



The Rock That Followed Them
December 10, 2023

For our sermon text today, let's please read 1 Corinthians 10:1-4:

1 Corinthians 10:1-5

1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea,
2 all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,
3 all ate the same spiritual food,
4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual **Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.**

The apostle Paul is pointing back to the Exodus and the journey the people of Israel made through the wilderness.

Consider the phrase: "...Rock that followed them..."
Followed meaning "accompanied", "to be in the same way".

This is a strange statement "Rock that accompanied or journeyed with them" indicating that the Rock moved and stayed with them wherever they went. Generally, we expect a rock to be stationary. We don't expect a rock to move from place to place (other than in a landslide or something of that nature).

Paul is pointing to a "spiritual Rock". There was the natural rock that Israel encountered twice as they went on their journey. The natural rock was representative of the spiritual Rock, who is Christ.

CHRIST IS THE SPIRITUAL ROCK

This Christmas season, as we look at who Jesus is and who He came to be for us, let us take some time to consider Christ, as the spiritual Rock, as mentioned to us in this passage.

ROCK – IMMOVABLE, UNCHANGABLE, STRONG, RELIABLE

The term 'rock' is associated with or is a picture of what is immovable, unchangeable, strong and reliable.

In Scripture, the picture or metaphor of the rock is used to describe who God is to us.



Psalm 18:2,46

2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

46 The LORD lives! Blessed be my Rock! Let the God of my salvation be exalted.

We can depend and rely on God, as one would in the natural on a rock.

We find a place of refuge, safety and strength, as one would in the natural, under a rock.

Jesus Christ is the Rock in our lives.

However, in the narrative of Israel's journey through the wilderness, they experience other aspects of God as the Rock. Let's consider these:

STRIKE THE ROCK

(Pastors – please narrate a little of the background of Exodus 17:1-4)

Exodus 17:4-7

4 So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me!"

5 And the LORD said to Moses, "Go on before the people, and take with you some of the elders of Israel. Also take in your hand your rod with which you struck the river, and go.

6 Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock in Horeb; and you shall strike the rock, and water will come out of it, that the people may drink." And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.

7 So he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the contention of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Strike the rock.

Remember, Paul pointed out that the spiritual Rock was Christ.

The striking of the rock in the natural, had a spiritual meaning to it – that is, the striking of the spiritual Rock – Christ being crucified.

Just as water gushed out to meet the needs of the people – spiritually, from Christ the Rock who was crucified for us, our needs are met.

A FIRM FOUNDATION – IMMOVABLE, UNCHANGEABLE



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Jesus the spiritual Rock is the firm foundation, immovable and unchangeable, in our lives.

A PLACE OF REFUGE – STRONG, RELIABLE

Jesus the spiritual Rock is the place of refuge, strong and reliable, in our lives.

A SOURCE THAT MEETS EVERY NEED

Jesus the spiritual Rock, who was struck, is also the Source to meet our every need.

In the Incarnation He came to die for us – to deliver us from sin and its effects and meet our deepest needs.

SPEAK TO THE ROCK

(Pastors, please narrate incidents leading up to Numbers 20:1-5)

Numbers 20:6-8

6 So Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly to the door of the tabernacle of meeting, and they fell on their faces. And the glory of the LORD appeared to them.

7 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

8 "Take the rod; you and your brother Aaron gather the congregation together. **Speak to the rock before their eyes, and it will yield its water;** thus you shall bring water for them out of the rock, and give drink to the congregation and their animals."

Interestingly, when the people of Israel, found themselves again in a place of great need for water, this time God instructed Moses to speak to the rock. (Moses did not follow through on God's instruction, but in his anger, he struck the rock. We will not discuss this specific action of Moses. We focus on God's instruction to speak to the rock.)

The rock was struck only once. The next time, there was a need, Moses had only to speak to the rock.

This is what God intends. Christ is the spiritual Rock. He was struck once to meet every need. Now, when we find ourselves in need, all we are required to do is SPEAK TO THE ROCK.

Another aspect that the apostle Paul pointed out in 1 Corinthians 10:1-4, the passage we read, was the spiritual Rock did something that natural rocks cannot do. The spiritual Rock accompanied them as they journeyed.



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While in the natural, the people saw the two encounters (water coming from the rock on two occasions), in the spiritual, the spiritual Rock, Jesus Christ, was always with them.

The sad aspect of Israel's journey is they were quick to "forget" their God. They quickly forgot the encounters, and so forgot God in between the encounters. This got them into a lot of trouble (unbelief, wandering away from God, falling into idolatry and immorality, etc.).

YOUR SPIRITUAL ROCK IS STILL WITH YOU IN BETWEEN YOUR DIVINE ENCOUNTERS

Sometimes, as believers, we tend to live from encounter to encounter.
We talk fondly of past spiritual encounters with the Lord.
We long for and hope to have yet another great spiritual encounter with God.
This is fine.

The reality is the spiritual Rock, is accompanying us on the journey. He is with us today.
He is all that He is – to us today.

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

This Christmas season, reflect on Christ our spiritual Rock.

Christ is our spiritual rock, our firm foundation (immovable, unchangeable), our place of refuge (strong, reliable) and our source of all things, the One who meets every need.

Christ is our spiritual Rock who was struck once. Today, all we need to do is speak to Him.

Christ is the spiritual Rock who accompanies us.

Our spiritual Rock is with us in between our divine encounters.

GOSPEL AND SALVATION CALL

SUPERNATURAL MINISTRY TIME

Minister as the Spirit leads



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LIFE GROUP STUDY GUIDE

The Rock That Followed Them December 10, 2023

This is a simple guide for use in Life Group discussions. Our objective is to focus on the application of the Sunday sermon - how each one is becoming a doer of the Word and building their life on God's Holy Word. The Life Group meeting would normally last for 2 hours. Each Life Group would have up to 12-15 people.

Preparation

To prepare for the Life Group meeting, you can listen to the Sermon Key Points (sermon summary in five minutes) or the full-length Sunday sermon. You can also review the Sunday Sermon notes. All these are available in the "All Peoples Church Bangalore" mobile App or online at our [sermons page](#). Pray for the Life Group meeting and invite the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Welcome

The Life Group meeting may commence with a time of prayer, worship, and a fun activity.

LISTEN to God's Word

Read the following Scripture references: *1 Corinthians 10:1-4*

INVESTIGATE God's Word Together

Please discuss a few of these together, giving time for people to share their insights. We encourage each one individually to make notes of their personal learning during the Group discussion.

A, Reflect on Christ our spiritual Rock based on the insights that were shared from 1 Corinthians 10:1-4 :

Christ is our spiritual rock, our firm foundation (immovable, unchangeable), our place of refuge (strong, reliable) and our source of all things, the One who meets every need.

Christ is our spiritual Rock who was struck once. Today, all we need to do is speak to Him.

Christ is the spiritual Rock who accompanies us.



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Our spiritual Rock is with us in between our divine encounters.

If time permits, each one can take a few (3 minutes max) to share one or two key learning and how they see themselves applying it into their specific life situations. Encourage each one to participate and share.

FELLOWSHIP by sharing your life and spiritual journey

Each one takes a few (3 minutes max) to share anything from their walk with God, something God has been teaching them, a testimony of answered prayer or a specific challenge that they would like prayer for. Encourage each one to participate and share.

ENCOURAGE each other by praying and ministering to one another

Get into small groups of two or three and take turns to thank God and pray for each other in the light of what was learnt today. Listen to the Holy Spirit. Expect the gifts of the Holy Spirit to flow bringing healing, releasing miracles, prophecy, etc.

Regroup and pray together for:

- 1, families to be protected and strengthened*
- 2, a mighty outpouring of God's Holy Spirit on us as a church and through us to bless many others in our city and nation. Nothing but a mighty work of God's Spirit can change our city and nation.*
- 3, for the BUILD TO IMPACT project - for God's hand to guide us through the land search and acquisition process, and for finances to be more than enough to get this project done.*

Close by thanking God together.



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USEFUL RESOURCES

Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>

SERMON OUTLINE

The Lord is our Rock. The rock is a picture of what is immovable, unchangeable, strong, safe, secure, reliable. But the Scriptures share additional insights into Christ our spiritual Rock. Christ is our spiritual rock, our firm foundation (immovable, unchangeable), our place of refuge (strong, reliable) and our source of all things, the One who meets every need. Christ is our spiritual Rock who was struck once. Today, all we need to do is speak to Him. Christ is the spiritual Rock who accompanies us. Our spiritual Rock is with us in between our divine encounters.

KEYWORDS

The Lord my rock, spiritual rock, Christ our Rock, sermon, sermons, sermon notes, sermon outline, free sermon notes, free sermon outlines, Bible study resources

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

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Thayer's Greek Definitions. Published in 1886, 1889; public domain.

Strong's Hebrew and Greek Dictionaries, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance by James Strong, S.T.D., LL.D. Published in 1890; public domain.

Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words, © 1984, 1996, Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville, TN

Mounce Concise Greek-English Dictionary. Edited by William D. Mounce with Rick D. Bennett, Jr. (1993)

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