



UPON THIS ROCK

Upon This Rock Series

Part 3

April 9, 2023

Upon This Rock I Will Build My Faith

The Book of Galatians 3:7-14, **“Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. ⁸ And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” ⁹ So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith. ¹⁰ For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.” ¹¹ Now it is evident that no one is justified before God by**

the law, for “The righteous shall live by faith.”¹² But the law is not of faith, rather “The one who does them shall live by them.”¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”—¹⁴ so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith. May the Lord add His blessing to the reading and the hearing of His Word today, in Jesus Name. Amen.

OPENING / The Power of the Resurrection / Upon This Rock

1. Upon This Rock I Will Build My Faith Because He Arose From The Grave!

- a. 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, “Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand,² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.⁶ Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at

one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. ¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain...”

b. Friends, the resurrection of Christ was not an isolated event! Christ not only resurrected in accordance with Biblical Prophecy but He also appeared after His resurrection to a multitude of people; Cephas, then all twelve disciples, then to more than 500 people; many of which, the 500 that is, at the time of Paul writing this text was still alive and could attest to this experience of seeing the Resurrected Messiah!

c. The Bible states in Psalm 119:89-90, “Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens. ⁹⁰ Your faithfulness endures to all generations; you have established the earth, and it stands fast.”

d. According to the text noted in 1 Corinthians 15, Christ was raised in accordance with the Scriptures due to the prophetic insights provided by the Prophets concerning the Messiah; and in the end, Christ was raised in accordance with the Scriptures because The Word of God is firmly fixed in Heaven forever!

- e. Church, we can build our Faith upon Christ because His Resurrection was Prophetically Declared in the Scriptures but also Powerfully Experienced by those who were a part of birthing the Church!
- f. I want you to remember today that upon Christ I can build our Faith because He arose from the grave! Point #2...

2. Upon This Rock I Will Build My Faith Because He Ascended to Heaven!

- a. Ephesians 4:4-10, “⁴There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.”⁹ (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth?¹⁰ He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)”
- b. Notice with me verses 8-10...

- c. Ascension! The Power and Purpose of Christ's resurrection did not stop at His resurrection alone. Though His Resurrection denotes His sinlessness and the assurance of His atonement for the Sins of Man; His Ascension emphasizes His Power and Authority!
- d. The Same Messiah that descended into the Depths of the Earth was the Same Messiah that Ascended into the Heights of the Heavens! And to this end, allow me to point to a matter that must be addressed in light of this text. Jesus did not descend into Hell; He descended into Abraham's Bosom to preach liberty to the captives of those who died in the Promise of Messiah but had not ascended into Heaven at the point of death. May I take a moment to teach here?
- e. The Gospel of Saint Luke 16:19-31, ¹⁹ "There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, ²³ and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham

far off and Lazarus at his side. ²⁴ And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ ²⁷ And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house—²⁸ for I have five brothers — so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ ³⁰ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹ He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

- f. There are a few points I want to make here: First, this passage of text is not a parable; Jesus is speaking of a specific set of men and does not denote His statements as being a parable.

- g. Second, both men died but did not go the same place though still with the ability to see one another; one is in comfort and the other in torment.
- h. Third, these two planes of existence were on the same plane but separated by a great chasm, or divide (think Grand Canyon).
- i. Fourth, the torment and comfort were physical as much as they were emotional and mental; the man in torment is seeking water to ease his physical torment.
- j. And lastly, the man in Hell was begging for someone to be resurrected and warn his brothers to protect them of the punishment that was to come to them too if they did not repent.
- k. Thus the Messiah, in accordance with the Scripture, descended into the lower regions of the earth and lead captivity captive; the captives in waiting for Messiah of which were seen resurrected walking the streets of Jerusalem before Christ's ascension. Don't believe me?
- l. The Gospel of Saint Matthew 27:51-54, ⁵¹And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵²The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁵³and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went

into the holy city and appeared to many.⁵⁴ When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, “Truly this was the Son of God!”

m. Friends, He who Descended also Ascended! And the He who ascended led Captivity Captive and gave Gifts to Men! Therefore, it is upon this Rock that I will build my faith He who descended also ascended! Point #3...

3. Upon This Rock I Will Build My Faith Because He is Seated At The Father's Right Hand!

a. Romans 8:31-39, “³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be ^l against us? ³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁶ As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.” ³⁷ No, in all

these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- b. His Resurrection was Powerful, His Ascension was Pivotal, but His Seat of Authority is Eternal!
- c. Closing