

Two Rocks

Striking the Rock, Speaking to the Rock

“Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel” (Ex. 17:6).

“And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying,

Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts to drink.

And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also” (Num. 20:7, 8, 11).

There *are TWO accounts* in Scripture of Moses striking rocks with his rod, with water coming out each time. *ONE occurred near the beginning of his ministry* (during the first year), *and the OTHER occurred near the end of his ministry* (either very near or during the last year, the fortieth year).

Moses had been commanded to *STRIKE the FIRST rock*, but *NOT so with the second rock years later*.

Rather, Moses had been commanded to *SPEAK to THIS rock*, and it would give forth water.

But Moses, in a rebellious act, after he had gathered the congregation together, *STRUCK* the rock (not once, but twice) rather than *SPEAKING* to it.

Nevertheless, *EVEN though* he had struck the rock, in direct disobedience to God's command, water *STILL* issued forth; and it issued forth *ABUNDANTLY*.

But, though God supplied water from the rock after this fashion, in spite of that which Moses had done, his act of disobedience *would carry grave consequences*.

Moses, because of *the gravity* of that which had been done, *would NOT be allowed to lead the Israelites into the land covenanted to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In fact, Moses would NOT even be allowed to ENTER this land, though he would be allowed to SEE it from a distance before he died* (Num. 20:8-12; 27:12-14; Deut. 34:1-5).

THESE TWO accounts — ONE occurring near the beginning of Moses' ministry, and the OTHER occurring near the end of his ministry — foreshadow ONE account with a DUAL aspect, occurring in the history of Israel 1,500 years later.

BOTH foreshadow Christ's crucifixion (*ONE account*), with *BOTH* positive and negative ramifications associated with the crucifixion (*a DUAL aspect*). And, because of the *gravity of that seen in BOTH aspects of Christ's crucifixion*, God's complete dealings with Israel, from that time forward, *could NOT be separated from the fulfillment of that foreshadowed by Moses striking the two rocks*.

THEN, continuing in this same respect, corresponding information pertaining to God's future dealings with Israel can be seen in His subsequent dealings with the nation under Joshua, following Moses' death.

BUT, even though these future dealing with Israel lay beyond the experiences of Moses — the entrance of the Israelites into the land under Joshua, typifying their future entrance under Jesus (Heb. 4:8) — *THIS was STILL a major subject within THAT which Moses had written*.

And *NOT ONLY was THIS a major subject dealt with by Moses, BUT by the Prophets which followed as well*.

The ENTIRE Old Testament, BEGINNING with Moses, is simply ONE continuous revelation detailing ALL the various facets of the person and work of Christ — past, present, and future. And ALL the various facets of His COMPLETE dealings with BOTH Israel and the Church can be seen within this revelation.

It was ALL set forth in Moses and the Prophets FIRST.

And IF a person desires to understand that part of God's revelation lying beyond Moses and the Prophets — the New Testament — he will have to continually reference the Old.

And the converse of that is equally true.

Not only does the Old Testament provide light for and help explain the New, but many things have been opened up in the New (invariably, after some fashion, through Old Testament revelation) which also help explain things in the Old.

One Testament HAS to be studied and understood in the light of the other. Scripture HAS to be compared with Scripture. One part of Scripture HAS to be understood in the light of another part or other parts of Scripture.

And CONTINUAL REVIEW after this fashion, under the leadership of the indwelling Holy Spirit, is the PRICE one MUST pay for a knowledge of the Word of God.

From Moses to Christ

According to I Cor. 10:4, the first rock which Moses struck, with water flowing out, typified Christ; and it could ONLY have typified Christ being struck, crucified.

In this respect, the striking of the rock in Ex. 17:6 could ONLY have reflected back on that which had previously occurred in Egypt — the decreed death of the firstborn, and the institution of the Passover. It had to do with the paschal lambs being struck in the place of the firstborn in the family. It had to do with a vicarious striking, a vicarious death.

Thus, *BOTH* the striking of this rock in the wilderness and the prior death of the paschal lambs in Egypt pointed to and typified *the SAME thing, the Paschal Lamb being struck almost 1,500 years later*. At Christ's first coming, the Paschal Lamb was slain by Israel, as the nation had slain the paschal lambs during Moses' day and during a subsequent 1,500 years, or as Moses had struck the rock.

Then, water flowing out when the rock was struck, with the people drinking from the smitten rock simply formed a *continuing picture of the previous type — the blood being applied and the lambs being eaten following the paschal lambs being slain, being struck* (cf. Ex. 12:8-11; John 6:53-56; I Cor. 5:7, 8).

Placing the two types together, there was a literal application of the blood, an eating, and a drinking (with spiritual implications also seen [I Cor. 10:4]); and these types together foreshadowed an application of the blood (through believing) and a spiritual eating and drinking in the antitype.

And *the SAME* thought of eating is seen in a corresponding type, pointing to *the SAME* antitype — a literal eating of manna in the type, pointing to a spiritual eating in the antitype (Ex. 16:14ff).

And whether the type is drawn from applying the blood, eating of the paschal lambs, eating of the manna, or drinking from the rock, *ONE overall picture can be seen in the antitype*.

Following the application of the blood, rather than a literal eating of the Living Word (an impossibility), there is a spiritual eating and drinking — *eating His flesh, drinking His blood — an assimilation of the written Word (rather than this same Word made flesh), which is itself living* (cf. John 1:1, 2, 14).

Then, drinking His blood, as seen in John 6:53-56, can *ONLY* be a reference to *another facet of the SAME thing*. It is the blood of Christ which cleanses from all sin (I John 1:7); and note an allusion to this in John 15:3, connected with Christ's words.

Christ, speaking to His disciples, stated, "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you." The reference was back to His statement in verse two, and more specifically to the word "purgeth."

The words in the Greek text translated "purgeth" (v. 2 [kathairo]) and "clean" (v. 3 [katharos]) are cognate words, carrying the same basic meaning — "clean," or "cleanse" (the word "catharsis" is an Anglicized form of the Greek word *katharos*). Verse two has to do with cleansing through cutting off the dross, through purging; and verse three refers back to this cleansing.

Drinking Christ's blood would have reference to the Word in the preceding respect. It is the Word which relates the power and capabilities of *the ONLY thing which can cleanse from sin — the blood of Christ on the mercy seat in the heavenly sanctuary* (I John 1:7-2:2).

Accordingly, the reference, as it would relate to Christians today, *could ONLY be to Christ's high priestly ministry in the sanctuary on behalf of those redeemed through His finished work at Calvary* (cf. John 13:5-12).

Thus, whether eating the slain lambs, eating the manna, drinking from the rock, or eating and drinking Christ's flesh and blood in John 6:53-56, *ONLY the saved CAN be in view*.

An individual in the type had to *FIRST* avail himself of that made possible through a slain lamb and shed blood (properly applying that blood) *BEFORE* he could assimilate the lamb.

And it is the SAME in the antitype.

Unsaved individuals simply *CANNOT act in the spiritual realm*. They are spiritually dead, separated from the Spirit to lead them "into all truth" (John 16:13), and completely incapable of acting in this realm.

And this is the reason that the Word of God is "foolishness" to them (I Cor. 2:14).

Any attempt by the unsaved to understand the Word of God or to act in the spiritual realm, *in ANY capacity, is completely incompatible with the ONLY nature which the natural man knows or understands, a nature which can ONLY leave him completely separated from ANY guidance which God has provided for the saved through His Holy Spirit.*

It would be *IMPOSSIBLE* for an unsaved person to eat of the slain Lamb, drink from the smitten Rock, or drink the blood of the slain Lamb *and remain within the symbolism seen through these acts.*

ALL of this lies within the spiritual realm — type or antitype. The eating and drinking, as previously stated, *can ONLY follow the appropriation of the blood* (type or antitype).

These experiences in the antitype *can ONLY refer:*

1) To saved individuals availing themselves of the written Word (for spiritual nourishment — an eating of the Lamb, an eating of the Manna, and a drinking from the Rock).

2) To saved individuals availing themselves of the Word in the sense of John 15:3 (which, relative to sin in the life of a believer, can only have to do with Christ's high priestly ministry and His blood on the mercy seat).

Thus, Moses striking the rock in Exodus chapter seventeen *can ONLY be* a reference back to the death of the paschal lambs in Egypt and the application of the blood of these lambs (Ex. 12:6, 7).

And the water flowing out of the rock *moves BEYOND* the slaying of the paschal lambs and the application of the blood. *It PARALLELS the subsequent eating of these lambs in Ex. 12:8-11.*

BUT, what about the rock in Numbers? It was NOT to be struck. Rather, this rock was to be SPOKEN to.

And, even though it was struck, water STILL issued forth; and it issued forth ABUNDANTLY.

To what aspect of the person and work of Christ does the striking of this rock speak?

It *CAN'T* speak of the same thing as the first rock, for this second rock was *NOT* to be struck. But even though it doesn't speak of the same thing, *water STILL issued forth WHEN this rock was struck* — something which would reflect back on that seen through the first rock being struck.

BUT STILL, it's the second rock being struck, NOT the first.

And, again, this rock was NOT to be struck.

Studying the striking of these two rocks in the light of that which occurred at Calvary some 1,500 years later, the entire matter becomes clear. Moses struck two rocks in the type, *showing TWO different facets of the type*; and the Israelites struck one Rock (Christ) in the antitype, *wherein BOTH facets of the type can be seen.*

Viewing the entire matter together after this fashion — the striking of both rocks by Moses in the wilderness, and the striking of the one Rock by the Israelites at Calvary — *there are probably NO other parts of the Old Testament which better CLARIFY a particular aspect of that which occurred at Calvary.*

And the converse of that is equally true.

These same events surrounding Calvary will, in turn, help explain the various things surrounding Moses striking the two rocks. *ONLY through studying them TOGETHER — the Old Testament types and the New Testament antitype — can the COMPLETE picture be seen in ALL its clarity and fullness.*

1) The Rock in Exodus

The rock in Ex. 17:6, as previously seen, reflected back on that which had occurred in Egypt the night of the Passover. *BOTH the paschal lambs being slain and the rock being struck typify Christ being slain/struck at Calvary.*

BUT, THAT which FOLLOWED the application of the blood in Exodus chapter twelve — an eating of the paschal lambs (vv. 7-11), a drinking of water from the rock in Ex. 17:6, or a reference to the drinking of blood in John 6:53-56 — had to do with things beyond the death of the firstborn.

ALL had to do, NOT with a past deliverance, BUT with a present deliverance which would be realized in the future.

For the Israelites in the type, it had to do with a deliverance from Egypt and realizing a future inheritance in an earthly land within a theocracy.

For Christians in the antitype, it has to do with a deliverance from that which Egypt typifies — the world — and realizing a future inheritance in a heavenly land within a theocracy.

And, relative to this present deliverance with a future realization, particular attention MUST be paid to Christ's present ministry in the sanctuary.

In the antitype of Aaron's high priestly ministry in the earthly sanctuary, Christ is presently performing a high priestly ministry in the heavenly sanctuary (following His finished work at Calvary, following the sacrifice of Himself, following Israel slaying the Paschal Lamb).

Within the symbolism of that seen in the tabernacle built at Sinai, completed one year following the death of the firstborn in Egypt, Christ's finished work at Calvary and His present work in the sanctuary are clearly depicted through sacrifices and activities occurring on two of Israel's festivals — *the Passover, and the day of Atonement* (Lev. 23:4, 5, 27-32).

Though other sacrifices depict different things about the same two works of Christ, the distinction between the two, which *MUST* be seen, is clearly shown through activities occurring on these two festivals.

Following the building of the tabernacle, the paschal lambs were to be slain and eaten (presumably in the same place) in the courtyard of the tabernacle, *north* of the brazen

altar, “before the Lord” (rather than at Israeli homes, as in Exodus chapter twelve [Lev. 1:11; Deut. 16:1-7; cf. Job 26:7; Ps. 75:6, 7]).

And blood from the slain lambs would be sprinkled on the altar rather than placed on the door posts and lintels of the doors in the various homes.

But it was *ONLY* on the day of Atonement that blood from animal sacrifices (a bullock and a goat, both slain in the same place as the paschal lambs — *north* of the brazen altar, “before the Lord”) was taken by the high priest into the Holy of Holies. And this blood, unlike the blood of the paschal lambs, was sprinkled on and before the mercy seat (Lev. 16).

Thus, blood shed on the Passover and placed on the altar and blood shed on the day of Atonement and sprinkled on and before the mercy seat in the holy of holies *speaks of and foreshadow TWO entirely different works of Christ.*

The FIRST foreshadows His finished work at Calvary.

THEN, the SECOND foreshadows a subsequent work, to His present work as High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary.

Sacrifices on the PASSOVER had to do with the death of the firstborn; and this is graphically seen in the events depicted in Exodus chapter twelve (associated with Israeli homes in Egypt, but later associated with the tabernacle [the home was the ONLY place which could serve as a sanctuary while the Israelites were in Egypt; BUT, at Sinai, with the building of the tabernacle, a national sanctuary and place where sacrifices could occur THEN existed]).

And sacrifices on the DAY of ATONEMENT had to do with a cleansing from defilement of a people who HAD ALREADY availed themselves of the blood of slain paschal lambs — something having taken place time and again, throughout the previous year, by these same Israelites availing themselves of different, personal sacrifices in connection with the tabernacle’s provided priestly ministry (Lev. 1-7).

(A cleansing from defilement, of the nature which *ONLY* a priest could provide, was absolutely necessary because the one having availed himself of the blood of a slain lamb continued to reside in a body housing the old sin nature; and because he was subject to sin in this body, a necessary means of cleansing from defilement had to be provided.

And it is EXACTLY the same in the antitype, which is the REASON Christ, throughout the present dispensation, is performing a high priestly work in the heavenly sanctuary in the antitype of Aaron's work in the earthly sanctuary.

Christ, though *NOT* of the tribe of Levi, *CAN* perform a high priestly ministry typified by Aaron's ministry simply because *He is performing this ministry for Christians, NOT for Jews. He is performing this ministry for a people NOT under the Mosaic Economy.*

But when Israel is brought back into the picture, Christ's ministry in a priestly respect *WILL, of necessity, HAVE to change.*

He, in THAT day, will exercise a priestly ministry of an ENTIRELY different order, one combined with His KINGLY role.

In THAT day, He will come forth as the great King-Priest after the order of Melchizedek [Gen. 14:17-20; Ps. 110:4; Heb. 7:11-21].)

Christ's blood, shed at Calvary, is presently on the mercy seat in the heavenly sanctuary.

And this blood on the mercy seat allows Christ to exercise a high priestly ministry for the ones having previously availed themselves of the provision which this same blood shed at Calvary makes possible, *i.e., for the ones having believed on the Lord Jesus Christ.*

And this present ministry of Christ is with a view *to present and future aspects of salvation* (the salvation of the soul), *NOT the past aspect of salvation* (the salvation of the spirit).

And it is *the SAME* with the water issuing forth from the rock in Ex. 17:6.

This had to do with things beyond the events of Exodus chapter twelve, things beyond the death of the firstborn.

According to I Cor. 10:4, *ALL of the Israelites drank from this rock — the SAME ones who had previously appropriated the blood of the paschal lambs slain in Egypt.*

And a *drinking from the rock* had to do with present and future aspects of their deliverance as they moved toward the goal of their calling — entrance into the land set before them.

But still, *there was a striking of the rock to produce the flow of water*; and this could *ONLY* reflect back on previous events in Egypt surrounding the slaying of the paschal lambs.

Israel *had been commanded* to slay the paschal lambs in Egypt, and Moses *had been commanded* to strike the rock in the wilderness about a month later.

NOW, the question:

SINCE God had commanded His people to slay the paschal lambs and strike the rock, WHY, some fifteen hundred years later, when the Jewish people slew the Paschal Lamb in the antitype, struck the Rock in the antitype, were they so spoken against?

(The paschal lamb was given to Israel, and it was given to Israel to be slain, for a purpose, having to do with a vicarious death of the firstborn.

THEN, existing controversy in the world today over WHO slew Christ is easily settled from Scripture. Christ was the Paschal Lamb, and Israel ALONE could slay this Lamb. Further, Scripture plainly attributes this act to Israel [Acts 2:23, 36; 3:13-15; 7:52].)

The Paschal Lamb was to be SLAIN, the Rock was to be STRUCK. God had commanded that THIS be done in the two types.

THIS is why the paschal lamb was given to Israel! It was given to the Jewish people TO BE SLAIN!

Thus, when Israel slew the Lamb, struck the Rock in the antitype — even though they were slaying a *Man* (which would be immaterial, for the O.T. plainly taught that a *Man* would die in this capacity [cf. Gen. 3:6; 4:8; 22:2; Isa. 53:1ff]) — again, *WHY were they so spoken against?*

Note Peter's and Stephen's words to the Jewish people following their slaying the Lamb, following their striking the Rock:

"Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain" (Acts 2:23).

"Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? And they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers" (Acts 7:52).

Israel slew the Lamb, struck the Rock, in accordance with God's command. *YET, they were spoken against for this act.*

HOW can this be?

HOW can Israel be guilty of doing this "by wicked hands"?

Or, *HOW* can the Israelites be called "murderers" for this act?

And, beyond that, the nation is presently looked upon as being *UNCLEAN* in God's sight because of this act (Num. 19:11ff; 35:15-28).

HOW could God look upon the Jewish people in this manner IF they had done THAT which He had commanded them to do?

(Note in the account dealing with the Israelites touching a dead body [Num. 19:1ff], producing uncleanness — forming a type — Israel is seen as *UNCLEAN* through contact with the dead body of her Messiah.

And, AS the Israelite who touched a dead body could be cleansed ONLY on the third day or the seventh day [vv. 11ff], SO with Israel.

The Jewish people will be cleansed from their defilement *ONLY on the third day [the third one-thousand-year period] dating from events surrounding Calvary, OR on the seventh day [the seventh one-thousand-year period] dating from events surrounding the earth's restoration and man's beginning.)*

Actually, there can be *NO such thing* as following God's command and being declared guilty after this fashion.

Thus, there HAS to be FAR more involved than Israel simply slaying the Paschal Lamb, striking the Rock, in accordance with God's command. And THAT is seen in events surrounding Moses striking the second Rock toward the end of his ministry.

2) The Rock in Numbers

The rock brought into view toward the end of Moses' ministry was *NOT* to be struck, as the first rock, seen near the beginning of his ministry.

Rather, God had clearly commanded Moses *to SPEAK to this rock*. And through this process — *SPEAKING to the rock* rather than striking the rock — *it would GIVE forth water*.

And note the place which the striking of this rock occupies in Scripture. *It is set immediately following the type dealing with an Israelite touching a dead body and being unclean.*

The account of uncleanness through contact with a dead body is seen in chapter nineteen; and the account of Moses striking the rock near the end of his ministry, in violation of God's command to "speak to the rock," is in the next chapter, chapter twenty.

THEN, something additional is also seen in this section of Scripture. In chapter twenty-one there is the account of Moses placing a brazen serpent on a pole for all those who had been bitten by serpents (because of sin) to see (vv. 5ff).

And Christ, in John 3:14, called attention to this type and associated it with His being lifted up at Calvary.

It WAS look and live in the type, and it IS look and live in the antitype.

But the type moves beyond the way it is invariably understood, *dealing CENTRALLY with ANOTHER issue instead.*

Those in the type who were dying because of the snake bites *were individuals who had previously appropriated the blood*

of the paschal lambs, whether in Egypt or during the intervening forty years when the yearly feast was kept (note that events in these chapters occur near the end of this forty-year period).

Thus, the type deals *with the saved, NOT with the unsaved*, though it can be used in a secondary respect relative to the unsaved.

Any part of the Word of God always has a primary interpretation; but any part, invariably, also has secondary applications as well. And the account of sin in the camp of Israel in Numbers chapter twenty-one is one of the numerous such instances in Scripture.

The reference to the brazen serpent being placed on a pole and lifted up can ONLY refer to ONE thing — Christ being placed on the Cross and lifted up (cf. John 2:18-22).

BUT, beyond that, matters begin to broaden. There is a preaching of the Cross for *the unsaved* (I Cor. 2:2; 15:3), and there is a preaching of the Cross for *the saved* (I Cor. 1:18; cf. Matt. 16:24ff).

BECAUSE OF Christ's FINISHED WORK at CALVARY — dying as the Paschal Lamb, shedding His blood — unsaved man, "dead in trespasses and sins," can look and live (realize the salvation of his spirit). He can be eternally saved.

And, BECAUSE THIS SAME BLOOD is PRESENTLY on the MERCY SEAT in the heavenly SANCTUARY, with Christ exercising the office of High Priest, saved man — one who has "passed from death unto life," but becomes unclean through sin — can continue to look and live (ultimately realizing the salvation of his soul).

He can be cleansed from defilement encountered during his pilgrim walk, realizing the goal of a calling beyond his presently possessed eternal salvation — that of ultimately occupying a position as co-heir with Christ in the kingdom.

This whole section in the Book of Numbers (chs. 19-21), dealing with the saved, has to do with *disobedience, rejection, and death, with life (through obedience)* seen to follow.

3) Tying It All Together

In Numbers chapter nineteen there is *death* and *unclean-ness* (*uncleanness* wrought through contact with a *dead body*).

In chapter twenty there is *disobedience* through striking the second rock (*cf.* Heb. 6:6).

And in chapter twenty-one *disobedience* is again seen through the people speaking “against God, and against Moses,” resulting in the serpents (vv. 5ff).

BUT, life can follow beyond the disobedience, rejection, and death. Provision has been made through the One having been lifted up. As in the type, so in the antitype — it is LOOK and LIVE.

ALL of this ties together, dealing with the SAME matter.

ONE facet is seen in chapter nineteen, ANOTHER facet is seen in chapter twenty, and ANOTHER facet is seen in chapter twenty-one.

THIS is a case of three different successive types presenting different facets of the SAME picture and shedding light on one another.

And THAT is the WAY matters exist in Biblical interpretation.

Scripture has been structured a certain WAY; and, in order to correctly understand and grasp God’s revelation to man, it HAS to be viewed and studied after the MANNER in which God gave it to man.

Alternate means for correctly grasping and understanding the Word of God NO more exist than do alternate means exist for salvation.

Moses striking the rock in Num. 20:11, in direct disobedience to God’s command, both textually and contextually, can ONLY foreshadow Israel’s crucifixion of her Messiah.

BUT, something is in view in Num. 20:11 about the crucifixion which is COMPLETELY different than that revealed by Moses striking the rock in Ex. 17:6.

And this can easily be seen through comparing the type with the antitype.

Striking the Rock Twice

Two different Hebrew words are used for “rock” in Ex. 17:6 and Num. 20:8, 11.

BOTH words mean “rock”; *BUT*, the word used in Numbers, drawing from the root form of the word, carries a thought which the word used in Exodus doesn’t carry. *The word used in Numbers carries the thought of “height,” or “elevation,” something NOT seen at all in the Hebrew word used for “rock” in Exodus.*

The rock in Exodus which Moses struck depicts Christ *as the lowly One, the suffering Servant, the One Who would be struck and die.*

BUT, the rock which Moses struck in Numbers, carrying the thought of “height” or “elevation,” depicts Christ *as the exalted One, the One Who would rule and reign.*

This whole overall thought was at the heart of John the Baptist’s question in Matt. 11:3:

“Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?”

(Because BOTH a suffering and a reigning Messiah are seen in the O.T., many Jews of John’s day, attempting to reconcile these two lines of prophecy concerning their Messiah [how their Messiah could both suffer and reign], looked for two Messiahs to appear — one from the house of Joseph, who would suffer and die; and the other from the house of David, who would rule and reign.

John’s question evidently alludes to this thought, prevalent in his day.)

And Christ’s response *CLEARLY* revealed which rock in the Old Testament was in view.

It was the ONE in NUMBERS, for the SIGNS which He was performing (vv. 4-6) had to do with the exalted One and His Kingdom, NOT with the lowly One and Calvary.

Christ was born King, He offered the kingdom of the heavens to Israel, *and it was in a regal capacity that He was rejected, tried by Pilate, and crucified.*

He had presented Himself to Israel as *the Rock in Numbers*, NOT as *the Rock in Exodus* (Matt. 2:2; 4:17; 21:38; 22:2-7).

When Pilate brought Jesus forth to the Jewish people, having found “no fault” in Him, he announced to them, “Behold your King.”

And the caption which Pilate placed above His head at the time of the crucifixion read, “This is Jesus the King of the Jews” (Matt. 27:37; John 18:33-38; 19:14).

(The complete caption, comparing the four gospel accounts [Matt. 27:37; Mark 15:26; Luke 23:38; John 19:19], evidently read: “This is [Matthew, Luke] Jesus [Matthew, John] of Nazareth [John] the King of the Jews [all four].”)

Israel, as Moses in Numbers, *NOT ONLY* struck the Rock which had to do with “height,” “elevation,” *BUT* the they also struck this Rock *in direct disobedience* to God’s command.

And, as Moses struck the rock TWICE in his day, SO did Israel strike the Rock 1,500 years later in the SAME dual manner, exhibiting BOTH disobedience and obedience.

The Jewish people, though they struck Christ in the antitype of the Rock in Numbers (exhibiting disobedience), they, in the process, ALSO struck Him in the antitype of the Rock in Exodus as well (exhibiting obedience). They NOT ONLY slew their King, but they ALSO slew the Paschal Lamb (John 1:29) — an act for which NO condemnation could EVER be leveled against the nation.

And to insure their King’s crucifixion, they even went so far as to claim allegiance to a pagan Gentile ruler — “We have no king but Caesar” (John 19:15).

And as Moses was denied entrance into the land for his act in the type, the same thing is seen relative to Israel in

the antitype. Because of Israel's rejection of the proffered kingdom, their rejection of the nation's King, and their slaying the One Whom they knew to be "the heir," the kingdom was taken from Israel (Matt. 21:38-43).

Thus, the fact remains. Christ presented Himself to Israel *as the nation's Deliverer in relation to REGAL activities, NOT in relation to activities surrounding Calvary.*

And it was in THIS capacity that Israel struck the Rock. They slew their King, though, in the process, they also slew the Lamb.

Moses struck the rock in Exodus at the very beginning of God's dealings with the nation. The Jewish people had slain the paschal lambs in Egypt.

And Moses striking the rock near the beginning of his ministry, shortly after the Israelites had left Egypt, would correspond to and reflect back on the previous slaying of the paschal lambs in Egypt and that foreshadowed through the slaying of these lambs (Christ's finished work at Calvary, 1,500 years later, dying as the Paschal Lamb).

Then, Moses struck the rock in Numbers near the end of the time God used him to lead the nation.

And this also reflected back on that seen through the striking of the first rock (the previous death of the paschal lambs in Egypt, again foreshadowing Christ's finished work at Calvary 1,500 years later).

The correctness of the previous is seen in the fact that "water" issued forth from both rocks when struck, and Scripture specifically calls attention *to water issuing forth abundantly* when the rock in Numbers was struck. The only way this could possibly occur is seeing the striking of the second rock (done in disobedience) reflect back on that foreshadowed by the striking of the first rock (done in obedience).

And the reason for water issuing forth abundantly when the second rock was struck, though done in disobedience, can easily be seen in the antitype.

The Jewish people 1,500 years later, in *DISOBEDIENCE*, struck this second Rock (the Rock having to do with height, elevation, regality); and, in the process, in *OBEDIENCE*, they struck the first Rock as well.

And God allowed the water to flow abundantly, *EXACTLY as seen in the type*.

There is a Jewish Saviour from Whom water will *abundantly flow forth for ALL who look to the One Who has been lifted up*, seen in Num. 21:8, 9; John 12:32. *It was LOOK and LIVE in the type, and it is LOOK and LIVE in the antitype, NOT ONLY relative to Christ's past finished work at Calvary BUT relative to His continuing work in the heavenly sanctuary as High Priest.*

The consequences of this action by Moses in the type, and by Israel 1,500 years later in the antitype, is another matter, previously dealt with in this article.

Moses paid dearly for his actions, and Israel is presently paying dearly for her actions. The WHOLE of the matter though involves things completely within God's sovereign control, through which He will ULTIMATELY work out His plans and purposes regarding ALL things surrounding His Son's coming reign over the earth.

(The manner in which John 3:16 has invariably been dealt with by Bible students over the years needs to be restudied in the light of two things:

1. *Moses' STRIKING the two rocks*, one in Exodus and the other in Numbers, along with the contexts surrounding both.

2. *Jesus' COMPLETE conversation with Nicodemus*, all twenty-one verses [keeping in mind that the introduced subject involved *SIGNS, having to do with the PROCLAIMED MESSAGE regarding the PROFFERED KINGDOM, NOT with salvation by grace*].

The resulting resonance of the type in Numbers ALLOWS for the WAY that John 3:16 has invariably been USED by Bible students over the years, BUT, THIS USE is NOT the primary interpretation.

Relating the interpretation and understanding of John 3:16 *primarily to* [invariably, by most, *ONLY to*] the type in Ex. 17:6 rather than the type in Num. 20:8, 11, *CHAOS in correct Biblical interpretation has ensued.*

And this resulting CHAOS has closed the door to a wealth of information lying NOT ONLY in this verse BUT the larger context, going ALL the way back to Moses.)

Concluding Remarks:

Paul's letter to the Romans, in chapters nine through eleven, deals with Israel's position following the nation's climactic actions at the time of Christ's crucifixion.

Note particularly how Paul handles this in a somewhat concluding manner in relation to Israel and the Gentiles in chapter eleven:

"I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin.

God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew...

I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy" (vv. 1, 2a, 11).

(The words "God forbid" in verses one and eleven are the translation of a rare verb form in the Greek text [an optative form of *ginomai*, "to come into being," "to come to pass," with a negative] which is next to impossible to adequately translate into English because of that which is implied through the use of this form.

The NASB, for example, provides a good translation — "May it never be" — *BUT*, the force of that which is implied through the use of the optative with a negative is *NOT seen in the English translation*, which has to do with *impossibility*. That is, "May it never happen [God casting away His people]," with the thought in mind *that it would be impossible for this to happen.)*

Israel has been set aside while God calls out from the Gentiles “a people for His name” (Acts 15:14). Through Israel’s “fall,” as seen in Romans, “salvation is come unto the Gentiles.” But as also seen in the continuing verses in Acts chapter fifteen, God is far from through with Israel (vv. 15-18), exactly as seen through Paul’s use of the optative mood with a negative in Rom. 11:1, 11.

“Salvation” coming to the Gentiles as a result of Israel’s “fall” *has NOTHING to do with eternal salvation. Eternal salvation* being offered to the Gentiles is as old as, even older than, the Israeli nation itself, *NOT something resulting from Israel’s “fall.”*

One reason Israel was called into existence was to carry the message of the one true and living God to the nations of the earth, beginning with salvation by grace (Isa. 43:1-11).

And the different nations occupy their geographical place on earth in accord with Deut. 32:8 and Acts 17:26 (“according to the number of the children of Israel,” established long before the nation was even brought into existence [Gen. 10, 11a]), for the express purpose seen in Acts 17:27 (“that they should seek the Lord,” which was to occur through Jewish evangelists reaching them in their respective geographical locations).

Attempting to read the thought of *eternal salvation* coming to the Gentiles through Israel’s “fall” is *NOT ONLY out of line with that from which Israel fell BUT with both Israel’s calling and God’s geographical placement of the nations.*

In fact, it would be moving *in a completely opposite direction* from God calling Israel into existence for evangelistic purposes regarding the Gentiles.

“Salvation” coming to the Gentiles in Rom. 11:11 has to do with *the SAME thing Israel relinquished — salvation in relation to the proffered kingdom.* And “Gentiles” is used in this passage *the SAME way* Paul previously used the word in the first chapter of this book, *referring to saved Gentiles, those*

forming the Church (v. 16).

The reason for the very existence of the Church, or the fact that the “salvation” referenced in Rom. 11:11 can even be realized by Christians, has to do with that referred to as Israel’s “fall.”

Israel rejected the proffered kingdom and crucified the One making the offer.

The kingdom *was THEN taken from Israel* (Matt. 21:43), and an entirely new entity — *the one new man* “in Christ,” — was called into existence to be the recipient of that which Israel had rejected (I Peter 2:9-11).

Everything goes back to God’s plans and purposes having been set in motion through Israel being called into existence, God’s purposes surrounding Israel, and the actions which Israel subsequently took — *ALL in complete and perfect accord with God’s sovereign control of ALL things* (Acts 15:18).

(God’s plans and purposes surrounding Israel *could ONLY* have been in His mind “from the beginning” (cf. I John 1:1).

These plans and purposes — dating from a time preceding the creation of the heavens and the earth — were introduced during Shem’s day, continued in a more definite respect nine generations later during Abraham’s day, then set in motion six generations later at the time of the inception of the nation during Moses’ day.

And these plans and purposes have to do first and foremost *with activity in relation to the PRESENT heavens and earth, the PRESENT six-day, 6,000-year, Man’s Day and the FUTURE one-day 1,000-year, Lord’s Day.*

Projecting matters regarding Israel out into the new heavens and new earth *is moving into an area where little data exists to work with.* God’s revelation regarding Israel (also the Church and the nations) has to do almost exclusively with activity in relation to the present heavens and earth.

THUS, matters regarding Israel [the Church and the nations as well] should be dealt with accordingly.)