

Wise Men Follow the Rock

By Jane Titrud

This past summer, my daughter and I had the privilege of traveling to Moab, Utah, to visit Arches National Park. The park was even more impressive than I had imagined it would be with its many natural stone arches and other unusual rock formations, and I highly recommend it to others.

One formation that particularly caught my eye was a series of pinnacles that resembled three human figures. In person these were very large and grand. Their official name is “The Three Gossips,” but to me they more resembled “The Three Kings” we sing about at Christmas time. I have included a picture with this article so that you can judge this for yourselves.

Notice in the picture what appear to be three human figures that all seem to be facing the same direction rather than talking amongst themselves. For this reason, I don’t think they look like gossips at all. They rather have the appearance of three travelers—or the kings, if you will—who were following the star of Bethlehem. I can even “see” them riding on camels. Can you? Oh well, if it doesn’t look like that to you, it does to me. That is why I had my daughter take the picture, so I could use it in some way at Christmas time.

Of course these pinnacles are only rocks and not really people at all. They just appear to be travelers—at least to me. But two thoughts immediately came to mind when I originally saw them. First, I remembered the phrase I had seen several times on Christmas cards and mugs to the effect that “Wise Men Still Follow Him.” Second, I thought of the way the Bible compares God to a rock and how He wants us to follow and become like Him.

Some of the verses that compare God to a rock are as follows:

“The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and upright is He.”
(Deuteronomy 32:4 NASB)

“There is no one holy like the LORD, Indeed, there is no one besides Thee, Nor is there any rock like our God.”
(1 Samuel 2:2)

“For Thou art my rock and my fortress; For Thy name’s sake Thou wilt lead me and guide me.”
(Psalm 31:3)

“He only is my rock and my salvation, My stronghold; I shall not be greatly shaken.”
(Psalm 62:2)

“Trust in the LORD forever, For in GOD the LORD, we have an everlasting Rock.”
(Isaiah 26:4)

There are several more such verses in the Bible as well, all of which together describe the LORD our God as solid, stable, strong, enduring, everlasting, a fortress, and a protector—things that are also characteristic of true physical rocks. Like a rock, our God is sure and unchanging.

The fact that God wants us to follow Him is also evident in the Scriptures. One can see this in both the Old and New Testaments. Note, for instance, this verse from the Old Testament: “And

Samuel said to the people, 'Do not fear. You have committed all this evil, yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. And you must not turn aside, for then you would go after futile things which can not profit or deliver, because they are futile'' (1 Samuel 12:20-21).

In the New Testament, following God the Father translates into following His Son, for this too is the will of the Father. Jesus said: *"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; ...I and the Father are one"* (John 10:27, 30).

And again, *"If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall My servant also be; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him"* (John 12:26).

This brings us back to the title of this article, "Wise Men Follow the Rock." There is wisdom in following the will of the Father in that this leads us to a place of stability despite the uncertainties of this life. The result is peace, safety, and security. That is why He is described in the Scriptures in terms of being our rock. Following the will of the Father also tends to make us more like Him. What is more, following Him keeps us from going after futile things, which the prophet Samuel said *"cannot profit or deliver"* us (see 1 Samuel 12:20-21 above).

People are followers, plain and simple. Anyone who chooses not to follow God's will will end up following something or someone else, and the result will not be good.

The original wise men of the Bible followed the star because it promised to lead them to the prophesied king of Israel—the Messiah. Now that He has come into the world, those who are wise continue to follow Him in order to be with Him forever. This is the hope of the Gospel. This is also the meaning of Christmas. And may yours be a blessed one.