

CHRIST: OUR SPIRITUAL ROCK

Exodus 17:6 & 1st Corinthians 10:4

Exodus 17:6

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.

1st Corinthians 10:4

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

Introduction

Every allegory, type, symbol, shadow, and metaphor in the Old Testament pointed and still points to Jesus Christ our Savior. Let me name just a few. The seed of woman in Genesis pointed to Jesus. Job's great redeemer pointed to Jesus. Ezekiel's wheel in the middle of the wheel pointed to Jesus. The blood sacrifices of lambs pointed to Jesus. The fourth man in the furnace with the three Hebrew boys was indeed Jesus Himself. Paul was well aware of this theological principle. In his attempt to tell the Christians at Corinth to not just have the acts and rituals of Christianity, but also they must really be totally committed to Christ and His principles, he mentions to them how Israel strayed after all God had done for them. There was miracle after miracle; yet, they rebelled and strayed. His message was, "Don't be rebellious like the children of Israel; Christ has done too much for you." He states Christ was with them, without their knowledge, before, during, and after the exodus. One of the many miracles was water supplied from a rock. Paul says this rock points to Jesus. Let's revisit this familiar story of water gushing from a rock and see how it points to Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

Exposition

1. The Rock Provided Water - A Necessity Of Life.

(A Rock Is A Strange Source Of Water.)

(A Crucified Savior Is Strange And Counterintuitive.)

(1st Corinthians 1:18-25.)

(A Wounded Healer Is Hard To Comprehend.)

(Isaiah 53:5; 1st Peter 2:24.)

2. The Rock Provided A Regular And Reliable Source Of Water.

(The Rock Followed Them.)

(There Are Many Theological Interpretations Of The Word Followed.)

(Some Believe Figuratively - Some Say Literally.)

(There Are Two Legends - See The End Notes.)

(The Bottom Line: God Provided For Them, Constantly.)

3. The Rock Had To Be Smitten For The Water To Flow.

(Jesus Had To Be Crucified To Bring Us Salvation.)

(Matthew 26:28; Titus 2:13-14; Hebrews 9:28.)

Closing Thoughts

The water from the Rock prefigures our taking the communion cup. This assures us that God will supply all of our needs according to His riches in glory. As we celebrate communion, let us remember God has already provided for our greatest need, and this is the need for eternal salvation. He provided it through the sinless blood of Jesus. Give God Glory! Give God All The Glory!

Related Scriptures

Deuteronomy 8:15; Nehemiah 8:15; Psalm 78:15; Psalm 105:41; Psalm 114:8; Isaiah 48:21.

End Notes

1. There are two separate and distinct Biblical accounts of water coming from a rock. The first was at Horeb, which is our text, which was near the beginning of their sojourn. The second occurrence came near the end of their sojourn, in Kadesh. The first time, God told Moses to smite the rock. The second time, God told Moses to speak to the rock. The second time is recorded in Numbers 20:7-12. During the second occurrence, Moses in his frustration with the people disobeyed God and smote the rock instead of speaking to the rock. Some theologians draw this conclusion: since the rock points to Christ, it only had to be smitten once. Jesus died on the cross once. He did not have to die the second time.

2. One of the legends of the Jewish rabbis was that the physical rock that Moses struck was round like a beehive, and that it rolled along the desert after the people. It stopped when they stopped and moved when they moved, so that they would never feel the pain of thirst again. According to this legend - I say legend because it is not recorded in the Bible - the rock itself, which supplies the water accompanied the wandering Israelites just as the cloud, the pillar of fire, the quail, and the manna did.

3. There is an alternate version of this legend, which comes from an interpretation of Numbers 21:16-18. This well, called Miriam's well, was shaped like a round rock and followed them throughout their sojourn. Since all Jews were familiar with these legends, Paul used them as a teaching tool.

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