

# THE ROCK!

The Rock of Gibraltar is located on the Iberian Peninsula in southern Spain. Rising 1,398 feet upwards and stretching wall-like wide for nearly four miles the limestone projection guards the entrance to the Mediterranean Sea. With natural and historical fortress-like qualities (unlike any other in the world) The Rock is an icon of strength and resilience. The Rock's image has been used by countless groups and businesses to convey solid values and security (britannica.com; worldatlas.com).

In the Old Testament the term Rock or Mountain are actual titles for God and not just metaphors to describe God. These names denote the inability of any force to damage, disturb or affect God. Those who trust in God rest in the security of a steep refuge inaccessible to danger and harm (NIV Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible, Notes on 1 Samuel 2:2) .

A person can visit the Rock of Gibraltar. Around 11 million people toured the site last year. But how does one “go” to the invisible, silent Rock called God? A physical journey requires that one set aside time; enlist a travel agent or tour book; make the necessary travel plans, and pack a bag with needed clothing and self care items.

Making a spiritual journey is not all that different. Set aside a half hour or so each day during the season of Lent (Feb 26 through Apr 12). Excellent guides are available through Scripture, the Holy Spirit, devotional books and fellow sojourners. Attend Sunday morning worship, Wednesday Neighborhood Cafe, or meet with others in your home or workplace as a way to “go” to The Rock and consider how God might “secure” your thoughts and actions. You can clothe and care for your spirit with practices like prayer, Sabbath, praise, service (and many more--you might need a big suitcase).

The Rock of Gibraltar might be a very nice place to visit, but we, as believers, place our “Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is THE Rock eternal (Isa 26:4 NIV). Lent begins tomorrow (2/26) with a service for Ash Wednesday (6:00 Faith Cafe or 6:30 Savannah UMC). Grab a travel buddy and let's go climbing.

