

The Rock
FAIRVIEW TEXAS CHURCH OF GOD
April 28, 2007

Last week's topic was a bit of a "downer" – talking about human nature, Virginia Tech and all. So, this week, I wanted to have a topic that was more uplifting and hopeful.

What could be more uplifting than knowing that God is always there for us?

Malachi 3:

- 6 "For I am the LORD, I do not change

Deuteronomy 32

- 1 ¶ "Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak; And hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.
- 2 Let my teaching drop as the rain, My speech distill as the dew, As raindrops on the tender herb, And as showers on the grass.
- 3 For I proclaim the name of the LORD: Ascribe greatness to our God.
- 4 He is the **Rock**, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He.
- 5 "They have corrupted themselves; They are not His children, Because of their blemish: A perverse and crooked generation.
- 6 Do you thus deal with the LORD, O foolish and unwise people? Is He not your Father, who bought you? Has He not made you and established you?
- 7 ¶ "Remember the days of old, Consider the years of many generations. Ask your father, and he will show you; Your elders, and they will tell you:
- 8 When the Most High divided their inheritance to the nations, When He separated the sons of Adam, He set the boundaries of the peoples According to the number of the children of Israel.
- 9 For the LORD'S portion is His people; Jacob is the place of His inheritance.
- 10 "He found him in a desert land And in the wasteland, a howling wilderness; He encircled him, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye.
- 11 As an eagle stirs up its nest, Hovers over its young, Spreading out its wings, taking them up, Carrying them on its wings,
- 12 So the LORD alone led him, And there was no foreign god with him.
- 13 "He made him ride in the heights of the earth, That he might eat the produce of the fields; He made him draw honey from the **rock**, And oil from the flinty **rock**;
- 14 Curds from the cattle, and milk of the flock, With fat of lambs; And rams of the breed of Bashan, and goats, With the choicest wheat; And you drank wine, the blood of the grapes.
- 15 ¶ "But Jeshurun grew fat and kicked; You grew fat, you grew thick, You are obese! Then he forsook God who made him, And scornfully esteemed the **Rock** of his salvation.
- 16 They provoked Him to jealousy with foreign gods; With abominations they provoked Him to anger.

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- 17 They sacrificed to demons, not to God, To gods they did not know, To new gods, new arrivals That your fathers did not fear.
- 18 Of the **Rock** who begot you, you are unmindful, And have forgotten the God who fathered you.
- 19 ¶ "And when the LORD saw it, He spurned them, Because of the provocation of His sons and His daughters.
- 20 And He said: 'I will hide My face from them, I will see what their end will be, For they are a perverse generation, Children in whom is no faith.
- 21 They have provoked Me to jealousy by what is not God; They have moved Me to anger by their foolish idols. But I will provoke them to jealousy by those who are not a nation; I will move them to anger by a foolish nation.
- 22 For a fire is kindled by my anger, And shall burn to the lowest hell; It shall consume the earth with her increase, And set on fire the foundations of the mountains.
- 23 'I will heap disasters on them; I will spend My arrows on them.
- 24 They shall be wasted with hunger, Devoured by pestilence and bitter destruction; I will also send against them the teeth of beasts, With the poison of serpents of the dust.
- 25 The sword shall destroy outside; There shall be terror within For the young man and virgin, The nursing child with the man of gray hairs.
- 26 ¶ I would have said, "I will dash them in pieces, I will make the memory of them to cease from among men,"
- 27 Had I not feared the wrath of the enemy, Lest their adversaries should misunderstand, Lest they should say, "Our hand is high; And it is not the LORD who has done all this."
- 28 "For they are a nation void of counsel, Nor is there any understanding in them.
- 29 Oh, that they were wise, that they understood this, That they would consider their latter end!
- 30 How could one chase a thousand, And two put ten thousand to flight, Unless their **Rock** had sold them, And the LORD had surrendered them?
- 31 For their **rock** is not like our **Rock**, Even our enemies themselves being judges.
- 32 For their vine is of the vine of Sodom And of the fields of Gomorrah; Their grapes are grapes of gall, Their clusters are bitter.
- 33 Their wine is the poison of serpents, And the cruel venom of cobras.
- 34 'Is this not laid up in store with Me, Sealed up among My treasures?
- 35 Vengeance is Mine, and recompense; Their foot shall slip in due time; For the day of their calamity is at hand, And the things to come hasten upon them.'
- 36 "For the LORD will judge His people And have compassion on His servants, When He sees that their power is gone, And there is no one remaining, bond or free.
- 37 He will say: 'Where are their gods, The **rock** in which they sought refuge?

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- 38 Who ate the fat of their sacrifices, And drank the wine of their drink offering?
Let them rise and help you, And be your refuge.
- 39 ¶ Now see that I, even I, am He, And there is no God besides Me; I kill and I
make alive; I wound and I heal; Nor is there any who can deliver from My hand.
- 40 For I raise My hand to heaven, And say, "As I live forever,
- 41 If I whet My glittering sword, And My hand takes hold on judgment, I will
render vengeance to My enemies, And repay those who hate Me.

Exodus 17:

- 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.

Numbers 20:

- 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."
- 9 So Moses took the rod from before the LORD as He commanded him.
- 10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the **rock**; and he
said to them, "Hear now, you rebels! Must we bring water for you out of this
rock?"
- 11 Then Moses lifted his hand and struck the **rock** twice with his rod; and water
came out abundantly, and the congregation and their animals drank.
 - God used the rock as a source of water, just as He is the source of life

1 Samuel 2:

- 2 "No one is holy like the LORD, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any
rock like our God.

2 Samuel 22:

- 2 ¶ And he said: "The LORD is my **rock** and my fortress and my deliverer;

2 Samuel 22:

- 32 "For who is God, except the LORD? And who is a **rock**, except our God?

2 Samuel 22:

- 47 "The LORD lives! Blessed be my **Rock**! Let God be exalted, The **Rock** of my
salvation!

2 Samuel 23:

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- 3 The God of Israel said, The **Rock** of Israel spoke to me: 'He who rules over men must be just, Ruling in the fear of God.

Nehemiah 9:

- 15 You gave them bread from heaven for their hunger, And brought them water out of the **rock** for their thirst, And told them to go in to possess the land Which You had sworn to give them.

When you really want uplifting scripture, the best place in the Bible is in the Psalms.

Psalms 18:

- 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.
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- 31 For who is God, except the LORD? And who is a **rock**, except our God?
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- 46 The LORD lives! Blessed be my **Rock**! Let the God of my salvation be exalted.

Psalms 28:

- 1 To You I will cry, O LORD my **Rock**: Do not be silent to me, Lest, if You are silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit.

Psalms 31:

- 2 Bow down Your ear to me, Deliver me speedily; Be my **rock** of refuge, A fortress of defense to save me.
- 3 For You are my **rock** and my fortress; Therefore, for Your name's sake, Lead me and guide me.

Psalms 40:

- 2 He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a **rock**, And established my steps.

Psalms 42:

- 9 I will say to God my **Rock**, "Why have You forgotten me? Why do I go mourning because of the oppression of the enemy?"

Psalms 61:

- 2 From the end of the earth I will cry to You, When my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the **rock** that is higher than I.

Psalms 62:

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- 2 He only is my **rock** and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved.
- 6 He only is my **rock** and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be moved.
- 7 In God is my salvation and my glory; The **rock** of my strength, And my refuge, is in God.

Psalms 71:

- 3 Be my strong refuge, To which I may resort continually; You have given the commandment to save me, For You are my **rock** and my fortress.

Psalms 78:

- 16 He also brought streams out of the **rock**, And caused waters to run down like rivers.
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- 20 Behold, He struck the **rock**, So that the waters gushed out, And the streams overflowed. Can He give bread also? Can He provide meat for His people?"
- 35 Then they remembered that God was their **rock**, And the Most High God their Redeemer.

Psalms 81:

- 16 He would have fed them also with the finest of wheat; And with honey from the **rock** I would have satisfied you."

Psalms 89:

- 26 He shall cry to Me, 'You are my Father, My God, and the **rock** of my salvation.'

Psalms 92:

- 15 To declare that the LORD is upright; He is my **rock**, and there is no unrighteousness in Him.

Psalms 94:

- 22 But the LORD has been my defense, And my God the **rock** of my refuge.

Psalms 95:

- 1 ¶ Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the **Rock** of our salvation.

Psalms 105:

- 41 He opened the **rock**, and water gushed out; It ran in the dry places like a river.

Psalms 114:

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- 8 Who turned the **rock** into a pool of water, The flint into a fountain of waters.

Psalms 144:

- 1 Blessed be the LORD my **Rock**, Who trains my hands for war, And my fingers for battle-

Isaiah 17:

- 10 Because you have forgotten the God of your salvation, And have not been mindful of the **Rock** of your stronghold, Therefore you will plant pleasant plants And set out foreign seedlings;

Isaiah 44:

- 8 Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other **Rock**; I know not one."

Isaiah 48:

- 21 And they did not thirst When He led them through the deserts; He caused the waters to flow from the **rock** for them; He also split the **rock**, and the waters gushed out.

Habakkuk 1:

- 12 ¶ Are You not from everlasting, O LORD my God, my Holy One? We shall not die. O LORD, You have appointed them for judgment; O **Rock**, You have marked them for correction.

Matthew 7:

- 24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the **rock**:"
- 25 "and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the **rock**.
 - We need to build our lives on the Rock – Jesus Christ

Matthew 16:

- 18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this **rock** I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.
 - "this rock" refers to Christ Himself, not Peter
 - Jesus was making an analogy

Luke 6:

- 48 "He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the **rock**. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the **rock**."

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- If our faith is built on His words, we cannot be shaken

1 Corinthians 10:

- 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual **Rock** that followed them, and that **Rock** was Christ.