

"LIFE THROUGH THE LENS"



NEIL'S ROCK

Neighbour Neil had just driven in from the farm. As he came across the road, it was apparent he was excited about whatever he was clutching in his hand. "What do you think that is?" he questioned, opening his hand to display his new treasure.

Together we got an old dentist's tool and removed the dirt around the prize. The more we dug into and removed the soil, the clearer it became. Small circles became exposed, and more of them than we first imagined.

It was a fossil of sorts embedded in some old river rock. A bit of spit (all good gem fossickers know the value of a bit of spit) and a rub, and the treasure started to shine. Neil's enthusiasm and perseverance paid off. We could now see that what he had was worth being excited over.

King David of Bible times once wrote, I'm sure with excitement, "The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; My God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold." (**Psalm 18: 1-3**) These words can not only be about God the Father but also about God's Son, Jesus.

How might these words relate to life today?

To understand the idea that Jesus is a rock in one's life, you need to realise that in biblical times "rock" did not mean something that one could pick up in your hand. "Rock" carried the image of something immense, unbreakable and unmovable. A "rock" could be relied on always to be where you expected it to be. No one could move a "rock".

As my "fortress rock," I can trust that he can and will keep me safe. Sometimes not in the way I might expect, but always in a way that is best for my relationship of love with him.

A "rock" was a place of strength. From atop a "rock", enemies could be defeated. A "rock" often had clefts and places to hide in safely.

If you are to accept and rely on Jesus as the "Rock" in your life, a place of strength from which to face the world, you may need to carefully remove some of your miss conceptions, see and accept the real Jesus of the Bible and his rock-like love that nothing can move. The Bible or friends who follow Jesus are good tools for this. The more you learn about him, the closer you look, the more you will see, and the more excited you will become. Jesus is much more exciting than a fossil in a rock, as exciting as that may be.

Happy and exciting searching,
Kevin.