

Isaiah 51:1

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Hearken to me, ye that follow after righteousness, ye that seek the LORD: look unto the rock whence ye are hewn, and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.

Analysis

The command to 'look unto the rock whence ye are hewn' calls believers to remember their spiritual origin - Abraham and Sarah's barrenness transformed by God's promise. The quarry metaphor emphasizes that our existence derives entirely from God's sovereign work, not human merit or effort. This grounds identity in divine grace and demolishes all boasting except in God's transforming power (1 Corinthians 1:29-31).

Historical Context

Exiles descended from Abraham (one man) miraculously blessed into multitudes. Remembering this origin encouraged faith that God could again multiply the small returning remnant. The same God who made Abraham's barrenness fruitful could restore desolate Israel.

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Study Questions

1. How does reflecting on your spiritual 'quarry' - what you were before Christ - humble your pride?
2. What 'barrenness' has God transformed in your life through His sovereign power?

Interlinear Text

שְׁמַע וְ	אֵלַי	יְהוָה	רְדֹפִי	צֶדֶק	מִבְקֹשִׁי	יְהוָה
Hearken	H413	to me	ye that follow after	righteousness	ye that seek	the LORD
H8085			H7291	H6664	H1245	H3068
הִבּוּ יֵטוּ	אֶל	צוּר	חֲצִבֶּתָּם	וְאֶל	מַקְוֵת	
look	H413	unto the rock	whence ye are hewn	H413	and to the hole	
H5027		H6697	H2672		H4718	
בֹּר	נִקְרְתָּם:					
of the pit	whence ye are digged					
H953	H5365					

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 51:7 (Righteousness): Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings.

Psalms 94:15 (Righteousness): But judgment shall return unto righteousness: and all the upright in heart shall follow it.

Hebrews 12:14 (References Lord): Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

Isaiah 48:12 (Parallel theme): Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the first, I also am the last.

Romans 14:19 (Parallel theme): Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

Proverbs 15:9 (Righteousness): The way of the wicked is an abomination unto the LORD: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.

Proverbs 21:21 (Righteousness): He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honour.

Amos 5:6 (References Lord): Seek the LORD, and ye shall live; lest he break out like fire in the house of Joseph, and devour it, and there be none to quench it in Beth-el.

2 Timothy 2:22 (Righteousness): Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Isaiah 45:19 (Righteousness): I have not spoken in secret, in a dark place of the earth: I said not unto the seed of Jacob, Seek ye me in vain: I the LORD speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.