“I Go to the Rock” by Whitney Houston

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fWZsT6H0dkY>

“My Soul Says Yes” by Damita Haddon

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ftURqNCxdU>

“Man in the Mirror” from the movie “Joyful Noise”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_RxTSoiqXg0>

“He’s Everything” with Queen Latifah and Dolly Parton

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSj4w_ZYdB8>

“Higher Medley” in “Joyful Noise”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5truyhHxB9Q>

“Joyful Joyful” from Sister Act 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8nUa280OiVM>

“Oh Happy Day” from Sister Act 2

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z-4mtA6Z88k>

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,

God of glory, Lord of love;

Hearts unfold like flow’rs before Thee,

Op’ning to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;

Drive the dark of doubt away;

Giver of immortal gladness,

Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,

Earth and heav’n reflect Thy rays,

Stars and angels sing around Thee,

Center of unbroken praise.

Field and forest, vale and mountain,

Flow’ry meadow, flashing sea,

Singing bird and flowing fountain

Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,

Ever blessing, ever blest,

Wellspring of the joy of living,

Ocean depth of happy rest!

Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,

All who live in love are Thine;

Teach us how to love each other,

Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus,

Which the morning stars began;

Father love is reigning o’er us,

Brother love binds man to man.

Ever singing, march we onward,

Victors in the midst of strife,

Joyful music leads us Sunward

In the triumph song of life.

<http://library.timelesstruths.org/music/Joyful_Joyful_We_Adore_Thee/>

**O Lord, Our Rock and Our Redeemer**

***Psalm 19; Isaiah 50:4; Psalm 100***

 *Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer, Psalm 19:14.* We used to finish many Sunday Schools with that prayer. The Hebrew word for “strength” from the King James that we invariably quoted, transliterated “tsuwr” (Strong’s H6697) literally means “rock” and does imply strength and stability. May the Lord truly be the Rock and Redeemer of our lives. We need God to be the rock of our lives and we need someone to step in and redeem our lives – more often than we think.

 All of what David wrote before in *Psalm 19* is an image of how God is our rock and our redeemer. Verses *1-6* illustrate God being our Rock and our Redeemer in the heavens and the earth.

God is our Rock and strength the same way that the heavens speak to the earth. *1 The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork.*

*2 Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge.*

*3 There is no speech nor language, where their voice is not heard.*

*4a Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world…*

God is my strength the same way that the heavens declare God’s glory. The heavens speak throughout the earth of God’s glory all the time. The voice of the heavens is heard all around the earth wherever there is speech and language. The “line” (H6957) or musical chord of the heavens has gone all through the earth and the words of heaven go to the uttermost parts of the world.

God is this foundation and rock and strength in our lives. I want God to speak throughout my life all the time. I want the musical chord of God’s voice to go all throughout my spirit and soul. I want God’s words to be a part of the deepest parts of my life.

David said that the heavens spoke throughout the earth, but also did more. The heavens sent the sun into the earth the same way that we want God to come into our lives as our redeemer.

*4b In [the heavens] hath he set a tabernacle for the sun,*

*5 Which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoiceth as a strong man to run a race.*

*6 His going forth is from the end of the heaven, and his circuit unto the ends of it: and there is nothing hid from the heat thereof. Psalm 19:4b-6.*

Just as the sun comes out of heaven to go forth through the earth, we need God to come through our lives like a redeemer. I like this image because of the way that God chose to come through our lives through His Son Jesus. Every day, the sun rises and sets in our lives the same way that Jesus came into the earth with a ministry that rose and then set with His death, resurrection, and ascension.

It appears as if the sun rises and sets every day when in reality, we are just seeing the sun this way because the earth is spinning around. Because our human lives were spun around and around by sin, Jesus jumped into our lives like the strong man of the sun to run a righteous race. There was nothing on earth hid from the heat of the sun the same way that there is nothing on earth hidden from the love of Jesus. It looks like the sun is rising and setting on us when the reality is that we are revolving around the sun every year. It looks like Jesus just came into the world for a short time when in reality all of our lives revolve around the Lord. The sun comes rising into our lives every day like a strong man and we need Jesus our redeemer to rise into our lives every day like a strong man.

Just as the heavens formed a universe around the earth, the Word of the Lord can be the same Rock and Strength in our lives. The heavens are the strength of the earth and God’s Word can be the strength of our lives.

*7 The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.*

*8 The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.*

*9 The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.*

*10 More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.*

*11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.*

We should live to make the Word of God the heavens around our earth. The Word of God should be our rock and our strength. The Word of God turns our souls around. God’s story gives our simple minds wisdom. The Lord’s statutes give us something to rejoice about. God’s commands give us vision in extraordinary ways. Reverence for God purifies our lives and God’s judgment helps us to walk in righteousness.

Even as the Word of God is my foundation and strength, I need the Lord to come into my life as my Redeemer. We all make mistakes and we all need help.

*12 Who can understand his errors? Cleanse thou me from secret faults.*

*13 Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression, Psalm 19:12-13.*

I need someone to cleanse me from my mistakes. I make mistakes and I don’t know how I made them. I make mistakes and I don’t know that I made them. I need a redeemer. I need someone to keep me back from arrogance and proud mistakes; and from environments that lead to arrogance and pride.

If I have a redeemer in my life, I have someone who can turn my life around. The technical definition for a redeemer from Hebrew law (*Leviticus 25:25-34, 47-55)* is that of one who “buys back a property or house that has been sold; of a kinsman who buys back a family member who has fallen into slavery.” (HarperCollins Bible Dictionary) When I have fallen into spiritual debt and spiritual slavery, Jesus can redeem me and rescue me from my faults, known and unknown. Jesus redeems what has been lost in my life.

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer, Psalm 19:14.* God created the heavens to declare His Glory and show the Lord’s great Work. God inspired the heavens to speak throughout the earth, and the earth declared God’s glory. Seeing God’s work in the earth has inspired us. May our hearts also become a place for God to show His strength. May the meditation of our hearts be a cosmos that declares the glory of God.

And so may the words of our mouth rise and set like the sun running a race. May the words of our mouth speak the words of redemption that come from the Word of God. May the words of our mouth speak the redemption that we need from Jesus each and every day. *The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth my ear to hear as the learned, Isaiah 50:4.*

May the words of our mouths bless the Lord, Our Rock and Our Redeemer. May our mouths make a joyful noise like the sun and the wonders of God’s earth.

*1 Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.*

*2 Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing.*

*3 Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

*4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.*

*5 For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations, Psalm 100.* This is acceptable and delightful to the Lord! May the Lord be our Rock and every day run into our lives as our Redeemer.

 The Lord is Awesome!

Tobias Pinckney for Powered to Witness University, 9/13/15

© 2015 Tobias Pinckney

**The Altar’s Call**

**Through Our Rock and Our Redeemer**

If the heavens praise God to the earth, how can my heart declare God’s glory on a daily basis? Does the meditation of my heart operate to purify me, revive me, give me vision, and things to rejoice about?

Every day, I need a redeemer, just as the sun rises and sets. Take every day, and think about how Jesus has been a redeemer in our lives. Ask God for the redemption that we need now.

Am I using my mouth to be a tabernacle that comes out to glorify and bless God?

How are the words of my mouth comforting the weary?

“Joyful, Joyful” with Michael W. Smith

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHm_p7xj5uQ>