

# *Series: Looking At The Ending of Isaiah*

## *Chapters 40-66*



**This seal bulla was discovered in 2018 in Jerusalem, it is possibly the Prophet Isaiah's.**

Isaiah lived through one of the most transformative times in world history. The mighty kingdoms of the Levant who were allied with Egypt fell one by one to the Assyrians, Egypt became a shell of its ancient glory. Only Judah remained an independent nation. Their sister state Samaria [Northern Israel] fell to the Assyrians in 722. God had spared King Hezekiah and Judah from this fate with His mighty hand. But king Hezekiah disappointed Isaiah. One of the dangers we as Christians have is placing too much confidence in secular leaders or political movements. In the chapters following 40 Isaiah refocuses on the eternal purpose of the Messiah.

# *“The Rock From Which You were Hewn”*

*Isaiah 51:1-2 & Romans 9:30-33*



Granite chips retain all the characteristics of the rock from which they were “hewn”. When they are mixed in concrete they impart part of their strength to that concrete.

We use the idiom “A Chip off the Old Block” to indicate that a person emulates the appearance, character, behavior or abilities of a parent, ancestor or mentor. The idiom while having ancient precedence was first used in a sermon in 1621 by Robert Sanderson. “...a chip of the same block”. John Milton in 1642 would use “old block”. The word “off” replaced “of” in 1870.

## **Isaiah 51:1-2 & 4 [ESV]**

**1 "Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the LORD: look to the rock from which you were hewn, and to the quarry from which you were dug.**

**2 Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah who bore you; for he was but one when I called him, that I might bless him and multiply him.**

**3 For the LORD comforts Zion; he comforts all her waste places and makes her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the LORD; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song.**

**4 "Give attention to me, my people, and give ear to me, my nation; for a law will go out from me, and I will set my justice for a light to the peoples.**



# *“The Rock From Which You were Hewn”*

*Isaiah 51:1-2 & Romans 9:30-33*



Ancient Egyptian granite quarry with 75% completed “obelisk” which was abandoned around 1470 BC due to a crack in the stone. It would have been 120’ tall and over 1100 tons. These were moved over 150 miles.

Deuteronomy 32:3-6 [ESV] The character of God

3 For I will proclaim the name of the LORD; ascribe greatness to our God! 4 **"The Rock, his work is perfect, for all his ways are justice. A God of faithfulness and without iniquity, just and upright is he.** 5 They have dealt corruptly with him; they are no longer his children because they are blemished; they are a crooked and twisted generation. 6 Do you thus repay the LORD, you foolish and senseless people? Is not he your father, who created you, who made you and established you?

# *“The Rock From Which You were Hewn”*

*Isaiah 51:1-2 & Romans 9:30-33*



God's character as described in Deuteronomy 32:4 is:

1. Perfect – God is complete in his nature and purpose.
2. God is Just.
3. God is faithful without compromising his justice.  
*[mercy is part of the faithfulness of God]*
4. He is righteous.



## Isaiah 50:6-11 [ESV] –The Messiah's role.

**6** I gave my back to those who strike, and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. **7** But the Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. **8** He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. **9** Behold, the Lord GOD helps me; who will declare me guilty? Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

**10** Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the voice of his servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God. **11** Behold, all you who kindle a fire, who equip yourselves with burning torches! Walk by the light of your fire, and by the torches that you have kindled! This you have from my hand: you shall lie down in torment.

# *“The Rock From Which You were Hewn”*

*Isaiah 51:1-2 & Romans 9:30-33*

## **Stones and their types**

### **Igneous Rocks**



basalt



gabbro



granite



obsidian



pumice

### **Sedimentary Rocks**



breccia



conglomerate



limestone



sandstone



shale

### **Metamorphic Rocks**



gneiss



marble



metaquartzite



schist



slate

3 classes of rock: Igneous - formed from molten minerals; Sedimentary – deposited in layers by water; Metamorphic – formed from the 1<sup>st</sup> two over time by heat, pressure or environmental decay.

Metamorphic rock displays the character of its parent but displays the effects of change.  
Romans 9:30-33



## Romans 9:30-33 [ESV]

30 What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; 31 but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law. 32 Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone, 33 as it is written, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

# ***“The Rock From Which You were Hewn”***

*Isaiah 51:1-2 & Romans 9:30-33*

## **Stones and their types**

### **Igneous Rocks**



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shale

### **Metamorphic Rocks**



gneiss



marble



metaquartzite



schist



slate

David in Psalm 18 reflects on the impact that God's nature has had on him, throughout his life. We know this was a psalm written late in David's life as he reflects back upon God's work in him. He calls God the "Rock" twice. The only stable structure in life he can trust.

## Psalm 18:1-7 [ESV] from 2 Samuel 22

1 *«To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, the servant of the LORD, who addressed the words of this song to the LORD on the day when the LORD rescued him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. He said:»* **I love you, O LORD, my strength.**

**2 The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.** 3 I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies. 4 The cords of death encompassed me; the torrents of destruction assailed me; 5 the cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me. 6 In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears. 7 Then the earth reeled and rocked; the foundations also of the mountains trembled and quaked, because he was angry.



# *“The Rock From Which You were Hewn”*

*Isaiah 51:1-2 & Romans 9:30-33*



The concept of God as the “Rock” is a metaphor for God’s strength and eternal purpose, is found throughout Scripture. Often large stones were erected to be “witnesses” of divine purpose or covenant. In 1 Corinthians 10, Paul uses the image of the water from the Rock as a symbol of receiving the grace of God.

Herod’s  
quarry  
found  
in  
2013.

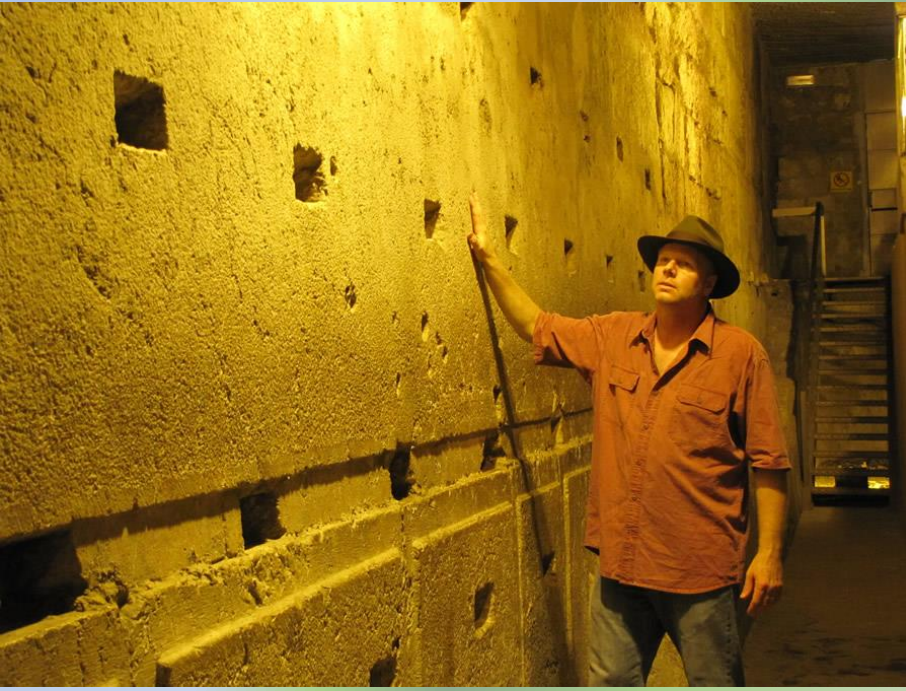


1 Corinthians 10:4 [ESV]

... 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For **they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.**

# *“The Rock From Which You were Hewn”*

*Isaiah 51:1-2 & Romans 9:30-33*



This stone is one of many that were used to lay the foundation of Herod's revetment wall for the Temple mount. These stones were all around 600 tons.

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In Exodus after Moses has broken the original tablets of the Law [covenant] to protect the Israelites. God commands him to prepare new tablets of stone to write the Law upon. God will depend on fallible humans to communicate the power of his character. This expression of his character is our foundation. Exodus 34:1-4

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**Exodus 34:1-4 [ESV] The Law is a reflection of God's nature.**

1 The LORD said to Moses, "Cut for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke.

2 Be ready by the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself there to me on the top of the mountain.

3 No one shall come up with you, and let no one be seen throughout all the mountain. Let no flocks or herds graze opposite that mountain."

4 So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first. And he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone.

# *“The Rock From Which You were Hewn”*

*Isaiah 51:1-2 & Romans 9:30-33*



Jesus tells us  
that we must built  
our character, in  
fact, our entire  
spiritual existence  
upon him if we are  
to stand in the  
troubles of this life.  
Luke 6:48

These are the ruins of a palace of Herod the Great in Caesarea. It was built on a spit of land extending into the Mediterranean. His engineers dug deep and established it on rock, so it stood up to the ravages of the sea.  
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Luke 6:48 [ESV]

47 Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: **48 he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.** 49 But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great."



# *“The Rock From Which You were Hewn”*

*Isaiah 51:1-2 & Romans 9:30-33*



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It is with joy  
that Christians face  
tribulations that  
Jesus told us that  
would come as we  
get closer to the  
end of the world.  
We can have  
confidence in him.  
Isaiah 51:9-11

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Isaiah 51:9-11 [ESV]

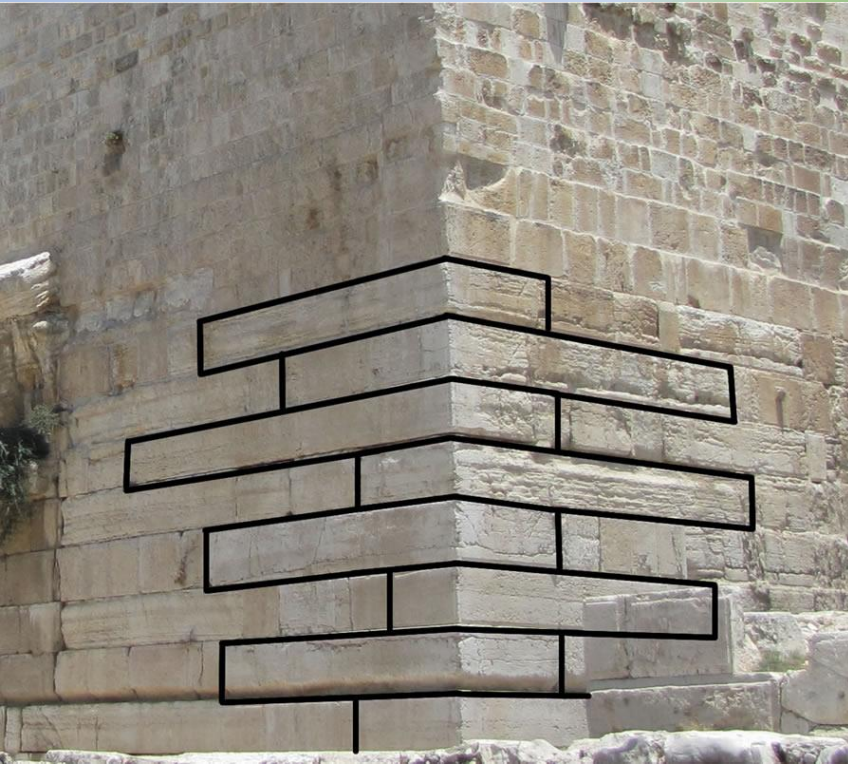
9 Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in days of old, the generations of long ago. Was it not you who cut Rahab in pieces, who pierced the dragon?

10 Was it not you who dried up the sea, the waters of the great deep, who made the depths of the sea a way for the redeemed to pass over?

**11 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.**

# *“The Rock From Which You were Hewn”*

*Isaiah 51:1-2 & Romans 9:30-33*



The “revetment wall” Herod had built for the expansion of the Temple mount was one of the most ambitious projects ever built in the ancient world. This was likely in Peter’s mind when he calls us “living stones” who display the character of Christ while we are being built into a spiritual house. 1 Peter 2:4-8

These corner blocks measure 40 X 8 x 3.5 feet and weigh 60 tons, they were raised over 95 feet into position in Herod’s revetment wall.  
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## 1 Peter 2:4-8 [ESV]

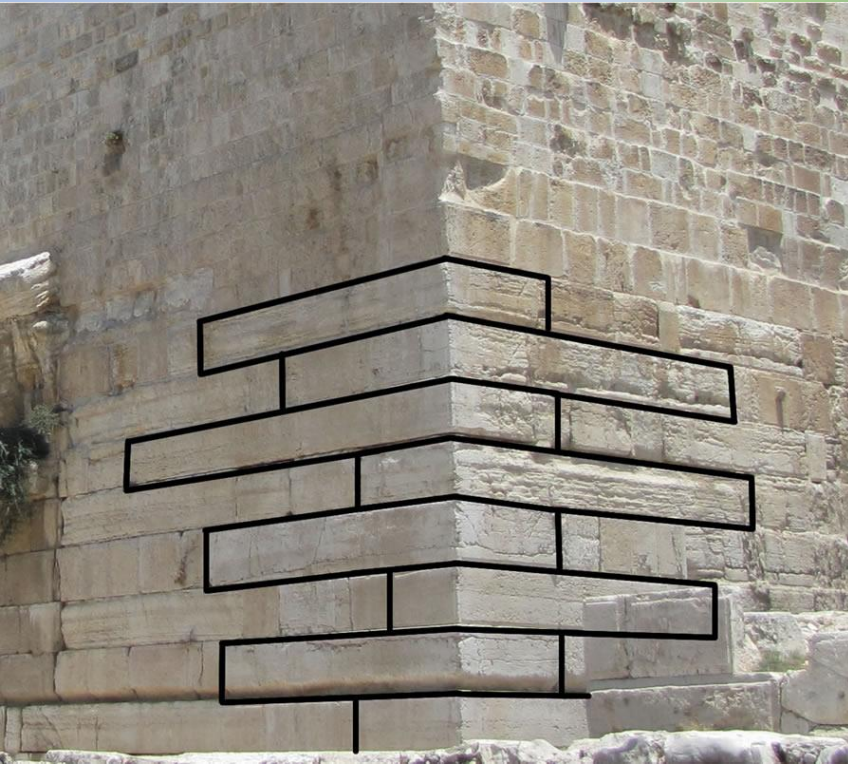
4 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, 5 you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For it stands in Scripture:

"Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

7 So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," 8 and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

# *“The Rock From Which You were Hewn”*

*Isaiah 51:1-2 & Romans 9:30-33*



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It is Jesus Christ who is the chief cornerstone in our lives. He imparts his character to us, but it is also the character of other Christians changed by him upon which we continue to build this spiritual house. Isaiah points us toward him when God speaking through him says look to the quarry from which you were taken – Abraham and Sarah.  
Romans 4:3-5 & 17-21

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## Romans 4:3-5 & 17-21 [ESV] - Genesis 17 and 18

3 For what does the Scripture say? "**Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.**" 4 Now to the one who works, his wages are not counted as a gift but as his due. 5 And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness,...

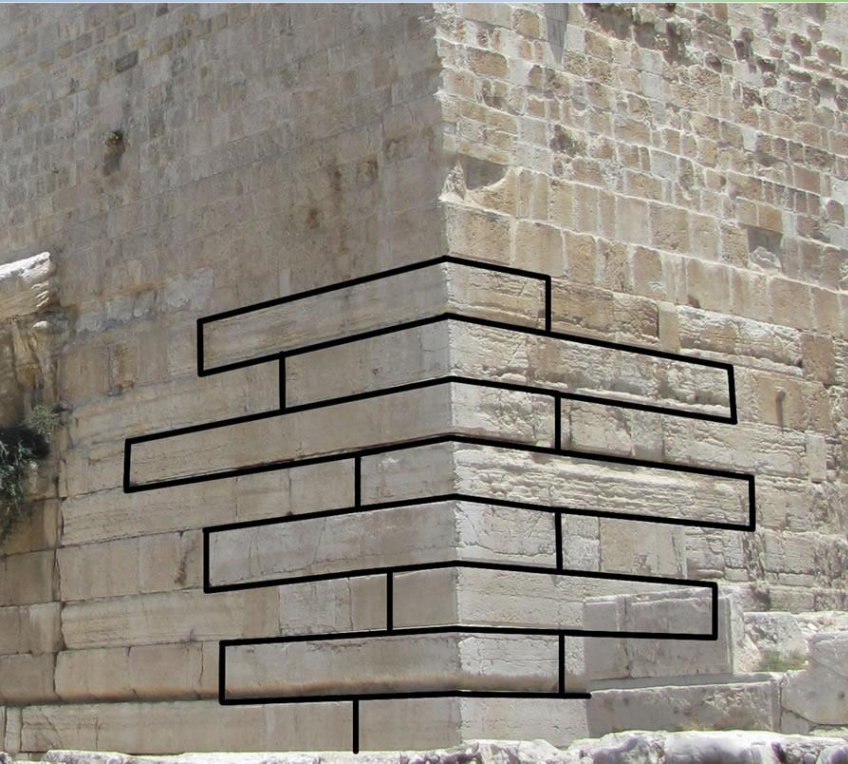
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...17 as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations" — in the presence of the God **in whom he believed**, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. 18 **In hope he believed against hope**, that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been told, "So shall your offspring be." 19 **He did not weaken in faith** when he considered his own body, which was as good as dead (since he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. 20 **No unbelief made him waver concerning the promise of God**, but **he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God**, 21 **fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.**



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*Isaiah 51:1-2 & Romans 9:30-33*



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Faith that is counted as righteousness is Faith that:

1. Does not surrender to the darkness it maintains hope.
2. Remains steadfast in the face of personal doubt.
3. Grows stronger in worship of God.
4. Maintains confidence in the ability of God in spite of circumstances.

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Granite chips retain all the characteristics of the rock from which they were “hewn”. When they are mixed in concrete they impart part of their strength to that concrete.

If we are to be “A Chip off the Old Block” then...our Christian character must be formed by our faith and our heritage in Christ and a desire to follow him.