

Images of God – The Rock (Psalm 31:1-8)

Questions

1. *From this Psalm, what do you think David expected of God (Psalm 31:1-3)?*
2. *Why do you think that David was confident in his expectations (Psalm 31:3-4)?*
3. *Why do you think David says ‘God is’ rather than ‘God provides’?*
4. *In what ways has God proved Himself dependable to David (Psalm 31:5-8)?*
5. *What makes a rocky place a good refuge as opposed to other places?*
6. *What are some of the places that [are]*
 - a. *Dependable fortresses*
 - b. *Undependable places?*
7. *How do the words of Jesus (Luke 23:46) relate to this Psalm (Psalm 31:5)?*
8. *Would it have been better for David to have faced his enemies instead of fleeing to a fortress? Why?*
9. *What are some of the times when a Christian may be tempted to take unwise risks in the face of spiritual danger?*

Or ‘why would someone choose to face temptation directly rather than take shelter from it’?

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Answers to Questions

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *Volume I of the Book of Psalms* pp 181-184 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 791 for detailed comment.

1. From this Psalm, what do you think David expected of God (Psalm 31:1-3)?

David expected God to answer prayer according to Psalm 31:2 **“Bow down thine ear to me; deliver me speedily: be thou my strong rock, for an house of defence to save me”** with respect to vindication against false accusation, 1 Samuel 23:22, 26:18-21, Psalm 31:1, deliverance from and defence against pursuers with evil intent, 1 Samuel 23:25-28, Psalm 31:1, 2 and leading **“in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake”** Psalm 23:3, 31:3.

David's prayer was answered, certainly prophetically.

“The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation. It is God that avengeth me, and that bringeth down the people under me, And that bringeth me forth from mine enemies: thou also hast lifted me up on high above them that rose up against me: thou hast delivered me from the violent man” 2 Samuel 22:47-49 with Psalm 18:46-48.

Today's believer can have the same expectation of God after the manner of David's testimony in Psalm 62:5 **“My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him”** provided conditions for answered prayer are met:

- Separating from sin. **“If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me: But verily God hath heard me; he hath attended to the voice of my prayer”** Psalm 66:18-19.
- Asking in faith. **“But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord”** James 1:6-7.
- Asking in the will of God. **“And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him”** 1 John 5:14-15.

Today's believer should not forget to thank God for answered prayer *as a witness*, as David did.

“Therefore I will give thanks unto thee, O LORD, among the heathen, and I will sing praises unto thy name” 2 Samuel 22:50 with Psalm 18:49.

2. Why do you think that David was confident in his expectations (Psalm 31:3-4)?

David said of God **“For thou art my rock and my fortress”** Psalm 31:3. David had confidence in God because he knew God and understood God's attributes as they applied to David's prayer for God's salvation from those who menaced him. David in turn saw God's salvation become a reality for him. Today's believer should **“criest after knowledge and lifest up thy voice for understanding”** Proverbs 2:3 in the same respects.

“And David spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul: And he said, The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; The God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence. I will call on the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies” 2 Samuel 22:1-4 with Psalm 18:1-3.

3. *Why do you think David says 'God is' rather than 'God provides'?*

See *Question 2* and 2 Samuel 22:1-4. Note Isaiah's similar testimony. Today's believer should pray that it is his.

"Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid: for the LORD JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation" Isaiah 12:2.

4. *In what ways has God proved Himself dependable to David (Psalm 31:5-8)?*

David knew from God redemption, Psalm 31:5, mercy, Psalm 31:7, escape from **"the hand of the enemy"** Psalm 31:8, 107:2 and security in a place of safety, Psalm 31:8.

Essentially all the above blessings from God apply to today's believer through the Lord Jesus Christ as Paul says **"But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption"** 1 Corinthians 1:30. Note that:

- **"righteousness"** is escape from the enemy of **"unrighteousness"** upon which will descend God's **"indignation and wrath"** Romans 2:8
- **"sanctification"** is security in a place of safety because those turned **"from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God...receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me"** Acts 26:18
- **"the wisdom of God"** Luke 11:49, 1 Corinthians 1:21, 24, 2:7 in the believer is **"the wisdom that is from above"** that **"is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy"** James 3:17.

5. *What makes a rocky place a good refuge as opposed to other places?*

It is the only shelter in scripture that is above and around him that takes refuge in it as David prayed and as today's believer may well have occasion to.

"Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy" Psalm 61:1-3.

6. *What are some of the places that [are]*

- a. *Dependable fortresses*
- b. *Undependable places?*

For answer to both parts of *Question 6* see www.timefortruth.co.uk/why-av-only/why-the-av-only-7434.php *The 1611 Holy Bible Cleanses Fundamental Evangelical Modern Version Falsehood* pp 29-30 and the extract that follows with scriptures in bold.

Note first Matthew 7:24-27 **"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it."**

In sum, the unwise builder should have known that in addition to its inherent instability the sand holds nothing but a dead Egyptian, Exodus 2:12, in type whether an Egyptian scribe, text or modern editor/commentator. There's lots of sand in the land of Israel of course but those of the Lord's listeners who'd done what He'd told them to do and searched the scriptures, John 5:39, would know Exodus 2:12 and its follow-up where the Lord did a much more thorough job than Moses **Thus the LORD saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel**

saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore Exodus 14:30. The Lord will do a thorough job on the Alexandrian Egyptian relics when He comes back, all sorts, Matthew 13:41-43.

[name removed] also referred to the rock, Matthew 7:24, as the Lord's sayings, with reference to Matthew 7:21, 24, 26. However, I can find nowhere in scripture where the Lord's sayings, word or words are likened to a rock. See attached. Dr Ruckman's analysis is comprehensive with respect to the figures in scripture used to describe the Lord's words [*Symbols of the Word*, Theological Studies 15 by Dr Peter S. Ruckman. They include a sword, fire, a hammer, seed, milk, a mirror, a lamp, meat, bread, honey, nails, Hebrews 4:12, Jeremiah 20:9, 23:29, 1 Peter 1:23, 2:2, James 1:22-25, Psalm 119:105, Proverbs 25:11, 1 Corinthians 3:2, Matthew 4:4, Psalm 19:10, Ecclesiastes 12:11].

The Lord is therefore the rock, Matthew 16:18, 1 Corinthians 10:4, Romans 9:33, 1 Peter 2:3-8 and vividly in the Old Testament. The capitals are in the text.

Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God. He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he Deuteronomy 32:3-4.

But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation Deuteronomy 32:15.

Of the Rock that begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee Deuteronomy 32:18.

How should one chase a thousand, and two put ten thousand to flight, except their Rock had sold them, and the LORD had shut them up? For their rock is not as our Rock, even our enemies themselves being judges Deuteronomy 32:30-31.

The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God 2 Samuel 23:3.

Scripture with scripture, 1 Corinthians 2:13, therefore shows that a rock, Matthew 7:24, 25, Luke 6:48 twice, pictures the Lord Himself rather than His sayings, aspects of which could nevertheless be used to help build the house of Matthew 7:24-25, Luke 6:48 as King Solomon advises, to whom should be given the final word.

The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd Ecclesiastes 12:11.

The above scriptures show for today's believer that being ***"in Christ...a new creature"*** 2 Corinthians 5:17 *being willing to follow the Lord's admonition* ***"It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God"*** Luke 4:4 is the only dependable fortress. Anything else is ***"slippery places"*** Psalm 73:18. However, great victories are possible with the Lord as ***"my rock and my fortress"*** Psalm 31:3 and His words **as goads** into action as this account proves.

See www.theremnant.com/allenby.html **General Edmond Allenby Took Jerusalem Without Firing A Shot**

JERUSALEM, ISRAEL - The process of the return of the Jewish people to their homeland was begun during the *World War I* period. A British General Edmond Allenby was a devoted Christian who read his bible on a daily basis. As the British headed toward Jerusalem to take the city from the Turkish Army he was moved on by God to take the city peacefully. Allenby was a believer in bible prophecy, he was sent to Palestine to remove the Turkish Empire and re-establish the nation of Israel by his government. On December 10, 1917 Allenby asked God how can we take this city and not destroy it. The Lord spoke to him out of Isaiah 31:5 *As birds flying, so will the Lord of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it; and passing over he will preserve it.* This was the battle strategy that was given to him by God. The British general began to ask God, "What does this mean?" God gave him inspiration. In 1917 there were not very many airplanes in the world. Allenby got an idea and said I know how to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah 31:5. I'll get every airplane I can get my hands on in all of the middle-east. I'll bring them in and fly them in close formation over Jerusalem. At that time the Turks and the Arabs had not seen many airplanes, many had never seen an airplane at all. Allenby had them fill up the planes with leaflets. He wrote on the leaflets in Arabic "Surrender the city today, Allenby." The Arab interpreter did not write the name right on the leaflet and wrote Alla Bay, which means Son of God to Moslems.



The Turks evacuated the city and unlike other conquerors of Jerusalem before him, Allenby entered the city on foot in recognition of how ***"the LORD wrought a great victory that day"*** 2 Samuel 23:10. See graphic from www.britishempire.co.uk/maproom/palestineallenby.htm.

7. *How do the words of Jesus (Luke 23:46) relate to this Psalm (Psalm 31:5)?*

Psalm 31:5 states ***"Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth."***

Luke 23:46 states ***"And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and having said thus, he gave up the ghost."*** The Lord thereby followed a principle that holds good for today's believer in distress as Peter describes for the Lord Jesus Christ ***"Who...committed himself to him that judgeth righteously"*** 1 Peter 2:23.

8. *Would it have been better for David to have faced his enemies instead of fleeing to a fortress? Why?*

No. At that time David's enemies were too strong for him as he states in Psalm 18:17 ***"He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from them which hated me: for they were too strong for me."*** Today's believer should ensure that ***"my strong enemy"*** the flesh is never given an advantage, as Paul states. ***"But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof"*** Romans 13:14.

9. *What are some of the times when a Christian may be tempted to take unwise risks in the face of spiritual danger?*

These are deceptions e.g. by ***"the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ"*** Colossians 2:8 e.g. 'Stand up for yourself' that oppose ***"belief of the truth"*** and ***"the traditions which ye have been taught"*** 2 Thessalonians 2:13, 15. Paul therefore urges ***"I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil"*** Romans 16:19.

Or 'why would someone choose to face temptation directly rather than take shelter from it'?

Unlike a wise believer, he forgot Proverbs 4:14-15 ***"Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away."***

“The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted” Psalm 18:46



Allenby entering Jerusalem