

Lessons from Babel

SAND - BRICK - STONE

CINNAMON STUDIES #303

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We all know the classic Bible verses that explain the Lord as our *Rock*, but in this study, we are going to turn a superficial catch phrase into something much deeper and revive the true meaning that was understood in the Ancient Near East that has been lost today. The bible mentions “Rock” many times, but it also mentions *other forms of stone*, like brick and sand to name a few. We will break down the essential differences between rock, sand, and brick and why knowing this information is essential to your growth with the Lord. Let us begin with a few simple verses where the Bible explains the Lord as our Rock, an established foundation that we rely upon that cannot be shaken. The way, **the truth**, and the light of the Lord is our Rock.

“ The Lord is my rock, 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. -*Psalm 18:2*

“ There is none holy as the Lord: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God. -*1 Samuel 2:2*

I encourage you to look up more verses about the Lord being our Rock. The bible is filled with them. Some others include:

Psalm 144:1, Matthew 16:18, 2 Sam 22:32, Deut 32:18, Psalm 62:2, Luke 8:13, Deut 32:4, 1 Cor 10:4, Isa 51:1

We can't forget the parable in Matthew of the man who builds his house on a rock.

“ Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it. - *Matthew 7:24-27*

When we look at this parable there is more to it than meets the eye. When we examine the wise man who built his house on a rock, we know from above that the rock is the Lord.

Rock = Lord - Meaning His knowledge, Words, Commandments, etc

If the rock is the Lord, then the wind, rain, and floods must symbolize something scripturally as well. Further, what these elements symbolize must be a danger of what the Lord protects us from if we rest in Him, our Rock.

Lets examine the scriptures.

Rain:

Rain has two meanings depending on context. Damnation or blessing. Since the context of Matthew is in the form of a negative context, being that the Lord is protecting us from it, rain here symbolizes cursing/damnation.

“ Say unto them which daub it with untempered mortar, that it shall fall: there shall be an overflowing shower; and ye, O great hailstones, shall fall; and a stormy wind shall rend it.

Therefore thus saith the Lord God; I will even rend it with a stormy wind in my fury; and there shall be an overflowing shower in mine anger, and great hailstones in my fury to consume it.

-*Ezekiel 13:11, 13*

“ He gave them hail for rain, and flaming fire in their land.

-*Psalms 105:32*

“ And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the Lord sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; and the Lord rained hail upon the land of Egypt.

So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation. - *Exodus 9:23-24*

“ Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup. - *Psalms 11:6*

Wind :

The bible describes wind in the same sense that it does rain, in regards to their being both a negative and positive context. In the negative, wind is a false doctrine, as explained by scripture.

“ That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; - *Ephesians 4:14*

“ He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart. - *Proverbs 11:29*

“ And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. - *Job 1:19*

“ How long wilt thou speak these [things]? and [how long shall] the words of thy mouth [be like] a strong wind? - *Job 8:2*

“ The ungodly [are] not so: but [are] like the chaff which the wind driveth away. - *Psalms 1:4*

“He sendeth out his word, and melteth them: he causeth his wind to blow, [and] the waters flow. -
Psalms 147:18

“And the LORD shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make [men] go over dryshod. -*Isaiah 11:15*

If you have extra time, I encourage you to look at the positive aspects of these words in scripture, it is quite fascinating.

Lastly we examine the word “floods” in scripture.

Floods are represented in scripture both as temptations and inundations.

When searching for verses to demonstrate this meaning, I stumbled upon *Isaiah 54:8*. Upon first glance, if reading through the KJV, you may not see the word “flood/overflow” because in the KJV it is translated as the word “**little**”, however, translated in the Hebrew, the word is in fact Strong's #8241 “*Shetseph*”

Word Origin: Derived from an unused root meaning “to be strong or to rage.”

Corresponding Greek / Hebrew Entries: While there is no direct Greek equivalent for “shetseph,” the concept of divine wrath and overwhelming power can be found in Greek terms such as “ὀργή” (orgē - Strong's Greek 3709) meaning wrath, and “κατακλυσμός” (kataklysmos - Strong's Greek 2627) meaning flood or deluge.

Usage: The Hebrew word “shetseph” primarily conveys the idea of an overwhelming force, often used metaphorically to describe a flood or a surge of wrath. It is associated with intense, uncontrollable power, whether in the form of natural phenomena or divine anger. In the context of the Bible, it often refers to God's righteous indignation against sin and disobedience.

Cultural and Historical Background: In ancient Near Eastern cultures, floods were both feared and revered as symbols of divine power and judgment. The imagery of a flood was commonly used to describe overwhelming destruction or divine retribution. In the Hebrew Bible, such imagery underscores the seriousness of God's judgment and the need for repentance and obedience to His commandments.

“ In a **little** wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer. - *Isaiah 54:8*

“ Which were cut down out of time, whose foundation was overflown with a flood -*Job 22:16*

“ Behold, the Lord hath a mighty and strong one, [which] as a tempest of hail [and] a destroying storm, as a flood of mighty waters overflowing, shall cast down to the earth with the hand. -
-*Isaiah 28:2*

“ So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him. - *Isaiah 59:19*

“ The sorrows of death compassed me, and the floods of ungodly men made me afraid.
- *Psalms 18:4*

When *Genesis 11:3* states they used *brick for stone*, the Lord is teaching us that what these people worship is based on a **false foundation**, therefore counterfeit. They worship themselves, (self-worship) the work of their own hands, their ideas...*their own way*.

“ I have spread out my hands all the day unto a rebellious people, which walketh in a way that was not good, after their own thoughts;

A people that provoketh me to anger continually to my face; that sacrificeth in gardens, and burneth incense upon altars of brick; -*Isaiah 65:2-3*

“ Their land also is full of idols; they worship the work of their own hands, that which their own fingers have made:
- *Isaiah 2:8*

“ Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.
-*Isaiah 28:16*

“ The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. -*Psalm 118:22*

When we read just a bit further to verse 4 in chapter 11 of Genesis, Scripture says :

“ And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and **let us make us a name**, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

This is a verse I talk about often with the Church. The word “*name*” in English, translates to the Hebrew word “*Shem*” **Strong's 8034**.

This is particularly significant information because the English word “*name*” does not carry the same definition and meaning in Ancient Near East times. It carries a much deeper definition.

Name (Shem) denotes authority or character. It reflects the nature of the individual or entity it represents.

So when scripture says “*let us make a name for ourselves,*” the verse is saying that they are not following the ways of the Lord and His Authority, rather, they are saying, *let us make **our own authority***.

We conclude this study with the repetitive, and thorough message hidden so plainly in Scripture, which is to remember that your ways, your thoughts, ideas, and foundations are nothing but unstable sand. Our only sure foundation is in Christ, which means to understand the true meanings and words within Scripture. This is why it is so important to study and dig, because reading something upon first glance, with little care, is how many denominations and blasphemous theologies are formed, they are forming bricks for stone. It is to those who diligently seek the word of the Lord that reap the beauty and truth of Christ, and that truth is our foundation which cannot be shaken.

“ Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! -*Isaiah 5:21*

“ And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.
- *Jeremiah 29:13*