



INTRODUCTION

This book is bound to become one of your favorites. *Water from the Rock: Timeless Writings to Strengthen Your Faith and Anchor Your Soul* is a devotional filled with the writings of great men and women of God—writings that will offer you wisdom and insight as you seek to follow Christ in this world.

We pray that your faith will be strengthened and your heart encouraged as you read excerpts from the teachings of such great Christians as Charles Spurgeon, Martin Luther, E. M. Bounds, Hannah Whitall Smith, George MacDonald, and so many more. These timeless insights of well-known and some not-so-well-known classic Christian writers are sure to leave you better equipped to live in harmony with your Creator. And like water from a rock in the middle of the desert, these pages are sure to refresh your thirsty soul.

[God] split the rocks in the desert and gave them water as abundant as the seas; he brought streams out of a rocky crag and made water flow down like rivers.

PSALM 78:15-16

WATER FROM THE ROCK

All drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:4 NASB

It is early May in the Sinai wilderness and God's ancient people of Israel are in desperate need (Exodus 17:1-6). Families struggle to cope with the sun's oppressive heat. Their water has run out, and they cannot find any more. Dire thirst sets in and takes over their inner thoughts and focus. Angry faces and angry words confront Moses. "You give us water to drink right now!" Sharp words fly through parched lips: "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to let our children and us die?" They shout at Moses, but inwardly they complain to the God they cannot see. "God, what is Your real intention for bringing us here? Do something for us right now that proves that You care for us!"

Moses prays, and God instructs him. The people watch as Moses and a few tribal elders journey toward the rocky slopes of a nearby mountain and disappear from view. Out of sight from those left behind, Moses finds the rock designated by God's manifested Presence. He strikes it with his rod, as God had instructed him. The psalmist describes what happens next. God "opened the rock, and water gushed out" (Psalm 105:41). The gushing water continues flowing and becomes a thirst-quenching "river" of water!

C. H. Spurgeon (1834-1892), one of England's best-known preachers, shares the significance of this event for all God's people throughout time.

From the most unlikely sources, the all-sufficient God can supply His people's needs. Hard rocks become springing fountains at the Lord's command. The water from the rock ran in the dry places like a river. Those far from the rock could stoop down and refresh themselves. The stream flowed on so that they would have water in the future. The desert sand would have naturally absorbed the streams of water, and yet it didn't. The refreshing river ran on "in the dry places."¹

- C. H. SPURGEON

Why did God do this? The psalmist tells us that God "remembered His sacred promise to Abraham," (Psalm 105:41-42 NLT) the spiritual father of the Hebrew nation. A famous eighteenth-century English theologian, John Gill (1697-1771), comments:

It was not because of the goodness of this people, their obedience, their worthiness or merit that they were so plentifully provided for in the wilderness. It was because of the grace and goodness of God to His covenant and promise which God sacredly observed. The grace and covenant of God are the source and spring of all blessings of goodness. God is always aware of His covenant.

-JOHN GILL.