

# JESUS - THE ROCK THAT WAS STRUCK

Christ Prefigured in the OT

# Theological Overview

- ***Truths in Tension***
  - ▣ **Charles Spurgeon:** “The system of truth is not one straight line, but two. No man will ever get a right view of the gospel until he knows how to look at the two lines at once.”
  - ▣ Many doctrines of Scripture cannot be reduced to a single statement. The teaching of Scripture often leads us to hold two seemingly conflicting truths in tension.



# Theological Overview

- ***Assurance of Salvation/ Eternal Security***
  - ▣ When we study what Scripture says about assurance of salvation or eternal security we also come, not to a single truth, but to two truths in tension.
  - ▣ **First Truth:** Only those who continue in their faith unto death (or the second coming of Jesus) will be saved. (Matthew 10:22; John 8:31; Colossians 1:21-23; Hebrews 3:14)

# Theological Overview

- <sup>ESV</sup> **Matthew 10:22** and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.
- <sup>NAU</sup> **John 8:31** So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine;

# Theological Overview

- <sup>ESV</sup> **Colossians 1:21-23** And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup> he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, <sup>23</sup> if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.
- <sup>NAU</sup> **Hebrews 3:14** For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end,

# Theological Overview

- ***Assurance of Salvation/ Eternal Security***
  - ▣ **Second Truth:** All true believers will continue in their faith unto death (or the second coming of Jesus) by the power of God. (John 10:27; Romans 8:30; Philippians 1:6)

# Theological Overview

- NKJ **John 10:27** "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. <sup>28</sup> "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. <sup>29</sup> "My Father, who has given *them* to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of My Father's hand.

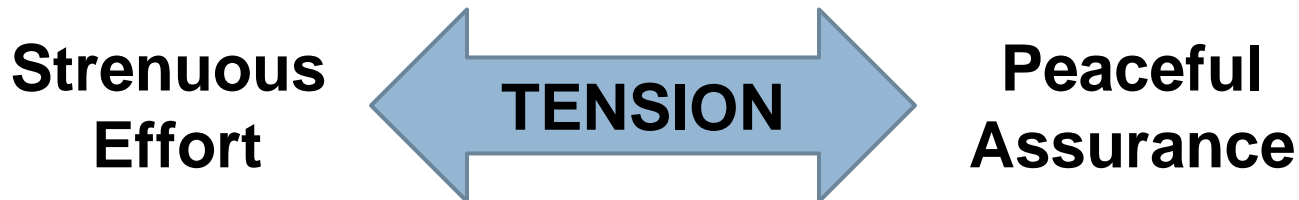
# Theological Overview

- <sup>NIV</sup> **Romans 8:30** And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.
- <sup>ESV</sup> **Philippians 1:6** And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.



# Theological Overview

- ***Assurance of Salvation/ Eternal Security***
  - ▣ **Tension:** Do you feel the tension? Is my eternal security dependent on my effort or on God's power? Is my assurance based on my subjective experience or on the objective truths of the gospel?



# Theological Overview

- ***Purpose of the doctrine:***
  - ▣ **Negative application:** These truths should produce worry and fear in those who are not walking with God.
  - ▣ **Positive application:** These truths should bring comfort and assurance to those who are truly walking with God.

# First Corinthians 9:24-10:22

## □ **Context**

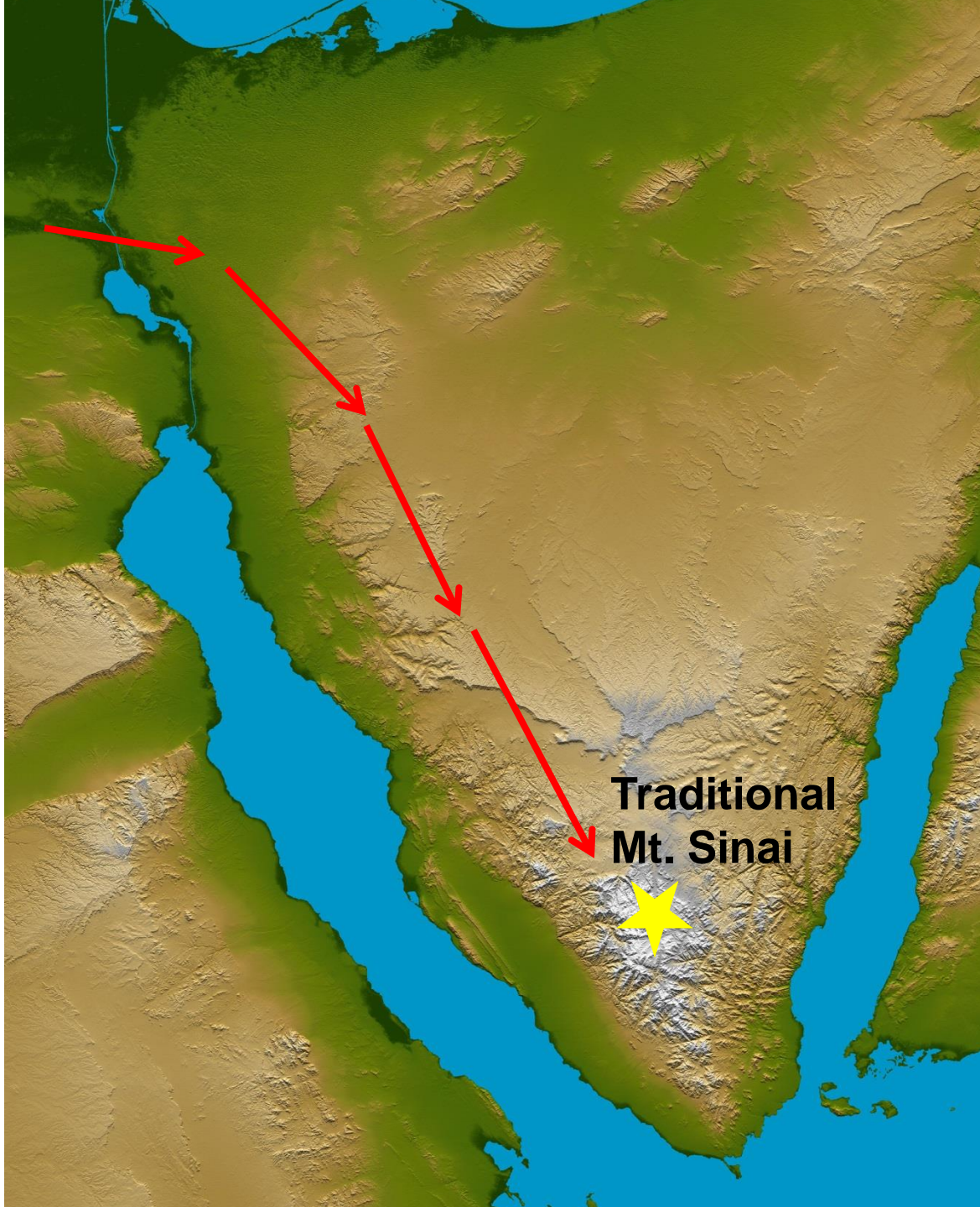
- The Corinthians think they are doing well spiritually and yet they are participating in idolatrous meals. They are committing these acts of idolatry without feeling any sense of guilt or fear.
- Paul is warning them. Be careful, it's not because you were baptized, and are a member of the church, that heaven is guaranteed. There is a holy and faithful life to be lived. In order to illustrate the danger, he reminds them of Israel in the wilderness!

# First Corinthians 9:24-10:22

- ***A Typological Example (10:1-13)***
  - ▣ **Privileges Enjoyed:** They benefited from certain tokens of God's grace:
  - ▣ **Failed responsibility:** They craved evil things. They took for granted God's blessings and provisions. They failed to endure to the end.
  - ▣ **Outcome:** They perished in the wilderness. They never made it into the Promised Land.
  - ▣ **Application:** The Corinthians also enjoyed certain privileges but were failing in their responsibilities. Paul is telling them to watch out.

# First Corinthians 9:24-10:22

- ***Questions for Tonight:***
  - ▣ How does the rock in Exodus, from which water flowed, represent Christ?
  - ▣ How does that story, with its Christological implications, relate to what Paul is saying in Corinthians?



**Traditional  
Mt. Sinai**



# The Rock is Jesus Christ (Ex. 17:1-7)



## **Psalm 81:7c**

“I tested you at the waters of Meribah.”



# The Rock is Jesus Christ (Ex. 17:1-7)

## □ *The People test God:*

- The people quarrel with Moses and God. To “quarrel” is more serious and threatening than to murmur. **Quarreled= rîb:**
  - It can denote a physically violent conflict.
  - The verb can also refer to verbal conflict, to dispute, argue.
  - The word also has legal-judicial overtones. It can refer to the act of arguing a case against someone (Prov. 25:8-9).

# The Rock is Jesus Christ (Ex. 17:1-7)

## □ *God's Instructions*

- **Pass on before the people and go:** Start hiking Moses. Make sure everybody sees you go. Go to Horeb. Moses knows where that is because he has been there before (Exodus 3:1-2).

# The Rock is Jesus Christ (Ex. 17:1-7)

**Exodus 3:1-2** Now Moses was pasturing the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian; and he led the flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.<sup>2</sup> The angel of the LORD appeared to him in a blazing fire from the midst of a bush; and he looked, and behold, the bush was burning with fire, yet the bush was not consumed.

Camp of  
Israel at  
Rephidim

The diagram consists of an orange circle on the left containing the text 'Camp of Israel at Rephidim'. A blue arrow points from the circle towards a grey triangle on the right. The arrow contains the text '12 - 25 Miles'. Below the triangle is the text 'Horeb = Mt. Sinai'.

12 - 25 Miles

**Horeb = Mt. Sinai**

# The Rock is Jesus Christ (Ex. 17:1-7)

## □ ***God's Instructions***

- Whatever is going to happen is going to happen some distance from the camp.
- When a judicial act was carried out, it often took place outside the camp or city (Numb. 15; 1 Kings 21:13; Luke 4).

# The Rock is Jesus Christ (Ex. 17:1-7)

## □ ***God's Instructions***

- **Take some elders of Israel:** Make sure you have legal witnesses to what happens.
- **Take the rod with which you struck the Nile:** The rod here is explicitly connected with the first plague of judgment on Egypt. So Moses is to take, not a rod of salvation, but a rod of judgment with him.
  - The word “struck” is “naka” and it is an interesting word because it can mean to hit a person or object, or beat a person or object, or commonly, to kill or strike dead.

# The Rock is Jesus Christ (Ex. 17:1-7)

## □ *God's Instructions*

### ▣ **I will stand before you on the rock:**

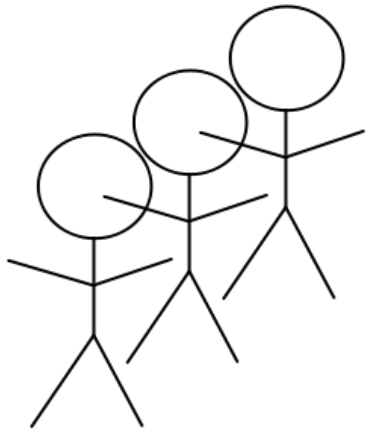
- The greater does not stand before the lesser. Yahweh is king! Yahweh does not stand before men. Men always stand before God (See Ex. 6:12, 30; 16:9, 33). God is standing before Moses as a criminal might stand before a judge.
- God stands on or over the rock. God is identifying himself with the rock.

# The Rock is Jesus Christ (Ex. 17:1-7)

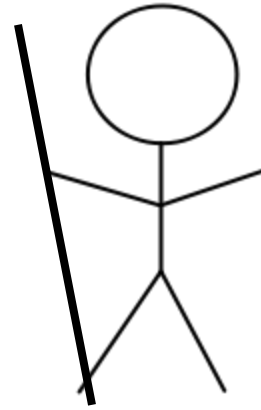
## □ *God's Instructions*

- **Strike the rock:** Just as Moses “naka” the Nile in judgment, he is to “naka” the rock in judgment.

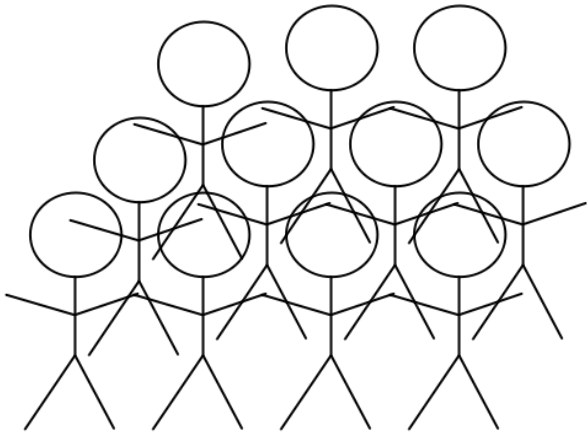




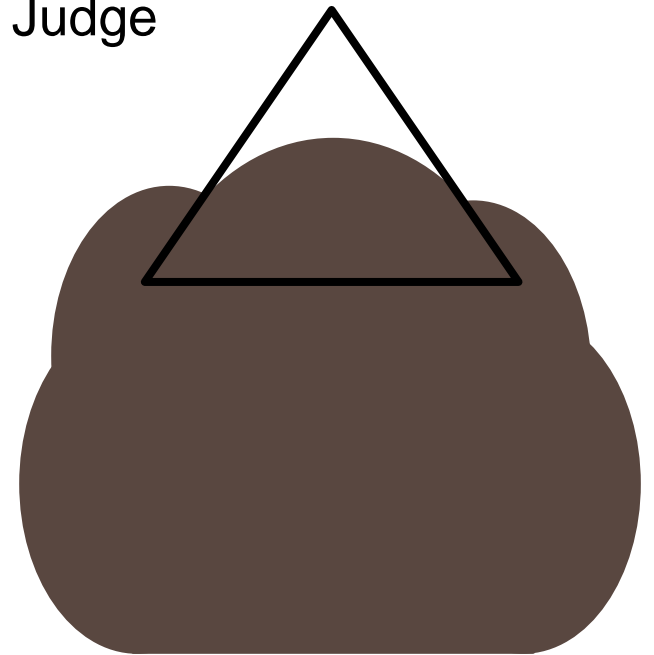
Elders = Witnesses



Moses = Judge



People = Accusers



God = Accused

# The Rock is Jesus Christ (Ex. 17:1-7)

## □ ***God's Instructions***

- Moses strikes God in judgment. But instead of bloody water like at the Nile, fresh, life-giving water pours out of the rock. Judgment brought life.

# The Rock is Jesus Christ (Ex. 17:1-7)

- **Edmund Clowney:** The people had cried in the accusation of unbelief, “Is the LORD among us or not?” Yes, the LORD was among them, among them in a way they could not have imagined. There He stood upon the rock; not only among them but in their place, bearing their condemnation” (126).

# The Rock is Jesus Christ (Ex. 17:1-7)

## □ *God's Instructions*

- **Conclusion:** I believe Moses must have understood what was going on because years later, towards the ends of his life, he taught a song to Israel in which he remembers this event:
  - **Deuteronomy 32:3-4** "Ascribe greatness to our God! The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He."

# The Rock is Jesus Christ (Ex. 17:1-7)

- ***The Rock corresponds to Christ. (1 Cor. 10:4)***
  - ▣ Once again God, Jesus, comes to deliver his people. But this time, not from a political bondage, but from a spiritual bondage.
  - ▣ Once again God, Jesus, manifests himself in miraculous ways providing bread and meat, healing the sick, etc...
  - ▣ Once again God, Jesus, is put to the test. The people of Israel assume a posture of unbelief. The religious leaders cry, “Show us a sign that we might believe you.” Prove yourself to us!

# The Rock is Jesus Christ (Ex. 17:1-7)

- ***The Rock corresponds to Christ. (1 Cor. 10:4)***
  - Once again God, Jesus, is placed on trial. He stands as the accused before the people of Israel. And even though the people passed sentence on Jesus, ultimately God was issuing the verdict of guilty on himself.
  - Once again God, Jesus, is punished (naka) for the sins of the people. This type was fulfilled literally as a spear (a rod of sorts) was driven into his side.
  - Once again life-giving water flows from the place judgment. John points to the fact that this literally took place, blood and water flowed from his side.
  - Once again God's people are taught to sing of Christ our rock, who has revealed his justice and righteousness by taking the blow of judgment which we deserved.

# Significance and Application with Relationship to 1 Cor. 10

- ***Jesus was struck with the rod of judgment so that we could drink of the water of life.***
  - ▣ God in Christ responds to our sin and rebellion by taking our punishment upon himself so that we can experience his grace.

# Significance and Application with Relationship to 1 Cor. 10

- ***Partaking of the benefits which flow from the cross of Jesus does not automatically make us immune from falling into sin.***
  - ▣ It is possible to taste of many good gifts that flow from the cross of Jesus Christ and yet not enter the Promised Land of heaven.
  - ▣ Partaking of God's benefits does not guarantee his favor.



# Significance and Application with Relationship to 1 Cor. 10

- ***Assurance of salvation must not be derived from the enjoyment of the life-giving benefits of the cross but rather from the life-transforming power of the cross to produce true faith and holiness.***
  - ▣ How do we know that we belong to God, that we are on our way to the celestial city? Not by the tokens of God's grace which we receive and experience but by the good fruit that is produced which is evidence of a spiritual heart transplant.