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Series: Types of Christ

Title: The Smitten Rock

Scripture: Exodus 17: 1-7

Date: May 16, 2010

Place: Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Princeton, NJ

Exodus 17: 1: And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the LORD, and pitched in Rephidim: and *there was no water for the people to drink.*

They had seen God deliver them by his mighty power out of Egyptian bondage, God open the Red Sea, deliver them, then destroy the Egyptian army, God lead them with a pillar of cloud and fire and God feed them quail and manna from heaven. So much amazing goodness they had seen in God's faithfulness. But when they got to Rephidim--"*there was no water for the people to drink.*"

Exodus 17: 2: Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD?

If we only knew how truly our murmuring is not against the man we are discontented with, but a tempting of the LORD. Verse 7, "they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?"

They questioned the LORD's:

- Presence.
- Providence.
- Promise.

Exodus 17: 3: And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore *is this that* thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst? 4: And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.

Because they did not get what they wanted when they wanted it they:

- They accused God's messenger a fraud
- Accused him of bringing them out of Egypt to kill them and their children and their cattle with thirst?
- They were almost ready to stone Moses.

Exodus 17: 4: And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, What shall I do unto this people? they be almost ready to stone me.

What a blessing that God gave them a man after his own heart! 1) he warned face-to-face that they were tempting God 2) and Moses cried unto the LORD for grace to help in time of need. That is meekness--being bold to tell the truth and bold to cry unto the LORD for mercy on behalf of the people--that is meekness.

Exodus 17: 5: And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel;

The LORD is about to manifest a great miracle of grace. Those he will have to rule over his spiritual nation, God always makes to behold his glory that they might have their thirst quenched so that they might be instruments to bear witness of his glory to others.

Exodus 17: 5: And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go. 6: Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7: And he called the name of the place Massah, and Meribah, because of the chiding of the children of Israel, and because they tempted the LORD, saying, Is the LORD among us, or not?

Much is said of this Rock:

Deuteronomy 32: 13:...he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock;

Psalm 78:16: He brought streams also out of the rock, and caused waters to run down like rivers.

Psalm 114:8:...turned the rock into a standing water, the flint into a fountain of waters.

What is so special about the rock smitten? Four words:

I Corinthians 10: 4: And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

I. THE LORD GOD STOOD UPON THE ROCK.

Exodus 17: 6: Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb.

In the eternal counsel before time was made, God the Father purposed of himself to create a people for himself and to manifest his glory to that people.

Example: The LORD made this people and named them Israel. He put them where they are to manifest his glory in the Rock. That is an example of how God the Father made a people for the purpose of manifesting his glory to them.

God the Father stood on the Son of God, Christ the Rock.

In everlasting covenant, glorified his Son by resting all the glory of his great character and the whole salvation of his all his chosen children on the shoulders of his Son, on Christ the Rock. God the Son came and did not fail his Father, he manifested the glory of his Father.

John 17: 1: These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee: 2: As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him. 3: And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. 4: I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. 5: And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

Application: Because God the Father rested all on Christ the Rock you can be assured that God will take nothing less from you than for you to stand all your eternal salvation on Christ the Rock.

II. MOSES SMOTE THE ROCK

Exodus 17: 6:...and thou shalt smite the rock,

Moses represents the law of God. His rod represents the unyielding justice of God.

God sent forth his Son made of a woman. Because the children were flesh and blood, Christ Jesus partook of the same. God sent forth his Son made of a woman, made under the law. The law said of Christ Jesus--holy, spotless, no sin in him, he is fit to make himself a sacrifice as the substitute to suffer the wrath of God in the place of those God gave him. That is why he came. God sent forth his Son made of a woman, made under the law to redeem them that were under the law.

Romans 8: 3: For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: 4: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Romans 3: 21: But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 22: Even the righteousness of God *which is* by faith of Jesus Christ...

2 Corinthians 5: 21: For he hath made him *to be* sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

When he made him sin, God's just character demanded that Christ the Rock be smitten with the rod of justice.

Psalm 22: 1:...My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?

Romans 3: 26: To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

The wages his people owed was death and eternal satisfaction to God for their sins.

John 19:30: When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

As promised, Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father

III. WATER CAME OUT OF THE ROCK

Exodus 17: 6: Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it,

Christ is Life!

Where water is there is no dryness--where eternal Life is there is no sin, no death, only righteousness and holiness.

- LIFE with God is to be made righteous
- LIFE with God is to be made holy
- LIFE with God is to be made COMPLETE
- CHRIST JESUS IS THE BELIEVER'S LIFE

I John 5: 11: And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. 12: He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

IV. CHRIST WAS SMITTEN FOR A PEOPLE.

Exodus 17: 6:...thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink.

Three characteristics of the people.

1. They are chosen of God

Isa 43:20: The beast of the field shall honour me, the dragons and the owls: because I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen.

Application: Preacher, why do you always tells us that God's people are a chosen people? You need a death blow struck to your pride. Do you see what these people were? This people were a rebellious, chiding, murmuring people with murder in their heart toward God and his messenger--that is you and me--we deserve no favor from God.

God chooses whom he will--I give waters in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my people, my chosen.

2) They are a people with whom God is completely satisfied--

Moses, in anger, smote the rock twice. And God told him he could not enter the promised-land because he smote it twice. Remember, Moses represents the law. The people would not go into the promised land under the rule of the law, but they were led into the promised land by Joshua--Savior--a type of Christ.

The lesson is this: Christ was only smitten once. He drank the cup of God's wrath dry--and when he died, all his people died in him. The law has nothing else to say the believer because it has nothing else to say to Christ. Every believer is under the leading rule of Christ--they are righteousness in Christ--they have fulfilled--established--completely totally obeyed the law in every precept, in every jot and tittle, through faith in Christ.

Romans 6: 9:...Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. 10: For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. 11: Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord....[Concerning him who now has the rule over you--it is not law, not Moses, but Christ your Husband] 7: 4: Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

Isaiah 62: 11: Behold, the LORD hath proclaimed unto the end of the world, Say ye to the daughter of Zion, Behold, thy salvation cometh; behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. 12: And they shall call them, The holy people, The redeemed of the LORD: and thou shalt be called, Sought out, A city not forsaken.

3) They are a people to whom the Water of Life is given freely and freely they receive it--

Point: "accepting" Jesus is self-willed, pride. You do not make God's work in Christ effectual by putting your stamp of approval on it. It would be like these thirsty, murmuring sinners claiming they made the Water because they decided they would drink it. All the work was done for them--*that the people may drink*. Thirsty sinners are those who "receive" the water, drink it--a picture of faith.

John 7: 37:...If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38: He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

ILLUSTRATION: Yesterday with the water.

Some saw the word "church" and they would not take even FREE COLD WATER ON A HOT DAY! Do you think these in the wilderness had to be talked into receiving the water without payment, without price, without any labor on their part? Of course not, because they were desperately thirsty. Some heard the word FREE and said, "If it's free then I will take it!" I wondered how many would hear this gospel on those CD's and prove that "if it's free they will not take it!"

Are you thirsty? Is there any other well for you?

- The well of human will is dry.
- The well of human merit is dry.
- The well of religious works is dry.
- The well of philosophy is dry.
- No water means no life--by nature, by birth, by practice--all our wells are only dry death.

Application: God makes his children willing--by revealing that all we are by nature is "wells without water." But when God makes his children thirsty for Christ then they are willing to take of the Water of life, freely!

V. THE ROCK FOLLOWED THEM (I Cor 10: 4.)

I Corinthians 10: 4: And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them:

Our Lord has promised, I will never leave thee nor forsake thee. This Life--this Water--is Eternal Water.

The woman at the well:

John 4:10: Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. 11: The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? 12: Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle? 13: Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: 14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

Isa 49:10: They shall not hunger nor thirst;...for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them....

"Come, take of the water of Life FREELY!"

AMEN!