

## **Names of God from the Bible**

### **18 – The Rock**

*Every name of God is an eternal Name and how appropriate, therefore, that He is called the Rock – a name that speaks of permanence, faithfulness, strength and security.*

#### **Reading: Deuteronomy 32:1-18**

When, at the end of his life on earth, Jacob blessed Joseph, Jacob recalled how God had been constantly watching over and caring for him, and how God would continue to do the same for Joseph.

The picture is not of some boulder that would have fallen from a cliff or an obstacle in the way of progress on the path of life, but rather, of massive stone formations that make up mountains. The outcrop you can climb in order to get a new perspective and clearer view of reality. Something that is always there for you to return to – for strength, courage, protection, truth and wisdom.

Throughout Jacob's life, he had experienced opposition, deceit, difficulty and discouragement. How vital it was that he should find a Rock, to which he could turn for sustenance and hope. Despite all Jacob's faults, we find in him a man who knew his God and had an intimate relationship with Him. Furthermore, Jacob readily and gratefully acknowledged God's protection and blessing. It was fitting and natural, therefore, that Jacob would entrust Joseph and his future to his Rock, the Rock of Israel.

Moses also recognised that God was the Rock. In praising God, Moses extolled the greatness of God. He likened God to a high, righteous, trustworthy and enduring Place of Security from where he and the people of Israel would be safe from all their enemies.

One of the wonderful things about the Rock is that it remains the same, regardless of how disobedient, rebellious or faithless the people may be. The Rock's qualities are unconditional and consistent. Although the people may turn away from the Rock and go their selfish, self-centred and independent way, nevertheless, the Rock stands firm and constantly available to those who choose to return to it.

I love and can relate to King David's cry: *"Lead me to the Rock that is higher than I"*. Even as I write this, tears form in my eyes. Oh the joy, oh the relief, oh the peace we receive when we run to the *Rock that is higher than I*.

It's so true, we all need a Saviour and we all need a *Rock that is higher than I*. David probably had to endure more hatred, misunderstanding, pain, ridicule, loneliness and outright opposition than most people throughout the history of the world. How fitting, therefore, that he sought and found a Rock that could provide security and safety. He found the answer in his God, the Creator of the world and God of Israel. It turned David into the courageous and all-conquering king.

When Paul wrote his first letter to the church at Corinth, he reviewed Israel's history in the desert. He reminded them about how God miraculously provided food and water. However, Paul developed the spiritual significance by revealing that the Water of Life came from the spiritual Rock and that Rock was Christ. Paul explained that Jesus Christ is the everlasting and ever-living God.

At the same time, Paul exhorted his readers to understand the warnings that God recorded for us from history. The Israelites rebelled against God many times. However, whenever they turned back

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to God, the Rock, He received them once more and protected them from their enemies. Nevertheless, we should not presume on God's grace.

Yes, although the Rock, Jesus Christ the Lord, is gracious, merciful and long-suffering, we should keep Him as our foundation and follow His commands, thereby living in His blessing and experiencing the joy of His Eternal Life.

### **What does that name mean for us today**

In a world of turmoil, uncertainty, fear and hopelessness, we can turn to God who is Eternal, Divine and totally immune to the disasters and storms of life. If we have faith in God, through Jesus Christ, we can have peace and joy, no matter what happens to us on earth, regardless of whether the challenges come through earthquakes, financial collapse, health issues or spiritual opposition.

### **Prayer**

*Thank You so much, Father, for being my Rock and the One to whom I can fly for love, assurance, peace and safety. Thank You for being faithful, totally trustworthy and reliable. Thank You that I can come to You at any time and that your love, mercy and grace are unconditional. Amen.*

### **Additional Readings**

- Genesis 49:22-26
- Psalm 61
- 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

### **Questions**

1. What are the 'characteristics' of the Rock?
2. Has God revealed Himself in this way to you? How and when?
3. How does Jesus fulfil that name?