



The GOD who is|

by Pastor Rollan Fisher

The GOD who is **alpha**
The GOD who is **omega**
The GOD who is **love**



The God Who Is: Everlasting

WARM UP: What helps you feel connected to God? To others?

READ: Isaiah 9:6-7, 26:1-4, 63:7-9

FOCUS: We will come to know the God who is when we know him as the everlasting rock with an everlasting kingdom.

OBSERVE (10 minutes)

Everlasting Rock - Isaiah 26:1-4

- When we worship Jesus, we do so because he is our everlasting rock whose strength and care are without end.
- Because God's nature is unchanging, his attributes are both consistent and inexhaustible. This includes his care for his people.
- Isaiah 63:7-9 teaches us that God's love is steadfast - it continues on and lasts, not despite trials, but in the midst of them.
- It is through trials that we become broken and humble enough for God to save and transform us.
- We see that God's goodness remains when circumstances seem bleak. He is looking for a people who will acknowledge this by not dealing falsely with him because of their discomforts.
- God is not aloof, callous or unfeeling, but experiences affliction when those that he loves are afflicted. In our afflictions, God looks to save us.
- God saves us by his presence - meaning his nearness and personal involvement in our lives. He does this not sometimes, but as with Israel, carries us **ALL** of our days.

- This means that we should run to God, not from him in our sin.
- This means that we should turn to God and his ways first to deliver us in our trials.
- At the same time, God spoke in the plural of his people Israel, and is a Father intent on creating an **everlasting family**.
- JUST AS GOD'S PRESENCE IS IMPORTANT IN BRINGING SALVATION TO PEOPLE'S LIVES SO YOUR PRESENCE IS IMPORTANT IN GOD DEMONSTRATING HIS CARE FOR OTHERS AS A ROCK.
- As the Body of Christ, we are literally the hands and feet of Jesus expressing his everlasting care.
- Ecclesiastes 7:10 says ""Say not, "Why were the former days better than these?" For it is not from wisdom that you ask this."
- We must forget the former things and rejoice in all the ways that God has been expanding his Kingdom through the virtual spaces with new salvations, baptisms, etc.

Everlasting Kingdom

- When we build our lives upon the rock of Christ, he empowers us to live for his Everlasting Kingdom.
- The fact that God is our everlasting rock means that times and circumstances change, but his purposes do not because God is building an everlasting kingdom.
- Isaiah 9:6-7 tells us that the zeal of the Lord spoken of here clearly demonstrates that God is passionate at all times about building his everlasting kingdom.
- In the midst of the pandemic, we must not allow ourselves to wilt. We must make a return to actually LIVING life in the Kingdom.
- The point is this: you must still live life. You must still be a disciple. You must still be about Christ's Kingdom, making disciples.
- If you've found yourself on the bench in the midst of the pandemic, solely focused on self-preservation, it's time to get back in the game.
- It is our repentance from sin and faith in Christ's sacrificial death on the cross that reconciles us to God and gives us access to new life.
- Because of Jesus' resurrection from the dead, we too are able to live in God's everlasting care, no matter the external circumstances. By faith, may we truly LIVE as the people of God, always building our days on the everlasting rock with the same zeal for his everlasting Kingdom that the Lord himself displays.

REFLECT AND DISCUSS (30 min)

- According to Isaiah 26:1-4, what does it mean that God is an "everlasting rock" ? How have you experienced God this way?
- How has God used you to demonstrate his everlasting care to others?
- How have you experienced God as an everlasting rock through care shown by others to you?
- What 'former things' do you need to forget to make room for what God is doing now?
- Have you been "been on the bench" during the pandemic? How is God calling you to begin building his kingdom in this time?

PRAY & TAKE ACTION

- Heavenly Father, I acknowledge and trust you as my everlasting rock. Thank you for your care that began even before I was born and that leads me safely into eternity. Lord, use me to show your care to those around me this week. Give me heavenly wisdom not to dwell on former things. Give me heavenly vision and faith to walk in your ways today. In Jesus holy name, amen.
- Each day commit to build on Christ. Ask God to show you who you can text, call, or visit to be the loving hands and feet of Jesus.

Isaiah 26:1-4

In that day this song will be sung in the land of Judah: “We have a strong city; he sets up salvation as walls and bulwarks. Open the gates, that the righteous nation that keeps faith may enter in. You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you. Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock.

Isaiah 63:7-9

I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord, the praises of the Lord , according to all that the Lord has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely.” And he became their Savior. In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

Proverbs 11:25

Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

Matthew 20:28

28 even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

Ecclesiastes 7:10

Say not, “Why were the former days better than these?” For it is not from wisdom that you ask this.

Isaiah 9:6-7

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Luke 9:57-62

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.” And Jesus said to him, “Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.” To another he said, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, let me first go and bury my father.” And Jesus said to him, “Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” Yet another said, “I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.” Jesus said to him, “No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.”

Matthew 21:42-44

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: “‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’? 43 Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. 44 And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

Quotes and References

“How are we to live in an atomic age?” I am tempted to reply: “Why, as you would have lived in the sixteenth century when the plague visited London almost every year, or as you would have lived in a Viking age when raiders from Scandinavia might land and cut your throat any night; or indeed, as you are already living in an age of cancer, an age of syphilis, an age of paralysis, an age of air raids, an age of railway accidents, an age of motor accidents.”

In other words, do not let us begin by exaggerating the novelty of our situation. Believe me, dear sir or madam, you and all whom you love were already sentenced to death before the atomic bomb was invented: and quite a high percentage of us were going to die in unpleasant ways. We had, indeed, one very great advantage over our ancestors—anesthetics; but we have that still. It is perfectly ridiculous to go about whimpering and drawing long faces because the scientists have added one more chance of painful and premature death to a world which already bristled with such chances and in which death itself was not a chance at all, but a certainty.

This is the first point to be made: and the first action to be taken is to pull ourselves together. If we are all going to be destroyed by an atomic bomb, let that bomb when it comes find us doing sensible and human things—praying, working, teaching, reading, listening to music, bathing the children, playing tennis, chatting to our friends over a pint and a game of darts—not huddled together like frightened sheep and thinking about bombs. They may break our bodies (a microbe can do that) but they need not dominate our minds.”

-C.S. Lewis

“I have learned to kiss the waves that throw me up against the Rock of Ages”

-Charles H. Spurgeon

“Center your life on Jesus...Don't put your hopes in people, sweetheart. If you do, you'll only add to their burdens and bring grief upon yourself. Love God, and He will enable you to love others, even when they disappoint you.”

-And the Shofar Blew by Francine Rivers

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