

Ancient Words--Christ, the Rock

God instructs Moses to strike the rock in the desert in Exodus 17.6: “Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink.” (KJV-BRG) This provision of drinking water was no small miracle for the 2 million nomadic travelers from Egypt. King David recounts in Psalm 78.16: “He brought streams out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers.” In the dry and barren desert of Sinai, God sustained the nation of Israel for 40 years through his provision of abundant water supply from the rock for both man and livestock.

Paul addresses this subject with the church at Corinth in 1 Cor 10.3-4: “They all ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them; and that rock was Christ.” The encouragement given to the young church in Greece has not diminished to the church today. Christ Jesus is our rock to always supply our provision for life, but only as we honor his words! Jesus, himself, taught at the end of the “Sermon on the Mount” in Matthew 7, “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”

Peter writes in 1 Pet 2.6, “For in Scripture it says, ‘See, I (God) lay a stone (a rock) in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.’” Christ, the Rock of Ages, remains the only rock, the only foundation, on which anyone can successfully build their house. Whatever stormy future unfolds for anyone, being anchored in and on the Rock of Ages secures our future destiny with blessings unimaginable! David, as the Psalmist, writes in Psalm 18.2: “The Lord is my Rock, my fortress, and my deliverer; my God is my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my strong hold.” Again in Ps 62.7, David proclaims, “My salvation and my honor depend on God; he is my mighty rock, my refuge.”

On the last and greatest day of the Feast of Passover, Jesus shouts with a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.”

(John 7.38) Only Jesus, the rock, has the supply to meet our every need. Only Jesus, the rock, can satisfy the thirsty soul. Only Jesus can secure and anchor us to that rock. Storms of confusion (good is evil; evil is good) are certain, shaking everything in its path, but everyone who builds on the rock of Christ Jesus is receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken! Now let us be thankful for Ancient Words and worship God with reverence and fear: “Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee; let the water and the blood, from thy wounded side which flowed; be of sin the double cure, save from wrath and make me pure.”

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