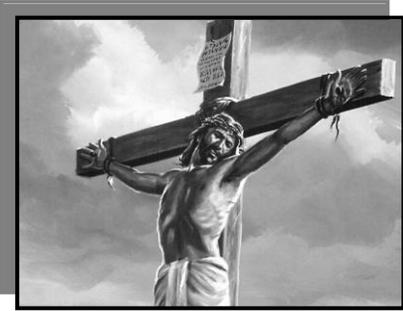


AMAZING DISCOVERIES

With
Steve Vail



Secrets of the lost Ark

In this study, we will take a look at the origin of the imagery of the rock of Daniel 2. We will discover some very interesting parallels between the sanctuary, the Exodus, and Mount Sinai. We will also learn the identity of the mysterious BLUE STONE of Exodus 24.

1 Corinthians 10:1-4,11

In these verses, Paul refers to the Exodus experience of the children of Israel. He points out that Jesus is the Rock that followed them, and that He provided water and food for his people. In 1 Cor. 10:11, Paul tells us that these experiences “**happened unto them for examples ... written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.**” The Exodus experience gives us a “picture” of the plan of salvation from Exodus to Advent. Its lessons are for the final generation. (examples — Gr. “*Toupas*” means “types”)

Key Observations:

1. Israel was baptized into the sea
2. Israel was baptized into the cloud.
3. Israel drank from a supernatural rock.
4. The rock followed them.
5. The rock is identified as Jesus.

We all understand that Israel was baptized into the Red Sea as the waters opened and Moses led his people to safety. But most of us have no idea what Paul means when he says the people were baptized into the cloud. We all know that Israel ate real manna in the dessert and drank from a literal rock. But we tend to spiritualize Paul’s statement which says that this rock literally followed them. As we study the scriptures more closely in this study, we will discover that these confusions will be replaced with beautiful answers. These answers point to Jesus and his truth.

Our Study has Three Main Points:

- υ *The Rock is the source of moral certainty.*
- υ *The Rock is the source of living water.*
- υ *The Rock is the source of eternal salvation.*

Part 1: The Rock is the source of moral certainty

Exodus 13:21-22 (RSV)

And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead them along the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, that they might travel by day and by night; the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night did not depart from before the people.

In this passage we learn that God led his people out of Egypt in the form of a pillar of fire and cloud. Remember that Paul said they were all baptized into the cloud. This is the only cloud referred to in the Exodus.

Exodus 15:13,17 (RSV)

Thou hast led in Thy steadfast love the people whom Thou hast redeemed, Thou hast guided them by Thy strength **to Thy holy abode**...Thou wilt bring them in, and plant them on Thy own **mountain**, the place, O LORD, which Thou hast made for Thy abode, **the sanctuary**, LORD, which Thy hands have established.

This passage chapter records the song of Miriam when Israel rejoiced over God's defeat of the Egyptians. The purpose of the Exodus is given in Exodus 15:13,17. The Bible clearly identifies Mount Sinai as his **mountain sanctuary**. It is the place of His holy abode.

Mount Sinai is the Prototype Sanctuary:

Hebrews 8:5

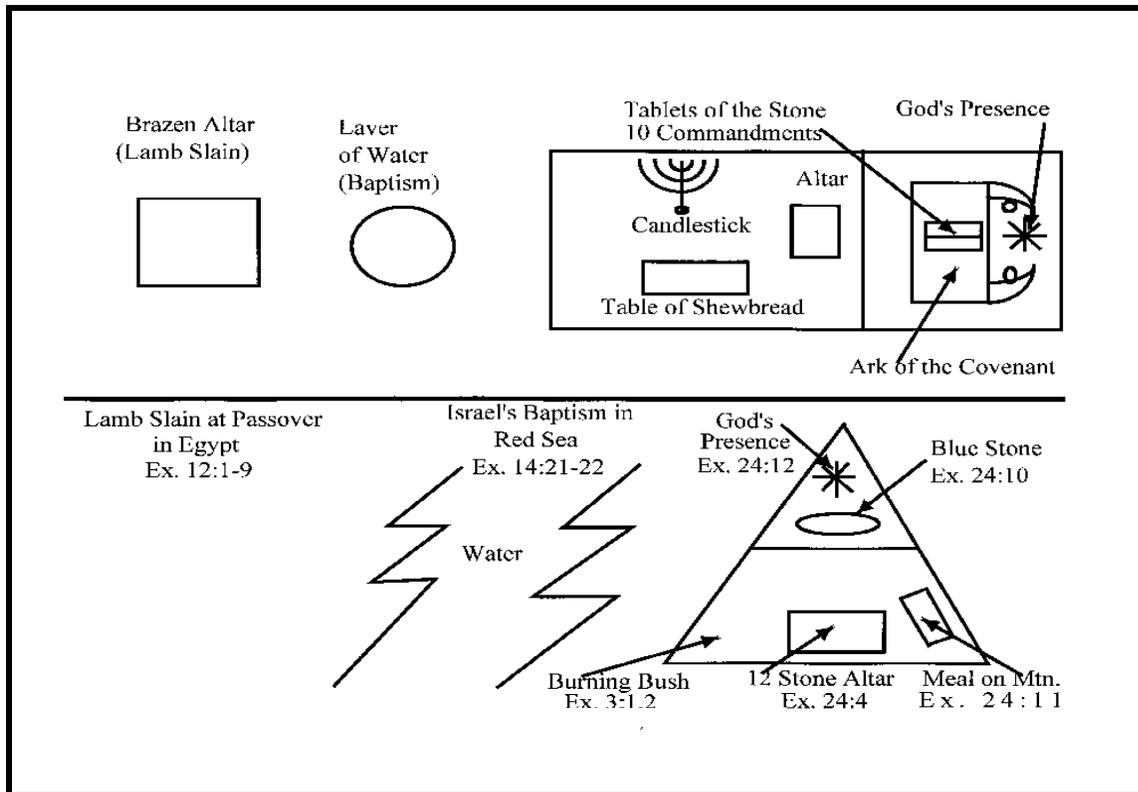
They serve a copy and shadow of the heavenly sanctuary; for when Moses was about to erect the tent, he was instructed by God, saying, "See that you make everything according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.

The writer of Hebrews tells us that Moses' tabernacle which was built at Sinai was a copy of the what Moses saw in the Mountain. Since Sinai was expressly identified by God as his sanctuary, the evidence suggests that Mount Sinai is in fact the pattern.

Exodus chapters 25-32 give a detailed description of the sanctuary construction and furniture

Outer Court	1. Brazen Altar	Place where sacrifices slain
	2. Laver of Water	Place where priests cleansed themselves.
Holy Place	3. 7-Branch Candlestick	Place where the priests serve.
	4. Table of showbread	
	5. Altar of Incense	
Most Holy Place	6. Ark of Covenant, Mercy Seat, Stone Tables of the Law	God's physical place of dwelling.

Chart Comparing Sinai and Moses' Sanctuary:



Three Key Points:

1. The Brazen Altar parallels Passover.
2. The Bronze Sea parallels the Red Sea.
3. The Sanctuary parallels the mountain.

The furniture of the Holy Place had its parallel on the mountain

1. The Lamp Stand.

Moses saw the burning bush in Exodus 3:1,2 on Mount Sinai. The Bible says in Exodus 25:33 that the lamp stand was patterned after an almond tree. Both the burning bush and the lamp stand burned with fire representing God's presence.

2. The Table of Shew Bread.

In Exodus 24:11 the Bible says the 70 elders of Israel, together with Moses and Aaron, ate and drank with God on the mountain. In Exodus 25:29 the Bible says that table of show bread had containers for drink offerings and bread representing God's presence.

3. The Altar.

The Holy Place contained an altar. In Exodus 24:4 Moses built an altar at the foot of the mountain.

The ark of the covenant had its parallel on the mountain:

Exodus 24:9-12 (RSV)

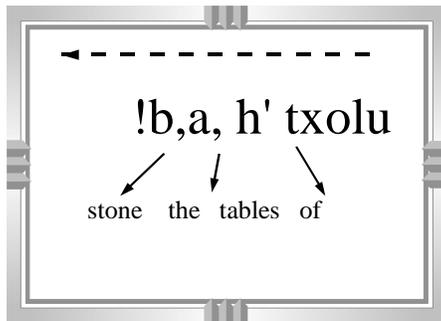
Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, and they saw the God of Israel; and there was under his feet as it were a pavement of

sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. And he did not lay his hand on the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank. The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to Me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tables of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction."

The Bible says in verse 10 that God was standing on a blue sapphire stone. In verse 12, God calls Moses up into the mountain to receive the tables of the law carved from a stone.

The expression "the tables of stone" is a poor translation. The literal Hebrew should be translated "tables of the stone" or "the tables of the stone." The following chart illustrates this:

Verse 12 in the Hebrew:



Observation:

The literal Hebrew indicates that the stone tablets came from "the stone." The only stone in the context is the blue stone. And that is the stone that God is standing on.

Deut. 4:13

In this verse the Bible indicates that the tables of the law were a copy of the ten commandments.

2 Chron. 5:10

This verse indicates that the ark of the Covenant contained the tables of the law Moses received from God on Sinai.

Key Observation:

God was enthroned over the tables of stone just like he was over the blue stone on Mount Sinai. The Bible identifies the ark of the covenant as the place where the stone tablets were placed. It follows then that the blue stone corresponds in some way to the ark of the covenant.

The Question Arises: What is the Blue Stone?

Ezekiel 1:1-6,15-17

In verses 1-6, Ezekiel sees God coming in vision from the North in the same pillar of fire and cloud that led ancient Israel out of Egypt. In verses 15 to 17, he sees giant wheels as part of the pillar of fire and cloud. In

ancient times, wheels were not associated with cars or motorcycles. They called to mind a chariot. So Ezekiel sees God coming from the North in his fiery chariot.

Daniel 7:9 — God's throne has wheels.

Notice this picture of an ancient Judean coin showing God's winged throne with wheels.



1 Chronicles 28:18 — The Ark of the Covenant is God's chariot.

Key Point: Ezekiel sees God coming from the North in the heavenly ark of the covenant.

(another reference - In II Kings 2:11 - Ezekiel is taken up to heaven in a fiery chariot!)

In Ezekiel 1:26-28 we find the blue stone again:

And above the firmament over their heads there was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness as it were of a human form. And upward from what had the appearance of his loins I saw as it were gleaming bronze, like the appearance of fire enclosed round about; and downward from what had the appearance of his loins I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness round about him. Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. Such was the appearance of the **likeness of the glory of the LORD**. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard the voice of one speaking.

Key Point #1: In these verses Ezekiel identifies the blue sapphire stone God is standing on as the throne of God.

(See Also Ezekiel 10:1 - Another vision, and another reference to the sapphire stone as the throne.)

Key Point #2: That means the sapphire stone God is standing on in Exodus 24 is God's throne. Therefore the Ten Commandments were taken directly out of God's throne.

Hebrews 1:8

This verse indicates that God's throne is eternal.

Key Point #3: If God's throne is eternal, then God's law, which came from it, must be eternal.

Psalms 27:4-5

This verse indicates that God's people find refuge in the sanctuary during the time of trouble. The special place of refuge is called a "rock." No doubt David is referring to the ark of the covenant.

(**Isaiah 26:3-4** - peace from being "stayed" upon the "rock")

(**Numbers 15:37-40** - Israel was told to have "blue" threads ... to remind them of the commandments of God. -- Note the possible correlation of the "blue thread" and commandments to the "blue stone" and the commandments).

Part 2: The Rock is the source of Living Water

In 1 Corinthians 10:1-4 we already have seen that Paul stated Jesus was the Rock that followed the children of Israel, and they drank from it.

We know that God went with the children of Israel in a pillar of fire and cloud. We also know that there was a literal rock in the middle of that cloud. And that rock is identified as God's blue sapphire throne. Paul says very clearly that the children of Israel were all baptized into the cloud as well as the Red Sea. And they all drank from that rock that followed them. **The evidence from Paul would seem to suggest that the blue stone was also the source of life giving water in the dessert.**

Exodus 17:1-7

In verse 5, Moses and the elders left camp to go to Mount Horeb. In verse 6, the Bible says God is standing on the rock in Horeb. Horeb is another name for Mount Sinai. God's sanctuary and God's throne were there as we have just demonstrated. Moses hit the rock, and the water came out.

Exodus 17:8-16

The Amalekites wanted to take the water hole by force. Battle broke out, and Israel was successful as long as Moses held up his hands to God in prayer.

The NIV translation of Exodus 17:14-16 is the closest to the original Hebrew. It reads in the following way:

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely erase the memory of the Amalekites from under heaven." Moses built an altar and called it *The Lord is my Banner*. He said, "**For hands were lifted up to the throne of the LORD.** The LORD will be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation."

The literal Hebrew reads, "a hand was upon the throne of the Lord." This would indicate that Moses struck the blue stone as the source of life giving water to save the people's lives.

Psalms 105:39-41

This verse indicates that God opened up rivers in the dessert from the rock. That means that no ordinary creek or natural spring is the source of the supernatural water of Exodus 17.

Numbers 20:6-12

The second time Moses hit the rock, he was standing at the door of the tabernacle. We know from Exodus 33:9,10, Numbers 12:5, and Deut. 31:15 that the cloud would rest at the door of the sanctuary where Moses would meet God. Remember, the cloud contained the rock. In these verses, God commanded Moses to speak to the rock, but instead, he struck it again. On account of his disobedience, God refused to let him enter the Promised Land.

Revelation 22:1

The River of Life flows from the throne of God in heaven just like it did from His throne on Mount Sinai.

Ezekiel 47:1-8,12

In these verses Ezekiel sees a river of life flowing from the sanctuary toward the East. In his vision the water gets deeper and deeper until finally it reaches the Dead Sea - the lowest spot on planet earth. Everything in the Dead Sea that the water touches comes to life. Notice, that the river has its source in the sanctuary.

Part 3: The Rock is the source of eternal salvation

Deut. 32:3-4,13-14

In these verses the Bible plainly states that God was the rock that gave Israel food and drink in the dessert. That means the rock is not a thing, He is a person. Remember Paul's statement in 1 Cor. 10:4, "that Rock was Christ".

John 4:7-14

- Jesus is the source of life-giving water
- He calls himself the source of Living Water.

John 7:2,37-39

The Feast of Tabernacles was a celebration of the wilderness wandering when God fed his people manna and gave them water from the rock (**Lev. 23:33-44**). On this day, Jesus proclaims He is the source of living waters. Notice this background information given by Edersheim:

The Pool of Siloam was fed by the living spring farther up in the narrowest part of the Kedron Valley...When the Temple-procession had reached the Pool of Siloam, the priest filled his golden pitcher from its waters...[Arriving at the temple] There were two silver funnels here, with narrow openings, leading down to the base of the altar. Into that at the east, which was somewhat wider, the wine was poured, and, at the same time, the water into the western....We can have little difficulty in determining at what part of the services of the last, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, "If any one thirst, let him come unto Me and drink." Alfred Edersheim, *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, Vol. 2 pages 158 and 160.

Summary: During the Feast of Tabernacles, on the last day of the feast, a special ceremony called to mind the time when God brought water from the rock. In this ceremony a Priest would take two containers, one of water and one of blood red grape juice. He would then pour them into two separate funnels leading to the base of the altar. These streams would unite as one and pour into the Gihon spring which flows from the Temple mount. They would then empty into the Kidron which flows to the Dead Sea — the lowest spot on earth.

Two Key Points:

1. Verse 38 says life giving water would come from Jesus' belly ("*Kolia*" in the Greek).
2. Verse 39 says the water symbolizes the Holy Spirit.

John 19:31-37

At Jesus' crucifixion, the soldiers did not break Jesus' legs. John indicates Jesus was the fulfillment of the Passover Lamb whose legs were not broken. In verse 34, John tells us two streams of water and blood flowed from Jesus side.

Three Key Points:

1. The life giving water flowed from the Rock
2. Jesus is identified as the Rock.
3. The water and blood from Jesus' side are two streams:
 - the blood stands for forgiveness.
 - the water represents the Holy Spirit who gives us power over sin.

Read Revelation 7:9,15-17

Literal (prophetic) fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles at the Second Coming — this passage summarizes much of the key imagery.

SUMMARY:

We have seen three major points in this study:

1. Our Rock Jesus is the source of the Ten Commandments.
2. Our Rock Jesus is the source of the Holy Spirit.
3. Our Rock Jesus is the source of God's eternal salvation.