

That The World May Know – The Life and Ministry of the Messiah – Session 2: My Rock and My Fortress

A Fortress in the Wilderness

1. Where did David hide when King Saul was seeking to him?
1 Samuel 23:14 – 29
2. David found safe hiding places in the wilderness. What did he consider to be his true protection?
Psalm 18:1 – 2
Psalm 18:46 – 50
Psalm 63:1 – 11
Psalm 71:1 – 24
Psalm 144:1 – 15
3. Long after David sought refuge from King Saul, Herod the Great built the fortress of Masada in the same wilderness. How did David and Herod view their protection differently?
4. Consider how Jesus would have you view your efforts to protect and provide for your needs. Remember the contrasting views of Herod and David.

The Quest for Their Own King

1. What did the Jews of Jesus' day eagerly await? Why did they want it so much?
John 6:1 – 14
2. How did the desire of the Jewish people in general compare to the desire of the zealots who captured and defended Masada?
3. What kind of freedom, peace, and kingdom did Jesus come to offer?
John 8: 31 – 38
John 14: 19 – 27
John 16: 29 – 33
John 18: 33 – 37
4. What was Simon, a disciple of Jesus?
Matthew 10:1 – 4
Acts 1: 12 – 14
5. Scripture records several events in the Garden of Gethsemane. What were the disciples' expectations? What did Jesus have in mind?
Matthew 26:47 – 56
Luke 22:47 – 53
John 18:1 – 14
6. What caused Jesus such deep grief as He approached Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the cheers of the people?
Luke 19:28 – 44
7. After Jesus' resurrection, what did His disciples ask Him? What does the question reveal?
Acts 1:1 – 11

David: Committed to God, Even in the Wilderness

Recalling David's time in the desert wilderness near Masada and En Gedi provides important lessons for us in learning to trust God and depend on Him. David's faith in God and his willingness to submit to God's will have become a model to believers today.

1. Why did God reject Saul as king and select David?
1 Samuel 13:1 – 15
1 Samuel 15:10 – 11;
1 Samuel 16:1 – 12
2. Even before David became a hero, what was his motivation?
1 Samuel 17:45 – 49
3. Saul hated David and tried to kill him various times. Describe David's state of mind while Saul was pursuing him?
1 Samuel 18:10 – 11;
1 Samuel 19:9 – 10;

Psalm 62:1 – 8 was written about the same time. What was David's state of mind while Saul was pursuing him?
4. What were David's circumstances, and what was God's provision for him in these passages?
2 Samuel 22:1 – 7
Psalm 18:1 – 6
Psalm 31:1 – 13
Psalm 71:1 – 9
Psalm 91:1 – 16
Psalm 144:1 – 4

The Lord is Our Rock

Many parts of Israel are quite rocky, especially The Wilderness. This geographical condition, combined with the Hebrew's practice of describing spiritual reality by using the concrete images of the world in which they lived, led to the Jews' frequent use of the term "rock" to describe the character of their God.

1. When David was in the wilderness, to what did he attribute his safety?
2 Samuel 22:1 – 3
 2. How can you know that David clearly connected the image of a rock with Israel's God?
2 Samuel 22:47
2 Samuel 23:3
 3. What is the image of God as a rock in these passages? Psalm 18:31 – 35
Psalm 62:1 – 2
Psalm 62:5 – 8
 4. What images did Moses use to describe God?
Deuteronomy 32:4
Deuteronomy 32:15,
Deuteronomy 32:18?
 5. How did God describe himself to the people of Israel through the prophet Isaiah?
Isaiah 44:1 – 8
 6. What did Paul describe as a rock?
1 Corinthians 10:1 – 4
- What does he say that rock did?

References

Deuteronomy 32	Matthew 9
1 Samuel 13	Matthew 10
1 Samuel 15	Matthew 12
1 Samuel 16	Matthew 24
1 Samuel 17	Matthew 26
1 Samuel 18	Mark 1
1 Samuel 19	Mark 3
1 Samuel 23	Mark 5
2 Samuel 22	Mark 7
2 Samuel 23	Luke 2
Psalm 18	Luke 8
Psalm 31	Luke 19
Psalm 62	Luke 22
Psalm 63	John 6
Psalm 71	John 8
Psalm 91	John 14
Psalm 144	John 16
Isaiah 44	John 18
Matthew 6	Acts 1
Matthew 8	1 Corinthians 10

Jesus did not come to improve your life, a little tweak here and a little tweak there. Jesus came to transplant a new way of thinking into your mind, a new way of living into your soul. Once we join Jesus and pursue God's vision for this world, everything changes. You will go places you never thought you would go.. You will ask God for what you need and trust God to provide. And you may find there is not as much need to worry.

Ephesians 4:1 – 6: As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Timeline of Events

198 – 167 B.C.	Oppression under Hellenistic Seleucids
167 B.C.	Maccabee revolt
167 – 63 B.C.	Hasmonaean kingdom
37 B.C.	Herod the Great begins reign
About 6 B.C.	Jesus is born
4 B.C.	Herod the Great dies
About 30 A.D.	Jesus is crucified
66 – 73 A.D.	First Jewish Revolt
70 A.D.	Jerusalem and the temple are destroyed
73 A.D.	Masada falls

The Seeds of Revolt

After the Romans began their occupation of Judea in 64 B.C., the Jews became divided on how to respond

Religious leaders, particularly the Pharisees	Most believed the Messiah would come from the Jewish people (God's instruments) and make Israel a great, free nation; condemned Rome's excesses; vied Romans as oppressors punishing God's people for their unfaithfulness to the Torah.
Sadducees and secular leaders	Manny decided to cooperate with the Romans, who gave them various privileges (John 11:49 – 50)
Zealots	Proclaimed revolution to be God's solution to Roman oppression (Acts 5:37)
Essenes	Waited for the Messiah to lead a violent overthrow of the Romans and their Jewish supporters
Herodians	Satisfied with Herod's dynasty (Matthew 22:16)