

The Majesty of Control

Father, into Thy hands I Commend My Spirit

Luke 23:46 I Corinthians 15:54-57

Kathy Rae

HYMN 317

O Mighty Cross

MEDITATION

All Sufficient Merit

Dean & Tracie Arnold

MESSAGE

The Wrath of God and Atonement

2 Samuel 24:20-25

Rev. Calvin VanderMey

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ROCK OF AGES

I. The Savior's Love Redeemed our Hearts

Rock of ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood, From Thy wounded side which flowed,
Be of sin the double cure, Save from wrath and make me pure.

II. The Savior's Love Freed our Hands

Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill Thy law's demands;
These for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and Thou alone;
In my hand no price I bring, Simply to Thy cross I cling.

III. The Savior's Love Secured our Home in Heaven

While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyes shall close in death,
When I rise to worlds unknown, And behold Thee on Thy throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee.

BENEDICTION

STORY BEHIND ROCK OF AGES

1776 was the year the United States of America was born. It was also the year one of the favorite hymns of all time was born, and that was Rock of Ages. The author was an Englishman named Augustus Montague Toplady. He wrote 133 poems and hymns, but they were all forgotten. This one, however, lives on, for it gives an image of Jesus that people need. We need to know that all else can crumble and collapse, but Jesus is that Rock of Ages, that solid rock on which we can stand when all other ground is sinking sand. Toplady died at the early age of 38, but he was secure in Jesus, and his hymn has been a favorite at funerals ever since, for it reminds us that though life is insecure, Jesus is not. He is the "Rock of Ages." Toplady's last words were, "My prayers are all converted into praises." He felt secure because he had built his life on the solid rock. His hymn has been translated into almost every known language. What is surprising is that people know this hymn more than they know the Bible references that gave Toplady the idea. Referring to God in general or Jesus in particular by the term "Rock" is common. It is one of the major names of God, and the children of Israel sang and wrote of God as their Rock.

In the Psalms alone we have many references to God as the Rock such as: Psalm 18:31; Psalm 31:2-3; Psalm 71:3, and Psalm 94:22. In Psalm 18:31, we read, 'For who is God besides the Lord? And who is the Rock except our God?' In Psalm 31:2-3, there are the words: Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue, be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me. Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of Your name lead and guide me. England made the Rock of Gibraltar the strongest fort in the world, for it is cut right into the rock and defended with canons. Even one American insurance company has capitalized on this strong image, and has the Rock of Gibraltar as their trademark. Unfortunately, Americans, when hearing the term "Rock of Ages" might first think of the Broadway musical that is highlighted by several in the entertainment industry who do not profess to know the true "Rock of Ages," but rather glorify "Rock music" as the true "Rock of Ages." God's Old Testament people had this image long before, and God was their Rock. They didn't just have a piece of the rock, they had the whole Rock. When troubles come our way, we will not run to Rock Music, but rather to Jesus.