

Introduction: The first time I led worship on a Christmas Sunday, I started with this question after the invocation: How old is Jesus today? A middle-schooler spoke out: two thousand five years old. I smiled and pointed out that he gave the answer to the question: How long has Jesus had a human body? One of the most well-known Christmas prophecies about Bethlehem says that the ruler of Israel will come forth from there 'whose goings forth [are] from everlasting' (Micah 5:2, KJV). *** We know the doctrines that God is eternal and Jesus is God. But, when we read the Bible, how many times do we recognize Jesus as an active participant in what is happening going all the way back to the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? Even earlier! He is there, if we know how to look for Him. *** In the teaching the apostle Paul gave to the new churches in Corinth, he wants all the members, both Jews and God-fearing non-Jews, to know that Christ is the spiritual Rock who was with Moses and the Israelites from the time they left Egypt, to the miracle at the Red Sea, and the forty years of disciplinary wandering in the wilderness. *** His teaching builds on what Jesus Himself taught when He said that whoever comes to Him, and hears and does His words, will be like one who builds his house on The Rock and was kept safe in a flood. *** Let's look deeper into what our passages say about Christ, The Solid Rock.

I. Christ accompanied the Israelites as they went through the sea; but, God struck them down in the wilderness for acting on evil desires as a warning for the Church. (1 Corinthians 10:1-10)

- A. The apostle Paul wants Christians in Corinth to know that Christ is The Rock who accompanied Moses and the patriarchs of Israel as they went through the sea. (*Verses 1-4*)
1. For I am not desiring you all to be ignorant, brothers, that all the fathers of us under the cloud they were being, and all through the sea they went. (*Verse 1*)
Not ignorant: Paul does not want any of his brothers in Christ in Corinth to be ignorant of how God cared for His people some fifteen centuries earlier.
God's Presence: God was present with them in a visible way as they went through the sea to escape the Egyptians.
 2. And all into Moses they were baptized in the cloud and in the sea. (*Verse 2*)
Miracle at sea: God used Moses to lead His people to new life through the water He parted for them, but the same water became death to the Egyptian pursuers when the sea rolled back to drown them.
 3. And all, the same spiritual food they ate; and all, the same spiritual drink they drank; for they drank from the same spiritual Rock following; but, The Rock was being Christ. (*Verses 3-4*)
Spiritual food and drink: Specifically, they ate the food and drank the cups of the Passover meal.
Spiritual Rock: The Spiritual Rock is Messiah Jesus. Paul is now comparing Passover to the Last Supper, The Cross and the Sacrament of Communion in the Church. The Church of Jesus is the new people, or children, of God.
Christ is the strong and all-sufficient Rock.

Christ is the strong Rock for God's children

- Application:** Today, and every day we partake of the Sacrament of Communion, by faith may we 'eat and drink' Jesus to remain in His strong protective Presence.
- B. God was not pleased with many of them and struck them down in the wilderness for idolatry, adultery and more: they are negative examples for the Church. (*Verses 5-10*)
1. But not in many of them God was well-pleased, because they were struck down in the wilderness. (*Verse 5*)
God not pleased: Only a minority of those who came out of Egypt was pleasing to God, most likely those under twenty years of age.
Struck down: Over the span of forty years of disciplinary wandering in the wilderness everyone age twenty and older who had come out of Egypt was struck down by God, except Caleb and Joshua (Numbers 13:1-14:35).
 2. But these things examples for us they were made to be, for the purpose we not be desirers of evil things, as also they, they desired, lusted ... (*Verses 6-10*)
Negative examples: Those who rebelled against God's command to His people through Moses to take over that land of which He spoke to Abraham, because of wrong desires and lack of faith in God, have become negative examples for the Church in order that it must not disobey its Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (*Verse 6*)
 - a. Neither idolaters you all must be, as also some of them, even as it has been written: They sat, the people, to eat and to drink, and they stood up to sport, mock play. (*Verse 7*)
Idolatry: This is a quote of the summary from Exodus (32, specifically verse 6) of what the people did after they asked Aaron to make them an idol to worship when Moses was too long on the mountain with The Covenant God for their liking.
 - b. Neither may we commit adultery (fornication), as also some of them committed adultery (fornication) and they fell in one day twenty-three thousand. (*Verse 8*)
Adultery: This was when the men of Israel had immoral sexual relationships with the women of Moab and also worshipped their false gods, as they approached the land about which God had spoken to Abraham toward the end of the forty years in the wilderness. As a result Yahweh had sent a plague that killed twenty-four thousand Israelites (Numbers 25).
 - c. Neither let us put to the test Christ, as also some of them put to the test [The Covenant God], and by means of serpents they were being destroyed. (*Verse 9*)
Put God to test: Just before the people of Israel came to Moab, near Edom, the people grew impatient and accused God and Moses of not providing adequately for them, and God sent serpents and many people died (Numbers 21:4-9). Before Sinai, they tested God at Massah because they thirsted for water (Exodus 17:1-7; Deuteronomy 6:16).

- d. Neither you all must be murmuring, exactly as some of them murmured, and they were destroyed by the destroyer.
(Verse 10)

Destroying angel: Destroying angels were sent to Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19) and when David ordered a census of the fighting men in Israel (1 Chronicles 21). Both cities were wiped out and seventy thousand people died as a result of David's sin.

Application: We must all pray and seek God in faith, in Jesus, so we will not act on these four evil desires and be destroyed as the people of Israel were.

II. Christians should not fall because God is faithful to provide a way out of trials; and, Jesus said those hearing and doing His words are built on the Rock and will survive storms. (1 Corinthians 10:11-13; Luke 6:47-49)

- A. The apostle Paul commands Christians in Corinth to watch so they will not fall; God is faithful in every trial and will make the way out. (1 Corinthians 10:11-13)
1. But all these things by way of example it was coming about to them; but it was written in order to warn us to whom the ends of the ages had come. (Verse 11)
Examples: Every event Paul has written about in the history of Israel to this point is taken as an example to admonish the churches in Corinth to live rightly in the faith of Jesus, because the grace God is offering in Jesus now will be replaced by judgment when Jesus returns the second time. So, as He warned, always be ready for His return (Mark 13:32-37).
 2. To this result: the one thinking to have stood [for God and His ways] he must be seeing [taking heed] not he may fall. (Verse 12)
See that not fall: Paul comes right out and says the bottom line: No matter how much any Christian thinks he or she is walking right with God in Jesus, watch out! There are many ways to fall from grace, so make every effort to enter through the narrow door (Luke 13:24), doing what leads to peace and building up one another (Romans 14:19) to enter God's Sabbath-rest in Jesus (Hebrews 4:9-11).
 3. Trial you all not had taken, except human; but, faithful [is] God who will not allow you all to be tried above what you all are being able; but, He will make with the trial the way of escape, to be able, to endure [the trial]. (Verse 13)
Human trials: We must realize that whatever temptations and tests come into our lives are the same ones that all humans face. Notice also, this promise is to the church body, as a whole, not to individuals in the body.
God faithful: In our own strength and faith, we will never have the resources we need to patiently and peacefully endure them. But God is faithful to take care of His children, those who are IN His Son by faith.
He will make way out: He has said He will make the way through His Son who is The Way, The Truth and The Life (John 14:1-6). The result will be endurance in trials. He is the strong, solid Rock of Salvation.

Christ is the strong Rock for God's children

Application: So let us seek the faithful God in faith whenever we face human temptation.

- B. Jesus made known that those coming to Him, hearing His words and doing them is like a man who built his house on The Rock and survived a flood. (Luke 6:47-49)
1. All coming to Me and hearing My words, and doing them, I will make known to you all, whom he is being like: (Verse 47)
Coming, hearing and doing: Jesus wants to teach the necessity of coming to Him, hearing His words and doing them, so He tells a vivid parable.
 2. Same nature he is being a man building a house who, he dug, and he went deep, and he laid foundation on The Rock; but, flood having arisen, the river burst upon that house, and not it was able to shake it, for rightly it to be built. (Verse 48)
Man building house: The first man built his house on The Rock: Jesus Christ, The Solid Rock on which all may stand.
Flood comes: An extreme flood comes up, and the river bursts upon the house he built on The Rock.
Not able to shake: The house stood firm and did not fall.

Those doing what they hear from Jesus will not fall

Rightly built: It was rightly built on The Rock of Jesus: who He is, and all He says and does.

Christ is the strong Rock for God's children

3. But, the one having heard and not having done [My words], like he is being a man having built house on the earth without foundation, which the river burst upon, and at once it collapsed, and it was the destruction of that house, great. (Verse 49)
Earth: A second man did not do the hard work of digging down to The Rock to have a solid foundation, but built his house on surface dirt.
Flood destroys: When the river flooded and burst on his house it was destroyed. Jesus is warning people they must come to Him and listen, trust and obey, or risk destruction.

Application: We must all realize that Jesus Christ is the eternal 'solid rock' who will be with and protect all people who build their lives on Him by coming to Him, and hearing and doing His words by faith.

Conclusion: Christ is The Rock who accompanied the people of Israel through the sea. But God struck them down during forty years of wandering in the wilderness because they acted on their evil desires. This is a warning for churches now that every member must watch so they will not fall because God is faithful to provide a way out of trials. Jesus said He is The Rock on which those coming to Him and doing His words may build their lives to survive floods that would destroy others.

Christ is the strong Rock for God's children