

Matthew 16:17

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

Analysis

Jesus declares Peter 'blessed' because this revelation came from 'my Father which is in heaven,' not human reasoning. Saving knowledge of Christ is divinely revealed, not humanly achieved. Reformed doctrine's emphasis on divine initiative in salvation finds clear support here—natural man cannot discover Christ's true identity through intellect alone. The Father's revelation through the Holy Spirit enables recognition of Jesus as Lord (1 Corinthians 12:3). This verse demolishes any notion of salvation by human wisdom or effort.

Historical Context

The Aramaic 'Bar-jona' (son of Jonah) identifies Peter's human lineage, contrasting with his spiritual insight from the heavenly Father. In Jewish thought, revelation came through prophets; Jesus affirms the Father directly revealed truth to Peter. This personal revelation parallels Old Testament prophetic experience while pointing to the Holy Spirit's New Covenant ministry of illumination.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How has God revealed Christ's identity to you personally?
2. What role does divine revelation play in your faith versus human reasoning?
3. How does recognizing faith as God's gift affect your attitude toward unbelievers?

Interlinear Text

καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς τοῖς Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῷ Μακάριος
And answered which Jesus and said unto him Blessed
G2532 G611 G3588 G2424 G2036 G846 G3107

εἰ Σίμων Βαρ Ιωνᾶ, ὅτι σὰρξ καὶ αἷμα οὐκ
art thou Simon Barjona for flesh And blood not
G1488 G4613 G920 G2495 G3754 G4561 G2532 G129 G3756

ἀπεκάλυψέν σοι ἀλλ' τοῖς πατήρ μου τοῖς ἐν
hath it unto thee but which Father my which is in
G601 G4671 G235 G3588 G3962 G3450 G3588 G1722

τοῖς οὐρανοῖς
which heaven
G3588 G3772

Additional Cross-References

John 6:45 (Parallel theme): It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.

1 John 5:20 (References Jesus): And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

Galatians 1:16 (Blood): To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:

1 Corinthians 15:50 (Blood): Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.

Isaiah 54:13 (Parallel theme): And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children.

Ephesians 3:5 (Parallel theme): Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit;

1 John 4:15 (References Jesus): Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him, and he in God.

Ephesians 2:8 (Parallel theme): For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

John 1:42 (References Jesus): And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

1 Peter 5:1 (Parallel theme): The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: