

BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS: WEEKLY SCRIPTURE

READING

---Roly Buys---

Amanda Buys' Spiritual Covering

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THE ROCK - HIS WAYS ARE JUST

This week's portion covers **Deuteronomy 32:2; Samuel 22; and Romans 10:14-21; 12:14-21.**

Summary

David starts off his song with this declaration:

2 Samuel 22:2-4 ADONAI is my Rock, my Fortress and Deliverer, the God who is my Rock, in whom I find shelter, my Shield, the power that saves me, my Stronghold and my Refuge. My Savior, you have saved me from violence. I call on ADONAI, who is worthy of praise; and I am saved from my enemies.

What are the lessons that we can establish?

1. GOD IS MY ROCK



It is important to see "what" the "Rock" *does*.
The word for **rock** — Hebrew Strong's 5553 "**she-lah**":

- ~ Crag, cliff
- ~ A stronghold of Jehovah, of security.

In this case, we see a connection between the **Rock** and the word "**save**".

The word for **save** is the Hebrew word Strong's 3467, and has the meaning of: to save, be saved, be delivered:

1. (**Niphal**)

- ~ to be liberated, be saved, be delivered
- ~ to be saved (in battle), be victorious

2. (**Hiphil**)

- ~ to save, deliver
- ~ to save from moral troubles
- ~ to give victory to

And we see the future connection with the word "**refuge**" Hebrew 4498:

- ~ flight
- ~ refuge, place of escape

In summary - "to rescue"

- * You rescue people from trouble, drowning, and enemies.
- * You rescue people by pointing the way out of the wilderness.
- * You rescue people by giving them hope.

****NUGGET!** Our "ROCK" is our Rescuer-Saviour.**

Not only is He our "ROCK", but He is also **the Corner Stone** in the Tabernacle made of "Living Stones." And since we all are Living Stones that are built up into that Spiritual House, we can safely say that you are a STONE in the Heavenly Tabernacle. Peter tells us that we are priests and kings in this Heavenly Kingdom and more specifically, that I am a priest in that Tabernacle,

If we follow this logic through to the end, then it implies that I am also a Stone - that is cut from the same Rock as the Corner Stone. You see we cannot think to be stones / priests if we do not have the same attributes as the Great High Priest in the Order of Melchizedek.

****NUGGET!** Since I am cut from the same Stone, I get my refuge from this Tabernacle. All that I must ensure is that I am worshipping inside of the Tabernacle at all times.**

We read in **1 Corinthians 10:3-4** that the Israelites drank from the Spiritual Rock that went with them through the wilderness.

1 Corinthians 10:3-4 *Also they all ate the same food from the Spirit, and they all drank the same drink from the Spirit — for they drank from a Spirit-sent Rock which followed them, and that Rock was the Messiah.*

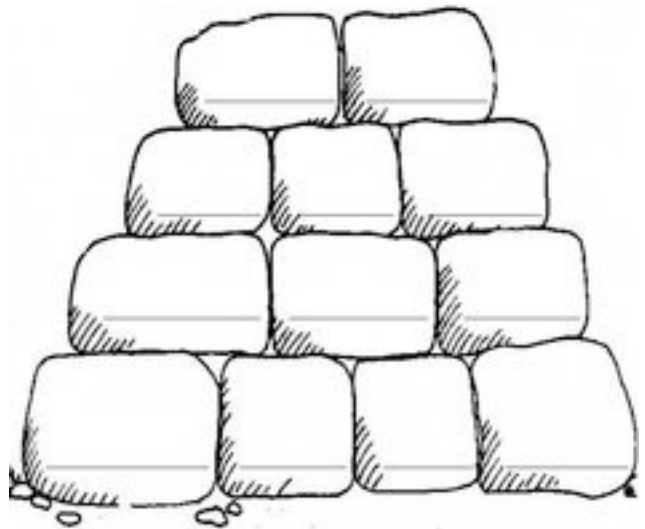
Many people, thinking in the physical domain, try to imagine a “Rock that moves wherever the Israelites travel”. Paul, a little later on, reveals to us that we should walk in the physical in order to understand what the spiritual meaning could be. Y’shua reveals how He walked in the physical and fed the masses—on one occasion 5000, and on the other 4000 souls.

We should therefore just understand that He walked through the wilderness with the Israelites on the same basis. The real question is: “In whom do we trust? Do we only look for physical bread (*lechem*) and water, or are we focused on the spiritual truth of our daily walk with GOD (YHVH)?

What we have to do is find out exactly what:

a) **SPIRITUAL FOOD** - Self-sacrificing service - doing everything that is His Divine Will.

b) **SPIRITUAL DRINK** - Fruit of the Holy Spirit.



1 Peter 2:6-7 *This is why the Tanakh says, “Look! I am laying in Tziyon a Stone, a chosen and precious Cornerstone; and whoever rests his trust on it will certainly not be humiliated.” 7 Now to you who keep trusting, he is precious. But to those who are not trusting, “The very Stone that the builders rejected has become the Cornerstone”.*

Do you trust the Cornerstone of our Tabernacle to provide for you? Is He really your “Rescuer”?

1 Peter 2:8 *Also He is a Stone that will make people stumble, a Rock over which they will trip. They are stumbling at the Word, disobeying it — as had been planned.*

We the Body of Messiah are “Rocks” / Living Stones, made Holy, anointed as priests and kings, who stand connected with other “rocks” all who have the WORD / TORAH written on their hearts.

Do we have spiritual sacrifices, acts of loving your neighbor that are bringing light to a dark world and revealing us as miniature “rocks” that rescue others?

****NUGGET!**** Have you ever asked yourself: if you are a reflection of YHVH - the Rock - would people find refuge in you?

1 Peter 2:5,9 *You yourselves, as living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be cohanim set apart for God to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to Him through Yeshua the Messiah. But you are a chosen people, the King’s cohanim, a holy nation, a people for God to possess! Why? In order for you to declare the praises of the One who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people; before, you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

LET US KEEP IN MIND - GOD IS OUR RESCUER!!

GOD (YHVH) finds us. And it is most often in the wilderness.

Sadly, the lesson is that we were already delivered, given a chance to enter the Land of our purpose and potential.

BUT

We were afraid of the giants. Giants can look big, can shout louder than others, but due to their size may very well not be as nimble as we could be. *And it is the giants that will rob us of the opportunity to live to our full potential.*

How sad it is that we often see people with huge potential, wandering from place to place, and relationship-to-relationship – going nowhere – seemingly lost.

You have within you the character of David. Use it!! What is it that David wants us to see? All you need is a sling And 5 small stones!!!

GOD (YHVH) lets us walk around the mountain, until the desire for Godly purpose is stronger than our fear of man / the enemy.



Deuteronomy 32:10-12 *He found him in a desert land, and in the howling waste of the wilderness; He encircled him, He cared for him, He kept him as the apple of His Eye. Like an eagle that stirs up its nest, that flutters over its young, spreading out its wings, catching them, bearing them on its pinions, the LORD alone guided him, no foreign god was with him.*

2. GOD (YHVH) IS MY FORTRESS / STRONGHOLD AND REFUGE / SHELTER

2 Samuel 22:3 *The God who is my Rock, in whom I find shelter, my Shield, the power that saves me, my Stronghold and my Refuge. My Savior, you have saved me from violence.*

GOD (YHVH) always has a perfect and complete plan. There is never a TIME when GOD (YHVH) comes to rescue us, only then to leave us with the wolves to fend for ourselves, or to be wounded and harmed.

We see how often we are taken to a place of safety. Repeatedly, we see that GOD (YHVH) intervenes in our circumstances and then leads us to a place of safety. What we need to realize and always remember is the place where we are taken to – we are taken to a **stronghold!!!!**

This word “**fortress**” carries the connotation of a mountain / castle... a place where others will not be able to easily come. Now, start thinking about MASADA / or equally valid—GAMLA—the Masada of the North.

Read up about these fortresses - and then convert that physical image into a spiritual one.

The boundary stones of our Covenant with YHVH form the walls of this Spiritual Fortress that the Holy Spirit wraps around those who walk in obedience to His Commandments.

We may have doubts and fears—after all, *the Pharaohs of this world will chase after us, to recapture us.*

But there is **always a safe passage through the rough seas.**

David had been through rough times—had a spear thrown at him, he had to hide in the wilderness, he had to fight against all sorts of enemies—**and yet, through it all, he kept his faith.**

2 Samuel 22:17-21, 29 *17 He sent from on high, he took me and pulled me out of deep water; 18 he rescued me from my powerful enemy, from those who hated me, for they were stronger than I. 19 They came against me on my day of calamity, but Adonai was my support. 20 He brought me out to an open place; he rescued me, because he took pleasure in me. 21 Adonai rewarded me for my uprightness, he repaid me because my hands were clean. 29 “For You, ADONAI, are my Lamp; ADONAI lights up my darkness. With You I can run through a whole troop of men, with my God I can leap a wall.*

FORTRESSES



Man builds fortresses that are often too much for fellow man to conquer. Think about MASADA, and the fact that thousands of Romans were kept at bay for many years.

Satan builds fortresses - of worldly vices / pleasures / and habits that keep man in prison. **This is a fortress that is more aptly described as a jail.**

GOD (YHVH)'s fortresses are the boundary stones of the COVENANT. While we remain on the inside of this fortress we are safe.

***Psalm 18:31** As for God, His way is perfect, the Word of ADONAI has been tested by fire; He shields all who take refuge in Him.*

***Psalm 18:32** For who is God but ADONAI? Who is a Rock but our God?*

***Psalm 18:33** It is God who girds me with strength; He makes my way go straight. He makes me swift, sure-footed as a deer, and enables me to stand on my high places. He trains my hands for war until my arms can bend a bow of bronze.*

***Psalm 18:36** You give me Your Shield, which is Salvation, Your Right Hand holds me up, Your humility makes me great. You lengthen the steps I can take, yet my ankles do not turn.*

MY HOUSE

The family unit, the tribe / the community that I serve in over time begins to reflect what GOD (YHVH) calls “my house”, when this house is built on the ROCK (and here we speak of the foundation stones of our Covenant) then therefore when tribulation comes, I will **STAND**.

Many people teach that Peter is the rock. Are we sure this is correct...? May I suggest that you revisit this thought pattern.

Matthew 16:15-18 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed), the Son of the living God.” ¹⁷ Then Jesus answered him, “Blessed [happy, spiritually secure, favored by God] are you, Simon son of Jonah, because flesh and blood (mortal man) did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I say to **you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church**; and the gates of Hades (death) will not overpower it [by preventing the resurrection of the Christ]. You give me Your Shield, which is Salvation, Your Right Hand holds me up, Your humility makes me great. You lengthen the steps I can take, yet my ankles do not turn.

Y’shua asked Peter **Who** he thought He was.

Y’shua said: “**And I say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church**” In other words the Body of Messiah will be **built on the revelation that MESSIAH Y’shua is the Rock Who is our Rescuer / Salvation (i.e. not on a man’s revelation of a leader ability)**. We need a foundation that is built on truth, on the Torah on which we can trust and understand-- on the pure WORD of GOD (YHVH), and NOT on the charisma of man, nor on the traditions of man - **but on the pure WORD of GOD (YHVH)**.

He is the Corner Stone / Rock of our Living Stone Tabernacle.

Matthew 7:24-27 So, everyone who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a sensible man who **built his house on bedrock**. The rain fell, the rivers flooded, the winds blew and beat against that house, but it didn’t collapse, because its foundation was on rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a stupid man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, the rivers flooded, the wind blew and beat against that house, and it collapsed — and its collapse was horrendous!

How true!!!

If we build on any other foundation—religious works / legalism / grace without works, and so forth, we will not be standing on the foundation that is Messiah.

LESSONS FROM HISTORY

Paul tells us that we must observe the physical to be able to apply some of these lessons into our spiritual reality.

Most people have read / heard the story of what happened at Masada – but it's not the only one!!! Of interest, there is a lesser-known story published by Shalom Pollack in the Jewish Press.¹

“We are all well familiar with the dramatic last stand of the Jewish rebels on Masada against the Roman Legions after the destruction of the Second *Bais HaMikdash*.

But according to Josephus Flavius (Yosef ben Matityahu) a very similar drama took place on another isolated mountain in the very north of the country.

On the southern end of the Golan Heights stands an isolated hump backed mountain named Gamla. The name Gamla means camel and the mountain resembles an isolated camel's hump surrounded by deep ravines on all sides. Gamla was a Jewish district town when the great revolt against Rome broke out in 66 CE.

One thousand four hundred years earlier, Moshe *Rabbeinu* conquered this land from Og the giant of Bashan. Two and a half tribes requested the lands to the east of the Jordan River for their inheritance and so a part of the tribe of Menashe settled on what is today the Golan Heights, or the Bashan.

When Yehoshua (Joshua) divided up the Promised Land amongst the tribes, cities of refuge to be used by people guilty of manslaughter were established on either side of the Jordan. Gamla may have been one of these Biblical cities of refuge.

Fast forward to the time of the Great Revolt and we find Gamla as a strategic point in the struggle. Not only was it an isolated walled town that received rebels and refugees from the advancing Roman armies, it was the headquarters of the rebels. It was geographically on the Northeast frontier and close to two possible threats to Rome.

First, the Parthian empire was not far from this frontier and it would be a perfect opportunity for them to weaken Roman rule on the international frontier – and aid the rebels. Second, there was the possibility that the very large and influential Jewish communities to the east of the Roman boundaries would come to their brothers' aid.

For these reasons it was deemed necessary to make an example of Gamla at the very outset of the rebellion.

In the beginning, Gamla held well against the Romans. However, in a bold move the Romans managed to tunnel under one of the watch towers and undermined it so that it crumbled. They then rushed into the gap. Meanwhile, the Jewish fighters began pulling their families up the slope on the roofs towards the hump of the mountain.

Josephus describes how the Romans pursued them, when suddenly the extreme weight of the soldiers bunching together as they charged up caused the roofs to buckle and the soldiers fell into the buildings and down the slope. Panic broke out and in the thick of the night, with clouds of dust hindering their sight, the stunned Romans hacked at each other as they beat a hasty retreat out the walls.



¹ <http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/132790>

But this was just a tactical victory. The Romans filled in the ravine and brought the entire army to the walls, not repeating their earlier mistakes. What happened next was inevitable. The Romans slowly made their way up the slope forcing the defenders to the summit as they formed a protective ring around their families at the very top. Rather than fall into the hands of the sadistic Romans they took their families by their hands and leaped to the depths of the ravine. One can guess what the last words were on their lips as they faced certain death... *Shema Yisrael*.

Thus Gamla fell. Four years later the *Beis HaMikdash* was destroyed and three years after that Masada fell.

For almost two thousand years Gamla lie in ruins, her stones sharing their story with no one.

It was only after the miraculous Six Day War in 1967 that her sons returned. When Israel liberated the Golan from Syria, Israeli archaeologists were thrilled at the opportunity to explore and uncover. And uncover they did! Dozens of Jewish towns with synagogues and *mikvaot*. They even found Rabi Eliezer Hakapar's study hall!



But the greatest find was the oldest synagogue in the world! And the story of the first brave stand against the Roman Empire was revealed by Professor Shmirayu Gutman, who I had the honor of speaking with as he uncovered the site in 1980. As he held up a coin found in Gamla which displays the word “redemption” and a vessel from the Temple, tears came to his eyes as he exclaimed, “Now I understand what all this sacrifice was for. It was not for Gamla alone but rather it was for the redemption.” The redemption of Jerusalem and the Jewish People. It was for this they gave their lives.”

****NUGGET** Men have built fortresses that have withstood unbelievable attacks. YHVH tells us that His Fortress—the Tabernacle made of Living Stones will withstand all attacks. Are you a part of that Tabernacle?**

3. GOD IS MY SAVIOUR AND DELIVERER

As humans we make wrong choices. Sometimes those choices cause a break in our relationship with the FATHER. Afterwards we can kick ourselves—why did we do it ... why did we not see the trap?

GOD (YHVH) tells us through Moses that we should seek “*discernment*” from Him. Look at Solomon, he asks for **wisdom**.

- ☑ Have you asked for wisdom?
- ☑ Do you ask the Holy Spirit for guidance?

Deuteronomy 32:28-34 *They are a nation without common sense, utterly lacking in discernment. If they were wise they could figure it out and understand their destiny. After all, how can one chase a thousand and two put ten thousand to rout, unless their Rock sells them to their enemies, unless ADONAI hands them over? For our enemies have no rock like our Rock - even they can see that! 32 Rather, their vine is from the vine of S'dom, from the fields of 'Amora - their grapes are poisonous, their clusters are bitter; their wine is snake poison, the cruel venom of vipers.*

What a description! Those without a Godly foundation, those without discernment are poisonous / bitter / full of venom!!!



How often have we turned to GOD (YHVH) to provide? These verses below, speak of the Hand of provision from GOD (YHVH), but there is also a hidden message. A message which implies that there are resources / talents / abilities that are sealed up in MY storehouse.

What has GOD (YHVH) placed inside of your mind, which is to be set free to visualize all of the opportunities that GOD (YHVH) has lined up for you.

Deuteronomy 32:34 *Isn't this hidden with me, sealed in my storehouses?*

2 Samuel 22:25-28, 31-32 44-46 *Hence ADONAI repaid me for my uprightness, according to my purity in His view. With the merciful, you are merciful; with the champion of purity, you are pure; with the honest, you are honest; but with the crooked you are cunning. People afflicted, you save; but when Your eyes are on the haughty, You humble them. As for God, His way is perfect, the Word of ADONAI has been tested by fire; He shields all who take refuge in Him. For who is God but ADONAI, and who is a Rock but our God? You also freed me from the quarrels of my people. You kept me to be the head of the nations; a people I did not know now serve me. Foreigners come cringing to me; the moment they hear of me, they obey me. Foreigners lose heart as they stagger from their fortresses.*

My ROCK is the source of all TRUTH and the Giver of the Holy Spirit.

When my life direction is based on His WORD, and **my vision of my Calling is aligned with the POTENTIAL that God has imparted to me**, then I will take dominion over the earth.

The key concept in this verse is the understanding that we should be “**doing**” His Will—obedience to the Commandments.

Matthew 16:16-19 Shim'on Kefa answered, “You are the Mashiach, the Son of the living God.” Shim'on Bar-Yochanan, Yeshua said to him, “how blessed you are! For no human being revealed this to you, no, it was My Father in Heaven. I also tell you this: you are Kefa, [which means ‘Rock’], and on this Rock I will build My Community, and the gates of Sh’ol will not overcome it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you prohibit on earth will be prohibited in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.”

- 👉 A wise man **does** what he hears GOD (YHVH) tell him to do.
- 👉 A wise man **thinks of the long term**.
- 👉 A wise man **builds a legacy**.

Luke 6:47-49 Everyone who comes to Me, hears My Words and acts on them — I will show you what he is like: he is like someone building a house who dug deep and laid the foundation on bedrock. When a flood came, the torrent beat against that house but couldn't shake it, because it was constructed well. And whoever hears My Words but doesn't act on them is like someone who built his house on the ground without any foundation. As soon as the river struck it, it collapsed and that house became a horrendous wreck!

4. GOD, MY ROCK IS TO BE PRAISED AND BLESSED

2 Samuel 22.4 I call on ADONAI, who is worthy of praise; and I am saved from my enemies.

As soon as I know what I have (eternity) and I realize what the price was that was paid, I will seek to worship GOD (YHVH) with praises, acts of obedience, with a set-apart Priestly lifestyle.

When we take things for granted, when our levels of appreciation fall, we allow the “old man” to rise up and glorify our own ego. It is when we exist in this see-saw life of compromise, that our own level of integrity or commitment can waver, as we do not have the constant standard of righteousness to believe in. Every time that we allow the old man to stand up and rule we set the pattern of defeat into our mind and into our hearts.

Living under continuous praise and within the boundary of the covenant, builds a pattern of spiritual warfare that can never be overtaken.

2 Samuel 22:47-50 ADONAI is alive! Blessed is my Rock! Exalted be God, the Rock of my salvation, the God who gives me vengeance and makes peoples submit to me. He brings me out from my enemies. You raise me over those who rebel against me, you rescue me from violent men. 50 So I give thanks to You, ADONAI, among the nations; I sing praises to Your Name.

I can be like a dove, hidden in the ROCK.

It is in the quiet place of INTIMACY that I will hear GOD (YHVH) speak, and “see”, visualize the Father’s love for me, A prayer closet - *the tallit*² covering can become my cleft in the ROCK. We live in a busy world. In many instances if we do not react immediately, we lose out. With this mindset, we seldom sit down to be quiet. The WORD tells us that it’s only when we are set apart, that we will hear the Small Still voice of GOD (YHVH).



Song of Songs 2:14 My dove, hiding in holes in the rock, in the secret recesses of the cliff, let me see your face and hear your voice; for your voice is sweet, and your face is lovely.

A FINAL THOUGHT

The ROCK will always be there - our ROCK will never fail you. Reflect on the way that GOD delivered on His promises, AND the **results in the lives** of those Israelites that entered the Land.

² A fringed garment traditionally worn either under or over one's clothing by Jewish males. It is a poncho-like garment with a hole for the head and special twined and knotted fringes known as tzitzit attached to its four corners. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tallit>

Consider the daily reports of items found that date back to that time, with names that can be traced back to the Bible. Believe that YHVH still looks out for you today. Make the choice to choose life, **imitate their faith / trust, and live with the expectation that GOD (YHVH) will be the ROCK in your life.**

Hebrews 13:5-8 *Keep your lives free from the love of money; and be satisfied with what you have; for God Himself has said, "I will never fail you or abandon you." Therefore, we say with confidence, "ADONAI is my Helper; I will not be afraid —what can a human being do to me?" 7 Remember your leaders, those who spoke God's message to you. Reflect on the results of their way of life, and imitate their trust — Yeshua the Messiah is the same yesterday, today and forever.*

2 Samuel 22:20 *He brought me out to an open place; He rescued me, because He took pleasure in me. ADONAI rewarded me for my uprightness, He repaid me because my hands were clean.*



“Y’varekh’kha YHVH v’yishmerekha.
May YHVH bless you and keep you.

Ya’er YHVH panav eleikha vichunekka.
May YHVH make His Face shine on you and show you His favour.

Yissa YHVH panav eleikha v’yasem l’kha shalom.
May YHVH lift up His Face toward you and give you peace.

In this way they are to put My Name on the people of Israel, so that I will bless them.” --**Numbers 6:24-27**

Shalom!!