

'On this rock,' Jesus continued, 'I will build my Church, and even hell will not defeat it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you say is allowed on earth, will be allowed in heaven.' Then Jesus warned his disciples, 'Do not tell anyone that I am the Messiah.'

Jesus asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter said, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'

When people heard the stories about Jesus, they couldn't believe that he was just an ordinary man. They thought he was a prophet, like their Old Testament heroes.

Arriving in Caesarea Philippi, Jesus asked his disciples, 'Who do people say I am?' And his followers had a list: 'Some say Elijah, or Jeremiah, or another of the prophets.' They even included some more recent heroes: 'Some say you are John the Baptist.'

Now, the Messiah was someone that the Jews had been waiting for; a person God would send to rescue them from their enemies. 'You are blessed, Simon,' Jesus said, 'because God, my Father in heaven, has given you this answer. From now on you will be known as Peter; Jesus gave him this name because it means 'rock'.

Jesus asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter said, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'