



water from rock

Selah: Stop, Look, Listen – March 22, 2022

The Lord be with you.

Do you know how long God has loved you? Has God love you from the time you were a child, or has God love you from the time you started loving him? How long do you think God has loved you? How long... How long do you think that God has been head over heels crazy about you? It can be fun to think about...

The other day, my wife and I were talking about how long we have loved each other, so I wish it could have been longer. For me, it was a love at first sight. My wife and I do like to talk about how long we have loved each other. And that takes me back to the question I started with today. How long do you think God has loved you? How long has God not been able to stop thinking about you? That is a good deep theological question, in which we see that God is now Johnny come lately to loving you. In fact, as we look at the Bible, we can say that you have forever been on, God's mind in God's heart.

Now, that's hard for us to imagine. As you and I, we are embedded in time, but that God has loved you forever. Now, with our Bibles open, let's look at Jeremiah Chapter 1 Verse 6, where God says to Jeremiah, as he says to each of us, before I shaped you in the womb, I knew all about you. Before you saw the light of day, I had holy plans for you. Long before your father or mother were ever thinking of you, the creator was thinking of you, he was making holy plans for you.

It's always good to remember that you and I that were not here by accident, to remember that your life has purpose, that God had a special reason for creating you for forming you, as God has been thinking of you, loving you for a long, long time.

Here's another verse. One but many about how long God has loved you. I'm looking at the words of the apostle Paul in Galatians Chapter 1 verse 15, as he says, When I was still in my mother's womb, God chose me and called me out of sheer generosity. Now just in case you're thinking that we're just talking about God's forever love for Jeremiah or gods, forever love for Saul of Tarsus turned Paul. Well, just listen to Ephesians Chapter 1, Verse 4, where I read, long before God laid down Earth's foundations, God had us in mind had settled on us as the focus of his love. Now, let's ponder that for a moment, that means of whatever you do this past week, or whatever you might do this next week, that does not change the love that God has had for you before he laid down Earth's foundations. That means that God is with you for the long haul. God has loved you since before he made the heavens and the earth, and in fact, it's because of God's love for you that He made the heavens and the earth. You were created as a special object of God's love, God made you so he



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could shower you with His love, so that you could forever share in His love and glory.

Now, if God loved us before He created the heavens and the earth, how long do you think God is going to go on loving us? Well, again and again, the Bible tells us, the steadfast love of God endures forever. God loves us from eternity past to eternity, future. I like how the old hymn puts it, Could we with ink the ocean fill and were the skies of parchment made, where every stalk on earth, a quill and every man a scribe by trade, to write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry. Nor could the scroll contain the whole. Those stretched from sky to sky.

Spring time begins this week, and I wanna tell you about water from rocks, New Spring devotional, Encouragement in Christ: Daily Reflections for Troubled Times, and we do live in some trouble times tell me, and I want us to know the encouragement that we have in Christ Jesus and so I want to invite you to order a copy or copies of encouragement in Christ daily reflections for trouble times, and you can order a copy by going to our Water from Rock website, or you can go to a Water from Rock Facebook and you will see an order form there. And please, please feel free to order one for yourself or order some more for your home Bible study or Sunday School class or church. We're grateful to generous donors who help us to spread the good news of God's law.

I am Tim Smith, a fellow traveler. Thank you for listing until next time.