

The Breaker Rock of Truth.

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The theme this year of our VBS is “Breaker Rock Beach.” I don’t think you can find breaker rock beach on a map, however, there is a bay in New Zealand named Breaker Bay which is known for its strong southerly gales of wind and its intense storms which cause strong waves to relentlessly pound against its coastline.

Along beautiful coastlines around the world you may see large rocks standing alone out in the sea. Some of these rocks are called sea stacks. A sea stack is exactly as the name suggests: a large stack of rock in the sea that may look like a tall stone tower, separated from the main shoreline.

All sea stacks start out as part of nearby rock formations. Ocean waves continuously pound against the rock eroding and breaking it down until finally the wind and waves break through to the other side and create a cave or an arch – (show a photo). With time, the erosion continues to occur until the arch eventually falls away, separating one part of the rock from the original cliff. At this point, it becomes a “breaker rock” which stands alone against the relentless crashing waves of the sea.

A breaker rock rising from the ocean is a great symbol of strength as it continues to stand firm against the forces of the wind and waves.

Rock is used in the bible as a symbol of God’s truth (**Matthew 7:24–27**). If we build our life upon the rock of God’s truth, we will be able to stand against the storms, gales, and waves that crash against us at different times in our life.

Rock is used in the bible as a symbol of our faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus spoke about the gates of Hell coming against His church, which, according to the scriptures, is the pillar and the ground of the truth. The gates of Hell are a reference to the powers of Satan and all of his hosts. Much of Satan’s efforts and strategies are relentless attacks against our faith in the absolute truth of God. The great news is that Jesus declared that Satan “will not prevail!” The church remains standing upon the rock of faith in Jesus!

One of the resources Satan has at his disposal is the culture. Scripture gives him the title of being the god of this age, the father of all lies, and the prince of the power of the air. He uses the power of the air to bring about winds of change. These winds are filled with lies against the truth of God.

Like strong gales which stir the waves of the sea, the relentless lies of Satan seek to erode the firm foundation of truth. Those building their lives upon the truth of God today find themselves to be like the sea stacks, standing alone from the culture around them. My friend, we must remain faithful and strong against the wind and waves of the world!

The Boldness of Iniquity.

If we take a sober look at the culture around us, we can clearly see that we are truly living amid a perverse and a crooked generation - a culture that has become emboldened in their sin. With no fear of God, they scoff at that which is holy, and they rage against God’s righteousness and the truth which is in Jesus Christ. Such blatant rejection of truth incurs a judgment of great sorrow.

Isaiah 5:18–20 ¹⁸ Woe (an announcement with great lament over the horrific judgment that awaits) to those who drag iniquity with the cords of falsehood, And sin as if with cart ropes;

Accepting the lies of Satan and purporting them upon others, men fall into such depths of sin that they take upon themselves an unbearable weight of iniquities which are dragging them down to a sure damnation. They can't see their destructive end because the god of this age has blinded their minds and hardened their hearts.

(Emboldened by the deceitfulness of their sin they say) ¹⁹ "Let Him (God) make speed, let Him hasten His work, that we may see *it*; And let the purpose of the Holy One of Israel draw near and come to pass, that we may know *it*!"

²⁰ Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

Like wind and waves against a breaker rock, the lies of Satan have relentlessly attacked the truth of God from the beginning. He is the father of all lies. We didn't get hear overnight. They call themselves "progressives" when they are really regressives. We are in a culture spiraling into Hell.

- What God calls an abomination; our culture celebrates; applauding the sexually perverse as brave and heroic for being unashamed.
- The pedophile has become known as a "Minor Attracted Person".
- We are no longer male and female, we can identify as whatever we choose to be. There are many different gender identities, including male, female, transgender, gender neutral, non-binary, agender, pangender, genderqueer, two-spirit, third gender, and all, none or a combination of these. (Google)
- The biblical family has been termed the nuclear family and deemed to be oppressive and archaic.
- Abortion is considered a form of birth control.
- As of 2015, same-sex marriage is now federally legal in all fifty states due to a ruling from the Supreme Court.
- Fornication is commonly expected as a part of dating (just be safe).

A quote from our VBS editors says, "We may not realize it, but our children are being pulled under by this tide of cultural influence. What to us seems so foreign, is to them perfectly "normal.""

John Wesley said, "What one generation tolerates, the next generation will embrace."

We are losing our children to the world. Satan is a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. The only hope for our children – for us, is Jesus Christ. He is the way, the truth, and the life.

The church is the body of Christ! The church is the pillar and the ground of the truth. Jesus died for the church. He gave the Holy Spirit to the church. Jesus is coming back for His church.

Our children need godly parents! Our children need godly leaders! Our children need strong, godly influence – someone they can look up to and see that God's way works! Our children need the church!

God forgive us where we have failed our youth. Grant to us repentance and help us to take a stand for our families to guard them against Satan and his lies; against this culture and its influence upon their lives.