

## The Rock

Thank you for joining me once again for "It's a Good Life." Today we're going to start our study in the book of Exodus, and I'd like for us to look at the subject, The Rock. In Exodus 17:6, it says: *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. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.*

And in Exodus 33:21, the Bible says: *And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock*

In Exodus 33:22, it says: *And it shall come to pass, while my glory passeth by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with my hand while I pass by.*

And then again we read in Numbers 20:8: *Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.*

Well, who is the Rock spoken of in these verses? When we rightly divide the Word of Truth as the Bible says or, in other words, study the Bible, we will recognize the verses I have read as speaking of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, and in particular, Jesus Christ. Now, Jesus is the Rock the living church is built upon.

In Matthew 16:18, the Bible says: *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon*

*this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

Now, I think that most of us know that when you're building something, especially a house or something that needs something to stand upon, it has to be a foundation. And God's church is not built upon the so-called rock the Roman Catholic Church would have you believe and they will tell you it's Peter, but the church is built upon the Rock, the Rock, the foundation of the living church. The Bible says, *For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid which is Jesus Christ,* I Corinthians 3:11.

You see, God cannot build His church upon mortal man. The church must be built upon the God-man, Jesus Christ, the One who came into the world to take away the sin of the world to give men, women, boys, and girls eternal life forevermore with Him in glory.

Now, I want you to notice with me now if you would some other verses that speak of the Rock. In Numbers 20:10, the Bible says, *And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?*

Well, the people of God need to search the Scriptures. People of God need to dig. In II Timothy 2:15, it says, *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.* We need to dig. We need to get into the Scriptures. People of God are not to depend solely upon church leadership for guidance in spiritual matters. As born-again

children of God, we have the Spirit of God who will lead us into all truth.

In John 16:13, it says: *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

We've become complacent as the people of God, depending on others, other human beings telling us what the Bible says. We as children of God have the Spirit of God and we need to get into the book and we need to read what God has for us that He wants us to know personally. Now, God's Word never changes. When He says something, He means it, and when He tells us that we are to study to show ourselves approved, that is speaking to the Christian. We Christians are to study to show ourselves approved unto God workmen who needeth not be ashamed but rightly dividing the word of truth.

So we see here in Numbers 20:10, the Rock spoken of is Jesus Christ. Well, how do I know? First Corinthians 10:4 says: *And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.*

Then we look in Deuteronomy 32:4. *He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.*

Notice if you would with me what the verse is saying. It says there that His work is perfect. You see, God makes no mistakes. He's a god that knows everything, and the verse says, "For all his ways are judgment." God is the only righteous God. He is the God of truth; therefore, we need to depend on His Word for the final say in a matter.

In I Peter 2:21-22, it says: *<sup>1</sup>For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: <sup>2</sup>Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:*

This is the Rock. There was nothing wrong with the Rock. There was no guile in His mouth. There was nothing sinful about Him. He left us an example according to I Peter 2:21, and where do we find the example? The example of Christ is found in His Word, the Bible.

Notice the word "guile" there. This means deceit. The word "guile" means deceit. In Christ we find no deceitfulness. Everything Christ did, said, and does is not deceitful. He is all truth. He's the Rock.

Deuteronomy 32:15: *But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation.*

The Rock of salvation is Jesus Christ. Note with me, if you would, the verse when it says in Deuteronomy 32:15, "lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation." You see, God's people many times become fat. In other words, they become comfortable. Now, there's nothing wrong with putting on a little weight, and I like to eat like anyone else, and you know, I gain a little weight, but this is talking about becoming comfortable. Many times, God's people become comfortable with the temporal things of this world, and when we as Christians become complacent... I mentioned that word before... when we as Christians become complacent, we tend to give God a backseat in our lives. In other words, "Who needs Him? We're doing fine. I don't need God."

You see, this creeps into a Christian's life sometimes without that person even knowing what's going on, but we need God constantly. Sometimes we get in this habit of just praying when we get in trouble, but God tells us that we are to pray without ceasing. We're to pray when things are going good, and that way we do not forget the Rock of our salvation. We keep Jesus in the forefront. So I would ask you, please do not become complacent in your salvation. Do not take it for granted, but give God all the glory. Give Him what He deserves.

Now, this leads us to another mention of the rock. In Deuteronomy 32:18, it says, *Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee.*

You see, God made us. And I don't... no matter what the evolutionists tell you, the Bible teaches us that God made us. And not only is He our Creator in the physical, God has also "borned," if I could use that word... God has also "borned" us spiritually and given to us eternal life. We have been "borned," that's past tense, into the family of God. He saved us, past tense. He saved us when by faith we receive Jesus Christ as our Savior.

Then, in I Samuel 2:2... these verses should thrill your heart today if you're a saved person, and even if you're an unsaved person, you should understand that Jesus Christ is speaking to you. He wants you to make Him the Rock of your life.

In I Samuel 2:2, it says, *There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.*

Man is no match for God. No matter how strong a person believes he or she is, they do not match up to the holiness of God. A man's holiness is but filthy rags according to Isaiah

64:6. God's holiness is all righteousness, all who receive Jesus as Savior are saved by Him and Him alone, for the verse says, *Neither is there any rock like our God.*

Now we look in I Peter 2:1-8, and it says: *<sup>1</sup>Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, <sup>2</sup>As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word... There, we're talking about the Bible again... desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: <sup>3</sup>If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. <sup>4</sup>To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, <sup>5</sup>Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. <sup>7</sup>Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner... Now I want you to notice verse 8 in this chapter, I Peter Chapter 2: <sup>8</sup>And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.*

Those who refuse to stand upon the Rock, Jesus Christ, become offended because they are shown there is no hope of eternal life apart from Him. The Rock, Jesus Christ. *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me.* This is John 14:6.

And I want you to know something else, that those Christians who refuse to listen to the voice of God through His Word, those who are confused by the Word, are those who refuse to stand upon the Rock of God and take a stand

for right and stand against wrong. Christians are disobedient to God when they refuse to do right. They are disobedient to God when they make excuses for not standing against what is wrong in their life, both private and public. People are disobedient to God even when they do not take a stand against unscriptural teachings of the church or church leaders.

Stand upon the Rock. Let God lead you. Take a stand for Him and He will lead you.

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Until next time, this is Doug Anderson reminding you it's a good life living for the Lord. May the Lord bless you richly is our prayer.