

Bible Study:

**BIBLICAL REFERENCES TO
THE PLACE OF SAFETY
&
WAY OF ESCAPE**

By C White
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Version 1.1

“Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, *and* liftest up thy voice for understanding;
If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as *for* hid treasures;
Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.” (Prov. 2:3-5)

“*It is* the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honor of kings *is* to search out a matter” (Prov. 25:2)

“The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish *doeth* not so.” (Prov. 15:7)

“Who is the wise man, that may understand this ? And who is he to whom the mouth of The Lord hath spoken, that he may declare it... ?” (Jer. 9:12)

“Who is wise, and he shall understand these things ? the prudent and he shall know them” (Hos. 14:9)

“and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand” (Dan. 12:10)

“The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: A good understanding have all they that do His Commandments...” (Ps. 111:10. Cp Ps. 119:130; Prov. 2:6; 3:1; 4:13; 9:10)

“O ye simple, understand wisdom:, And, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart....All the words of my mouth are in righteousness ... They are all plain to him that understandeth” (Prov. 8:5; 8-9)

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Foreword

This study is a collection of verses (with comments) collected from God's Holy Word alluding to the urgent flight of the Church to a place of safety in the end time. It is not intended to be a research or scholarly paper.

This place of safety may well be the "Rose Red City", commonly known as Petra. Consequently Biblical references to Sela are included in this little paper. Therefore so are references to the Kenites, Horites and Maorites who lived there. The descendents of Edom ousted the Horites from Petra and the general area became known as Mt. Seir. Petra was also on the edge of the Wilderness of Zin, so references to it may also be found in this paper.

On the other hand, Petra may be the main place of refuge with other refuges found in other regions (as it was in the Middle Ages).

Finally, references to the Wilderness of Paran are included, but it is unlikely it stretched to Petra. Similarly, it is unlikely that Kadesh-Barnea or Bebe-Jaakan were at Petra, but references to them have been reserved in case futures discoveries confirm this speculation by some.

In any event, they were in proximity to Petra.

Happy Reading !

[NB: this article was typed in 2006 from Bible studies undertaken over 20 years earlier. Therefore it needs to be checked for accuracy.]

Scriptures in the Pentateuch

- “...And the Horites in their mount Seir, unto El-paran, which *is* by the wilderness.
- And they returned, and came to En-mishpat, which *is* Kadesh...” (Genesis 14:6-7)
- Gen. 15:19
- Gen. 16:14
- Gen. 20:1
- Gen. 21:21
- Gen. 32:3
- Gen. 33:14, 16
- “Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and *how* I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.” (Ex. 19:4. See also Deut. 32:10-12; Is. 40:28-31; Rev. 12:13-15)
- Num. 10:11-12
- Num. 12:16
- Num. 13:3, 21, 26
- Num. 14:45 (Hormah is in Seir, mountain range within which Petra is located)
- Num. 20:1, 8-11, 14, 16, 22
- Num. 24:18, 21
- Num. 27:14

- Num. 32:8
 - Num. 33:31, 36 (“The wilderness of Paran lay to the south of it [Zin], though Kadesh appears to have been included in both territories and the two wildernesses districts occurs within the still broader term ‘Negeb’ - *New Bible Dictionary*, art. “Zin” p 1360)
 - Num. 34:3-4
 - Deut. 1:2, 7, 19, 44, 46 (“Journeying through the Sinai wilderness, the Israelites stayed in the region of Kadesh on the edges of the wilderness of Paran and Zin more than once *New Bible Dictionary*, art. “Kadesh”, p 687)
 - Deut. 2:1, 4-5, 8, 12, 14, 22, 29
 - Deut 9:23
 - Deut. 10:6 (“Children of Jaakan” called Bene “(= children of)-Jaakan” in Num. 33:31. Jaakan was a Horite. See Gen 36:27 and I Chron 1:42 for proof. Thus they were Horites, very possibly dwelling at or near Petra)
 - Deut. 32:3-4, 11-13 (Heb. For “rock” here is Sela! But the Hebrew for “flinty rock” is “zur” meaning “sharp and precipitous. Hence a refuge and security” (Bullinger’s *Companion Bible*, p 283) See vv 15, 18, 30-31, 51 (cp Num. 20:7-13; Ps. 106:32-33)
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Scriptures in the Former Prophets

- Josh. 10:41 (When cross-referred with 11:16-17 and 15:1-3, it is apparent that Kadesh was in proximity to Seir)
- Jos. 11:16-17
- Jos. 12:7
- Jos. 15:1-3, 10
- Jud. 1:36
- Jud. 3:26
- Jud. 5:4
- Jud. 11:16-17
- I Sam. 2:2 (cf. Deut 32:4; II Sam. 22:32)
- I Sam. 14:4 (cf. 13:6)
- I Sam. 23:25-24:2 (could these verses be referring to Petra? These Maonites may be descendants of Judah (I Ch. 2:4-5). If not, they were then a gentile, hostile tribe of a similar name. See Judah 10:12 where the name appears to be a combination of Moab and Amon. Thus they could be descendants of Lot. *The New Bible Dictionary* art. "Maon, Maonites", has this to say: "Their association with Arabs and Ammonites ...suggests Ma'an, south of Petra, as their home." See also Dan. 11:41)
- I Sam. 25:1 (the *New Bible Dictionary*, describes "Paran" as "A wilderness situated in the east central region of the Sinai peninsular, north-east from the traditional Sinai and south-south-east of Kadesh...I Sam. XXV.1 records that David went to the wilderness of Paran ... but in this instance we may read with the Greek wilderness of Maon")

- I Sam. 27:10 (see 15:6 The Kenites dwelt in the Negeb, which boarded on Petra)
 - 2 Sam. 22:2-3, 32, 47 (See also 23:3. God is our spiritual place of safety)
 - 2 Kings 14:7 (Petra ? See the parallel account in 2 Ch. 25:5-14)
 - I Ch. 1:42
 - 2 Ch. 20:10, 22-23
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Scriptures in the Writings and Megilloth

- Neh. 9:15
- Job. 39:27-30 (See Luke 17:31-34; Is. 33:15; Jer. 49:16; Ob. 3:4; Num. 24:21; Song of Solomon 2:14)
- Ps. 9:9-10
- Ps. 17:8 (See Ruth 2:12); Ps. 36:7; 57:1; 61:1-4; 63:7
- Ps. 18:1-2, 31.
- Ps. 27:5 (See Is. 26:20; Zeph. 2:3; Ps. 31: 20-21)
- Ps. 28:1
- Ps. 29:8
- Ps. 31:2-3, 20-21
- Ps. 32:6-7 (See Rev. 12:15)
- Ps. 33:17-20
- Ps. 36:7
- Ps. 37:39-40 (Heb. “deliver” = have made them escape; “trust in” = flee for refuge to)
- Ps. 40:1-3
- Ps. 42:9 (God is our spiritual mountain, crag or fortress. The Hebrew here for “rock” is “sela”)
- Ps. 46:1-3, 7

- Ps. 50:15
- Ps. 55:6-8 (See Is. 16:2; Jer. 48:28; Ezek. 7:16)
- Ps. 57:1
- Ps. 60:9-11 (Bullinger's *Companion Bible*, p 776 says of this scripture: "Probably Sela or Petra, corresponding with Edom (cp 2 Kings 14:7) David claims the promise of Num. 24:18")
- Ps. 61:2-4
- Ps. 62:1-2, 6-8
- Ps. 63:7
- Ps. 71:2-3 (the correct translation for "strong habitation" should be "rock of habitation", the Hebrew for "rock" is "zur". Hebrew for "rock" in the last part of v3 is "sela"), 7
- Ps. 78:16, 20, 35
- Ps. 81:16
- Ps. 83:3 (for "hidden ones" see Is. 26:20; Zeph. 2:3; Ps. 31:20, 91:1)
- Ps. 89:26
- Ps. 91:1 (cp 57:1)
- 2 (away of escape)
- 3a (i.e. the coming captivity)
- 3b (i.e. disease epidemics. When 1/3 die)
- 4 (see Luke 17:37, and Rev. 12:14. For "shield" see Gen. 15:1; Eph. 6:16; Ps. 5:12; 18:35; 84:9)
- 5 ("Arrow" = bullets, missiles)
- 6 (disease epidemics and famine)
- 7 (the place of safety may be close to a war-zone! And this will indeed test one's faith)
- 8 (see the Tribulation War in the distance – not experience it)
- 9-10 (see Eccl. 8:5)

- 11 (Angelic protection. See Matt. 18:10; Acts 12:15)
 - 12 (both physical and spiritual protection. See 94:18)
 - 13 (3 symbols of Satan and the demons)
 - 14 (“love” – see Rom. 13:10; “My Name” – see Rev. 3:8b, “high” – see Job 39:27-30)
 - 15-16 (i.e. eternal life)

 - Ps. 92:15

 - Ps 94:22

 - Ps. 95:1

 - Ps. 108:10-11 (i.e. Petra! See Ps. 68:8-11)

 - Ps. 121:1-8

 - Ps. 144:1-2

 - Prov. 1:33

 - Prov. 11:4, 6, 21

 - Prov. 14:26

 - Prov. 18:10 (Heb. For “safe” is “set on high” See Job. 39:27-30 and Ps. 91:14)

 - Prov. 21:31

 - Song of Solomon 2:14
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Scriptures in the Latter Prophets

- Is. 2:10
- Is. 4:2
- Is. 8:14a
- Is. 16:1 (Heb = “Send the lambs for (or from) the ruler of the land from Sela that is toward the wilderness, to the mount of the daughter of Zion” – i.e. the end-time True Church will be the new ruler at Petra!),
- 2 (cp Ps. 55:7-9; Jer. 48:23; Ezek. 25:9-10; 7:16; Song of Solomon 2:14 Jordanians will flee the Eastern hordes, toward Petra. See especially Ezek. 25:10; Jer. 40:1-25),
- 3 (“outcasts” – see Is. 26:20; 66:5; Jer. 9:19, 2, 7. It seems the Laodiceans will have a part in driving out the Philadelphians: See John 16:2; III John 10; Matt. 24:9-12; Mark 13:10-12; Luke 21:12-18; Matt. 10:16-17. See Matt. 5:22 where “council” (or Sanhedrin in the Greek) applies to the church. And in Matt.18:17 “church” or “assembly” actually referred to the synagogues! So the synagogues and Sanhedrin are the church after Pentecost 31 A.D.)
- 3c (“bewray ...” - ie when you flee to Petra, don’t betray the Church), 4a (ie the Moabites will flee to where they know others to be in a place of safety. For “Moab” see Jer.48:9, 28, Dan.11:41), 4b (“oppressors”- 14:4)
- Is. 17:10
- Is. 21: 11 (“Dumah” = Edom. An abbreviated form of the complete name Idumea), 12-13 (the Church will be a witness to the coming Dedanite (German) invasion of the Middle East. See Jer. 6: 26-27 – the Church is God’s Watchman. See Ezek. 33: 1-7)
- Is. 25: 4
- Is. 26: 20 (“shut thy doors” – refers back to Noah. See Gen. 7: 16), 21

- Is. 27: 5 (Heb is “Or let him take me as a refuge or protection”)
- Is. 33: 13 -14 (Laodiceans?), 15-16a (“on high” – see Job 39: 27 -30; Luke 17: 31 -34) 16b (Heb is “his place of defense shall be the stronghold of Sela”), 16c (for “bread” see Num.11:6-9; Ex. 16:8, 15. For “water” see Num.20:11)
- Is.40:31 (especially at the Place of Safety)
- Is. 42:10 (a for “New Song” see Rev. 14:3), 11 (Heb for “rock” is Sela)
- Is 43:15-20
- Is 48:20-21
- Is 51:1 (God is our Rock – our ultimate Place of Safety)
- Is 66: 1-2 (cp Rev 3:8. Cf Ps 51:17; 34:18; Is 57:15)
- 3 (ie they profess to worship God. See IITim 3:5)
- 4a (cf IIThess 2:10-11)
- 4b-5 (see 16:4; Jer 9:2,19)
- 19 (ie these that escaped the Tribulation will be given the opportunity to reach out to the gentiles in the Millennium. See 42:12; 11:10-11. The sons of God will convert the gentiles and the House of Israel shall rule over them (see Zech 10:9). Who is the “ensign” spoken of here? See 11:10, 12; 31:9; Zech 9:16)
- Jer 48:9, 28 (the Jordanians will flee to “the rock” (*sela*). Why? For the answer see vv8, 47; 49:1-6; Zeph 2:8-11; Amos 2:1-3; Ezek 25:1-10 (the eastern hordes will invade the Middle East and Jordan. For “dove” see Ezek 7:16; Is 16:2; Ps 55:7-9,12)
- Is 49:16-17 (God removed the Edomites anciently from Petra)
- Ezek 5:1 (“barber’s razor” = Assyria. See Is. 7:20), 2 (Israel will go into captivity), 3 (but the Philadelphia Era will escape), 4 (but not so the Laodiceans. Cf 9:4-7; Is 4:4; Rev 11:1-2. Concerning the Laodiceans, see reference to them in 6:8-9; 11:16; 12:15-16)

- Ezek 7:16 (see Is 16:2; Jer 48:28; Ps 55:7-9, 12)
- Ezek 14:17-23
- Ezek 20:35-38 (this is a dual prophecy referring to both Israel and the Church)
- Ezek 24:26-27 (refers to the Way of Escape or to those of 6:8-9; 11:16 and 12:15-16?)
- Ezek 47:19
- Ezek 48:28
- Dan 11:41 (see Is 16:4-5)
- Dan 12:12, 1
- Joel 2:32 (Hebrew for “deliverance” = “a delivered remnant.” And the Hebrew for “remnant” is “an escaped set”)
- Joel 3:16 (Hebrew for “hope” is “refuge” and for “strength” is “stronghold”)
- Ob 16 (cp Jer 49:16), 17 (Hebrew for “deliverance” = “a delivered remnant.” See Joel 2:32)
- Heb 3:3 (at His return it seems that Christ will swoop over Sela, before descending in Jerusalem. See Deut 33:2), 4 (“horns” refers to power or rays. See Rev 5:6; Zech 9:14)
- Hab 3:16-19 (see also Is 40:29-31)
- Zeph 2:3 (“all ye meek” refers to the True Church. Cp Is 55:6; Ps 32:6-7. The Hebrew for “hid” includes the concept of Divine protection. See Is 26:20; Ps 71:5; 31:20; 83:3. And is it not interesting that in this context the name *Zephaniah* itself mean “hidden of Jehovah”?)

- Zech 2:5 (God speaks here of spiritual Jerusalem – the end-time True Church. See 9:8; Ps 91:1-4; 34:7. For this “wall” see Lam 2:8; Is 26:1; 33:20-21; 60:18; Ps 51:18. For “wall of fire” see Is 6:2; IIKings 6:16-18; Is 66:15; Ps 104:4 – this seems to be referring to God’s protection via His angels, particularly the Seraphim)
 - 6 (Hebrew for “come forth” is “escape” and for “spread” is “scattered”)
 - 7 (this refers not only to the Israelites today and in the future captivity, but in Biblical dual style, also to the Laodicean Era in a future captivity)

 - Zech 9:8 (God will protect the Philadelphia Era from the armies of the soon-coming US of Europe), 12 (“stronghold” in Hebrew is “bizzaron” (from bazaar, to cut off). This has the meaning of ‘a safe place’ because it is an inaccessible place. *The Living Bible* has it as “a place of safety”)

 - Mal 3:16-17 (God will preserve the Philadelphia Era during the Tribulation. Heb for “my jewels” is “a peculiar treasure” – ie we are very precious to God. See Ex. 19:5; IPet 2:9-12)
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Scriptures in the New Testament

- Matt 7:24-25 (Christ is our spiritual Rock or Petra. See Ps 127:1; Jer 22:13a)
- Matt 16:18
- Matt 24:16 (see Hos 11:12; Joel 2:32; Ob 17)
- 17-20 (cp Rev 12:17; 14:12)
- 36 (cp Is 6:11; Jer 12:4; Dan 8:13; Ps 9:13)
- 37, 42 (see Matt 25:3; Luke 18:1; 21:36; 12:35-48; Mark 13:35; Acts 20:31; IThess 5:6; Lam 3:25-26)
- Luke 17:26-34 (ie the Church will leave secretly and suddenly. See 21:34-35; Matt 25:6; Is 48:3; 33:14; 30:13; 29:5; Joel 2:9; Amos 5:9; Hab 2:7; Hos 8:10 (Heb for “a little” means “a little time” = speedily)
- 35-37 (cp Jer 49:16; Job 39:27-30; Matt 24:28; Ps 91:4; Rev 12:14)
- Luke 6:48 (see Matt 7:24-25)
- Luke 21:34-36 (see Ezek 14:20. We have to be worthy to escape – like Noah was)
- ICor 10:4
- Rev 3:10 (for “patience” see 13:10; 14:12; Rom 8:25; Matt 24:13; Luke 21:19. For this “hour” see Rev 17:12 – it refers to the Tribulation)
- Rev 12:6 (the Church fled in the Middle Ages during the Pergamos and Thyatira eras. Also the Philadelphia era will flee to a wilderness area(s) to escape the approaching Great Tribulation horrors. Note: the Church will escape to a place previously *prepared* for her. It could all start by friendly contacts with officials)
- 14 (thus begins the 1335 days (see Matt 24:13). Note that it is *her* place that she flees to. She could either own the land or have a long-

term lease over it? Or it may simply means it is hers because God has prepared it for her)

- 15 (then commences the 1290 and days (Matt 24:15-20). For this “flood” see Is 8:7-8; Dan 11:40b; Ps 57:3)
 - 16 (see Is 29:8)
 - 17 (now comes the 1260 days of Tribulation upon the Laodicean Era (Matt 24:21-24).
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Quote from C.S. Lewis:

"Clearly, no one wishes to say anything that will [awaken] mass hysteria. We must never speak...about 'the Day' [of the Second Coming] without emphasizing again and again the utter impossibility of prediction. We must try to show them that that impossibility is an essential part of the doctrine. If you do not believe Our Lord's words, why do you believe in His return at all? And if you do believe them must you not put away from you, utterly and forever, any hope of dating that return? His teaching on the subject quite clearly consisted of three propositions:

- (1) That He will certainly return;
- (2) That we cannot possibly find out when;
- (3) And that therefore we must always be ready for Him."

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