

The Doctrine of the Rock

1. Jesus is the Rock, first to Israel and then to the Church.

Gen 49:24 But his bow remained steady, his strong arms stayed limber, because of the hand of the Mighty One of Jacob, because of the Shepherd, the Rock of Israel,

1.1 At the first Meribah at a place called Massah Moses strikes the Rock (the Rock is symbolic of Jesus says 1Co 10:4) and there is water.

Exo 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. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

Exo 17:7 And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?

1.2 The Rock providing the water was symbolic of Jesus.

1Co 10:4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock (**PETRA**) that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

1.3 Striking the Rock was analogous to the crucifixion of our Lord. Jesus was crucified once and also we are to believe only once.

1.4 At the second Meribah at a place called Kadesh in the desert of Zin Moses makes the grave mistake of disobeying the Lord.

1.5 Moses is ordered to speak to the rock but instead he strikes the Rock; for this disobedience he is prohibited from seeing the promise land.

Num 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.

Num 20:9 And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him.

Num 20:10 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?

Num 20:11 And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.

Num 20:12 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.

1.6 Notice as you compare the Meribah stories with 1Co 10:4 that there are several principles to glean:

1.7 The Lord wants only a right thing done in a right way.

1.8 Obedience is better than sacrifice, good intentions or secular wisdom.

1.9 Jesus is to be struck once, meaning you are to believe once on the Lord Jesus Christ and you are saved.

2. God's judgment for time is severe certain and perfect given your needs. Moses was severely disciplined.

Heb 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Heb 12:7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

Heb 12:8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

3. Just before receiving the Law Tablets Moses is protected from the Deadly Sight of God by a cleft in the Rock (again the Rock is symbolic of Jesus).

Exo 33:21 Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock.

Exo 33:22 When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by.

Exo 33:23 Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."

4. Interestingly, the Lord leads us to places of no water to test our faith.

Deu 8:15 Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint;

Deu 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.

5. The Word of God is said to be a Rock which will sustain you against the tests of time.

Luk 6:48 He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.

6. The Church is to be built upon The Rock called **Petra**, i.e., Jesus; Peter is to be called **Petros**, i.e., a little chip off the big Rock. The church is built on this statement of faith.

Mat 16:18 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.

7. Christ is the Rock upon which we build divine good--the gold, silver and precious stones.

1Co 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1Co 3:12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble

1Co 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

1Co 3:14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

1Co 3:15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.