



UPON THIS ROCK

Upon This Rock Series

Part 1

March 26, 2023

Upon This Rock I Will Build My Hope

The Gospel of Saint Matthew 7:24-29, “Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against

that house, and it fell, and great was the fall of it.” And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he was teaching them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.”

May the Lord add His blessing to the reading and the hearing of His Word today, in Jesus Name. Amen.

In this passage of text there are two houses that are built and two men that are noted; a wise man and a foolish man along with a wisely built home versus a foolishly built one. Both houses noted were built by the hands of men but it wasn't the construction of the house that had the power to endure the storm; it was the foundation that had the power to uphold the house when the storms came.

And in light of the storms of this present age, my question for us all to consider today is what are you building your life on? Everything around us is so clearly unstable and it doesn't require for us to look very far to see it. Volatile Stock markets. Political Divisions. Governmental Upheaval. Threats of Global Food Shortages. National Banks Imploding. Threats of wars around the globe. Violent Crime is boiling over in our nation and all of this is having a direct impact on main street America. A direct impact on you and I. And in all of this instability and disjointedness, where are we to find a sure footing on which to stand?

Though it seems that everything around us is unstable, I know of a rock that has endure the instability of the ages and yet has not crumbled under the pressure. I know of a rock that the builders rejected but the Father has made Him to be the chief corner stone of our faith!

I know of a Rock that has stood as a Testament of Authority from the beginning of creation itself! And I know, clearly, from Daniels prophetic vision of the Statue of Nebuchadnezzar that was smote into pieces that this rock is solid, it is sure, it is unbreakable! Listen to the Words of Daniel!

Daniel 2:34-35, ³⁴“As you looked, a stone was cut out by no human hand, and it struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. ³⁵Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold, all together were broken in pieces, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.”

And it is this stone that will destroy the graven image of Nebuchadnezzar that has become a mighty mountain on which we can build and establish our Hope! Because it is upon this Rock that I will build my Hope!

Because Deuteronomy 32:28-31, “For they are a nation void of counsel, and there is no understanding in them. ²⁹ If they were wise, they would understand this; they would discern their latter end! ³⁰ How could one have chased a thousand, and two have put ten thousand to flight, unless their Rock had sold them, and the Lord had given them up? ³¹ For their rock is not as our Rock; our enemies are by themselves.”

Their rock is not like our rock! Church, regarding the things of this present age; their rock, their stability, their resource, their deities, their financial systems, their military might, their political systems, their governing schemes, their metrics of control of the populace compare not to our Rock! Their rocks are not like our Rock! And it is this rock I want to talk about today!

1. Upon This Rock I Will Build My Hope Because I Have A Hope That Cannot Be Put To Shame!

- a. Psalms 25:1-3 NIV, “In you, Lord my God, I put my trust. I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause.”

- b. In Psalm 25, we read the words of David as he is pouring out his heart before the Lord and it is in his words that we can draw comfort and assurance. Note the words used here, No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame but these words are being written during an obvious time of difficulty and adversity.
- c. You see, often times we view the persons noted or written about in the Bible as being the superhuman beings who never had a bad day and were always coming out on top but this simply isn't the case.
- d. Life is hard. There are far too often situations where there seems to be no right decision or no answer to be found to mitigate or resolve the conundrum that we are facing; but friends, in spite of those things, we have a Hope that will never allow us to be put to shame because our Hope is secure in Christ! Consider the words of Paul to the Church at Rome!
- e. Romans 5:1-5 ESV, "Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and

character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

f. Church family, always remember, that it is upon the Rock of Christ that we build our Hope and it is our Hope in Christ that will never allow us to be put to Shame no matter what we face!

Point #2...

2. Upon This Rock I Will Build My Hope Because My Hope In Christ Is An Eternal Trust And Not A Temporal Belief!

a. 1 Corinthians 15:19-21 ESV, "If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead."

b. Friends, our Hope in Christ is not quantified to the life that we live in this present age! Just as Paul wrote, if in Christ we have hope in this life alone, we are to be pitied. We would to be pitied because our Hope would have no eternal implication; it would be temporally based alone.

- c. However, in light of Christ be raised from the Dead and raised unto newness of life, we too have this same Hope! Our Hope is not only in this life alone but also in the life to come!
- d. Our promise of His provision and presence is not only for this life we now live but also a promise to be experience in the life to come when eternity comes to call! And my encouragement to us all, including myself, is do not give up prematurely; do not throw in the towel! Heaven is cheering us on today!
- e. Hebrews 12:1-2, “Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.”
- f. Church, the same Hope that Christ had that empowered Him to endure the Cross, we too can have that same Hope! Because our cornerstone of Hope is trusting that the Father has a plan and even when His Will is hard, we have a Hope that encourages us while we endure hardship.

- g. Family, I want you to remember today that we have a Hope in Christ that is Eternal and Sure; it is not temporal nor powerless.
- h. Point #3...

3. Upon This Rock I Will Build My Hope Because He Who Promised Is Faithful!

- a. Church, He Is Faithful! He is faithful even when we fail. He is faithful even when doubt. He is faithful even when we are unfaithful. He is faithful! Often times, we allow our mistakes to cause us to believe that our temporary failures alter His eternal plan but this is simply not the case. Consider the person that God used in the Scriptures and in spite of all of their fallacies, His will was still accomplished and the Lord was still glorified.
- b. Their character flaws, failures, shortcomings, and emotional states did not alter His eternal character. For example, Abraham was too old to reproduce. Jacob was a deceiver. Peter was emotionally volatile. David had an affair. Noah got drunk. Jonah ran from God. Paul was a murderer. Gideon lacked self-confidence. Miriam was divisive. Martha was a perpetual worrier. Thomas was a doubter. Sara was impatient. Elijah was depressed.

Moses had a speech impediment. Zaccheus was too short. And Lazarus was dead. But none of these situations challenged God's faithfulness.

- c. The author of Hebrews penned the following words founds in Hebrews 10:23 ESV, "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful."
- d. My final words to you today is simply this... Hold fast without wavering because He that promised is Faithful! (PREACH)
- e. "But Pastor how can you be so sure?"
- f. Philippians 1:6, "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." God's going to finish what He started!
- g. Sometimes the best thing you can do is set your feet and stand. Stand and stand therefore because He's going to finish what He started!
- h. Upon This Rock I Will Build My Hope Because He Who Promised Me Is Faithful!