

I Am a Rock, Simon & Garfunkel

A winter's day
In a deep and dark
December
I am alone
Gazing from my window to the streets
below
On a freshly fallen silent shroud of
snow
I am a rock
I am an island

I've built walls
A fortress deep and mighty
That none may penetrate
I have no need of friendship,
friendship causes pain
It's laughter and it's loving I disdain
I am a rock
I am an island

Don't talk of love
But I've heard the words before
It's sleeping in my memory
I won't disturb the slumber of feelings
that have died
If I never loved I never would have
cried
I am a rock
I am an island

I have my books
And my poetry to protect me
I am shielded in my armor
Hiding in my room, safe within my
womb
I touch no one and no one touches me
I am a rock
I am an island

And a rock feels no pain
And an island never cries

How to Go Deeper in the Word

Pray, Read, Pray

Respect the Dual Nature of the Bible: Human and Divine

- a) **2 Samuel 23:1–2** David the son of Jesse declares, the man who was raised on high declares, “The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, and His word was on my tongue.”
- b) **2 Peter 1:20–21** knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone’s own interpretation. For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Implications

1. The Bible is *Human literature* AND *Spiritual literature*—every part, at the same time, inseparable. No theologian has ever arisen who could identify only divine.
2. We know only what God has chosen to reveal.
 - a. Deut 29:29 “The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but the things revealed belong to us and to our sons forever, that we may observe all the words of this law.
3. God speaks our language. We do not have to learn a heavenly language. Easily translated.
4. The message is authoritative. Like CO’s Night Orders, they are to be believed, obeyed, trusted. The Bible’s authority comes from its origin – breathed out by God. **2 Tim 3:16** All scripture is inspired (expired) by God.
5. The Bible could no more be wrong than the HS could lie.
 - a. Psalm 119:142 Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And Your law is truth.
 - b. John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; thy word is Truth.
 - c. Luke 1:4 ...so that you might know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.

6. Expect all forms of human literature: history, biography, poetry, apocalyptic – each with it's own rules for correct understanding. Literal v Figurative.

Use Two skill-sets to Correctly Understand the Message

- 1) **Spiritual Sensitivity Skill Set**, innate to all.
 - a) Ps 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may behold...
 - b) Mat 5:8 Blessed are the Pure in heart, they shall see God. 1 John 1:9
 - c) 1 Sam 3:9 Speak, LORD, for Your servant is listening. Commitment to Obey.
- 2) **Literary Skill Set**, acquired by 7th grade: **Observe, Interpret, Apply**.

1) **Observe:**

- a) **Read, Read, Read**
- b) **Vocabulary, Grammar**; Seek normal meaning
 - i) **Vocab**: definition of words, as author intended, as 1st audience understood.
 - ii) **Grammar**: subject, verbs, objects
 - (1)(verbs) Rom 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God...
 - (2)(subject) Rom 6:12 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts,
- c) **Degree of Accuracy**; accept the lesser accuracy by ancient writers.
 - i) What's for lunch today? What time did you wake up? How was Spring Break? Allow an author to use whatever degree of accuracy he chooses.
 - ii) 1 Samuel 13:20 “**All Israel** went down to the Philistines, each to sharpen his plowshare.”
- d) **Literal or Figurative?**
 - i) “This (bread) is my body, given for you.”
 - ii) “And there was evening and morning, the first day.”
 - iii) “And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the Lake of Fire.”
- e) **Context determines Meaning**. Historical Setting. Grammatical-Historical Hermeneutic.

- i) Puff the Magic Dragon, 60s fight for marijuana use.
- ii) Rom 13. Written from Corinth, by a Jew, while Roman legions occupied both countries. What if written by David to his citizens at height of David's kingdom, 2 Samuel, say before Bathsheba?

2) Interpret:

a) Main Theme & Syntax

- i) Syntax: why this para first? Why Mat 21:11, then Mat 21:18? that order?
- ii) Theme: Repeated words, phrases, ideas.
- iii) Theme: To the first audience. Don't look for eternal truths, universal principles—yet.

b) Nature of God

- i) *2 Corinthians 3:18* But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.
- ii) What words describe Him?
- iii) What is He doing? feeling? thinking?
- iv) What is He not doing? not feeling? not thinking?
- v) What does he want from the characters?

c) Reject secret interpretations, special keys to understanding.

d) Correlate with other passages for most accurate interpretations.

3) Apply:

- a) How can I duplicate in my culture what the author was calling for in his?
- b) What are the eternal truths, universal principles in this chapter?
- c) What does God want me to do? to think? to feel?
- d) Though I say I believe this about God, how does my life reveal otherwise?
- e) When I forget this about God what harmful thoughts and emotions assail me?

Chapter Analysis Template

Psalm 119:18 Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your law.

Chapter:

Date:

Step 1: Divide the chapter into paragraphs. Record the main theme of each paragraph in 1 or 2 sentences. What is the author saying to his 1st century audience? (Stay in the 1st c.)

(vs) Theme:
(vs) Theme:
(vs) Theme:
(vs) Theme:

Step 2: List, and then define 2 or 3 most important words or phrases for understanding the chapter.

1.
2.
3.

Step 3: Discuss the dominant mood of the author or main character. He is feeling...

Step 4: My Favorite Paragraph for concentrated study:

Vs.	Key idea, thoughts about the verse	My Questions	Possible Answers

Step 5 (optional): Correlation: How does another section of the Bible help explain my favorite paragraph?

<i>Bible passage</i>	<i>Thought from that passage</i>
1.	
2.	

**Step 6: Main theme of favorite paragraph: State it in 1 sentence, then explain:
What is author communicating to his original audience?**

Step 7: Significant implications or conclusions of this paragraph. Universal principles true for all cultures, all times.

1.
2.
3.

Step 8: What is God like according to this chapter? What was He thinking? doing? not doing? What emotion was He feeling? What adjectives best describe Him? What did He seek from man? Do I like this God? He like me?

1.
2.

3.

Step 9: Application: What specific false thoughts and disturbing emotions hinder me when I don't believe God is like this? Though I may say I believe this about God, how does my outward life show I really do not?

Step 10. Application: What is God trying to say to me? What does He want me to...

...believe is true:
...feel emotionally:
...choose to do or not do:

(Alternate Step 10) Application: How can I / we replicate in our culture what the author was calling for in his culture?

How many ships do you see?



2 Corinthians 3:15–18 But to this day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their heart...¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror *the glory of the Lord*, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory....

Resources

- BibleGateway.com
- Bible Reading Plan
 - M'Cheyne

Summary: You will go deeper into the Word

- if you want a deeper relationship with Jesus.
- by reading over and over, asking God to speak to you.
- while respecting the Nature of the Bible: human and divine.