

“The Spiritual Rock”

All Scripture is KJV: (22.2.2020)

INTRODUCTION: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE HAVE TO SAY

This past few weeks and months we have been focusing on Jesus in the bible and found that he is much more than just relegated to the red letters of a new testament gospel passage.

I am sure that as we have studied and been made more aware of who Jesus is, I am sure it has only served to deepen and strengthen our faith in our Saviour.

Well today is going to be another such message in which we will take another deep look into the OT to find Jesus busy working out the salvation of those who would come to believe in him.

And my sincere hope is that we will be able to share this with others we come into contact with.

- When Jesus spoke to those two men on the road to Emmaus after his resurrection, it says that he began to preach all about what Moses and the prophets had wrote about him in the OT.

Luke 24:25-32

²⁵ Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken:

²⁶ Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?

²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

²⁸ And they drew nigh unto the village, whither they went: and he made as though he would have gone further.

²⁹ But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent. And he went in to tarry with them.

³⁰ And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them.

³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight.

³² And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

- They never understood fully about Jesus until he too showed these two men from the OT that he was the one spoken of by Moses and ALL the prophets in the OT.
- As you continue to read Luke 24 it becomes very apparent that the prophets all spoke and wrote about the coming of Jesus.

Luke 24: ⁴⁴ And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, **that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.**

⁴⁵ Then opened he their understanding, **that they might understand the scriptures,**

⁴⁶ **And said unto them, Thus it is written,** and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

⁴⁷ And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. (turning to Jesus for forgiveness of sins).

⁴⁸ And ye are witnesses of these things.

- Remember it is speaking about what was written in the OT.

Well today we look at a few verses in the Book of Numbers.

Numbers 8:1-3 King James Version (KJV)

1 **And the LORD spake unto Moses,** saying,

² Speak unto Aaron and say unto him, **When thou lightest the lamps, the seven lamps** shall **give light over against the candlestick.**

³ And Aaron did so; he lighted the lamps thereof over against the candlestick, as the LORD commanded Moses.

Revelation 4:5

And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there **were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.**

Revelation 3 King James Version (KJV)

3 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; **These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God,** and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

Isaiah 11:1-3 King James Version (KJV)

1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

² And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD:

³ And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

- Now as we know **the seven spirits represents Jesus.**
- Lets continue to follow this up in Numbers 20:9-12.

Numbers 20 King James Version (KJV)

¹ Then came the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, into the desert of Zin in the first month: and the people abode in Kadesh; and Miriam died there, and was buried there.

² And there was no water for the congregation: and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron.

³ And the people chode with Moses, and spake, saying, Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the LORD!

⁴ And why have ye brought up the congregation of the LORD into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die there?

⁵ And wherefore have ye made us to come up out of Egypt, to bring us in unto this evil place? it is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates; neither is there any water to drink.

⁶ And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto them.

⁷ **And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,**

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.

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

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?**

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.

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.

¹³ This is the water of Meribah; because the children of Israel strove with the LORD, and he was sanctified in them.

- So what is this all about you ask?
- Well it is about the people knowing who the LORD is. That it would be the LORD who would provide that living water?
- But Moses disobedience took the Glory away from the LORD and placed his good works on himself instead.

1 Corinthians 10 says it all. It tells us about who it was in the Book of Numbers 20.

1 Corinthians 10 King James Version (KJV)

1 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

3 And did all eat the same spiritual meat;

4 **And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.**

⁵ But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

- In the book of numbers 20 Moses was specifically told by the LORD to speak to the Rock. This rock was to be a picture of the LORD providing everlasting life. It was to be a picture of the living water.
- The reason for that was because the Rock of Meribah was a picture of Jesus being that Rock.
- It was a picture of the Spiritual Rock of who Jesus is. It was to provide the living water picture of eternal life.
- But through the disobedience of Moses actions both Aaron and Moses would not enter the promised land.

1. This rock of Meribah was not the first time that the children of Israel had complaints about the water situation. On the first time in Exodus 17, Moses was instructed by the LORD to smite the rock. But this time it was different.
2. He was told by the LORD to speak to the Rock and he did not.
3. But in anger and rebellion he did his own thing.
4. For this he would be judged by God not to enter the promised land.

Different Locations

- The events in Exodus 17:1-7 occurred in the Wilderness of Sin which was located in the Sinai Peninsula. The events in Numbers 20:1-13 occurred in the Wilderness of Zin. The Wilderness of Zin is located near the southern part of the Dead Sea. Kadesh is located in the Wilderness of Zin.
 - The two events of Exodus 17:1-7 and Numbers 20:1-13 occurred in two different regions and two different times.
 - But.....both passages are speaking about Jesus.
1. The Book of Numbers as shown by 1 Corinthians 10 is speaking about Jesus.
 2. Remember that only the OT was quoted by the prophets.
- On a previous occasion the children of Israel had also complained to Moses about their water situation.

Exodus 17 King James Version (KJV)

¹ And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the LORD, and pitched in Rephidim: and there was no water for the people to drink.

² Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD?

³ And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst?

⁴ And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.

⁵ And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go.

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.

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?

- In Exodus 17 – Is the symbol of the rock smitten. This is a picture of Jesus smitten.
- In Numbers 20 – The rock was to be spoken to. This again was to be a picture of Jesus being called upon. But because Moses struck the rock twice, he was then judged of God and did not enter the promised land.

1. Sounds harsh?
2. But Moses was supposed to carry out the picture of Jesus.
3. Moses had stolen the glory from the LORD.
4. In essence he had said “do you want me to bring you water from this rock”

These early pictures of the rock being smitten would later in history reveal the true picture of Jesus being smitten as Isaiah predicted would happen.

Isaiah 53:4

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, **smitten** of God, and afflicted.

- The Bible says that the people all drank of that spiritual Rock, and that Rock was Christ.
- 1 Corinthians 10:4 was very specific about that.

Deuteronomy 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.

Matthew 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.

- The concept of the spiritual rock is real. It is not just a concept. Jesus continuously pointed to the OT and used the metaphor of himself being that Rock.
- He reminded his disciples about these scriptures all the time.
- If people today don't drink of that spiritual rock they too shall surely die.
- The living water from that spiritual rock is the only one that can save them.

Matthew 21:42-46.

⁴² Jesus saith unto them, **Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing**, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

- The Jews because they would not drink of that spiritual rock lost the kingdom of God.

- Instead it was given to nation that would bring forth fruits. And whosoever would fall on this stone would be broken. The stone of salvation.

⁴³ Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

⁴⁴ And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

⁴⁵ And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them.

⁴⁶ But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet.

- This spiritual rock is referred to as the stone that the builders rejected as we read in so many scriptures.

Psalm 118:22

The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.

1 Peter 2:7

Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, **the stone which the builders disallowed**, the same is made the head of the corner,

Acts 4:11

This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

Mark 12:10

And have ye not read this scripture; **The stone which the builders rejected** is become the head of the corner:

- The spiritual rock in Numbers 20 speaks so clearly as the rock that was stuck and it brought forth water to quench the nation.
- Without this water they would have all died.
- This same calling in numbers 20 for them to drink of the water like the woman at the well who Jesus spoke to is repeated one last time in the Book of Revelation. One last call is given.

Revelation 22:17

And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And **let him** that heareth say, **Come**.

And **let him** that is athirst **come**. And whosoever will, **let him** take the water of life freely.

CLOSE IN PRAYER.....