

THE INHABITANT OF THE ROCK

Isa. 26:1-4

Intro: There is a very close parallel between the first two verse and the second two verses. The safety that is found in verse one and two is because of living in the "strong city". The safety that is found in the third verse is because of abiding in Lord. In verse one and two we have the triumphant declaration of security follow by a summons to "open the gates" And in our two text verses we have the declaration of perfect peace follow by a summons to "trust in the Lord forever". Let's notice:

I. THE NATURE OF THE TRUST.

- A. To trust as used here means to "lean upon" or rely upon.
- B. Just as an old man or an old woman feeble in their balance and walk use a cane to steady themselves as they go. Or as one who has just had surgery, might lean upon someone to get up out of bed. They each put their trust in the cane and in the friend.

II. THERE IS A STEADFAST PEACE IN THAT TRUST.

- A. Steadfastness is not characteristic of the average man's life.
 - 1. Most are doubtful because of winds of circumstances.
 - 2. In our day and time we have developed a saying that is the "norm" in nearly everyone's life. "Who can you trust?"
- B. True steadfast trust comes only when a person puts their trust in God.
 - 1. It is the mind that cleaves to God which keeps and enjoys peace.
 - 2. Only they who stay themselves upon God are steadfast and solid.
- C. In order to have an attitude of confidence we must persistently and doggedly Cling to the Word of God.
 - 1. "Be not afraid, be of good courage, for I am with thee; I will never leave thee nor forsake thee". (Josh 1:9).
 - 2. "This is the confidence we have in Him. That if we ask anything in His name, and we know that He hears us, we have the petitions we desired of Him". (I John 5:14).
- D. The steadfast mind is kept by God. (Phil. 4:7).

III. THE MEANING OF THE WORDS, "IN THE LORD JEHOVAH IS EVERLASTING STRENGTH"!

- A. The literal translation of "everlasting strength" is "the Rock of Ages".
 - 1. "Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in Thee"
 - 2. Notice Here we have a reduplication of the One word "Jehovah".
 - 3. It reads in the original, "Jah Jehovah". So Isaiah, in adoration contents himself in using the name twice, in order to express the majesty and sufficiency of that name. "Rock of Ages. Let me hide myself in thee"
- B. Now in light of this understanding what is important about the Words, "In the Lord Jehovah (Jah Jehovah) is everlasting strength."
 - 1. Jehovah is the unchangeable, self-existent, covenant keeping God, "I Am That I AM!"

2. This is the very name of that self-same God Who entered into covenant with His ancient people and remains bound by that same Covenant to bless us Today.
 3. Our God this very hour of this very day is the "everlasting strength" that He was then. He is our "Rock of Ages". He has not and will not change.
 4. Those who fasten themselves to the Rock are safe in its unchangeable strength.
 5. "The conies are a feeble folk, yet they make their houses in the rocks" (Prov. 30:26)
 6. So our weaknesses may house itself there and be at rest.
- C. This passage from Isaiah is a summons addressed to all, to everyone. "Trust ye, one and all, whoever you might be, Trust ye in the Everlasting Jehovah!"
1. Surely the name Rock of Ages is an invitation to u to put our trust in Him.
 2. If a person knew God for Who He really is, he could do nothing else.

CONCLUSION: When from the Cross, there comes to all our hearts the merciful invitation, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved", why should not we each answer,

"Rock of Ages, cleft for me.
Let me hide my self in Thee.