

WHY SPEAK TO THE ROCK?

Wallace Butch King

Have you ever asked yourself why God told Moses to strike the rock the first time (Exodus 17:6), but to speak to it the second time (Numbers 20:8)?

When the children of Israel were suffering from thirst, God told Moses to strike the rock. Paul tells us that the rock they drank from was Christ (1st Corinthians 10:4). Water came forth in abundance for the people and their livestock. The rock gave them life-saving water.

Later, the people were again suffering from lack of water. God told Moses to speak to the rock. Moses instead struck the rock again. Why was this significant? Why speak to the rock this time? God didn't do or say anything in the Bible that coincidentally corresponds or foreshadows another event. He always has a reason.

The rock was Christ according to Paul. Jesus as the rock in the Old Testament only needed to be smitten once. Moses struck the rock and the people had an abundance of life-saving water. Once the rock was smitten, it was no longer necessary to smite it. Moses only needed to speak to it.

Jesus, as our Rock and our Salvation, only needed to be smitten once. When we obey the gospel and contact the blood of Jesus (Revelation 1:5, Acts 22:16), we no longer have to be baptized to have sins forgiven, and we can partake of the water of life. When we sin, we only need to speak and repent in prayer to ask for forgiveness. When we do, we are again entitled to partake of the water of life freely (1st John 1:7).

To continue in sin is to crucify the Son of God again (Hebrews 6:6), and we, like Moses, are guilty of smiting Him again instead of speaking and asking for forgiveness. Just as Moses was denied entrance into the land of promise, so shall the Christian be who sins and refuses to repent and seek forgiveness.

Jesus had power on earth to forgive sins. He is our God, He is our Creator (John 1). He still has the power, and the much needed grace, to forgive us when we repent. *"If we walk in the light as He is in the light, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin"* (1st John 1:9). This was written to Christians, explaining to them that the blood of Christ, once contacted, has lifelong power to forgive the Christian, when, and only when, they speak to God and repent.

AUTHORS OF THE BIBLE

Alexander Campbell

The Oracles of God, commonly called the Bible, or The Book, including the Old and New Testaments, —contemplated in a literary point of view, is the work of at least thirty-five independent authors. This volume was on hands for the long period of about fifteen hundred and fifty years; from the giving of the law by Moses, to the close of the vision and prophecy by John the apostle. Some of its authors were shepherds, kings, priests, fishermen, and of other callings in society. They spoke and wrote in different languages; at least, in Hebrew, Chaldee, and Greek; and lived in countries considerably remote from each other.

As authors, some of them appear in the character of historians, orators, poets, biographers, moralists, letter-writers, etc. And although under an infallible superintendence and inspiration in all their communications to mankind, each of them preserves, in his speeches and writings, every thing peculiar to himself as a man. Like the fishermen of Galilee, on the day of Pentecost, though supernaturally gifted with a perfect knowledge of all the languages then spoken in Jerusalem, so that they could speak with the utmost facility, yet every man retained his own provincialisms; so that the splendid gift of tongues which they displayed, could not conceal from the multitude their Galilean extraction.

There cannot be less than thirty-five varieties of style in a work composed by thirty-five authors, even had they all written in the same language, upon the same subject, and at the same time. But when we reflect that these thirty, five authors lived in countries far remote, at different periods of time, through all the fluctuations of more than fifteen centuries, wrote in different languages, on different Subjects, full of allusion to the views manners, and customs of those addressed, and of contemporary neighboring nations; may we not say, that no volume in the world can surpass the Bible, in all the varieties and peculiarities of style; and that no book demands so much discrimination on the part of the student, who would accurately understand, and intelligibly interpret, its ancient and venerable compositions? Informing rules for the easy and certain understanding and interpreting the sacred writings, so far as it is a literary performance, these considerations must have due weight.

**"WHAT MUST I DO
TO BE SAVED?"**

ACTS 16:30

LEARN THE GOSPEL

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

BELIEVE IN CHRIST

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

CONFESS CHRIST

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 3:19; 17:30

BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"THE ASSEMBLING OF
OURSELVES TOGETHER"**

HEBREWS 10:24-25

SUNDAY

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard
Belén, New Mexico

**Seekers Welcome.
Members Expected.**

**"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN
ANY TRESPASS...
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"**

GALATIANS 6:1

CONFESS TRESPASSES

James 5:16; 1st John 1:9

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 8:22

PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS

Acts 8:22

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN IS
LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN
SETTINGS OF SILVER"**

PROVERBS 25:11

"Your children do not need self-esteem. They need to learn how to esteem God in all things (1st Corinthians 1:31). Only then, being created in God's image, will they find proper self-worth"

– Curtis Cooper

"WHOLE COUNSEL"

ACTS 20:27

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THE SENSE OF HELL

Bryan Matthew Dockens

Hell is a place with an awful stench.
No myrrh or aloes could ever quench,
Nor could nostrils sufficiently clench,
The reek of brimstone filling that trench.

Hell is a place of terrible noise.
Souls there are wailing while God destroys.
Souls are weeping, deprived of all joys.
No escape from that din, no plots nor plays.

Hell is a place with a horrible view,
Darkness reserved for the most, not the few.
Better life with one eye than death with two.
See Abraham comfort the saved, not you.

Hell is a place with a painful feel.
Bonds of iron or rope chafe hand and heel.
Undying worms will make you their meal.
Flames scorching skin is part of the deal.

Hell is a place of unpleasant taste.
Poisoned by bitterness, sinners there waste.
You chose hunger, so you're properly placed.
You were offered bread, but ignored His grace.

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