

Witney Way Lent and Easter 2014

Rock of Ages

Most of us have heard the, possibly apocryphal, story of how Rev. Augustus Montague Toplady, editor of “The Gospel Magazine”, sheltering from a sudden storm in a rock crevice at Burrington Combe, in the Somerset Mendip hills, was inspired to write “*Rock of Ages Cleft for Me*”. That was around 1770.

However, there is much more to this popular hymn than you might have expected:

Rock of ages, cleft for me	Psalm 62 :6-7
Let me hide myself in Thee	Exodus 33:22
Let the water and the blood	1 John 5:6
From Thy riven side which flowed	John 19:34
Be of sin the double cure	2 Kings 2:9
Cleanse me from its guilt and power	Isaiah 1:19
Not the labour of my hands	John 5:30
Can fulfil the law’s demands	Exodus 33:22
Could my zeal no respite now	Psalm 69:6
Could my tears for ever flow	Psalm 6:6
All for sin could not atone	Hebrews 10:5-6
Thou must save and Thou alone	Hebrews 10:8-9
Nothing in my hand I bring	Isaiah 4:1
Simply to Thy cross I cling	Galatians 6:14
Naked come to Thee for dress	Romans 13:14
Helpless look to Thee for grace	Philippians 4:13
Foul, I to the fountain fly	Psalm 2:7
Wash me saviour, or I die	John 13:8
While I draw this fleeting breath	Psalm 103:15-16
When my eyelids close in death	Ecclesiastes 12:3-7
When I soar to worlds unknown	John 14:2-3
See Thee on Thy judgement throne	Matthew 25:31
Rock of ages cleft for me	1 Corinthians 10:4
Let me hide myself in Thee.	Psalm 16:1-8

I have to confess that having checked the references, I remain slightly baffled by one or two!

Howard Brayton

