



Words

TO LIVE BY

Rock
JULY 2021

ROCK

Definition: A symbol of strength and permanence and a place where people in danger often took refuge. God is depicted as the Rock of Israel, being the strength, security and deliverance for his people. (Bible Gateway Dictionary of Bible Themes - 4354)

I have another unusual word for you to live by this month. Why should you choose to live by the word rock? Because God used that descriptive word when it came showing you more of who He is. God wants His people to know that He is their strength, security and deliverance.

The home where I grew up in WI is out in the country tucked 1/4 mile back into the woods on 50 acres. When you turn into the driveway you drive thru a tunnel of trees that eventually leads you out into a clearing where you see massive yard space and right before you pull up to the parking lot outside my parents home, you pass two big rocks (*actually they're more like boulders*) on either side of the driveway. I played countless hours on those rocks growing up and we even had some of our family pictures taken by them.

As I was looking up the definition for rock it took me back to my childhood days wondering if there was any significance in my parents putting those two big rocks where they did when they built their home. I've never asked them, but I realized that those rocks defined a place that gave me strength, security and refuge as a child. That is who God is for His children, a Rock.

The last six months you have studied the words: *Go, Valley, Blessing, Gospel, Truth & Guard*. As you continue the next six months of this year I want to encourage you again that living out any of these words is impossible in your own strength. You need the Rock and Cornerstone, Jesus Christ, to live these out daily. Paul reminds you in his letter to the church in Ephesus what Jesus did for you.

"He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone." Ephesians 2:17-20 NIV

Jesus came, preached peace and provided access for you to the Father. When you receive His gift of salvation you become members of His household, the Church, with Jesus Himself being the Chief Cornerstone (Rock).

This month I want you to see the triune God (God the Father, God the Son & God the Holy Spirit) as being the Rock of strength, security, permanence and refuge that you need in your life. You will study the Rock as a Cornerstone, Foundation, Refuge & Redeemer.

WEEK 1 - ROCK AS CORNERSTONE

The cornerstone is the first stone set in the construction of a new foundation. It is the most important part of any building because the total weight of the building rests on this specific stone. Cornerstones join together two exterior walls and are often engraved with the starting and completion dates of construction as well as the name of the architect and owner.

This month you are taking a deeper look at the meaning of another name for God and that is, Rock. In the following passage for today you will read a prophecy spoken by the prophet, Isaiah. In this portion, Isaiah speaks of the sin of Israel.

"Therefore hear the word of the Lord, you scoffers who rule this people in Jerusalem. You boast, 'We have entered into a covenant with death, with the realm of the dead we have made an agreement. When an overwhelming scourge sweeps by, it cannot touch us, for we have made a lie our refuge and falsehood our hiding place.'

So this is what the Sovereign Lord says:

'See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation, the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic. I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line; hail will sweep away your refuge, the lie, and water will overflow your hiding place. Your covenant with death will be annulled; your agreement with the realm of the dead will not stand. When the overwhelming scourge sweeps by, you will be beaten down by it. As often as it comes it will carry you away; morning after morning, by day and by night, it will sweep through.' The understanding of this message will bring sheer terror."
Isaiah 28:14-19 NIV

Isaiah begins by talking of those who ruled God's people in Jerusalem. These people had made an agreement with death and because of that believed that God's judgement would not come against them. When you read about the religious leaders in the New Testament, you see how they rejected Jesus as their Messiah. They found refuge in believing their lies. (Remember refuge is part of the definition for the word Rock.) The religious leaders didn't fear death because they made friends with the grave. They used lies as their strength and protection.

Charles Spurgeon preached a sermon on these verses titled, "Refuges of Lies and What Will Become of Them." He listed six lies that men attempt to make their refuge:

- The lie that we are good enough or can be good enough.
- The lie that fate or predestination determines everything, so there is nothing for us to do.
- The lie that places confidence in new, false teachings.
- The lie that mere religious profession is enough.
- The lie that one can have a saved soul and an unchanged life.
- The lie that trusts an old experience instead of an ongoing relationship.

Many people today believe the same thing. In their rejection of Jesus Christ, they are believing the lies of the enemy and making friends with death. Every human *should* fear death who has not repented of their sin and placed their faith in Jesus alone. If Jesus is your Lord and Savior, then you have no fear in death because Jesus conquered it for you when He died on the cross to pay the punishment for your sin. The Apostle Paul quotes Isaiah 25:8, 26:19 & Hosea 13:14 in the following verses,

"Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:54-57 NIV

You can have victory today over your sin by repenting and confessing it to Jesus and placing your faith in Him alone to save you.

As you continue to break down the rest of this prophesy, you will see that Isaiah was prophesying of who was to come. This precious cornerstone was referring to Jesus Christ who would bear the weight (like a cornerstone) of all sin in this world, including yours. God was going to make Jesus Christ the cornerstone and solid foundation. This Rock would be a place to find refuge in the Truth, that being Jesus Himself.

The wicked made themselves a weak foundation in the refuge of their lies. Their foundation would be swept away by hail and destroyed by water. The last few words of that prophesy should cause you to see how serious God takes sin. Trying to build a foundation on your own thoughts or ideas will prove disastrous and never withstand the judgement that is to come. You need the Rock, Jesus Christ, in your life who will provide you strength, security and refuge from this world.

One of Jesus original twelve disciples Peter, wrote a letter to believers who were scattered throughout five geographical locations. In this letter, Peter reminded the believers who their Rock was.

"As you come to him, the living Stone, rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him, you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says:

'See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.'

Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,' and, 'A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.'

They stumble because they disobey the message, which is also what they were destined for.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." 1 Peter 2:4-10 NIV

In a few verses believers are reminded of many who have rejected this Cornerstone (Jesus). This Cornerstone causes people to stumble and fall because of their disobedience. Peter encourages these believers to remember that they are a chosen people, part of a royal family, a holy nation and God's prize possession for the purpose of declaring His praises. At the very end he tells them to think back to who they were before receiving Jesus Christ and then look at where they are now...living in God's mercy.

Who is your Cornerstone?

If you have repented and believed in Jesus Christ as the Cornerstone, you have been forgiven. But, you have also been given a purpose, and that is to declare His praises. How are you doing at declaring the praises of your Rock & Cornerstone, Jesus Christ? If that has been lacking in your life, continue your declarations today!

One way to declare His praises right now is by simply singing the words to the worship song, "Cornerstone."

*My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus name*

*Christ alone
Cornerstone
Weak made strong
In the Saviour's love
Through the storm
He is Lord
Lord of all*

WEEK 2 - ROCK AS FOUNDATION

*Foundation is the act of founding, fixing or establishing something.

One of the first homes that my husband and I looked at when we were looking to buy a home was one that had a crack in the foundation. Because of this, there would have to be special work done to the foundation of the home to make sure that it would be solid and not eventually crack further. Even though we liked all the other aspects of that home and the location we walked away from putting in an offer because we wanted to be sure that the foundation of our home would be solid.

Today you will look at and study the Rock as a solid foundation and why it is important that your life is built on this Rock. At the very end of Jesus' sermon on the mount, He told this parable of two builders. Check out the difference between their foundations in Matthew 7.

"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

'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. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.'

When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.'" Matthew 7:21-29
NIV

The beginning of this passage sounds a bit harsh, but this is the reality of what it will be like someday when you stand before God in all of His holiness. It's easy to think that doing a lot of good things can earn you a place in heaven but that is not how it works. Jesus was clear when He said that only those who do the will of His Father will be in heaven. So you may wonder, what is God's will? You find it in 2 Peter 3:9.

"The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not willing for any to perish, but for all to come to repentance." 2 Peter 3:9 NASB

Do you see how patient God is with you? His will is not for you to perish but for you to come to repentance. Have you come to the place where you realize your need for a Savior from sin? Your sin separates you from a holy God, but thru His Son Jesus He has given you the gift of salvation. You just need to repent of your sin and believe on Him.

Jesus then helped to explain this further by speaking a parable of two builders. (A parable is a simple story used to illustrate a spiritual lesson.) The first builder chose the right foundation and built his house on the rock. In other words, this man was considered wise because he listened to the words of Jesus and practiced them. In contrast to the wise man there was a foolish man who chose instead to build his foundation on the sand. When the storms of life came, his foundation came crashing down. The foolish man heard the words of Jesus but chose not to practice them and in the end it led to his destruction.

You are either one or the other. Do you consider yourself to be the wise man who is building your foundation on Jesus Christ and choosing to live by His word? Or are you like the foolish man, who even though you have heard of the Rock (Jesus Christ) you are choosing not to build your foundation on Him but maybe instead on yourself? Your way will never get you to heaven. When the storms of life come (because they always do) what will your foundation be built upon?

One of Jesus twelve disciples was given a name that meant rock. Early on in Jesus ministry He met a man named Simon who He renamed, Peter. You find this happen in John chapter 1.

"Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, 'We have found the Messiah' (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You will be called Cephas' (which, when translated, is Peter)." John 1:40-42 NIV

The very first time Peter meets Jesus, Jesus gives him a different name. Cephas means "rock" in Aramaic, Peter means "rock" in Greek. Peter was given this name to signify stability and strength. It seems as though Peter was a man who struggled with being insecure. Outwardly to everyone he appeared a confidant man, but inwardly it was the opposite. Jesus gave Peter a name that would serve as a reminder for him of the stability and strength He would have from the Holy Spirit to face all the persecution that was to come.

Peter could not have this strength in and of himself. He needed to look to the Rock, (Jesus Christ) as the ultimate place of stability, strength and refuge. In Matthew 16 you find Jesus having another conversation with His disciples after He asks them a question.

"When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?'

They replied, 'Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.'

'But what about you?' he asked. 'Who do you say I am?'

Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.'

Jesus replied, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.' " Matthew 16:13-18 NIV

Peter got the answer to Jesus' question correct. He knew Jesus was the Messiah. Jesus tells Peter he is blessed (favored and protected) and that it was God who revealed that to Peter.

From first glance it could look like Jesus was saying that Peter was the foundation of the church and that the church would be built upon the Apostle Peter. Many people believe this is true but because of what you studied last week, this interpretation would not make sense. You know that Jesus is the cornerstone and foundation of His Church. Looking at this full conversation you see that Jesus wasn't asking His disciples who Peter was, but who He was.

Jesus reminded Peter of his name, but then called Himself the Rock He would build His Church on. In order to understand more deeply what Jesus is saying here, you have to go back to the original greek language and study the two words, Peter and rock.

There are feminine and masculine forms when it comes to different words. The word used for Peter's name is a masculine form and the word used for rock in that sentence is the feminine form. This shows you that Jesus was not actually referring to Peter as the foundation of the Church, but instead Himself. Jesus was going to use Peter (and the other Apostles) to build His Church, but the Church would not be founded on Peter.

The reason the Church will never fail or crumble is because it is built on the foundation of Jesus Christ Himself. Be encouraged today friend that if your foundation is built on Jesus, it will never fail. Run to your Rock, cling to your Rock and find refuge in your solid Rock, Jesus Christ.

What are you building your foundation on?

WEEK 3 - ROCK AS REFUGE/FORTRESS

Growing up I remember building lots of forts on our property. These were places where my siblings and I could spend hours playing. In our childlike minds we built these forts as a place of refuge in the great outdoors.

Last year during COVID my kids begged for my husband and I to help them build a tree fort. So, we spent an afternoon outside in the woods building this secret fort that would be their place of refuge.

You are going to look at King David today and three of the Psalms that he wrote. David was just a shepherd boy when Samuel anointed him to be the next King over Israel. There was nothing special about David. He was just an ordinary teenager who was a faithful Shepherd to his sheep. It could even be said that David was like a place of refuge, stability and strength for his sheep.

David penned the words to Psalm 18 after God delivered him from the hand of his enemies as well as King Saul. This is a long Psalm so you will just read part of it here, but I encourage you to take time today to read the entire chapter. Check out how many times David describes God as a rock in these verses.

*"I love you, Lord, my **strength**.*

*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
stronghold.*

*I called to the Lord, who is worthy of praise,
and I have been saved from my enemies.*

*The cords of death entangled me;
the torrents of destruction overwhelmed me.*

*The cords of the grave coiled around me;
the snares of death confronted me.*

*In my distress I called to the Lord;
I cried to my God for help.
From his temple he heard my voice;
my cry came before him, into his ears...*

*The Lord lives! Praise be to my **Rock**!*

Exalted be God my Savior!

*He is the God who avenges me,
who subdues nations under me,
who saves me from my enemies.*

*You exalted me above my foes;
from a violent man you rescued me.*

*Therefore I will praise you, Lord, among the nations;
I will sing the praises of your name.
He gives his king great victories;
he shows unfailing love to his anointed,
to David and to his descendants forever.*" Psalm 18:1-6, 46-50 NIV

Strength, Rock, Fortress, Refuge and Stronghold are all descriptive words that David used for God. Imagine having to spend a good portion of your life trying to escape death from the man you are supposed to replace as King. That is not a pleasant thought and yet David found such security in who God is and His Sovereign plan that he had nothing to fear.

David turned his panic into praise, his worry into worship and his anxiety into adoration. Do you see how easy it could have been for him to live in constant panic, worry and anxiety? These are some of the same things that you struggle with too. Did you know that panic, worry and anxiety do not come from God? These come from this world and you trying to control things yourself.

I want to be lovingly honest right now and tell you that if you have never repented of your sin and placed your faith in Jesus alone to save you, then you should panic, worry and have anxiety over the realness of your sin. Isaiah says that your sin has put a separation between you and God. "*But your iniquities (sin) have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.*" Isaiah 59:2 NIV

Praise God that Jesus bridged the gap. God sent His one and only perfect son down here to die on the cross willingly in your place, taking the punishment that your sin deserves. The most well known verse in the Bible sums it up well, "*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*" John 3:16 NIV

Have you repented of your sin and believed in Jesus death and resurrection for you? Do it today. When you do this there is no room for panic, worry or anxiety. 1 Peter 5:7 says, "*Cast all your anxiety on him (Jesus) because he cares for you.*" That is what David did.

Going further into the Psalms you find two back to back, Psalms 61-62, that David also wrote. He talks again of God being his Rock and refuge. It didn't matter where David was or if life was going good or bad, it mattered who was with him. The person (God) in that place brought David peace and perspective. There is not much context given as to what was going on when David wrote Psalm 61, but you can tell from his words that his heart was overwhelmed.

*"Hear my cry, O God;
listen to my prayer.*

*From the ends of the earth I call to you,
I call as my heart grows faint;
lead me to the **rock** that is higher than I.
For you have been my **refuge**,
a **strong tower** against the foe.
I long to dwell in your tent forever
and take **refuge** in the **shelter** of your wings.
For you, God, have heard my vows;
you have given me the heritage of those who fear your name.
Increase the days of the king's life,
his years for many generations.
May he be enthroned in God's presence forever;
appoint your love and faithfulness to protect him.
Then I will ever sing in praise of your name
and fulfill my vows day after day." Psalm 61 NIV*

Psalm 62 was written for the choir director, Jeduthun who was one of the musicians that would lead Israel's public worship. Jeduthun is also mentioned in Psalms 39 & 77. This Psalm teaches the importance of waiting on and trusting God who is David's rock and defender.

*"Truly my soul finds rest in God;
my salvation comes from him.
Truly he is my **rock** and my salvation;
he is my **fortress**, I will never be shaken.
How long will you assault me?
Would all of you throw me down
this leaning wall, this tottering fence?
Surely they intend to topple me;
from my lofty place;
they take delight in lies.
With their mouths they bless,
but in their hearts they curse.
Yes, my soul, find rest in God;
my hope comes from him.
Truly he is my **rock** and my salvation;
he is my **fortress**, I will not be shaken.
My salvation and my honor depend on GoD;
he is my **mighty rock**, my **refuge**.
Trust in him at all times, you people;
pour out your hearts to him,
for God is our **refuge**.
Surely the lowborn are but a breath,
the highborn are but a lie.*

*If weighed on a balance, they are nothing;
together they are only a breath.
Do not trust in extortion
or put vain hope in stolen goods;
though your riches increase,
do not set your heart on them.
One thing God has spoken,
two things I have heard:
'Power belongs to you, God,
and with you, Lord, is unfailing love';
and, 'You reward everyone
according to what they have done.'"
Psalm 62 NIV*

Now that I'm older I think back to what I told you at the beginning of the month and how my childhood home was like a place of refuge for me. It was a safe place where I felt secure. But what about that place made it a refuge? It was the people that gave it the feeling of stability and strength. I have many memories in the places where I've lived of good and hard times. The reason I can call those homes a place of refuge is because my Rock (God) was overwhelmingly present in each of them.

Who do you run to when times are hard? Be like David and run to Jesus your Rock, Strong Tower, Refuge and Fortress. He will always be waiting for you.

WEEK 4 - ROCK AS REDEEMER

I'm excited to close out this month looking once more at the definition we are using for Rock; A symbol of strength and permanence and a place where people in danger often took refuge. God is depicted as the Rock of Israel, being the strength, security and deliverance for his people. (Bible Gateway Dictionary of Bible Themes - 4354)

The theme for today's devotional is looking to the Rock as your Redeemer. In order to fully see what this looks like, you have to go back to the beginning of the Old Testament. In Exodus 17 you find Moses and the people of Israel who he had just led out of slavery in Egypt camped out at Rephidim in the wilderness of Sin. They were without water and complaining to Moses. Read the passage below and notice how God provided water for them.

"The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. So they quarreled with Moses and said, 'Give us water to drink.'

Moses replied, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you put the Lord to the test?' But the people were thirsty for water there, and they grumbled against Moses. They said, 'Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?' Then Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me.'
The Lord answered Moses, 'Go out in front of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.' So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the place Massah (testing) and Meribah (quarreling) because the Israelites quarreled and because they tested the Lord saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'" Exodus 17:1-7 NIV

You see from these verses that God provided water from a rock. God specifically told Moses to strike the rock and once he did water would come out. Skip ahead a few chapters into Numbers and in chapter 20 you find almost the exact same situation happen again.

"In the first month the whole Israelite community arrived at the Desert of Zin, and they stayed at Kadesh. There Miriam died and was buried.

Now there was no water for the community, and the people gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron. They quarreled with Moses and said, 'If only we had died when our brothers fell dead before the Lord! Why did you bring the Lord's community into this wilderness, that we and our livestock should die here? Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to this terrible place? It has no grain or figs, grapevines or pomegranates. And there is no water to drink!' Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance to the tent of meeting and fell facedown, and the glory of the Lord appeared to them. The Lord said to Moses, 'Take the staff, and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to that rock before

their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink.'

So Moses took the staff from the Lord's presence, just as he commanded him. He and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, 'Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?' Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff. Water gushed out, and the community and their livestock drank. But the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 'Because you did not trust in me enough to honor me as holy in the sight of the Israelites, you will not bring this community into the land I give them.' These were the waters of Meribah, where the Israelites quarreled with the Lord and where he was proved holy among them." Numbers 20:1-13 NIV

There are a lot of similarities between these two passages and I want to look and study them carefully with you. At first glance it could seem that this was the exact same story that was recorded a second time, but there are some specific things that are different.

First, did you notice the similarity between the names of the deserts they are in each time? The first one is the desert of Sin and the second one is the desert of Zin. One letter difference. The desert of Zin is located further north near the Salt Sea while the desert of Sin is south right along the Red Sea. Both times the name Meribah is mentioned. Moses gave this specific area that name because of the quarreling from Israel.

There's one more major difference between the two passages and it has to do with Moses. In the Exodus passage Moses fully obeyed the specific instructions that God gave him when he took his staff and struck the rock which led to the provision of water for the nation of Israel. In the account of Numbers Moses disobeyed God's instructions.

God specifically told Moses to take his staff and speak to the rock. This time he was told not to strike the rock. God told Moses to strike the rock the first time to give a picture of what was to come in the New Testament. Jesus would be the Rock that was struck and beaten to pay the punishment that your sin deserved. Isaiah 53:5 reads, "*But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.*"

God was giving Israel a picture of what was to come the first time He told Moses to strike the rock. Moses destroyed that picture when he struck the rock a second time. Jesus satisfied God's wrath against sin and on the third day He rose again. He only needed to be sacrificed ONCE for all, not over and over again. "*For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.*" Romans 6:9-10 NIV

Because of Moses disobedience in carrying out God's command the second time, he was not allowed to bring Israel into the promised land. God specifically says, *Moses did not trust Him enough to honor Him as holy in the sight of Israel.*

Recognizing the holiness of God is the first step to beginning a relationship with Him. When you see the holiness of God, you see yourself for who you really are...a sinner in need of a Savior from your sin. God provided this Savior when He sent Jesus to pay the punishment that your sin deserves. Repent of your sin today and believe in Jesus death and resurrection for you.

The Apostle Paul in his writing to the church in Corinth reminded them of their history way back in the Old Testament. *"For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. 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."* 1 Corinthians 10:1-4 NIV

In closing out this devotional the last 4 words of those verses are what I want you to remember...*that rock was Christ*. He was their redeemer from sin. Both stories of Israel lacking water are a good reminder of where living water truly comes from, *The Rock, Jesus*.

Water is the source of life. In order to live on this earth you must have water. But what about your eternal life? You must have the living water that comes from the Rock, Jesus Christ in order to have eternal life. Jesus told the woman at the well in John 4:14, *"whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life."* John 4:14 NIV

Where are you getting your water from? Jesus Christ, the Rock eternal is the source of living water. *"On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.' By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified."* John 7:37-39 NIV