

1 Peter 2:2-10  
John 14:1-14

## OUR ROCK AND OUR REDEEMER

You may have noticed that when I would pray before reading the scripture passages on Sunday, asking God to open our ears, our eyes, our minds and our hearts to learn from his Word,

I always ended with “may the words of my mouth and the meditations of all our hearts be acceptable to you, O LORD, our rock and our redeemer.” This comes from Psalm 19.

Throughout the Bible, there are many references to God as our rock.

A rock is mighty and unchanging—think of the expression “rock solid”.

In her prayer for a child, Hannah says, “There is no Holy One like the LORD, no one besides You; there is no Rock like our God.”

(1 Samuel 2:2)

King David said, “The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer...

The LORD lives! Blessed be my rock, and exalted be my God, the rock of my salvation.’ (2 Samuel 22:2 & 47)

And let’s not forget that God carved the Ten Commandments into stone tablets for durability.

It seems particularly fitting that our theme for today is God as our Rock, since today is Mothers’ Day, and all the mothers in our lives have also been rocks: standing up to difficulties, offering protective shelter, extending our perspective, always present and ready to help.

Peter reminds us, focusing on the word “stone”,  
how important our Savior is.

God chose him and anyone who believes in him will be released  
from possible shame.

But those who do not believe will stumble over the rock  
who is the Savior;

they will fall, because they ignore and disobey God’s word.

Rejected by foolish people who failed to recognize his worth,

God’s carefully chosen stone is picked up again and

placed as the vital cornerstone of God’s building for His people.

When the cornerstone is in place, all other building stones

are aligned to it for a strong and sure foundation,

reliable walls, and a weather-resistant roof.

Peter reminds us that we are a holy nation, God’s own people.

He says that once we “were not a people, but now [we] are God’s people;

once [we] had not received mercy, but now” we have,

through our faith and God’s loving grace, received mercy.

In our reading from John, once again we see Thomas expressing doubt,  
although this time it’s more like admitting ignorance.

Jesus has told his disciples that they know the way to the place  
where he is going, and Thomas replies,

“Lord, we do not know where you are going.

How can we know the way?”

A great opportunity for Jesus to remind them all that

he is “the way, the truth and the life”.

And he tells them that if they know him, they also know the Father.

When Philip asks him to show them the Father,  
Jesus surprises them by saying that if they see Jesus,  
they also see the Father.

He clarifies that the words he speaks to them come from the Father  
who lives in Jesus.

And he gives them a challenging promise:

“the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do  
and, in fact, will do greater works than these.”

Jesus is going Home to the Father, and he is leaving them with the power  
to perform miracles of faith, if they ask in Jesus’ name.

Let me add, that this will work only if what they ask is in keeping  
with the teachings of God’s Word.

This promise could be a stone for stumbling,  
but the disciples are men of faith who have learned  
at the side and in the shadow of the Rock for several years.

We pray:

Wherever we are, Lord,

We know we are together, united in faithful prayer.

We thank you, we glorify you, we worship you,  
and we count on you, especially during these devastating times,  
to bless us with continuing faith and health.

You are our Rock and our Redeemer.

In your precious name we pray,

Amen.