

Know God Deeply

“The Rock”

“We have an anchor that keeps the soul, Steadfast and sure while the billows roll, Fastened to The Rock which can not move, Grounded firm and deep in the Saviour’s love.”

There is something about singing these words that brings comfort to us in these days of continued uncertainty. The idea of God as “The Rock” is not new - it has its roots deep in OT Scripture. Moses is preparing to die and leave the people of Israel as they head into the Promised Land. He writes them a song.

Deuteronomy 32:1-4

¹ “Give ear, O heavens, and I will speak, and let the earth hear the words of my mouth. ² May my teaching drop as the rain, my speech distill as the dew, like gentle rain upon the tender grass, and like showers upon the herb. ³ For I will proclaim the name of the LORD; ascribe greatness to our God! ⁴ “The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.

Exodus 17:1-7

¹ All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² Therefore the people quarrelled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” ⁴ So Moses cried to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵ And the LORD said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarrelling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

1 Corinthians 10:4b

For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.


READ Deuteronomy 32:1-4 and mark every reference to the LORD with a 

V3 *What is the purpose of the song?*

V1-2 *How are these words described and what impact are they expected to have?*

V4 *In what ways is God described and how do they relate to His name, “The Rock”?*

How do these qualities bring stability?

Moses had personal experience of God the Rock. READ Exodus 17:1-7 and mark the LORD with a 

V1 *What is the context of this incident? How did the people end up in this situation?*

V2-3 *How do the children of Israel respond?*

V4-6 *What does God tell Moses to do? Note every detail.*

Psalm 78:15-16 “He split the rocks in the wilderness and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep. He made streams come out of the rock, and caused water to flow down like rivers.”

What was God teaching the people about Himself through allowing them to be thirsty?

What was Moses learning about God the Rock?

READ 1 Corinthians 10:4b. Paul is teaching lessons from Israel’s history.

How does Paul interpret the rock in Exodus 17?

What would the rock being struck represent?

2 Samuel 22:1-4,47

¹ And David spoke to the LORD the words of this song on the day when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. ² He said, "The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, ³ my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my saviour; you save me from violence. ⁴ I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies.

⁴⁷ The LORD lives, and blessed be my rock, and exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation,

Psalm 40:1-3

¹ I waited patiently for the LORD; he inclined to me and heard my cry. ² He drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure. ³ He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.


Psalm 61:1-3

¹ Hear my cry, O God, listen to my prayer; ² from the end of the earth I call to you when my heart is faint. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I, ³ for you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the enemy.

Matthew 7:24-27

²⁴ "Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. ²⁶ And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. ²⁷ And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it."

The references to God as "Rock" appears in other passages too and adds fresh insight for us.

READ 2 Samuel 22:1-4 and mark references to the LORD with a 

V1 What is the context of this song of David?

V2-3 In what ways does he refer to God?

V4 What do we need to do in order to experience God as our rock?

V47 What impact does knowing God as his rock have on him despite his difficulties?

READ Psalm 40:1-3 and mark the LORD as above.

What is David's situation in this Psalm?

Make a list of all the verbs relating to God and what He did for David?

V1 What did David have to do to experience this?

Wait - Strong's 6960—to look for, expect, bind together as a cord.

READ Psalm 61:1-3 and mark me/I with a 

Faint - Strong's 5847 - overwhelmed, feeble, weak, failing

How is David feeling and what does he ask God to do for him?

How is this prayer helpful when we are "faint"?

READ Matthew 7:24-27 and underline house

What is the same and what is different about these two houses?

We have looked at the storms of thirst, conflict, being bogged down and feeling overwhelmed. How do we build our lives on the rock?

About this study...

This resource has been designed to allow you to jump into God's Word and study it closely. It requires no preparation, and provides you with a structure to study a passage, with questions to help you think and reflect on it.

This study gives you a small insight into the world of inductive Bible study through three key parts:

Observe - What does the text say?

Understand - What does the text mean?

Apply - What does this mean for me?

By using this approach, we can study the Bible in a way that allows us to know God deeply, and to live differently.

About Precept Ireland...

Precept was founded in 1970 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and now works in 160 countries, and has Bible study material translated in over 70 languages. In 2001 Precept was established in Ireland, and has grown through it's mission to engage people in relationship with God through knowing His Word. Precept Ireland seeks to resource and train Bible study leaders to help students like you discover God's truth for yourself and be transformed by it. With more than 250 unique titles ranging from zero to five hours of weekly homework, Precept has a Bible study that meets you where you are.

Visit our online shop to see all our available resources.



Events, Training & more...

Would you love to find out how to study the Bible for yourself, or run an event in your church? Precept Ireland hosts events and inductive Bible study workshops to help individuals and groups. These can be delivered online or we can come to you!

Do you wish others were learning to study God's Word with you? We also provide Leader Training sessions to equip people with the skills needed to lead a Precept Bible study.

Get in touch with us to see how we can help you or your church.

FREE RESOURCE

This study has been provided free of charge. Precept Ireland seeks to equip Christians with the skills to study the Bible for themselves. If you would like to donate to Precept to help us reach more people across Ireland, please get in touch.

PRECEPT IRELAND

www.preceptireland.org
+44 (028) 9074 6082
info@preceptireland.org
Unit 9A, NCM House, 218 York Street,
Belfast, NI, BT15 1GY