



WHO IS THE ROCK?

This past week Rita read an article by a local Presbyterian minister who preached that Peter is the rock. My reading of the Bible tells me that Jesus is the Rock and not Peter. There are many who preach that Peter is the rock so that they can make the claim that the pope is Christ incarnate, which is not true.

Strong's Concordance has the following:

4073 πέτρα **Petra**, *pet'-ra*; fem. of the same as 4074; a (mass of) rock (lit. or fig.): – rock.

4074 πέτρος **Petros**, *pet'-ros*; appar. a prim. word; a (piece of) rock (larger than 3037); as a name, *Petrus*, an apostle: – Peter, rock. Comp. 2786.

3037 λίθος **lithos**, *lee'-thos*; appar. a prim. word; a stone (lit. or fig.): – (mill-, stumbling-) stone.

2786 Κηφᾶς **Kephas**, *Kay-fas'*; of Chald. or [comp 3710]; the Rock; *Cephas* (i.e. *Kepha*), a surname of Peter: – Cephas.

3710 **Keph**, *kafa*; from 3721; a hollow rock: –rock.

When you look at the above definitions from Strong's Concordance, the authors of the Gospels did not want you to be confused with the definition of rock when Jesus called Peter a rock. The Hebrew apostles who wrote in the common language of Greek explained that Peter was a hollow rock and not a solid rock.

Matthew 16:15-18

15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Here Strong's definition 4073 was used in describing Peter's revelation of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus is not calling Peter a rock here, but the truth that was revealed to Peter as the rock.

In the Gospel of John we read:

John 1:40-42

40 One of the two which heard John speak, and followed him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.

This is where Jesus first calls Peter Cephas which is a transliteration from a Hebrew term meaning a hollow rock. The apostle John was very careful in his gospel to include the Hebrew word along with the Greek word, for the Hebrew word, "Cephas" specifies a hollow

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rock and not very solid. Now Christ is described by Paul as a solid rock defined in Strong's Concordance 4073.

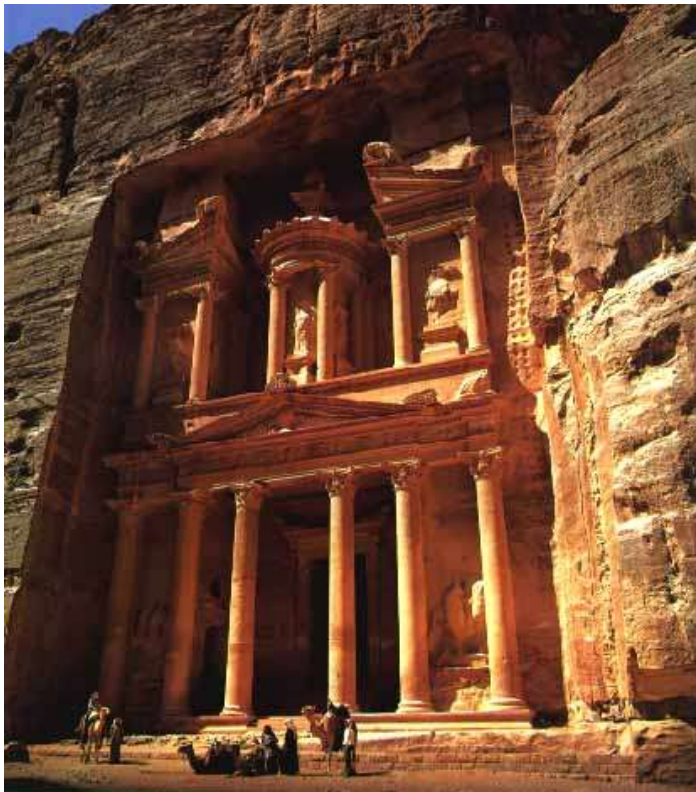
1 Corinthians 10:1-4

1 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;

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

3 And did all eat the same spiritual meat;

4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.



Treasury in Petra

Jesus is the true solid rock of our salvation. No preacher, saint, or apostle can honestly

claim to be the true rock. There is only one solid rock and that is Jesus Christ. Throughout the Old Testament God is referred to as the Rock.

Psalms 18:2,31,46

2 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.

31 For who is God save the LORD? or who is a rock save our God?

46 The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted.

David knew that there was nothing in him, except the true rock the Lord. David knew that the Lord was everything, and that he was nothing. It is the same for us today where we must realize that without Jesus we are nothing.

- Jesus is our Salvation
- Jesus is our Deliverer
- Jesus is our Fortress
- Jesus is our Strength
- Jesus is our Buckler
- Jesus is our High Tower

The treasury in Petra may have looked impenetrable, but where are the builders today? While they are long gone, Jesus has never let us down. What appeared to be solid, was not, but when you put your faith in Jesus Christ, you have a solid fortress that can never be penetrated. No matter what the world dishes out, Jesus is there by your side. There is no other being that is as strong and enduring as Jesus Christ.

The people who built Petra put their faith in the work of their hands rather than in the

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Lord. If you put your faith in Jesus Christ, you are putting your faith in what will last for all eternity. No matter how good you are with your hands, and the things that you can build with your hands, all will eventually fail, whereas Jesus never fails.

When you hear someone say that Peter is the rock, you need to tell them that Jesus is your solid rock and not a hollow rock that Peter is described as.

Jesus Never Fails

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A. A. Luther

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1. Earthly friends may prove untrue,
Doubts and fears as-sail;
One still loves and cares for you:
One who will not fail.

Chorus:

Jesus never fails,
Jesus never fails;
Heav'n and earth may pass away
But Jesus never fails

2. Tho' the sky may be dark and drear,
Fierce and strong the gale,
Just remember He is near,
And he will not fail.
3. In life's dark and bitter hour
Love will still prevail;
Trust His everlasting pow'r,
Jesus will not fail.

The above lyrics tell us the truth about Jesus Christ. While all of the world may fail you, Jesus never will. Why not make Jesus Christ your rock today!

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Sunday Evening 6:30 PM
Wednesday Evening 7:30 PM

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