

Beloved Sisters and Brethren

This word occurs 118 times in the Old Testament and the word itself denotes strength, unchanging steadfastness and reliability. In this way it describes God. What is brought to our attention in this study is that it works for good to those who love and rely on God but it works for harm to those who are against Him or do not respond to His kindness.

This was developed manifestly with the nation of Israel in Deut32

Deu 32:1-5 Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass: Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God. He is a Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity just and right is he. They have corrupted themselves, their spot is not the spot of his children: they are a perverse and crooked generation.

But speaking of all Yahweh did for Israel He says in Deu 32:13 *He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock.* This figurative language is explained in v39 *See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god-elohiym with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.*

We have on record the words of those who have trusted in God and found Him to be a Rock as Hannah declared in 1Sa 2:1-2 *And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation. There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God-elohiym.*

Psa 18:1-3 To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, the servant of the LORD, who spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul: And he said, I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, (this is a different word "Selah." It is used 61 times and is translated "rock, stronghold, fortress so we see

it has more the idea of refuge) and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies but it seemed worth noting for not all have the facility to refer to the Hebrew

But in the following Psalms: 28v1; 61v2; 89v26; 95v1 is Tsur

When in the wilderness it was The Rock, Tsur, from which they got water but much more had they responded fully to His love in bringing them out from bondage Psa 81:16 He should have fed them also with the finest of the wheat: and with honey out of the rock should I have satisfied thee.

This name Tsur has within it great potential of meaning for it describes Yahweh in visitations upon earth and in particular to His chosen people Israel and in Ps89 refers to David from v20 and Psa 89:26 *He shall cry unto me, Thou art my father, my God, and the rock of my salvation.* We know that David, as king, was a type for the Lord Jesus. This fact of God as the Rock as typifying the Lord Jesus is carried through in this study and Ps78 is helpful in its entirety in seeing how this description –Name –is helpful in manifesting the way God works with those he has called Psa 78:34-5 *When he slew them, then they sought him: and they returned and enquired early after God. And they remembered that God was their rock, and the high God their redeemer.*

And then Paul tells us:

1Co 10:3-4 *And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.*

But to many 1Pe 2:8 *And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed,* as stated also through the prophet Isaiah 8v14; *but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.*

Isa 8:11-13 *For the LORD spake thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people, saying, Say ye not, A confederacy, to all them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid. Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. Isa 8:14 And he shall be for a sanctuary.*

And this is for us if we continue in His ways and not as Israel :-

1Pe 2:9-10 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

A Living Stone and a Holy People

*1Pe 2:1-6 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious. To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, **Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone**, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.*

And when Peter had declared that Jesus was the Christ, Jesus said-

*Mat 16:17-19 And Jesus answered and said unto him, **Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, (a rock) and upon this rock –Christ (as shown in the scriptures quoted above) I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.***

Thus in this study we are brought close to God, to Christ His Son, and to the great honour of being part of the Temple of God of which Jesus is the Cornerstone; we are fed with the living waters and must therefore be unchanging as a rock and as God is, was, and ever will be and with that reliability upon which the whole of God's plan has always rested

Jas 1:17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

My love to all who strive to please God

Brother Ken