



Hymn of the Month

Rock of Ages

Augustus Toplady 1776

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.

Not the labors of my hands
can fulfill thy law's demands;
could my zeal no respite know,
could my tears forever flow,
all for sin could not atone;
thou must save, and thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
simply to the cross I cling;
naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.

While I draw this fleeting breath,
when mine eyes shall close in death,
when I soar to worlds unknown,
see thee on thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee.

Hymn Story

As the young minister traveled through the rugged country near England's Cheddar Gorge, the clouds burst and torrential sheets of rain pummeled the earth. The weary traveler was able to find shelter standing under a rocky overhang. There, protected from the buffeting wind and rain, Augustus Toplady conceived one of the most popular hymns ever written, "Rock of Ages, Cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee."

Scripture References

2 Samuel 22 - The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer

Romans 3:23-25 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus, whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith.

Ephesians 2:8-9 - For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Acts 4:12 - And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among mankind by which we must be saved.

Theological Explanations

God my Rock - In most Old Testament references, God is not just described as a rock, but the Rock. The Israelites understood that God was not just one source of strength and protection. He was their only strength, their only hope, and their only refuge. There is an implied supremacy here that points to the ultimate sovereignty of God. (Christianity.com)

Double Cure for Sin - Romans 3 tells us that Christ is the one who redeems us (he paid for us with his blood to make us clean) and he is the propitiation for our sin. (he took on the whole wrath of God in our place)

Faith Alone - Ephesians 2 tells us that salvation is through faith alone not by anything we have done. The hymn brings this truth out in the 2nd verse saying that there is no work my hands can do, no endless passion for doing good, and no amount of grief over sin can save us it is by the grace of God through faith that saves. The 3rd verse even tells us that we are naked, helpless, and foul before God and only our Savior can clothe us, help us, and cleanse us.

