

The Keys Of The Kingdom Of Heaven

By Isaac Aluochier

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The Keys Of The Kingdom Of Heaven

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Matthew 16:13-20 reads,

^{16:13}Now when Jesus came into the parts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?"

^{16:14}They said, "Some say John the Baptizer, some, Elijah, and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets."

^{16:15}He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

^{16:16}Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

^{16:17}Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ^{16:18}I also tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my assembly, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ^{16:19}I will give to you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven; and whatever you release on earth will be released in heaven." ^{16:20}Then he charged the disciples that they should tell no one that he is Jesus the Christ.

What are the "keys of the kingdom of heaven"?

It appears that possession of the keys of the kingdom of heaven provides their possessor with authority and ability to bind and release on earth with the effect of such binding and releasing also taking place in heaven. What are these that can be bound and released on earth with the effect of likewise binding and releasing in heaven?

Yah'shuah said that he would - in future - give the keys of the kingdom of heaven. When was he to do so?

That Yah'shuah was to give the keys of the kingdom of heaven implies that he either had them in his possession at the time that he spoke, or that he was to acquire them into his possession prior to the time that he would give them. What were or would come into Yah'shuah's possession, in the context of the keys of the kingdom of heaven?

The Key Of Knowledge

Luke 11:37-52 reads,

*^{11:37}Now as he spoke, a certain Pharisee asked him to dine with him. He went in, and sat at the table. ^{11:38}When the Pharisee saw it, he marveled that he had not first washed himself before dinner. ^{11:39}The Lord said to him, "Now you Pharisees cleanse the outside of the cup and of the platter, **but your inward part is full of extortion and wickedness.** ^{11:40}You foolish ones, didn't he who made the outside make the inside also? ^{11:41}But give for gifts to the needy those things which are within, and behold, all things will be clean to you. ^{11:42}But woe to you Pharisees! For you tithe mint and rue and every herb, **but you bypass justice and the love of God. You ought to have done these, and not to have left the other undone.** ^{11:43}Woe to you Pharisees! For you love the best seats in the synagogues, and the greetings in the marketplaces. ^{11:44}Woe to you, **scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** For you are like hidden graves, and the men who walk over them don't know it."*

*^{11:45}One of **the lawyers** answered him, "Teacher, in saying this you insult us also."*

*^{11:46}He said, "**Woe to you lawyers also! For you load men with burdens that are difficult to carry**, and you yourselves won't even lift one finger to help carry those burdens. ^{11:47}Woe to you! For you build the tombs of the prophets, and your fathers killed them. ^{11:48}So you testify and consent to the works of your fathers. For they killed them, and you build their tombs. ^{11:49}Therefore also the wisdom of God said, 'I will*

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*send to them prophets and apostles; and some of them they will kill and persecute, ^{11:50}that the blood of all the prophets, which was shed from the foundation of the world, may be required of this generation; ^{11:51}from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zachariah, who perished between the altar and the sanctuary.' Yes, I tell you, it will be required of this generation. ^{11:52}**Woe to you lawyers! For you took away the key of knowledge. You didn't enter in yourselves, and those who were entering in, you hindered.**"*

That Yah'shuah said that the lawyers took away the key of knowledge clearly shows that they had it in their possession. What was this key of knowledge that the lawyers - scribes - those supposedly expert in the law or scribes of Moses - had in their possession? Was it their knowledge or expertise in the law?

11:46 shows that the lawyers had authority and ability to load men with burdens difficult to carry. It would appear that their possession of the key of knowledge gave them this ability and authority to load men with various burdens. Was their knowledge and expertise in the law of Moses the key of knowledge, that gave them the ability and authority to load men with various burdens?

The Keys Of Death And Hades

Revelation 1:17-18 reads,

^{1:17}When I saw him, I fell at his feet like a dead man.

*He laid his right hand on me, saying, "Don't be afraid. I am the first and the last, ^{1:18}and the Living one. I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. **I have the keys of Death and of Hades.**"*

What does Yah'shuah do with the keys of Death and of Hades, seeing that these are in his possession?

The Key Of David

Revelation 3:7-8 reads,

^{3:7}"To the angel of the assembly in Philadelphia write:

"He who is holy, he who is true, he who has the key of David, he who opens and no one can shut, and who shuts and no one opens, says these things:

*^{3:8}"I know your works (**behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one can shut**), that you have a little power, and kept my word, and didn't deny my name.*

What is the key of David? And what doors does Yah'shuah use it to open and shut? Doors connected with the performance of some works?

The Key To The Pit Of The Abyss

Revelation 9:1-11 reads,

^{9:1}The fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from the sky which had fallen to the earth. The key to the pit of the abyss was given to him. ^{9:2}He opened the pit of the abyss, and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke from a^{} burning furnace. The sun and the air were darkened because of the smoke from the pit. ^{9:3}Then out of the smoke came forth locusts on the earth, and power was given to them, as the scorpions of the earth have power. ^{9:4}They were told that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree, but only those people who don't have God's seal on their foreheads. ^{9:5}They were given power not to kill them, but to*

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torment them for five months. Their torment was like the torment of a scorpion, when it strikes a person. ^{9:6}In those days people will seek death, and will in no way find it. They will desire to die, and death will flee from them. ^{9:7}The shapes of the locusts were like horses prepared for war. On their heads were something like golden crowns, and their faces were like people's faces. ^{9:8}They had hair like women's hair, and their teeth were like those of lions. ^{9:9}They had breastplates, like breastplates of iron. The sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots, or of many horses rushing to war. ^{9:10}They have tails like those of scorpions, and stings. In their tails they have power to harm men for five months. ^{9:11}They have over them as king the angel of the abyss. His name in Hebrew is "Abaddon," but in Greek, he has the name "Apollyon."

Keys are meant to be used, for opening and shutting. The star or angel of the abyss could not open the pit of the abyss until such time as he had the key in his possession, when it was given to him.

With respect to the key of knowledge in Luke 11:52, that in the possession of the lawyers or scribes, they used it to shut the entry into a given location, which hindered both them and others who were seeking to enter therein from so entering. What was this location that they and others were to enter - the kingdom of heaven?

The Key Of The Abyss

Revelation 20:1-10 reads,

^{20:1}I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. ^{20:2}He seized the dragon, the old serpent, which is the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole inhabited earth, and bound him for a thousand years, ^{20:3}and cast him into the abyss, and shut it, and sealed it over him, that he should deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years were finished. After this, he must be freed for a short time. ^{20:4}I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus, and for the word of God, and such as didn't worship the beast nor his image, and didn't receive the mark on their forehead and on their hand. They lived, and reigned with Christ for the thousand years. ^{20:5}The rest of the dead didn't live until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. ^{20:6}Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over these, the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with him one thousand years.

^{20:7}And after the thousand years, Satan will be released from his prison, ^{20:8}and he will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to the war; the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. ^{20:9}They went up over the breadth of the earth, and surrounded the camp of the saints, and the beloved city. Fire came down out of heaven from God, and devoured them. ^{20:10}The devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet are also. They will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

The Key Of The House Of David

Isaiah 22:20-25 reads,

^{22:20}It will happen in that day that I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiyah, ^{22:21}and I will clothe him with your robe, and strengthen him with your belt. I will commit your government into his hand; and he will be a father to the inhabitants of

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Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah. ^{22:22}I will lay the key of the house of David on his shoulder. He will open, and no one will shut. He will shut, and no one will open. ^{22:23}I will fasten him like a nail in a sure place. He will be for a throne of glory to his father's house. ^{22:24}They will hang on him all the glory of his father's house, the offspring and the issue, every small vessel, from the cups even to all the pitchers. ^{22:25}"In that day," says Yahweh of Armies, "the nail that was fastened in a sure place will give way. It will be cut down, and fall. The burden that was on it will be cut off, for Yahweh has spoken it."

The key of the house of David spoken of here is the same key of David that Yah'shuah possesses, as he revealed in Revelation 3:7. Essentially it appears that he who possesses this key possesses the government or rulership over Jerusalem and the house of Judah. In other words, possession of this key allows one to rule over Jerusalem and over Judah.

Binding And Releasing On Earth And In Heaven

Matthew 18:15-20 reads,

^{18:15}"If your brother sins against you, go, show him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained back your brother. ^{18:16}But if he doesn't listen, take one or two more with you, that at the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. ^{18:17}If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the assembly. If he refuses to hear the assembly also, let him be to you as a Gentile or a tax collector. ^{18:18}Most assuredly I tell you, whatever things you will bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever things you will release on earth will be released in heaven. ^{18:19}Again, assuredly I tell you, that if two of you will agree on earth concerning anything that they will ask, it will be done for them by my Father who is in heaven. ^{18:20}For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there I am in the midst of them."

In Matthew 16:19 it might appear that it was only to Peter, rather than to all of Yah'shuah's disciples, that he gave the keys of the kingdom of heaven, thereby giving authority and ability to bind and release on earth, with the result of such binding and releasing having effect in heaven. But in Matthew 18:18 it is evidently clear that this authority was not reserved to only Peter, but was given to all of Yah'shuah's disciples when acting under his authority and within the bounds of his words!

Matthew 18:15-18 shows that Yah'shuah's disciples have authority to disfellowship one of their own when that one sins against another and refuses to repent of the sin, despite repeated entreaties as laid down by Yah'shuah! In other words, the decision arrived at by his disciples here on earth to disfellowship the errant and unrepentant disciples has effect also in heaven, such that even those in heaven no longer consider that errant and unrepentant disciple as a disciple of Yah'shuah!

Why Binding And Releasing On Earth Is Ratified In Heaven

In Matthew 18:19-20 Yah'shuah explains why the decisions arrived at here on earth by at least two of his disciples has effect in heaven. When they are gathered in his name - that is by his authority and according to his word, he himself is present in their midst and participates in their decision. And seeing that he participates in their decision here on earth, a decision in harmony with his words, seeing that he doesn't decide contrary to his own words, he gives effect in heaven to that decision made here on earth! For the Father in heaven ratifies Yah'shuah's actions, together with those of his disciples, as these are in harmony with the Father's will.

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It is therefore implied that should at least two disciples of Yah'shuah decide contrary to Yah'shuah's word, then that decision will NOT be ratified in heaven, seeing that they did not gather and act in accord with his name, or by his authority and words! Therefore the authority and ability of Yah'shuah's disciples - plural - to bind and release anything is limited to only those things in harmony with Yah'shuah's word. Any decision by Yah'shuah's disciples to bind and release anything contrary to Yah'shuah's word is not ratified in heaven, seeing that Yah'shuah did not participate in that contrary decision and therefore did not facilitate the Father giving it effect!

Yah'shuah Ordered His Disciples To Abide By The Decrees Of The Scribes And Pharisees

Matthew 23:1-4 reads,

23:1Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to his disciples, 23:2saying, "The scribes and the Pharisees sat on Moses' seat. 23:3All things therefore whatever they tell you to observe, observe and do, but don't do their works; for they say, and don't do. 23:4For they bind heavy burdens that are grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not lift a finger to help them.

By virtue of occupying Moses' seat, and thereby acting on the authority Yahweh gave to Moses, Yah'shuah commanded the multitudes and his disciples to abide by whatever the scribes and Pharisees bound and released, seeing that what they bound and released here on earth was ratified in heaven! The scribes and Pharisees' authority extended to binding even heavy burdens that are grievous to be borne, and laying them on men's shoulders - provided these were not contrary to Yahweh's word!

It should be noted that Yah'shuah would not command the multitudes and his disciples to observe anything contrary to Yahweh's word. Therefore, even though Yah'shuah appeared to have commanded the multitudes and his disciples to observe whatever the scribes and Pharisees commanded, it is implied that this command of his is limited to observing only those decrees that are not contrary to Yahweh's word. And he made this clear by teaching them not to observe the works of the scribes and Pharisees, as these were contrary to Yahweh's word!

How Binding And Releasing On Earth Is Ratified In Heaven

Numbers 30 reads,

30:1Moses spoke to the heads of the tribes of the children of Israel, saying, **This is the thing which Yahweh has commanded.** 30:2When a man vows a vow to Yahweh, or swears an oath to bind his soul with a bond, he shall not break his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth. 30:3Also when a woman vows a vow to Yahweh, and binds herself by a bond, being in her father's house, in her youth, 30:4and her father hears her vow, and her bond with which she has bound her soul, and her father holds his peace at her; then all her vows shall stand, and every bond with which she has bound her soul shall stand. 30:5But if her father disallow her in the day that he hears, none of her vows, or of her bonds with which she has bound her soul, shall stand: and Yahweh will forgive her, because her father disallowed her. 30:6If she be married to a husband, while her vows are on her, or the rash utterance of her lips, with which she has bound her soul, 30:7and her husband hear it, and hold his peace at her in the day that he hears it; then her vows shall stand, and her bonds with which she has bound her soul shall stand. 30:8But if her husband

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disallow her in the day that he hears it, then he shall make void her vow which is on her, and the rash utterance of her lips, with which she has bound her soul: and Yahweh will forgive her. ^{30:9} *But the vow of a widow, or of her who is divorced, even everything with which she has bound her soul, shall stand against her.* ^{30:10} *If she vowed in her husband's house, or bound her soul by a bond with an oath,* ^{30:11} *and her husband heard it, and held his peace at her, and didn't disallow her; then all her vows shall stand, and every bond with which she bound her soul shall stand.* ^{30:12} *But if her husband made them null and void in the day that he heard them, then whatever proceeded out of her lips concerning her vows, or concerning the bond of her soul, shall not stand: her husband has made them void; and Yahweh will forgive her.* ^{30:13} *Every vow, and every binding oath to afflict the soul, her husband may establish it, or her husband may make it void.* ^{30:14} *But if her husband altogether hold his peace at her from day to day, then he establishes all her vows, or all her bonds, which are on her: he has established them, because he held his peace at her in the day that he heard them.* ^{30:15} *But if he shall make them null and void after that he has heard them, then he shall bear her iniquity.* ^{30:16} *These are the statutes, which Yahweh commanded Moses, between a man and his wife, between a father and his daughter, being in her youth, in her father's house.*

The above is an example of binding and releasing here on earth given effect in heaven! When those under authority bind themselves to do something by a vow to Yahweh, that vow is not given ratification in heaven until such time as the one in authority over them approves or disapproves of the vow. When the vow is approved, either expressly or by conduct, then the vow is ratified in heaven and it stands both in heaven and on earth. When the vow is disapproved prior to approval, then the vow is not ratified in heaven and heaven doesn't consider it a valid vow.

The above principle is instructive in the context of the authority of binding and releasing that Yah'shuah gave his disciples. When Yah'shuah's disciples bind or release something on earth, it is for Yah'shuah to approve of or disapprove of that binding or releasing decision. When the binding or releasing decision is in harmony with Yah'shuah's will, then he indeed does not disapprove it, and it stands ratified in heaven. But when the binding or releasing decision is contrary to Yah'shuah's word, he indeed disapproves of it, by his word contrary to the binding or releasing decision. Such a contrary binding or releasing decision does not stand ratified in heaven.

Entering Into The Kingdom Of Heaven

Matthew 5:17-20 reads,

^{5:17} "Don't think that I came to destroy the law or the prophets. I didn't come to destroy, but to fulfill. ^{5:18} For most assuredly, I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not even one smallest letter or one tiny pen stroke shall in any way pass away from the law, until all things are accomplished. ^{5:19} Whoever, therefore, shall break one of these least commandments, and teach others to do so, shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven; but whoever shall do and teach them shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven. ^{5:20} For I tell you that unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, there is no way you will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Those called great in the kingdom of heaven are those who do and teach the law and the prophets, without omitting even one small letter or one tiny pen stroke. In other words, it is essential to observe all of the law and the prophets to be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

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As already seen, the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees consisted only of teaching the law, but not in doing it. Matthew 5:20 shows that teaching only devoid of doing is insufficient righteousness for purposes of entering the kingdom of heaven. To enter the kingdom of heaven one must both do and teach all of Yahweh's law.

How The Scribes And Pharisees Hindered People From Entering The Kingdom Of Heaven

In the context of the key of knowledge in Luke 11:52 it is noted that scribes or lawyers not only didn't enter the kingdom of heaven, but they hindered those who were set on entering from entering therein.

How did they so hinder those set on entering from so entering?

By binding heaving burdens hard to bear upon the people and emphasizing less important laws while ignoring the weightier matters of the law, such as justice and the love of Yahweh. And it is in this manner that they took away the key of knowledge, which appears to be both doing and teaching all of Yahweh's laws to facilitate entry into the kingdom of heaven.

The Narrow Gate Leads To Life

Matthew 7:13-14 reads,

^{7:13}"Enter in by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter in by it. ^{7:14}How narrow is the gate, and restricted is the way that leads to life! Few are those who find it.

Enter The Kingdom Of Heaven By Doing The Will Of The Heavenly Father

Matthew 7:21-27 reads,

^{7:21}Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. ^{7:22}Many will tell me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, didn't we prophesy in your name, in your name cast out demons, and in your name do many mighty works?' ^{7:23}Then I will tell them, 'I never knew you. Depart from me, you who work iniquity.'

^{7:24}Everyone therefore who hears these words of mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man, who built his house on a rock. ^{7:25}The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat on that house; and it didn't fall, for it was founded on the rock. ^{7:26}Everyone who hears these words of mine, and doesn't do them will be like a foolish man, who built his house on the sand. ^{7:27}The rain came down, the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat on that house; and it fell--and great was its fall."

To enter the kingdom of heaven it is essential that one does the heavenly Father's will. Talking about it without doing it is not sufficient! This was the undoing of the scribes and Pharisees of Yah'shuah's time, seeing that they spoke about some of the Father's will, though they did not apply it in their lives.

Explanation Of The Key Of Knowledge

Again, it appears that the key of knowledge possessed by the scribes was the knowledge of the Father's will and acting upon that knowledge. For it is those who know the heavenly

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Father's will who are able to apply it in their lives, and thereby be granted entry into the kingdom of heaven. But one who doesn't know the Father's will, and therefore doesn't know what one ought to do in one's life, and doesn't do it, isn't granted entry into the kingdom of heaven. The key of knowledge is therefore knowledge of the Father's will!

The Great In The Kingdom Of Heaven

Matthew 18:1-6 reads,

^{18:1}In that hour the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?"

^{18:2}Jesus called a little child to himself, and set him in the midst of them, ^{18:3}and said, "Most assuredly I tell you, unless you turn, and become as little children, you will in no way enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. ^{18:4}Whoever therefore humbles himself as this little child, the same is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. ^{18:5}Whoever receives one such little child in my name receives me, ^{18:6}but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to stumble, it would be better for him that a huge millstone should be hung around his neck, and that he should be sunk in the depths of the sea.

To enter the kingdom of heaven one must humble oneself as a little child. Therefore humbling oneself is indeed doing the heavenly Father's will, seeing that only those who do his will enter the kingdom of heaven.

Also, as seen from Matthew 5:17-20, those called great in the kingdom of heaven are those who do and teach all of Yahweh's law, even the least of his commandments. Therefore humbling oneself as a little child is indeed a commandment of Yahweh, seeing that it is necessary for one to so humble oneself prior to being called great in the kingdom of heaven.

Be Ready To Sacrifice Part Of Yourself To Enter Into Life

Matthew 18:7-11 reads,

^{18:7}"Woe to the world because of occasions of stumbling! For it must be that the occasions come, but woe to that person through whom the occasion comes! ^{18:8}If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off, and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life maimed or crippled, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into the eternal fire. ^{18:9}If your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out, and cast it from you. It is better for you to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into the Gehenna of fire. ^{18:10}See that you don't despise one of these little ones, for I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ^{18:11}For the Son of Man came to save that which was lost.

Yah'shuah's advice to his disciples is to be ready to lose portions of their body if that is the cost they must pay to enter life - the kingdom of heaven. For if the choice before them is retaining all parts of their body and being cast into the eternal fire, or losing a portion of their body and entering the kingdom of heaven maimed, then the latter option should be pursued!

To Enter Into Life Do Yahweh's Will

Matthew 19:16-30 reads,

^{19:16}Behold, one came to him and said, "Good teacher, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?"

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^{19:17} He said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but one, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments."

^{19:18} He said to him, "Which ones?"

Jesus said, "'You shall not murder.' 'You shall not commit adultery.' 'You shall not steal.' 'You shall not offer false testimony.' ^{19:19} 'Honor your father and mother.' And, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

^{19:20} The young man said to him, "All these things I have observed from my youth. What do I still lack?"

^{19:21} Jesus said to him, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me." ^{19:22} But when the young man heard the saying, he went away sad, for he was one who had great possessions. ^{19:23} Jesus said to his disciples, "Most assuredly I say to you, a rich man will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven with difficulty. ^{19:24} Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye, than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God."

^{19:25} When the disciples heard it, they were exceedingly astonished, saying, "Who then can be saved?"

^{19:26} Looking at them, Jesus said, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

^{19:27} Then Peter answered, "Behold, we have left everything, and followed you. What then will we have?"

^{19:28} Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly I tell you that you who have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on the throne of his glory, you also will sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. ^{19:29} Everyone who has left houses, or brothers, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, will receive one hundred times, and will inherit eternal life. ^{19:30} But many will be last who are first; and first who are last."

To enter into life, to have eternal life, one must do Yahweh's will, which includes keeping all of his commandments. Yahweh's will also entails sacrificing the things of this world that we hold dear, for his sake, such as selling any great possessions or riches that we have, in order to overcome covetousness in our hearts! In other words, we are to leave everything we hold dear in this world and follow Yah'shuah.

To Enter Into Life Place Your Trust In Yahweh Rather Than In Earthly Riches

Mark 10:23-25 reads,

^{10:23} Jesus looked around, and said to his disciples, "How difficult it is for those who have riches to enter into the Kingdom of God!"

^{10:24} The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus answered again, "Children, how hard is it for those who trust in riches to enter into the Kingdom of God! ^{10:25} It is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye than for a rich man to enter into the Kingdom of God."

The reason why it is difficult for those who have riches to enter into the kingdom of Yahweh is that they trust in the riches in their possession. Yah'shuah's disciples should not trust in riches in their possession, but should place their trust and confidence in Yahweh, where their true riches are located. In other words, we should serve Yahweh rather than mammon!

The Keys Of The Kingdom Of Heaven

To Enter The Kingdom Of Yahweh Repent Of Your Sins

Matthew 21:28-32 reads,

^{21:28}But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first, and said, 'Son, go work today in my vineyard.' ^{21:29}He answered, 'I will not,' but afterward he changed his mind, and went. ^{21:30}He came to the second, and said the same thing. He answered, 'I go, sir,' but he didn't go. ^{21:31}Which of the two did the will of his father?' They said to him, "The first."

Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly I tell you that the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering into the Kingdom of God before you. ^{21:32}For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you didn't believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. When you saw it, you didn't even repent afterward, that you might believe him."

It is the heavenly Father's will that sinners repent of their sins and do his commandments, and thereby be granted entry into the kingdom of Yahweh! But those who refuse to do the Father's will by avoiding repentance are not granted entry into the kingdom of Yahweh!

The Scribes And Pharisees Possessed The Keys Of The Kingdom Of Heaven

Matthew 23:14 reads,

^{23:14}"But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! Because you shut up the Kingdom of Heaven against men; for you don't enter in yourselves, neither do you allow those who are entering in to enter."

That the scribes and Pharisees had the ability to shut up the kingdom of heaven against men implies that they had the keys of the kingdom of heaven at the time that Yah'shuah spoke these words!

The Keys Of The Kingdom Of Heaven Were Possessed By A Group Of People

It should also be noted that the keys of the kingdom of heaven were possessed not by a single individual, but by a group of people - scribes and Pharisees.

In the context of Matthew 16:18-19, whereby Yah'shuah stated that he would give the keys of the kingdom of heaven to his disciples, it appears that the following happened. He removed these keys from the possession of the scribes and Pharisees who rejected his word and gave them into the possession of his disciples! In other words, it was his disciples who then had the knowledge the doing of which permits a person to be granted entry into the kingdom of heaven!

Any Disciple Of Yah'shuah Can Possess The Keys Of The Kingdom Of Heaven

And the keys of the kingdom of heaven - the knowledge of the heavenly Father's will, were not given to just a single disciple elevated above all other disciples, but to all disciples who eventually would acquire knowledge of the heavenly Father's will. In other words, any disciple who has knowledge of the heavenly Father's will indeed has possession of the keys of the kingdom of heaven.

The Keys Of The Kingdom Of Heaven

Possessing The Keys Of The Kingdom Of Heaven Doesn't Guarantee Entry Into It

It should also be noted that possession of the keys of the kingdom of heaven does not of itself guarantee one entry into the kingdom of heaven. For the scribes and Pharisees possessed these keys, yet they not only shut themselves out of it, they also prevented those who desired to enter from entering. Yah'shuah's disciples must not only know the Father's will, but must also do it, for it is those who both do and teach the heavenly Father's will, including all his commandments, who are indeed granted entry into the kingdom of heaven.

How did the scribes and Pharisees shut themselves and others out of the kingdom of heaven yet they possessed the keys of the kingdom of heaven?

By placing greater emphasis on the lesser matters of Yahweh's law and ignoring the weightier matters of his law. Therefore, Yah'shuah's disciples should learn from the negative example of the scribes and Pharisees. Yah'shuah's disciples should place due emphasis on all of Yahweh's law, both the weightier and lesser matters. For it is by doing and teaching all of Yahweh's law and will that one is granted entry into the kingdom of heaven.

Work Righteousness And Avoid Iniquity To Enter The Kingdom Of Yahweh

Luke 13:23-30 reads,

^{13:23}One said to him, "Lord, are they few who are saved?"

He said to them, ^{13:24}"Strive to enter in by the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will seek to enter in, and will not be able. ^{13:25}When once the master of the house has risen up, and has shut the door, and you begin to stand outside, and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open to us!' then he will answer and tell you, 'I don't know you or where you come from.' ^{13:26}Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drink in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' ^{13:27}He will say, 'I tell you, I don't know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of iniquity.' ^{13:28}There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets, in the Kingdom of God, and yourselves being thrown outside. ^{13:29}They will come from the east, west, north, and south, and will sit down in the Kingdom of God. ^{13:30}Behold, there are some who are last who will be first, and there are some who are first who will be last."

Those eventually granted entry into the kingdom of Yahweh are those who work righteousness and avoid iniquity.

Be Born Of Water And The Spirit To Enter The Kingdom Of Yahweh

John 3:5-8 reads,

*^{3:5}Jesus answered, "Most assuredly I tell you, **unless one is born of water and spirit, he can't enter into the Kingdom of God!** ^{3:6}That which is born of the flesh is flesh. That which is born of the Spirit is spirit. ^{3:7}Don't marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born anew.' ^{3:8}The wind blows where it wants to, and you hear its sound, but don't know where it comes from and where it is going. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."*

Be Written In The Book Of Life To Enter The Kingdom Of Yahweh

Revelation 21:27 reads,

The Keys Of The Kingdom Of Heaven

^{21:27}There will in no way enter into it anything profane, or one who causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Do Yahweh's Commandments To Enter Yahweh's City

Revelation 22:12-16 reads,

^{22:12}"Behold, I come quickly. My reward is with me, to repay to each man according to his work. ^{22:13}I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. ^{22:14}Blessed are those who do his commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter in by the gates into the city. ^{22:15}Outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. ^{22:16}I, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify these things to you for the assemblies. I am the root and the offspring of David; the Bright and Morning Star."

CONCLUSION

The keys of the kingdom of heaven are synonymous with the key of knowledge. In Yah'shuah's time these were in the possession of the scribes and Pharisees, on account of their sitting in Moses' seat of authority. They should have used these keys to both enter the kingdom of heaven and to facilitate the entry of others who wanted to so enter. But they did not. They instead shut the kingdom of heaven not only from their own selves, but also from others who desired to enter therein.

The keys of the kingdom of heaven are the knowledge of the heavenly Father's will, including all of his commandments. Those who have the keys of the kingdom of heaven know the heavenly Father's will, including all of his commandments. It is their duty to both do the heavenly Father's will, and also to teach others to likewise do it. Those who succeed in so doing will indeed be granted entry into the kingdom of heaven.

The keys of the kingdom of heaven, or the knowledge of the heavenly Father's will, is not possessed by only one person on earth at any one time. Rather it is possessed by those who have so acquired knowledge of the heavenly Father's will, however many they are. Those who presently possess the keys of the kingdom of heaven are Yah'shuah's disciples. These who have the keys of the kingdom of heaven do indeed have authority to bind and release matters on earth, which are then ratified in heaven.

For any decree or decision by Yah'shuah's disciples to have binding or releasing effect both on earth and in heaven, it must be ratified by Yah'shuah. Yah'shuah ratifies only those decisions or decrees in harmony with the heavenly Father's will, and disapproves of any decree or decision contrary to the heavenly Father's will and therefore contrary to his own words!

In essence, it is for Yah'shuah's disciples to come to a knowledge of the heavenly Father's will, and then to both do it and teach it. In this manner not only do they enter the kingdom of heaven, they also facilitate others likewise entering the kingdom of heaven.