

The Rock

Scripture Reading — Exodus 17:1-7

They drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. — 1 Corinthians 10:4

Many passages in the Bible speak of God as a rock. Jacob called God “the Rock of Israel” (Genesis 49:24). Hannah said, “There is no Rock like our God” (1 Samuel 2:2). And David said, “Exalted be my God, the Rock, my Savior!” (2 Samuel 22:47). The picture is supremely appropriate. God is always our firm, faithful, ever-lasting foundation.

So when the people of Israel quarreled with Moses in the desert, demanding water to drink, God told Moses to take his staff and go to “the rock at Horeb.” God would stand before the rock, and Moses was to strike it with his staff. Water would gush out of the rock for the people to drink.

The people had been belligerent, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?” And God showed them that of course he was there. The people watched the miracle happen, and their thirst was satisfied. God, as always, provided for them.

Years later, when the religious leaders quarreled with Jesus, he said in a loud voice, “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them” (John 7:37-38). By “living water,” he meant the blessings of eternal life (see John 4:10-14). Jesus is the Rock of salvation who was stricken so that we can receive the water of life.

Prayer

Give us living water in this dry, barren world, Lord. May your blessings of salvation flow from us to others. In your name, Amen.

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