

Hiding in Him

#0180

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—September 9, 1978

I'd like to carry right on studying about this Rock. The Rock, Christ Jesus. We'll begin with Isaiah 32:2. Before we study, Dona's going to sing about hiding in this Rock.

Now our text:

“And a Man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land” Isaiah 32:2.

Oh, what a picture of a refuge, a place of retirement, a place of security, a place of refreshment, a place of health and blessing. All this Jesus is to those who trust in Him. The Man Christ Jesus shall be as an hiding place from the wind.

You know, in the deserts of the Bibleland, sometimes fierce winds swept over the sand, and what a blessing it was to travelers if they could find some hiding place. Here the prophet pictures Christ as a Great Rock in which the pilgrim can enter and find a refuge from the searing blasts of the desert.

“...a Man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest...” Isaiah 32:2.

“Rock of Ages cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee.”

Thank God, that Rock isn't just some forbidding structure in which we may look in vain for a place to hide. There's a *great* cleft that runs down and through and in, and it's big enough for you and me to enter. The broken heart of Jesus makes it possible for you and me to find a refuge in God.

“And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place...” Isaiah 32:2.

You remember that when the host of Israel left Egypt, after they journeyed a bit, they were way out in the desert, and there was no water; what water they carried was gone. And all those hundreds of thousands, yes, two million people were crying to Moses, “We must have water.” Moses, hearing the cries of those people did what? He cried to God.

God said, Moses, we'll take care of that. Take your rod, that shepherd's crook that you carried those 40 years with the sheep. Take that rod and go out to

the rock. Moses had journeyed over those deserts and with his sheep looking for places of refuge, and places where the grass grew. But here, there was no water. God led him to the most unlikely place—a rock, a great rock. He said, Moses, now take that rod and smite the rock and it will give forth its water. Did it happen? Oh yes.

You know what the apostle said. Let's turn over to 1 Corinthians 10 as to the identity of that Rock as the Savior. Speaking of the host of Israel there on the trip from Egypt to Canaan, he says that:

“And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ” 1 Corinthians 10:4.

It was a real rock there in the desert, real water that gushed forth from it. But oh, it represented the One whose creative power had brought water *from* that rock. And that was who? That was Jesus. It was Jesus. And thank God, as you and I hide in Him, the Living Rock, we find living water to refresh our thirst. Praise God for this assurance.

Now back to Isaiah 32.

“And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind
and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a
dry place as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land”
Isaiah 32:3.

Picture the host traveling over the desert—it's hot. The sky overhead is hot. The sand beneath is hot. Everywhere. But there is a great rock. As we come, we see that the sun is to one side of it, and there is a shadow extended. And as we enter that shade, oh, how grateful the coolness. Jesus is like that. Jesus is like that—a place to hide, a place to be refreshed, a place of security, a place of shade and refreshment.

And so, in the Song of Solomon, we hear those beautiful words:

“...I sat down under His shadow with great delight...”
Song of Solomon 2:3.

Take another view of this Rock. Go over to the book of Exodus, the 33rd chapter. In some was this 33rd and 34th chapters of Exodus, present one of the most marvelous pictures in all the 6,000 years of sacred history. Here a man, Moses, gets so intimate with God, so close to the Creator, that while he's reverent, he's also bold.

“And he said, I beseech Thee, show me Thy glory”
Exodus 33:18.

What does God do? Does He rebuke His servant? No.

“... [God] said, I will make all my goodness pass before thee, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before thee; and will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy” Exodus 33:19.

Then in the next verse He said, Moses, you won't be able to look upon my face, for no man can look upon my face and live. But I am going to arrange a special experience for you.

“And the LORD said, Behold, there is a place by Me, and thou shalt stand upon a rock: And it shall come to pass, while My glory passes by, that I will put thee in a cleft of the rock, and will cover thee with My hand while I pass by: And I will take away Mine hand, and thou shalt see My back parts: but My face shall not be seen” Exodus 33:21–23.

God let Moses see all he could see. You picture Moses, up there on the Mount—just Moses and God. And Moses wants to see more of God's glory. God said, "Moses, I'll arrange it; I'll give you all that you could take, all that you can endure. Stand here on this rock. See that cleft in the rock? I'm going to put you in that cleft in the rock, and then I'm going to pass by, and while I am passing by, I'm going to cover you with My hand. Then as I pass by, I'll let you see all that you can."

What a picture of fellowship with God! We are told that God would be pleased to have us hunger and thirst after more glorious revelations of His character. He has much to impart to us.

Now we're looking at these wonderful symbols, the different lessons of Christ as the Rock. Friends, I trust they will be practical. You cannot find in Jesus the security, the hiding, and the revelation of His glory unless you renounce everything.

I fear that what we are looking for in religion is something that will give us more of human support and encouragement. Christian fellowship is indeed a wonderful thing, but God never intended it to come between Him and us. He never intended it to be our main nourishment and support. He tells us experiences He has taken people through in order to deliver them from depending on any human support.

This is what Moses learned out there in the desert those 40 years with the sheep. He couldn't lean on the sheep. They couldn't talk to him. He was out there alone with God most of the time, and he learned to depend upon God.

That took him through the next 40 years. As the people again and again murmured and complained, and looked to Moses for answers to their questions, through those 40 years, he endured as seeing Him who is invisible. He was truly hidden in the cleft of the Rock, and beheld the glory of the Lord.

Are you willing to be shaken from every human support in order that you may hide in the Rock of Ages? Or do you look upon something to bring you human

fellowship, human support and human encouragement? Thank God for what He allows or arranges, but don't pant after it. It will disappoint you. Human beings fail.

Man fails, man in dangers hour,
Fades at noon the summer flower;
Who trust in God here and afar,
Shines on though fails sun and star.

Oh, that we may learn the security that comes through Jesus. A man shall be as a hiding place from the wind, a covert from the tempest, as rivers of water in a dry land. Let us learn to carry our burdens to Him for help, our sorrows to Him with solace.

Someone says, "But I can't see Him."

Well, every day I get calls on the telephone from people who can't see me at all, but they seem to want to talk. The fact that you can't see someone doesn't keep people from communicating, does it?

Thank God, there is a telephone between earth and Heaven. Thank God, there is a telephone between your soul and Jesus Christ. The Most Holy Place in the Heavenly Sanctuary is wired for you. They have your number. Do you have theirs?

Thank God for the encouragement as we talk with Jesus.

"Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec"
Hebrews 6:19–20.

There is plenty of help for us if we will look in the right direction.

Elijah stood alone for God at Mount Carmel. Alone he had stood for God during those three years of famine. Alone he had prayed in the mountains of Gilead before that. But not yet had he fully learned the lesson. So under Jezebel, he wilted. He had thought that Israel would rally to his defense and to allegiance to God. He had thought that the marvelous sacrifice on Mount Carmel, with the falling of the fire on the burnt sacrifice would be the beginning of a mighty reformation.

But when he got Jezebel's cruel threat, he ran for his life. Instead of fleeing to Jesus and asking for help, he simply ran a discouraged man. And out there in the desert, his one request was that he might die. He was through.

But God wasn't through with Elijah. He was teaching Elijah the precious lesson that when every human support fails, there is still strength and support in Jesus. In the providence of God, Elijah was led to the same mountain where God had revealed Himself to Moses. There he lodged in a cave. God called him out of that cave. Surrounded by those mighty rocks he renewed his consecration. He

renewed his dedication to the unfinished task, and received his commission to reestablish the schools of the prophets and prepare a people who would stand for God in a time when God was longing for reformation.

Elijah had to learn that God alone is the place of refuge. God alone is the place of strength, the place of security. Have we learned it? All of us are in school together learning this lesson that Jesus is the Rock wherein we hide, the place where we find security and refreshment and the revelation of His glory.

“The Lord’s our rock, in Him we hide,
A shelter in the time of storm;
Secure whatever may betide,
A shelter in the time of storm.

The raging floods may round us beat,
A shelter in the time of storm;
We find in God a safe retreat,
A shelter in the time of storm.”

There are some things that people can help us with. But the deepest need only God can truly answer. If people really help us, they help us to find Jesus. Somewhere along the line, we must learn to find Jesus. How in this world will we go out and meet the needs of the multitudes unless we have found this anchor and place of refuge in God? The Gospel we preach to others must be the Gospel by which we ourselves are saved. The Savior we present to others must be a Savior whom we have proved answers our prayers, meets our needs, brings solace and strength to us in hours of discouragement and temptation.

“And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land” Isaiah 32:2.

How many of you have found this true in your own experience? Thank the Lord.

This is a meeting specifically focused on Jesus as the answer to our needs. Jesus is the great Rock in a weary land. Jesus is the hiding place to which we run for refuge and defense. If He has made Himself to you, tell it so others can be inspired by the fact that He can do it for them too.

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