guardian Angel, watching over him and not Peter himself. Isn't that incredible? I find that remarkable. Peter was released because the Ekklesia prayed, and they loosed him. They engaged the heavenly host, and the army of Angels came down and went into action. This is an excellent illustration from scripture.

We want to conclude each chapter by giving you something to do. Because we don't want you to be a hearer of the word only but a doer. So, what we're going to ask you to do is, first of all, pray for a divine appointment to connect with someone who needs help this week. Then keep your eyes open for what God will do. The Lord will set you up with an appointment. He wants these people's freedom more than you do. Ask for this appointment to bind and to loose, to pray binding and losing kind of prayers over someone.

Also, I want you to get together with someone else who is a prayer warrior in your community, in your neighborhood, and pray with them to begin binding and losing things in your community. Pray that heaven will come down. Binding things that are improper and unlawful in your city. Begin to loose things, like the supernatural power of God, like the Angels, healing, and deliverance. The Lord wants His power loosed on earth, and he's waiting on you to do the activity of binding and losing. And to begin to implement the policies of the King in your city.