

“The Rock”

Dt. 32:3-4, 15, 18, 30-31; 1 Cor. 10:4 (Note the capital “R” in Rock)

One of the more common names of the Lord Jesus Christ is “*the Rock*” [not to be confused with Dwayne Johnson]. Charles Rolls points out the description in our text (Dt. 32:3-4), “is a record of His *glorious* name, His *great* power, His *good* character, His *grand* work, His *gracious* ways, His *guiding* truth, and His *governing* attributes.”¹

➡ Several other places in the Bible where the Lord is called A ROCK:

1. 2 Samuel 22:2 – “**The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer**” (cf. Ps. 18).
2. Psalm 94:22— *But the LORD is my defence; and my God is the rock of my refuge.* He is not only my deliverer, He is my defender.
3. Psalm 61:2—...*when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.* I need someone who is bigger than myself! Higher than my problems... circumstances... higher than my sin!
4. Psalm 95:1—...*let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.* Thank God, our salvation is solid and unchanging.
5. Matthew 16:18—...**Upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it** [i.e. “the rock”—Christ].
6. Romans 9:33— *As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumbling-stone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.*
7. 1 Corinthians 10:4—...*that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.*

➡ Jesus is the “Rock of Ages.” He is the...

Diamond of deity
Emerald of eternity
Ruby of redemption
Jasper of justification
Opal of obedience
Flint of faithfulness
Pearl of purity

¹ Charles J. Rolls, *The Name Above Every Name (The Names and Titles of Jesus Christ - P - S)*, Loizeaux Brothers, Neptune, NJ, 1965, p. 156.

Topaz of truth
 Granite of grace
 Crystal of charity
 Sapphire of salvation

➔ What is there about a rock that Christ would be likened to a Rock?

I. There is STABILITY upon the Rock (Ps. 40:1-2).

➔ A rock is unmovable—Christ is a fixed/settled rock—Unchanging (like the **Rock of Gibraltar**).
 “*The Rock of Ages*”—Always there, never removed from us.



Augustus Toplady was a young preacher. While on an afternoon stroll in a valley between the high cliffs in Cheshire, England, a huge storm arose from out of nowhere. He ran for shelter in a crevice on the side of a huge rock. He stayed there until the storm passed by. He went home after the storm and penned these words:

Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee;

At the base of the cliff where Toplady found shelter is a large marble slab engraved with the verses of “*Rock of Ages*.” He died at age 38 of tuberculosis, but his song is still being sung every week.

A. Rock or Sand? (Mt. 7:24-27).

A preacher visited a dying Welsh lady. Seeing her weakened condition, he bent over and whispered, “Sister, are you sinking?” With a great effort she raised herself a little and answered, “Sinking? Oh, no! Did you ever know a believer to sink through a Rock? If my hope was built on the shifting sands, I’d surely be sinking; but thank God I’m resting upon the Rock of Ages!”

B. He is the ONE foundation that will last (1 Cor. 3:11).

II. There is SUPPLY from the Rock (Ex. 17:1-6 cf. Ps. 78:15-16; 105:41; 114:8; 1 Cor. 10:4).

PICTURE of the Trinity:

- The Rock – God the Son (1 Cor. 10:4)
- The Rod – God the Father (Isa. 53:4, 10)

- The River – God the Holy Spirit (Ps. 105:41 cf. John 7:37-39)

- A. **SMITTEN** to supply – He was pierced for them.
1. Because of their murmuring, chiding, and tempting God, they deserved to be smitten. But, God in grace, chose to smite the Rock instead and let His blessings pour out to an undeserving people.
 2. Jesus was “*smitten of God and afflicted*” (Isa. 53:4, 10). Smitten by our sins... Smitten in His spirit by the the weight of our sins... Smitten in His body by the spitting, the thorns; the nails and the whipping. Blessed Rock of ages, cleft **for ME**.
- B. **SUFFICIENCY** of supply– There was abundance of water from the rock—Enough for ALL.
- Psalms 78:16 *He brought **streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers.***
 - Psalms 105:41 – *He opened the rock, and the waters gushed out; they ran in the dry places **like a river.***
- ➡ **Our sufficiency is Christ** (2 Cor. 3:5).
1. Our sufficiency is not in our intellect—What we know.
 2. Our sufficiency is not in our abilities—What we can do.
 3. Our sufficiency is not in our feelings—Feelings change—The Rock does not change!
 4. My sufficiency is in the rock that is HIGHER than I (Ps. 61:2).
- C. **STEADFASTNESS** of supply. That spiritual rock followed them (1 Cor. 10:4)—It was always available.
- Paul was not referring to the material rock following them. He was referring to that “spiritual rock”— Jesus.

III. **There is SHELTER in the Rock** (Ex. 33:18-23).

➡ Isaiah 32:2— *And a man [Christ] shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as **the shadow of a great rock** in a weary land.*

- A. The great song leader, Ira Sankey, put it this way:

The Lord’s our Rock, in Him we hide,

*A Shelter in the time of storm.
Secure whatever ill betide,
A Shelter in the time of storm.*

*O Jesus is a Rock in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land;
O Jesus is a Rock in a weary land, A Shelter in the time of storm!*

B. We are no match for the storms of life. There is a refuge in the Rock!

➡ ILLUS—Prov. 30:26, *The conies* [like a small rabbit] *are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks.* Many enemies: Eagles, leopards, wolves. How do they survive? Refuge in the rock.

We've looked at the **top** of the rock (stability); the **side** of the rock (supply); and **inside** the rock (shelter)... Now, let's look **under** the rock.

IV. There is SEVERITY under the Rock (Luke 20:17-18).

The passage is a prophecy concerning the Lord Jesus Christ and how He would be rejected by the religious system of His day. The religious builders looked at Christ, the cornerstone, and said, "This won't fit into our religion," and rejected it.

Historically, the builders were constructing one of the buildings of the Temple. They looked at the cornerstone and said, "This doesn't fit anyplace." They set it aside and forgot it. They got another cornerstone and put it in place.

Later, after the building was completed, someone found the original cornerstone that was rejected. They turned it slightly in a different position, and found that it fit perfectly. If they had looked at it earlier in just a little different way, they would have used it, but now it was too late.

When Jesus came on the scene, He wouldn't fit in any religious program. He never fit in anyone's particular group. They pushed Him off to the side—That which was rejected by the builders has become the head of the corner!

A. He is the stone of salvation for any who fall upon Him, and a stone of judgment to all who reject Him.

1. If you fall upon Christ in repentance you will be broken over your sin (broken in spirit; broken in heart; broken in will). Proverbs 15:13—“*by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.*” Psalm 51:17—“*a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.*”
 2. If you refuse to fall on Him in brokenness by your sin, He will fall upon you and grind you to powder. The *smitten* rock will become the *smiting* rock.
- B. In Daniel’s interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar’s image, he saw the Gentile powers that would rule the world in the last days. He saw a stone cut out of the mountain without hands. That stone fell on the Gentile powers. The Bible says they “*became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth*” (Dan. 2:35). This stone is the Lord Jesus Christ coming to set up His kingdom on earth. All the earth’s kingdoms will be ground to powder and Christ will become the only King over this planet!

SUMMATION: Have you fallen upon the Rock of the Lord Jesus in brokenness over your sin? The only shelter from God’s judgment will be on the Rock of Ages. You are either ON the rock, or you will be crushed UNDER the Rock.

Are you building your life on the Rock, or on sinking sand?

There is a storm coming! Only those who are on the rock will survive.