***Omega: BIB 109***

***1st Peter – Always Be Prepared***

***Lesson 7***

***I. Jesus The Rock***

🡪 When you think of a rock, do you think of something good or something bad?

Good Examples: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Bad Examples: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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🡪 OT References to God as a Rock:

1. Deut. 32:4 - “The Rock! His work is perfect.”

2. Deut. 32:15 - “Israel “scorned the Rock of his salvation”

3. 1st Sam. 2:2 - “Nor is there any rock like our God.”

4. Psalm 18:46 - “The Lord lives, and blessed be my rock.”

5. Psalm 19:14 - “O Lord, my rock and my Redeemer.”

6. Isa. 26:4 - “Trust in the Lord forever, for in God the Lord,

we have an everlasting Rock.”

🡪 1st Peter 2:4, 6-8… Jesus is compared to a rock.

A. Jesus the Rock: His relationship to God the Father.

1. One thing that stands out in this text is how Jesus the Rock is related to God the Father.

2. Three things are mentioned here describing this relationship…

A. Jesus the Rock was ***“choice,” i.e., chosen by God: “rejected by men but chosen by God.” (vs. 4 NIV)***

1. Isaiah 28:16… “a chosen and precious cornerstone”

2. Luke 9:35… “My chosen one…”

3. The word “chosen” or “choice” conveys the idea that many possible foundation stones may be presented to a builder, but he finds one and only one that can serve his purpose.

4. The builders (Jewish religious leaders) rejected the chosen Cornerstone…

A. Luke 23:35 and Acts 2:22-23

B. Jesus the Rock was ***precious to the Father…***

1. Greek word – Precious (entimos) = “honored, prized, highly esteemed”

2. This is analogous to say that Jesus is the Father’s “only begotten” or “one and only” Son

A. John 1:14, 18 and John 3:16 and 1st John 4:9

3. That Jesus was the precious, one-and-only Son calls attention to the infinite agony experienced by the Father himself in his sending of his Son – his only Son! – to the cross.

C. Jesus the Rock was ***sent by God…***

1. “I am laying in Zion a stone” (ESV) Isa 28:16

A. Zion is a poetic reference to the city of Jerusalem and often to the whole nation of Israel.

2. God laid this cornerstone by sending Jesus into the world through his chosen people Israel. (Rom. 9:4-5)

3. In NT times the Church is “the Jerusalem above” (Gal. 4:26)

A. It is Mt. Zion and the city of the living God, the Heavenly Jerusalem.

4. This is the Zion of which Jesus is the actual Cornerstone. Jesus’ divine nature as the Son of God, and his unique saving death and resurrection as the Christ, are the Rock on which the Church is actually being built. (Matthew 16:16-18 and Ephesians 2:19-20)

B. Jesus the Rock: His Relationship to Believers

1. Our relation to the Rock begins when we come to Him; we are “coming to Him as to a living stone” (vs. 4).

2. The verb is *proserchomai*, “to come to, to draw near, to approach.”

A. This includes our initial free-will decision to answer the gospel call (1st Peter 1:15).

B. But since it is a present-tense participle, it refers to something that is still going on.

1. Our coming to the Rock includes our ongoing efforts to grow closer and closer to our Lord. (Hebrews 4:14-16)

3. We are also related to Jesus the Rock insofar as we are building our life on Him.

A. “We are being built on him”… Every aspect of our lives should rest upon Him.

4. We relate to Jesus the Rock in that we believe in Him.

A. “Whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

B. “For you who believe,” this Cornerstone is precious. This is not just the faith that “believes that” Jesus is the Christ and the Son of God; it is especially the faith that “believe in” Him as the one in whom we have the utmost confidence, the one whom we trust to lead us to eternal life in heaven.

5. Jesus as the Rock is the foundation of our lives.

A. Jesus is the existential or experiential foundation of our lives, the one to whom we consciously relate every day and the one who is the content of our faith, the basis of our hope, and the object of our love.

B. Two important things about Jesus as the foundation stone of our lives.

1. The one who trusts in Him will never be put to shame.

A. This means that Jesus is a trustworthy and dependable foundation.

B. A weak or crumbling foundation can be a source of worry, anxiety, and nagging fear.

C. Jesus however is solid. We can trust Him. He is strong and unshakable. This is the main point of describing God in the OT, and Jesus as a Rock in the NT.

D. We will never be disappointed or put to shame. This means we will never regret it. He will never let us down.

2. Jesus our foundation stone is precious.

A. Now to you who believe, this stone is precious.

B. Jesus the Rock is precious to God the Father but also to those who believe in Him.

C. This reminds us of how Jesus compared the kingdom of heaven with a “pearl of great value” which is worth more than everything else a person might own. (Matthew 13:45-46)

1. If this is true of the kingdom, then it is certainly true of the King Himself!

2. Therefore, we must be willing to sacrifice everything for his sake.

C. Jesus the Rock: His Relationship to Unbelievers

1. The down side of Jesus’ role as a Rock, namely, He is a downfall for unbelievers.

2. In verse 7 Peter says Jesus the Rock is precious to believers, but what about those who do not believe in Him?

3. Psalm 118:22… “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.”

4. Isaiah 8:14 speaks of the Messiah as “a stone to strike and a rock to stumble over.”

5. Peter cites in verse 8… “Jesus the Rock is “a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.”

6. Three things about Jesus’ relation to unbelievers…

A. First – Jesus is rejected by them.

1. The word “rejected” involves the idea of a builder examining a stone to decide if it is the right one for the job, with the decision being that it is not.

A. The stone is unsuitable, and is disallowed or disapproved; it is repudiated, rejected, and discarded.

2. The Jews in general (especially the Jewish leaders) rejected Jesus, the one whom God send to be their Messiah. The Jews were supposed to be the builders of God’s new kingdom.

A. The Jewish leaders and scholars had a radically different idea of what the Messiah was supposed to be, so they rejected Jesus.

3. The idea that Jesus the Rock is “rejected by men” also applies to anyone in any age who rejects Jesus Christ as the foundation stone for his or her life.

B. Jesus the Rock is a stumbling stone over which unbelievers fall, to their own destruction.

1. The fact is that Jesus came to be the chief cornerstone, and He is that for his kingdom today, i.e., the Church. (Col. 1:18 and Eph. 5:23)

2. Those who reject Jesus today think they are so smart, and are proud of themselves and of their supposed superior powers of reason. But Jesus is not just by this rejection; they are.

A. They stumble and fall – to their own hurt.

3. A Rock of Offense…

A. “This stone is not one against which disbelievers strike merely a foot and are thrown down and rise up more or less hurt, but one against which they strike with the entire body in a dreadful crash which knocks out their brains.”

R.C.H. Lenski

C. Unbelievers stumble over Jesus the Rock because “they stumble because they are disobedient to the word.”

1. It is very clear that one cannot hold on to Jesus in any valid way and at the same time reject the Word that tells us about Him. Disbelief and disobedience cannot be separated.

2. What happens to those who stumble or trip or crash into the “stumbling stone?”

A. Matthew 21:44… “And he who falls on this stone will be broken into pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust.” Jesus said this after citing Psalm 118:22.

3. “To this doom they were also appointed.”

A. The result or penalty for unbelief.[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. Entire Lesson pulled from: Studies in 1st Peter – Dr. Jack Cottrell. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)