

The Chosen Stone

1 Pet 2:4-8

(1 Peter 2:4-8) And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For this is contained in Scripture: "BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED." This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone," and, "A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE"; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed. (NAS95)

Introduction:

- A. Many figures of speech are used in the scriptures to describe Jesus Christ.
 - 1. He is the Head of the body, the church
 - 2. He is the Vine and we are the branches
 - 3. He is the Shepherd who guides the sheep
 - 4. He is the Light of the World
 - 5. He is the Bread of life which we eat
 - 6. He is the Water of life which we drink
 - B. In 1 Peter 2:4-8, Jesus is pictured as a stone which was rejected by men but chosen by God.
 - C. What we can learn from this passage concerning Jesus Christ as The Chosen Stone.
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- I. ***He Is A Living Stone***, v. 4
 - A. We know that stone, as opposed to plants, animals, and humans, is non-living material (although some stone may have once been alive)
 - 1. But Jesus is called a living stone
 - 2. Why?
 - 3. Because though He was dead, He's now alive - Rev. 1:18
 - (Revelation 1:18) and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. (NAS95)
 - B. The reference to Jesus as a living stone, then, is related to the fact that He was raised from the dead - Lk. 24:5-7
 - (Luke 24:5-7) and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living One among the dead? "He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee, saying that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again." (NAS95)
 - C. Thus, Jesus Christ is not just a dead hero but a living Savior, and there's a special benefit to God's people in the fact that Jesus lives - Heb. 7:25
 - (Hebrews 7:25) Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. (NAS95)
 - II. ***He Is A Foundation Stone***, v. 5
 - A. Peter says that Christians are also living stones who are being built up a spiritual house
 - 1. Just as a house needs a good foundation

2. The same with God's spiritual house, the church - 1 Cor. 3:10-11

(1 Corinthians 3:10-11) According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it. For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. (NAS95)

B. This foundation was laid by the apostles and prophets as they revealed the word - Eph. 2:19-22, cf. 3:3-5

(Ephesians 2:19-22) So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. (NAS95)

(Ephesians 3:3-5) that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; (NAS95)

C. Thus, we build our lives upon this foundation as we hear and obey the teachings of Jesus Christ as revealed through His inspired messengers - Matt. 7:24-27

(Matthew 7:24-27) "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. "And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock. "Everyone who hears these words of Mine and does not act on them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand. "The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and it fell--and great was its fall." (NAS95)

III. *He Is The Cornerstone*, v. 6

A. The quotation is a prophecy from the Old Testament about the Messiah that would help identify Him when He came - Isa. 28:16

(Isaiah 66:24) "Then they will go forth and look On the corpses of the men Who have transgressed against Me. For their worm will not die And their fire will not be quenched; And they will be an abhorrence to all mankind." (NAS95)

B. A cornerstone is a stone, cut as perfectly as possible, from which the rest of the foundation is laid
1. To say that Jesus is the chief cornerstone means that He's the perfect standard by which our lives should be measured - 1 Pet. 2:21-23

(1 Peter 2:21-23) For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; (NAS95)

C. Therefore, throughout our lives, we should always be looking to this cornerstone to make sure that our lives are straight and true - Heb. 12:1-2

(Hebrews 12:1-2) Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of

faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. (NAS95)

IV. *He Is A Precious Stone*, v. 7

A. Peter uses the word precious to describe several concepts that are related to Christ; e.g., the blood of Christ by which we're redeemed is precious - 1 Pet. 1:18-19 (cf. Eph. 1:7)

(1 Peter 1:18-19) knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ. (NAS95)

(Ephesians 1:7) In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace (NAS95)

B. Also, Peter says that the faith by which we're justified before God is precious - 2 Pet. 1:1 (cf. Rom. 5:1)

(2 Peter 1:1) Simon Peter, a bond-servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have received a faith of the same kind as ours, by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: (NAS95)

(Romans 5:1) Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, (NAS95)

C. And he tells us that the promises which God offers to those who are redeemed by the blood and justified by faith are precious—especially the promise of eternal life - 2 Pet. 1:4 (cf. 1 Jn. 2:25)

(2 Peter 1:4) For by these He has granted to us His precious and magnificent promises, so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust. (NAS95)

(1 John 2:25) This is the promise which He Himself made to us: eternal life. (NAS95)

V. *He Is A Stone Of Stumbling*, v. 8

A. This quotation is from another Old Testament prophecy about the coming of the Messiah - Isa. 8:14

(Isaiah 8:14) "Then He shall become a sanctuary; But to both the houses of Israel, a stone to strike and a rock to stumble over, And a snare and a trap for the inhabitants of Jerusalem. (NAS95)

B. The same stone which may be useful in a foundation may cause someone who isn't paying attention to stumble and fall, and Jesus was just such a stone to many in His day - Jn. 1:9-13

(John 1:9-13) There was the true Light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. (NAS95)

C. In the first century and in every century since, Christ has been a stone of blessing to those who believe but a stone of stumbling to those who reject Him - 1 Cor. 1:18-25

(1 Corinthians 1:18-25) For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I WILL DESTROY THE WISDOM OF THE WISE, AND THE CLEVERNESS OF THE CLEVER I WILL SET ASIDE." Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has

not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. (NAS95)

Conclusion:

- A. In the physical realm, stones can be put to both good and bad uses. If a large stone is used as a weapon against a person or falls on him, it could harm or even kill him.
- B. However, if someone would use that same stone wisely, it could become part of a building that's beneficial to folks.
- C. If you want Christ to be a foundation stone for you rather than a stone of stumbling, then you need to believe and obey Him....