

Russell Kelfer
He is The Rock:
His Work
is Perfect

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Series: Making the Spiritual Switch

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He is The Rock: His Work is Perfect

Editor's note: Although written many years earlier, this chapter takes on still more meaning since the events of September 11, 2001. Our need for The Rock is timeless.

If ever there was a generation seeking stability, it is this one. Men and women are scurrying to churches in unprecedented numbers looking for answers. Amidst a climate of declining morals, fallen heroes, and incredibly unstable world conditions, people want something to hang on to that won't fall apart when the winds of adversity blow. However, even those who are seeking answers aren't necessarily finding them. Some are finding only shopworn clichés for what is called "new theology" which, in an attempt to be contemporary, has removed the conviction of sin with its resulting need for salvation and has, thus, eliminated the solution to man's problems.

Like a rudderless ship at sea, society drifts, looking for answers, not even sure of the real questions. It's not just society at large. As individuals, struggling to find workable solutions to our daily problems in a world adrift and declining, we have a tendency to wallow in discouragement and depression, spending our time talking about the hopelessness of it all.

THE ROCK: PERFECTION

Our generation is not unique; the problem is as old as man. God foreknowing our desperate need for stability and security, designed for us in nature the perfect illustration of those qualities which are to be found in Him. He is the Rock. He is the anchor which will steady our drifting ship. Making, then, the spiritual switch, let's compare some characteristics of rocks and mountains with the character of the Father.

I believe there are three basic examples of God's character being described whenever we look at rocks or mountains. The first is the perfection of God. Here's a verse to memorize to begin your "rock" collection:

He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.
(Deuteronomy 32:4 NIV)

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The New American Standard Bible words it,

All His ways are just, a God of faithfulness and without injustice.

Closely examined, those words lead us to see that God, whose work is perfect, cannot make a mistake. He cannot, because He is “The Rock”. In our vernacular we would say He is rock-solid: perfectly faithful, perfectly just, never wrong, doing and deciding everything perfectly, without error. He is a firm foundation not blown about by the winds of chance, the strongest of the strong. In other words, the rock is the ultimate symbol of stability and security.

You cannot judge what God does or what God has said by whether or not you think it is fair by your standards. You have no right to set the standards; you’ve been bought with a price. From the day you were purchased, your only standard of justice has been God’s standard, and *He cannot err*. He is “The Rock”.

Oh, you may be angry at God because you don’t have a job, or because your loved one is ill, or because your body is racked with pain. You may even be shaking your fist when no one is looking and whimpering, “God, it’s not fair. It’s unjust.” Why not place a rock somewhere in each room of your house to remind you of Deuteronomy 32:4? When you are tempted to chide God for being unjust, *or even think it*, pick up that rock, or perhaps look at a picture of a vast mountain and fall to your knees in worship and meditation. Quietly say, over and over,

“He is the Rock, his works are perfect, and all his ways are just. A faithful God who does no wrong, upright and just is he.”
(Deuteronomy 32:4 NIV)

When the enemy seems to have surrounded you, and fear begins to assail you or disappointments depress you, meditate on I Samuel 2:2. Hannah was praying. Here is her prayer,

And Hannah prayed, and said, ‘My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD, my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies, because I rejoice in thy salvation.

There is none holy as the Lord: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God. (I Samuel 2:1,2)

Our God is preeminent. Nothing or no one can even be compared to Him. That is what is meant in this verse,

Indeed their rock is not like our Rock, even our enemies themselves judge this. (Deuteronomy 32:31 NASB)

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That's why when you begin to play God in your own life, discerning for yourself what God's will *ought to be*, and trying to fit God into that plan, you need to go stand at the foot of Pike's Peak or some other great monument of rock. As you stand there, pick up a pebble and hold it up. That mountain represents God. That pebble represents all the world has to offer. You don't have to be a genius to see yourself and the plans of man in the light of God's awesomeness and be humbled. He is I AM. He is "The Rock". His work is perfect. He *makes no mistakes*.

Perhaps you're like me, and you've been struggling of late with some of God's plans or with what appears to be the absence of plans; or you may be struggling with what appears to be the "slowness" of God's timing. You need to go somewhere and sit on a rock. Resting on that rock, you need to realize that you aren't wise enough even to understand the greatness of His plan for your life or for the other lives your life touches. He is the Rock. His work is perfect. We don't need to understand. Now, you see through a glass darkly; the day will come when you will see Him face to face, and *then how much more you'll understand*.

Oh, to come to grips with the perfection of God! What peace it gives! What relief it gives! What joy it gives! It removes from our shoulders the responsibility *or even the right* to judge the ways of God. They are so much higher than our ways.

As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways
higher than your ways. (Isaiah 55:9)

To make absolutely certain we never forget it, He paints against the backdrop of the cloud-filled skies that fill our lives with showers, heaven-sized, towering, majestic mountains. And He cries out from atop those mountains, "I AM the Rock. My ways are perfect. My works are perfect."

No wonder it was atop a mountain that God met with Moses. No wonder that it was in stone that He engraved His Word. He is perfect. Our Rock is perfect. Just and righteous is He. Oh, stop fighting the sovereignty of God in your life. You cannot see from lower elevations a clear view of your tomorrows. Yes, you can feel the hurts, and, yes, you can be tempted to second-guess what God is doing, and what you think He should be doing. However, you cannot, in fact, *you must not, question what He is doing*. He is the Rock. Just and Righteous is He.

THE ROCK: PROVISION

There is a second lesson that is embedded in the granite of God's Word which speaks to us every time we see a rock. God also used the "rock" in Scripture to demonstrate His provision for meeting our needs and the importance of *how we go about asking*. In the process, He spoke to us ever so eloquently of the Cross and of our salvation that was to come. The passages may be capsulized by looking at two or three key verses. The first is Exodus 17:6. The children of Israel, you remember, were having a problem with thirst.

They had been looking at all those "Things go better with Coke" ads on television, but not only did they lack a vending machine with which to take a "Pepsi taste test", they didn't even have water fit to drink. So they did something not at all atypical: they "murmured". Even after God's miraculous provisions up to this point, and the wonderful ways He had met their needs, they began to accuse both God and Moses of conspiring against them to get them into this situation, so they could die of thirst. Now they would have to have a pretty low opinion of Jehovah to assume that He supernaturally brought them out of bondage to gleefully watch them squirm and die, but be careful before you judge them too harshly. Their situation was not at all unlike ours. We often accept blessings and miracles at God's hand, and then, when times get tough, we begin to doubt His motives or else assume He is hard of hearing. Moses, of course, did the right thing. Exodus says,

He cried to the Lord, saying, "What shall I do unto this people?
They be almost ready to stone me". (Exodus 17:4)

That's a really good question for a leader to ask when there appears to be insurrection in the ranks, especially when an attempted overthrow seems imminent. God quickly answered, and how He answered set the stage for His next "rock show" on planet earth.

And the LORD said unto Moses, "Go on before the people, and take with thee of the Elders of Israel, and thy rod, where with thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go". (Exodus 17:5)

In other words, call a general assembly of the people, gather all your spiritual leaders at the front, and don't forget your "river rod". It's going to be a necessary part of this presentation.

Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb,

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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 LORD. (Exodus 17:6)

God said, “Mo, I’m going to meet you by that huge rock at Horeb. You gather the troops together, and at precisely the right time, you strike that rock, and *water will gush forth*—pure, beautiful, clear water—water like you have never tasted before. It will quench their thirst, and it will silence, at least for the moment, their murmuring.” So Moses did as the Lord commanded, and God did as He had promised.

You say, “Well that’s a beautiful incident, but what does it have to do with rocks? Wasn’t it just a *coincidence* that God used a rock? He could have used a tree or a flower or a mound of mud. Why do you attach such significance to the fact that it was a rock?”

Because, Beloved, God did. That rock, you see, represents Jesus Christ, and that water represents the living water that flows through Him into your life *because He has been smitten and died*. You may be saying, “How can you draw that conclusion?” I didn’t have to, because God did. In I Corinthians, chapter 10, Paul explained to the Corinthians how God used the Old Testament to portray the Coming One. There He specifically referred to this event and described the One about whom God was speaking:

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;

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

And did all eat the same spiritual meat;

And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. (I Corinthians 10:1-4)

That’s God assessment of the illustration. He gave them water from a rock to portray the spiritual water that would one day be poured forth from The Rock. Lest anyone misunderstand, Paul made it clear—*the Rock was Christ*. He was smitten once for the sins of the world, that through Him might flow *living water* unto life eternal. So every time you see a majestic mountain, be it actual or just a picture, worship. It stands as a living monument to the price God paid when He allowed “the Rock” to be smitten once and for all for our sins.

There is something important to learn concerning the way

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to partake of the water which flows from the Rock. Observe that never again will the rock be smitten, for once the price has been paid, it need never be paid again. For the illustration we look to the reason Moses was forbidden to enter the promised land found in Numbers, chapter 20. Once again history repeated itself as it so often intentionally does, (to see if God's people have learned anything), and the Water Board went out of commission. Once again, proving that man never learns, the people rebelled again. So God spoke to Moses once again and told him to *speak to The Rock*, which would in turn, once more give forth water. But we read in this verse,

Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock
twice: (Numbers 20:11a)

Well, the rock gave forth water all right, but Moses never saw the promised land. Why? Because Moses smote the rock instead of speaking to it. Was the punishment too harsh? Not for what it represented: redeemed man becoming God in order to instruct God, thus crucifying Christ afresh. God gave them the water anyway. Their thirst was physically quenched, but spiritually, they missed the most beautiful "rock lesson" ever taught, just as they missed the "manna message" when God "gave them their request but sent leanness into their soul," (Psalm 106:15). They got their quail but they missed learning how to wait on God. They got their bodies fed; they missed having their spiritual lives overflow with the cup of dependence and faith. They got their stomachs filled, but their spirits were left dry and wanting.

So be careful, Beloved, when you determine *if and how* God is to meet a certain need in your life. Don't take the rod of your self-will and smite the rock, demanding water like a king calling for his slave. Speak to The Rock, Beloved, and humbly let *Him* decide how and when and if to meet that need. And remember, Satan can fill your stomach, but only The Rock can give you Living Water as you wait by a drying brook. If you are getting impatient for God to act, humble yourself before God and just speak to The Rock and wait. The Living Water of patience and hope and joy will flow through your life and will satisfy in ways that the thing you have been praying for could never satisfy. That gift lasts for all eternity.

He is The Rock; His works are perfect. If you just *learn to speak to The Rock* aright, there will come forth from that Rock a spring of Living Water that will meet your every need.

THE ROCK: PROTECTION

The final link in this analogy of rock formations comes when we learn to see The Rock as our fortress of protection in a world in which the enemy seems to attack us from an artillery base in every nook and cranny in our lives. It seems so often that the bullets are flying with such intensity, and the bombs are falling with such consistency, that shell-shocked, we begin to see only the clouds that hover overhead, totally missing the beauty of those clouds as the sun, still shining behind them, silhouettes the majesty of the One who formed them for His glory.

It is then that the psalmists would cling to The Rock for protection and safety. Listen, as in the Psalms, God builds a foundation for our defense against the enemy, and of course, He builds it upon The Rock:

I will love thee, O LORD, my strength.

The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies. (Psalms 18:1-3)

As for God, His way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried; He is a buckler to all those that trust in Him.

For who is God save the LORD? Or who is a rock save our God? It is God that girdeth me with strength, and maketh my way perfect.

He maketh my feet like hinds' feet, and setteth me upon my high places. (Psalms 18:30-33)

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

For in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion: in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; He shall set me upon a rock. (Psalms 27:1,5)

In thee, O LORD, do I put my trust; let me never be ashamed: deliver me in thy righteousness.

Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: be thou my strong rock, for an house of defence to save me.

For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake, lead me, and guide me. (Psalms 31:1-3)

...when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.

For thou hast been a shelter for me, (Psalms 61:2b,3a)

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Truly my soul waiteth upon God: from him cometh my salvation.

He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defence; I shall not be greatly moved.

In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. (Psalms 62:1,2,7)

O, come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation. (Psalms 95:1)

The picture is clear. When the torrents of testing rush against us, or when the enemy's taunts can be heard echoing in our heart of hearts, and fear begins to overtake us like a flood, it is time to crawl up onto The Rock and recognize that it is *His strength, not ours*, upon which we stand. Therefore, nothing can overtake us. He is The Rock. His works are perfect; He is The Rock that is higher than we are. He is our shield against the enemy's darts, our shelter from the enemy's lies, our strong tower when the enemy launches his offensives. You say, "I can't take it anymore." God answers, "Then let me. I am The Rock; My work is perfect. Crawl up into me and let the winds of adversity howl, Beloved. The Rock will not be moved." Like hind's feet in high places, you will not slip or fall. Stand on the Rock.

Jesus painted a portrait of that kind of life in Matthew,

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not, for it was founded upon a rock. (Matthew 7:25)

*Founded on the Rock; oh blessed song
That is my comfort, all the night long,
That is my shelter till storms have passed,
Founded on the Rock., safe at last.*

Is your life secure in the Rock of your salvation? Then "of whom shalt thou be afraid?" What can Satan do to destroy you? Take your life? You'll be with God. Harm your body? The better to appreciate the body that is to come. Take your possessions? The more to focus the attention of your heart on the treasures of heaven that do not rust, or fade or fail. Shall he take away your reputation? Jesus gave His up willingly, and oh, the blessing that ensued. No, Beloved, *there is nothing Satan can do to you that will bring you real harm, if you are resting on the Rock of your salvation.*

In summary, I would remind you that the Rock, who is your *perfection* and your *provision*, is also your *protection*. Whatever the

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onslaught, you need not fight in this battle,

...set yourselves, ye stand *still*, and see the salvation of the
LORD... (II Chronicles 20:17)

There is a Rock who is higher than you. He will be your shelter in the storm. There is a Rock who is your shield, your defender, your buckler, and your high tower. There is a Rock who will hide you and protect you and surround you when the bullets fly and the bombs fall. *That Rock is Jesus.*

He is all you will ever need in this life. He is all you will ever need in the life to come. *He is the Rock. His work is perfect.* So if you are lonely or destitute or discouraged or angry or frightened or just plain weary of it all, I beg you to take some time this week and go to the Rock. Lay your burdens down anew. Cast all your cares once again upon Him, *for He careth for you. He is your perfection; He is your provision; He is your protection. He is everything. He is the Rock.* Find a hill or a mountain, even a picture of one, and bow before God, singing that old hymn:

*In times like these, we need a Savior;
In times like these, we need an anchor.
Be very sure; be very sure...your anchor holds,
And grips the solid rock.*

*That rock is Jesus; yes, He's the one
That rock is Jesus; the only one,
Be very sure, be very sure
Your anchor holds and grips the solid rock.¹*

THE ROCK: PERSONALIZATION

Why not take this week to re-evaluate your life based upon your relationship to the Rock. If you've been angry at God because He has not done things *your way*, or answered your prayers *as you expected*, take the time to crawl up into Him this week and exclaim: "Thou art my Rock; Thy work is perfect. All your ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice art thou." Then let Satan be gone with all his taunting about the injustices of life. The Rock is just; He alone sees the beginning from the end. He alone knows what might befall the kingdom were He not doing that very thing you so despise. He is the Rock; that settles it! He is perfect, so what He is doing is perfect. Therefore, to kick against His sovereignty is to strike the Rock and to deny His perfect wisdom.

¹ Words and music "In Times Like These" by Ruth Kaye Jones, ©1944, renewed 1972. Assigned to Singspiration, Inc.

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Secondly, remember that *even as the storms of adversity blow*, if you but *speak to the Rock*, rivers of Living Water will issue forth meeting your every need. Maybe He won't do that thing physically that you asked. Maybe He won't give you that thing materially you prayed for. But if He chooses not to, *do not strike the rock, Beloved*. Do not assail Him for being Who He is. The Rock is Perfect. He is meeting your real needs, perhaps by withholding the very thing you asked for. He is your provider. From the Rock alone comes Living Water, and Living Water alone quenches the dryness of your spirit so that you need *never thirst again*.

We do live in perilous times. Many questions do cry to be answered. Many around us and some who surround us wonder if we have the answers. Lead them to the Rock, Beloved. *He is the answer*.

Tell them you have a friend who will never leave you or forsake you; an anchor that *will hold* in the darkest storm. Tell them His name is Jesus.

Tell them *He is the Rock*. His work is perfect.

We do not know what the future may hold, but one thing we do know: He is the Rock; and His work is perfect. And Beloved, *that's all we need to know*.

HE IS THE ROCK, HIS WORK IS PERFECT

He is the Rock, His work is Perfect
Righteous, just is He.

He is the Rock, His work is perfect
That's good enough for me.

He's the rock of perfection
No matter the storms that assail
He is the rock and He will stand,
His Word will never fail.

He is the rock of provision
No matter the needs we know
We simply speak to the rock, my child,
And the water of life will flow.

And He's the rock of protection
No matter the bullets that fly
Quietly we can say in our hearts
Safe in the Rock am I.

(continued on next page)

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He is the rock and that will be
Through all eternity true
He is the perfect, steadfast rod
That ought to be good enough for you.

A Challenge to Further Study and Application

1- Do some “rock research” using a concordance. Find all the references you can to rocks and to “the Rock”. List all of the attributes of rocks that are referred to and the corresponding attributes of God. Stop to worship each time you come across a new revelation of His character.

2- If “all God’s ways are just”, what conclusion must you come to about the things that are happening in your life that you have construed to be unjust?

3- What do you think Deuteronomy 32:31 means?

4- Why could the rock only be smitten once? What was so terrible about Moses’ striking the rock again that caused God to keep him out of the promised land? Was God just in His punishment? How do you know?

5- Read and reread the Psalms on pages 100 and 101 of this lesson. What is the common thread? If that thread is true, and God is our Rock, then what ought we to do when the skies overhead begin to be filled with clouds?

6- Make a list this week of all the things happening in your life right now that you have been tempted to use to doubt the fairness of God’s justice. One by one, yield them back to God, and repeat as you do: “Thou art the Rock; thy works are perfect. All thy ways are just. Amen.” Then quietly rest on The Rock.

7- As needs arise this week and you are tempted to worry, meditate on those passages from the Psalms and rest. He is the Rock. He will take care of you.

Memorize: Deuteronomy 32:4

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210-226-0000 or 1-800-375-7778

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