

Who Can Roll The Stones?

Proverbs 26:27

Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him.

Compiled By Dr. Harold Bollinger

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Forward

In life we meet many heavy burdens such as heavy stones.

When Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, Jacob went up and rolled the stone from the mouth of the well and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother.

Nobody needs to be ashamed of honest, useful labour, nor ought it to hinder any one's performance. When Jacob understood that this was his kinswoman, he was very ready to serve her.

The slothful man hates every thing that requires care and labour. But it is foolish to frighten ourselves from real duties by fancied difficulties.

This may be applied to a man slothful in the duties of religion. Having seen the slothful man in fear of his work, here we find him in love with his ease.

Bodily ease is the sad occasion of many spiritual diseases. He does not care to go forward with his business.

Perhaps this could be the day to help roll the stone away from someone who can not move it without your help.

Chapter 1



Every Decision must be from God

Proverbs 16:33

The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

To overcome our own passions, requires more steady management, than obtaining victory over an enemy.

All the disposal of Providence concerning our affairs, we must look upon to be the determining what we referred to God; and we must be reconciled to them accordingly. Blessed are those that give themselves up to the will of God; for he knows what is good for them.

They would roll the stone from the mouth of the well.

Genesis 29:3

When all the flocks were gathered there, they would then roll the stone from the mouth of the well and water the sheep, and put the stone back in its place on the mouth of the well.

What is said of the care of the shepherds for their sheep, may remind us of the tender concern which our Lord Jesus, the great Shepherd of the sheep, has for his flock the church; for he is the good Shepherd, that knows his sheep, and is known of them.

The stone at the well's mouth was to secure it; water was scarce, it was not there for every one's use: but separate interests should not take us from helping one another. When all the shepherds came together with their flocks, then, like loving neighbours, they watered their flocks together.

When all sheep are present, the stone will be rolled away.

Genesis 29:8

But they said, "We cannot, until all the flocks are gathered, and they roll the stone from the mouth of the well; then we water the sheep."

The law of kindness in the tongue has a commanding power. Jacob was civil to these strangers, and he found them civil to him.

Help others in rolling the stone away.

Genesis 29:10

When Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, Jacob went up and rolled the stone from the mouth of the well and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother.

Nobody needs to be ashamed of honest, useful labour, nor ought it to hinder any one's preferment. When Jacob understood that this was his kinswoman, he was very ready to serve her.

Roll large stone against the mouth of the cave.

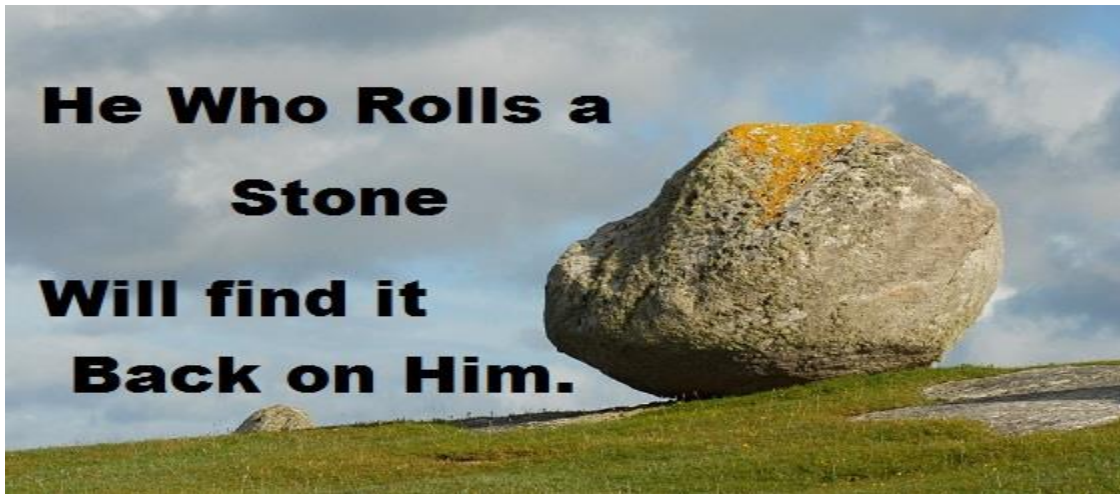
Joshua 10:18

Joshua said, "Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave, and assign men by it to guard them,

The kings were called to an account, as rebels against the Israel of God. Refuges of lies will but secure for God's judgment. God punished the abominable wickedness of these kings, the measure of whose iniquity was now full.

And by this public act of justice, done upon these ringleaders of the Canaanites in sin, he would possess his people with the greater dread and detestation of the sins of the nations that God cast out from before them

Chapter 2



He who rolls a stone will find it back on him.

Proverbs 26:27

He who digs a pit will fall into it, and he who rolls a stone, it will come back on him.

The slothful man hates every thing that requires care and labour. But it is foolish to frighten ourselves from real duties by fancied difficulties.

This may be applied to a man slothful in the duties of religion. Having seen the slothful man in fear of his work, here we find him in love with his ease.

Bodily ease is the sad occasion of many spiritual diseases. He does not care to get forward with his business. Slothful professors turn thus

The people acted treacherously.

1 Samuel 14:33

Then they told Saul, saying, "Behold, the people are sinning against the LORD by eating with the blood." And he said, "You have acted treacherously; roll a great stone to me today."

The slothful man hates everything that requires care and labour. But it is foolish to frighten ourselves from real duties by fancied difficulties. This may be applied to a man slothful in the duties of religion.

Having seen the slothful man in fear of his work, here we find him in love with his ease. Bodily ease is the sad occasion of many spiritual diseases. He does not care to get forward with his business

A Stone was rolled against the entrance of the tomb.

Matthew 27:60

And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away.

If we remember how Christ by his burial has changed the nature of the grave to believers, it should make us rejoice. And we are ever to imitate Christ's burial in being continually occupied in the spiritual burial of our sins.

A stone blocked the entrance of the tomb.

Mark 15:46

Joseph bought a linen cloth, took Him down, wrapped Him in the linen cloth and laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.

There was a special providence, that Pilate should be so strict in his inquiry, that there might be no pretence to say Jesus was alive.

Pilate gave Joseph leave to take down the body, and do what he pleased with it.

Some of the women beheld where Jesus was laid, that they might come after the Sabbath to anoint the dead body, because they had not time to do it before.

Special notice was taken of Christ's sepulchre, because he was to rise again. And he will not forsake those who trust in him, and call upon him.

Death, deprived of its sting, will soon end the believer's sorrows, as it ended those of the Saviour.

Help is needed in rolling the stone away.

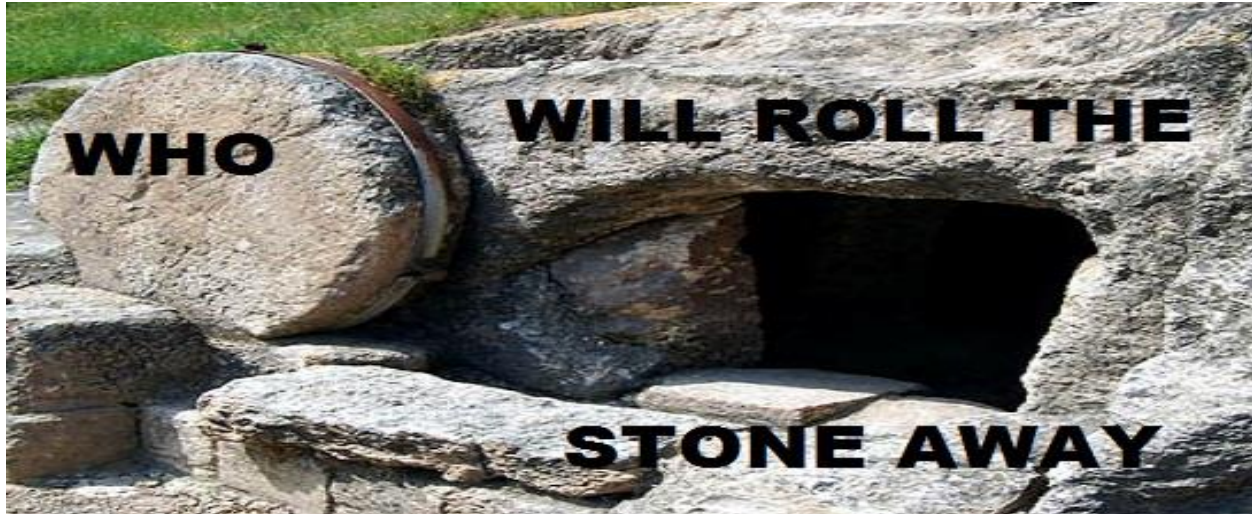
Mark 16:3

They were saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?"

The respect others show to Christ, should not hinder us from showing our respect.

And those who are carried by holy zeal, to seek Christ diligently, will find the difficulties in their way speedily vanish.

Chapter 3



Mark 16:4

Looking up, they saw that the stone had been rolled away, although it was extremely large.

When we put ourselves to trouble and expense, from love to Christ, we shall be accepted, though our endeavors are not successful.

The sight of the angel might justly have encouraged them, but they were affrighted. Thus many times that which should be matter of comfort to us, through our own mistake, proves a terror to us.

He was crucified, but he is glorified. He is risen, he is not here, not dead, but alive again; hereafter you will see him, but you may here see the place where he was laid

The angel rolled the stone away.

Luke 24:2

And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb,

See the affection and respect the women showed to Christ, after he was dead and buried. Observe their surprise when they found the stone rolled away, and the grave empty.

Christians often perplex themselves about that with which they should comfort and encourage themselves. They look rather to find their Master in his grave-clothes, than angels in their shining garments.

The angels assure them that he is risen from the dead; is risen by his own power.

Matthew 28:2

And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it.

Christ rose the third day after his death; that was the time he had often spoken of. On the first day of the first week God commanded the light to shine out of darkness.

On this day did He who is the Light of the world, shine out of the darkness of the grave; and this day is from henceforward often mentioned in the New Testament, as the day which Christians religiously observed in solemn assemblies, to the honour of Christ.

Our Lord Jesus could have rolled back the stone by his own power, but he chose to have it done by an angel

Ezekiel 10:13

The wheels were called in my hearing, the whirling wheels.

The Spirit of life, the Spirit of God, directs all creatures, in heaven and on earth, so as to make them serve the Divine purpose. God removes by degrees from a provoking people; and, when ready to depart, would return to them, if they were a repenting, praying people.

Let this warn sinners to seek the Lord while he may be found, and to call on him while he is near, and cause us all to walk humbly and watchfully with our God.

Isaiah 22:18

And roll you tightly like a ball, to be cast into a vast country; there you will die
And there your splendid chariots will be, you shame of your master's house.'

Our Lord Jesus describes his own power as Mediator, Rev 3:7, that he has the key of David. His power in the kingdom of heaven, and in ordering all the affairs of that kingdom, is absolute.

Rulers should be fathers to those under their government; and the honour men bring unto their families, by their piety and usefulness, is more to be valued than what they derive from them by their names and titles.

God rolled away the reproach of Egypt

Joshua 5:9

Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you." So the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day.

How dreadful is their case, who see the wrath of God advancing towards them, without being able to turn it aside, or escape it!

Such will be the horrible situation of the wicked; nor can words express the anguish of their feelings, or the greatness of their terror.

Oh that they would now take warning, and before it be too late, flee for refuge to lay hold upon that hope set before them in the gospel! God impressed these fears on the Canaanites, and dispirited them. This gave a short rest to the Israelites, and circumcision rolled away the reproach of Egypt.

They were hereby owned to be the free-born children of God, having the seal of the covenant. When God glorifies himself in perfecting the salvation of his people, he not only silences all enemies, but rolls back their reproaches upon themselves.

To ask Jesus to come into your heart please pray this Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I believe you are the Christ, the Son of the Living God. I ask you to forgive me of my sins and coming into my heart. I accept you as savior and will follow you as Lord. Amen.

References:

Verse Concept: Matthew Henry's Concept Bible Commentary.