

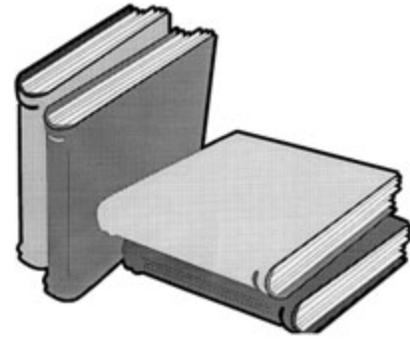
# The Rock and Pit

*Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn,  
and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.*

Isa 51:1

Selections from the Christian's heritage in print,

collected by Dean Brown



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**John 5:36 (KJV); Jesus has been speaking since 5:19.** *But I have greater witness than that of John: for **the works** which the Father hath given me to finish, the same **works** that I do, **bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.***

This [text] is a distinct appeal to **miracles as an important proof of our Lord's Messiahship and Divinity.** ... The evidence of miracles should never be lightly esteemed. We are apt to underrate their value because they were wrought so long ago. But in the days when they were wrought they were great facts, which demanded the attention of all who saw them, and could not be evaded. Unless the Jews [the leaders] could explain them away, they were bound, as honest and reasonable men, to believe our Lord's Divine mission. That they really were wrought, the Jews never appear to have denied. In fact they dared not attempt to deny them. ...

**All who attempt to deny the reality of our Lord's miracles** in the present day would do well to remember that those who had the best opportunity of judging, namely, the men who saw these miracles, and lived within hearing of them, never disputed the fact that they were wrought. If the enemies of our Lord could have proved that His miracles were only tricks, legerdemain, and impostures, it stands to reason that they would have been only too glad to show it to the world, and to silence Him forever.

**Five things should always be noted about our Lord's miracles.** (1) Their *number*: they were not a few only, but very many indeed. (2) Their *greatness*: they were not little, but mighty interferences with the ordinary course of nature. (3) Their *publicity*: they were generally not done in a corner, but in open day and before many witnesses, and often before enemies. (4) Their *character*: they were almost always works of love, mercy, and compassion. ... (5) Their *direct appeal* to men's senses: they were visible and would bear any examination.

—J. C. Ryle, *Expository Thoughts on the Gospels*,  
John Vol 1 1865. In the church library.