

WARM UP | New Zealand is one of the most exciting and varied countries in the world in which to experience rock climbing, with thousands of registered sites. Rock faces range from very hard and stable through to places (especially in the Southern Alps) where the “rock” can give way unexpectedly, crumbling apart. Every climber knows that before moving it is critical to have a solid base and a multi-point purchase to ensure safety. Failure to do so risks serious damage - or can even be fatal.



READ | Deuteronomy 32:3-4, 28-33 & Colossians 1:15-18

BACKGROUND |

Moses, having proclaimed the name of the Lord and ascribed greatness to Him, continued to define that greatness by identifying God as the Rock. The Hebrew term (צור tsur) is associated with creation. The imagery here is of our God being present at the very centre of creation itself.

The apostle Paul, in laying out for us the centrality of Christ in Colossians 1, reveals Christ as the agent of God’s creative work. It was by Him and through Him all things were created. Colossians 1:17 says that in Him all things consist (NJKV) / hold together (NIV). That’s some sort of awesome Rock! He holds life itself together.

1 Peter 2:4-8 tells us that this Rock became a stumbling stone and a rock of offence to those who wanted to disobey God. However, to those who recognised, acknowledged and responded appropriately, each was built up as a precious living stone into the Temple that God is building.

QUESTIONS |

- 1 What is the Rock you base your life upon (is it too small)?
- 2 If the Rock is able to hold all of existence together, what makes it difficult at times for you to believe He can hold your life together?



3 What false, crumbling rocks do you get tempted to try and grasp onto?

4 How do we avoid false or crumbling rocks?

MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER |

What do I need to apply from what I have learned from this study?

IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER |

CONSIDER THIS |

In Jesus’ parable of the house builders on rock and sand (Matt 7:24-27) and Paul’s description of building the Church (1 Cor 3:9-11) it is the foundation that is critical so that enduring building can take place. The solid foundation of faith in Jesus Christ, our Rock, is the basis of the Christian faith. This faith binds together all who proclaim Christ as Lord and Saviour. Surety in the solidity of our foundation is important. As the apostle Paul points out, the works that we achieve in this life will be judged according to the quality that we build upon the Rock. If we build rubbish it will be destroyed as unworthy. If we build with quality (integrity, prayer, faithfulness and honesty) God is pleased. In this situation our purchase on the Rock is solid and, like some of the world’s great mountain-top monasteries, what we build could last for centuries, especially in the lives our families and communities.

WRAP UP | When we have a firm grip on the Rock of Ages we are able to climb securely to new heights. Taking time to reflect who our Rock is should inspire us with confidence as to what He can do – in the world and in our lives. Are you putting your feet on solid ground?