



# CLOUD OF WITNESSES

GOD'S STORY IN GOD'S PEOPLE

SUMMER  
SERMON  
SERIES

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# Cloud of Witnesses

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Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:1-2)















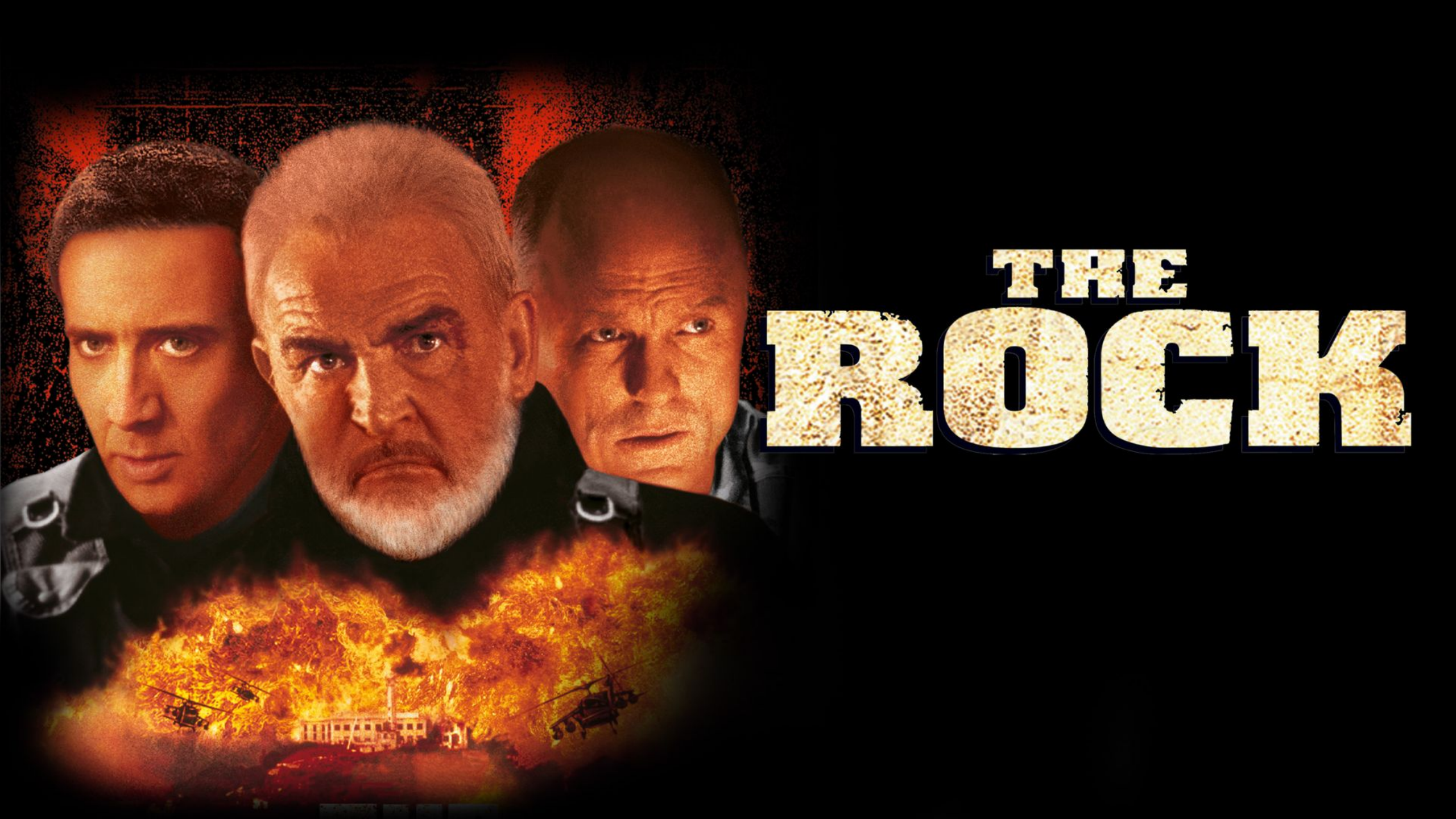






# ROCKY™





THE  
ROCK











## THE LAW (5)

Genesis  
Exodus  
Leviticus  
Numbers  
Deuteronomy

## HISTORY (12)

Joshua  
Judges  
Ruth  
1 Samuel  
2 Samuel  
1 Kings  
2 Kings  
1 Chronicles  
2 Chronicles  
Ezra  
Nehemiah  
Esther

## POETRY & WISDOM (5)

Job  
Psalms  
Proverbs  
Ecclesiastes  
Song of Songs

## THE MAJOR PROPHETS (5)

Isaiah  
Jeremiah  
Lamentations  
Ezekiel  
Daniel

## THE MINOR PROPHETS (12)

Hosea  
Joel  
Amos  
Obadiah  
Jonah  
Micah  
Nahum  
Habakkuk  
Zephaniah  
Haggai  
Zechariah  
Malachi



# Moses Strikes the Rock

All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. 2 Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?”



# Moses Strikes the Rock

3 But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” 4 So Moses cried to the Lord, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” 5 And the Lord said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go.



# Moses Strikes the Rock

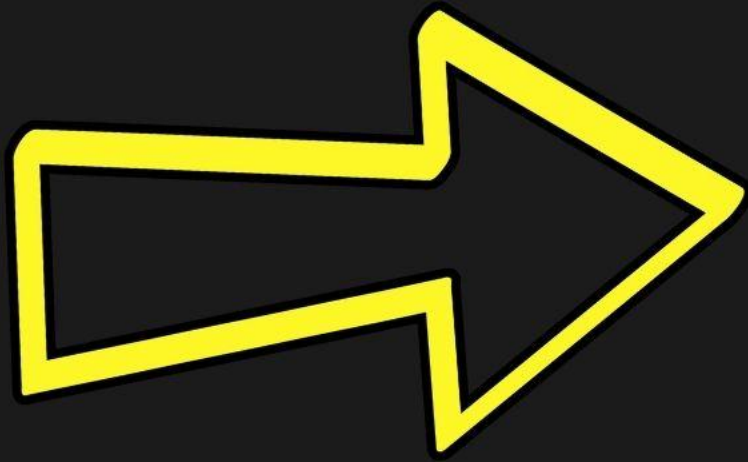
6 Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord by saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

(Exodus 17:1–7)



# HOW WE READ THE BIBLE

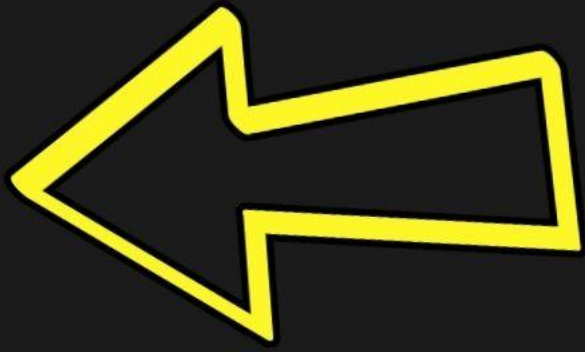
*Creation Fall Redemption Restoration*



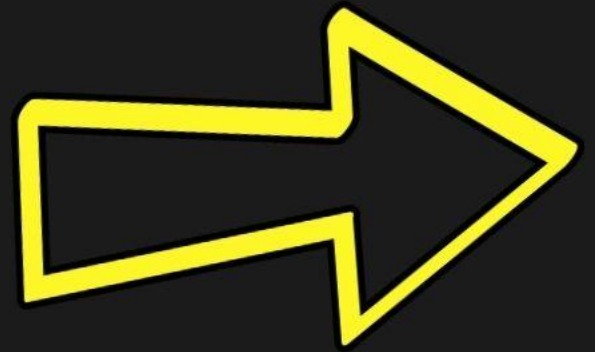


# HOW WE INTERPRET THE BIBLE

*Creation*   *Fall*   *Redemption*   *Restoration*



**JESUS**





# HOW WE STUDY THE BIBLE

**OBSERVATION**

**INTERPRETATION**

**INTEGRATION**

**APPLICATION**





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The people should have known by then that God would provide their needs. He had done so consistently throughout the plagues and their aftermath and most recently in providing both food and water supernaturally for them. The day of this current protest, after all, was one more day on which the people had been able to gather manna to

feed themselves and their animals. What they were doing was refusing  
Douglas K. Stuart, Exodus, vol. 2, The New American Commentary (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2006), 389.  
to wait for God to take care of them.

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(Exodus 17:1–7)



# God is the Rock

“The Rock, his work is perfect,  
for all his ways are justice.

A God of faithfulness and without iniquity,  
just and upright is he.

(Deuteronomy 32:4)

# An Everlasting Rock

Trust in the Lord forever,  
for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.

(Isaiah 26:4)



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They put God on trial. At the Lord's command, Moses took the rod of judgment, summoned the elders as witnesses, and went to try the case at the Rock. There the Lord, the Second Person of the Trinity, appeared on the Rock in the glory-cloud. The Lord stood before Moses, like an accused felon in the dock, and Moses lifted his rod to strike. He dare not strike the glory in which the Lord appeared; he was told to strike the Rock, on which the Lord stood, and with which he was identified.





In the songs of Moses, God is named the Rock, “a God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he” (Deut. 32:4, ESV). In the symbol of the Rock that was his name, the Lord took the blow that Israel deserved. From the Rock flowed the water of life to the rebellious people. “The Rock that followed them,” Paul wrote, “is Christ!” (1 Cor. 10:4).

Edmund Clowney, *Preaching Christ in All of Scripture* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2003), 171.

# The Spiritual Rock

For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers,[a] that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 and all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. **For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.**

(1 Cor. 10:1–4)



# Why Does This Matter?

This passage confronts our idea that gratitude can save us.

**RELIGIOUS WAY:** Good Works = God's Acceptance

*"I'm really working hard to not grumble [like them]...You owe me!"*



**IRRELIGIOUS WAY:** Practicing Gratitude Provides Enough

*"Gratitude is the truest approach to life."*







Gratitude is the truest approach to life. We did not create or fashion ourselves. We did not birth ourselves. Life is about giving, receiving, and repaying. We are receptive beings, dependent on the help of others, on their gifts and their kindness....

You see—none of this have I framed in a religious context or using religious/spiritual language."

**Robert Emmons, psychologist at the University of California –Davis, quoted here:**  
<https://www.theatlantic.com/health/archive/2014/11/the-phenomenology-of-gratitude/383174/>



The writer Liz Brown kept a gratitude list for about 100 days during a challenging time in her life, and it made her feel ashamed, depressed, and angry. Only when a new therapist suggested an “ingratitude list” did things start to turn around, allowing her to “grieve the things that I’d lost, missed out on, been cheated out of and all the times life had kicked me straight in the heart.” Suffocating sorrow with gratitude doesn’t make it go away, Brown concluded. And being told to focus on

“Does Counting Your Blessings Work?” by Sonya Huber  
<https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2018/01/does-counting-your-blessings-work/549638/>

gratitude when angry might lead to shame for having other, less

# The Uniqueness of Grace

Our salvation is not based on our gratitude, but on God's grace.





# Out Came Blood And Water

34 But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.

(John 19:34)

# Gospel Response

Gratitude can't save you

Gratitude flows out as a response to God's grace