

No. 4 Word Pictures That Inspire Faith in Jehovah (Symposium) —Rock

Note to speaker:

This is the third talk of a four-part symposium. The questions in the main headings follow the same format in each talk. Explain how picturing Jehovah as a rock will give us confidence even if our circumstances in life change. This talk includes an interview

HOW DOES PICTURING JEHOVAH AS A ROCK INSPIRE FAITH IN HIM? (4 min.)

Majestic rock formations are admired for their beauty, stability, and permanence

People who are rocklike are highly admired for being stable, dependable, and supportive, especially in times of trouble

Just as a relationship grows when a person gets to know these qualities in the other, our faith and confidence in God can increase when we learn more about him

Jehovah has proved to be “the Rock” in all his activities [**Read Deuteronomy 32:4**] (*w09 5/1 14 ¶4*)

God’s standards are completely reliable, unlike constantly shifting human ideas (Mal 3:6)

Having faith in Jehovah involves trusting in him as a dependable Guide in our life (Pr 3:5, 6)

WHEN IS IT ESPECIALLY HELPFUL TO THINK OF JEHOVAH AS A ROCK? (4 min.)

Such changing circumstances in life as sickness or advancing age can bring challenges

The writer of Psalm 71, likely David, served God from his youth to his advanced years (Ps 71:5, 9; *w14 3/15 20-21 ¶3-4*)

David did not feel abandoned by Jehovah; rather, he recognized his need to rely on God even more as he grew older (*g04 10/8 23 ¶3*)

If your circumstances or health limit you, look to Jehovah and his Word for strength and support

Even if your present condition allows you to do no more than meditate appreciatively about our supportive Rock, he finds delight in that (Ps 19:14; *w06 1/1 31 ¶4*)

HOW CAN WE DEMONSTRATE THAT JEHOVAH IS THE ROCK IN OUR LIFE? (2 min.)

We must be completely convinced that God is our “crag,” “stronghold,” and “rock” (Ps 18:2; *it-1 1177 ¶3*)

Keeping Jehovah as our Source of security will prevent us from becoming completely absorbed in the anxieties of day-to-day life, injustices, and the world’s politics

Just as we protect our physical well-being by controlling what we eat, it may be wise to limit, or control, our exposure to distressing news reports (Pr 27:12)

Having faith that Jehovah is the Rock in our life can reinforce our determination to maintain integrity, for Jehovah is worthy of our trust

None of Jehovah’s promises will ever go unfulfilled (Jos 23:14)

INTERVIEW (2 min.)

[Interview a Christian who has poor health or is advanced in age but has maintained strong faith in Jehovah.

Ask: How has your confidence in Jehovah benefited you? What have you found to be helpful in maintaining strong faith? How has Jehovah used others to strengthen your faith?]

KEEP JEHOVAH AS ‘THE ROCK OF YOUR HEART’ (2 min.)

We all face situations in which we will have to consider options and make decisions

Our figurative heart can mislead us when we are faced with tests (Jer 17:9)

We want to keep Jehovah as ‘the rock of our heart’ by making decisions that are pleasing to him (Ps 73:26)

Regardless of what we may face, Jehovah can be a stabilizing influence to guard our heart

Brother _____ will now discuss the theme “Word Pictures That Inspire Faith in Jehovah—Shepherd” (Speaker does not need to read or comment on every cited text or discuss every subpoint)