



The Drone Series

A 52-Week Journey Through the Bible

Soaring through the pages of the Bible and embarking on an inspiring weekly journey from **Genesis to Revelation!** Dive into transformative insights that will uplift your spirit and deepen your understanding. Experience the power of scripture like never before!

We understand that spiritual growth can be a deeply personal journey, and we invite you to join us as we explore a different book of the Bible each week. It's a wonderful opportunity to reflect and find inspiration together. We encourage you to invite a friend to join us, whether in person or online, so we can support each other on this meaningful path.

Background Matters

Peter used a new metaphor in his exhortation to holy living. His readers, having purified themselves, were ready for the practice or ministry of holiness. No longer babies, they were to grow up together to offer spiritual sacrifices as a chosen “royal priesthood.”

2:4. **As you come to Him** does not refer to the initial response of a sinner who comes to Christ for salvation. The participle’s tense and voice indicate that this coming is a personal, habitual approach. It is an intimate association of communion and fellowship between believers and their Lord.

The first step in practicing holiness is fellowship with Jesus Christ, **the living Stone**. Here Peter used a unique figure of speech. In 1:3 he referred to a “living hope” and in 1:23 to the “living ... Word”; then in 2:4 he referred to Christ as “the living Stone.” Peter developed and explained the metaphor of the stone in the following verses. Here he said this Stone is living. It has life in itself and gives life to others. People may enter into personal, vital relationships with this “living Stone.” Whereas Christ was **rejected by men ... God had chosen Him** (cf. 1:20) and held Him **precious** (cf. 1:19; 2:4, 7). Christians rejected by the world may take heart in the knowledge that they are the elect (1:1), valued (1:18) by God.

2:5. Believers are identified with Christ, for He is *the* living Stone and they are **like living stones**. And as they become more like Him, further conformed to His image, they **are being built into a spiritual house**. Jesus told Peter, “On this rock I will build My church” (Matt. 16:18). Now Peter (1 Peter 2:4–5) clearly identified Christ as the Rock on which His church is built. Paul called the church



a “temple” (1 Cor. 3:16; Eph. 2:21) and “a dwelling” (Eph. 2:22). Believers not only make up the church but serve in it, ministering as **a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices**. All believers are priests (cf. 1 Peter 2:9; Heb. 4:16; Rev. 1:6) and need no mediator other than Jesus Christ to approach God directly. Such priestly service requires holiness (cf. 1 Peter 1:16, 22). Praise to God and doing good to others are spiritual sacrifices that please Him (Heb. 13:15). However, “living stones” may also offer themselves as “living sacrifices” (Rom. 12:1), **acceptable to God through Jesus Christ**.

2:6. In verses 6–8 Peter marshaled Old Testament support about the stone from three passages. His first source is Isaiah 28:16, where Christ is the **chosen and precious** (cf. “precious” in 1 Peter 1:19; 2:4, 7) **cornerstone**. A cornerstone is the visible support on which the rest of the building relies for strength and stability. Believers trust in Christ much as a building rests on its cornerstone. Moreover, they **will never be put to shame**. The Greek double negative *ou mē* used here in the subjunctive mood indicates an emphatic negative assertion referring to the future: never indeed will they be shamed. So Peter encouraged his readers with a sure scriptural promise of ultimate victory for those who trust Christ.

2:7–8. These verses present a sharp contrast between those who believe and those who do not. Christ is “precious,” of ultimate value, to those who believe. But those who have **rejected** Christ, the Stone (Peter’s second quotation is from Ps. 118:22) **stumble** because of their disobedience. This happened to the chief priests and Pharisees Jesus referred to when He quoted Psalm 118:22 (Matt. 21:42; cf. 21:43–46).

Peter’s third quotation is from Isaiah 8:14. Rejection of Jesus Christ is fatal and is connected with disobeying **the message** of God’s Word (1 Peter 2:8b). To **disobey** the message (cf. 4:17) is to reject it; and to obey it is to believe (cf. obedience in 1:14, 22 and “obedient to the faith” in Acts 6:7). All who do not receive Christ as their Savior will one day face Him as their Judge. Because of sin, all disobedient unbelievers are **destined for** a “stumbling,” which will lead to eternal condemnation.

2:9–10. Peter closed this portion of his letter of encouragement with a moving exhortation for his readers to practice holiness. He reminded them that, in contrast with the disobedient who are destined for destruction, they were a **chosen** (*eklekton*; cf. “elect,” *eklektois*, 1:1) **people**. Peter again echoed the Old Testament, specifically Isaiah 43:20. “Chosen people,” which used to apply only to Israel, was now used of both Jewish and Gentile believers. The responsibility once solely trusted to the nation of Israel has now, during this Age of Grace, been given to the church. At Sinai, God told Moses to tell the people, “You will be for Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation” (Ex. 19:6). Now believers in the Church Age are called **a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God**. Peter called Christians “a holy priesthood” (1 Peter 2:5) and “a royal priesthood” (2:9; cf. Rev. 1:6). The words “belonging to God” loosely render the words *eis peripoiēsin*, which are literally “unto obtaining or preserving” (also used in Heb. 10:39, where the NIV has “are saved”). Christians are a special people because God has preserved them for Himself. While these descriptions of the church are similar to those used of Israel in the Old Testament, this in no way indicates that the church supplants Israel and assumes the national blessings promised to Israel (and to be fulfilled in the Millennium). Peter just used similar terms to point up similar truths. As Israel was “a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God,” so too believers today are chosen, are priests, are holy, and belong to God. Similarity does not mean identity.

God’s purpose in choosing believers for Himself is so that they may **declare the praises of Him** before others. “Praises” could also be translated “eminent qualities,” “excellencies,” or “virtues” (*aretos*, used only four times in the NT: Phil. 4:8; 1 Peter 2:9; 2 Peter 1:3, 5). Believer-priests should



live so that their heavenly Father's qualities are evident in their lives. They are to serve as witnesses of the glory and grace of God, who called them **out of darkness into His wonderful light**. Peter (1 Peter 2:10) explained this figure with a quotation from Hosea 2:23. "Darkness" refers to the time when his readers were pagans, ignorant of God's provision of salvation (cf. Col. 1:13), when they were **not a people**, when they **had not received mercy**. His "wonderful light" now illumines **the people of God** because they **have received mercy**¹

***In This Week's Drone Series,** we will explore 1 Peter 2, which highlights the rightful spiritual position of the followers of Christ. This passage invites us to recognize that you are an exceptional generation, a royal priesthood, and a holy nation, chosen with great purpose as His treasured people. This divine selection provides a remarkable opportunity for you to share the glorious praises of Him who has graciously called you from the depths of darkness into His magnificent light. Buckle up and get ready for Peter's insights on how living for the Savior can positively impact your community.*

Living Stones & Chosen People

1 Peter 2:4–12

Study Guide 46 *This study guide presents daily assignments that are specifically crafted to enhance your **growth in the Word**. Embrace each moment to meditate and reflect, and watch as your spiritual maturity flourishes through your dedicated efforts.*

Open It, Mondays. Open your heart and mind to the truth of the Word.

1. *What is your ethnic heritage and how has it influenced you?

¹ Roger M. Raymer, "1 Peter," in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 844–846.



Explore It, Tuesdays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

2. How did God and people treat the living Stone (Christ) differently? (2:4)

3. *In what way are we like living stones? (2:5)

4. What will happen to those who trust in the “Cornerstone”? (2:6)

5. How was Christ treated differently by believers and unbelievers? (2:7)

6. In what way did the “Stone” (Christ) cause some people to stumble? (2:8)

7. *What status did Peter ascribe to believers in Christ? (2:9)

8. *How does our past compare with our present condition? (2:10)

9. From what did Peter urge his readers to abstain? Why? (2:11)

Explore It, Wednesdays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

10. Why is it important for believers to live good lives? (2:12)



11. How is Christ still being rejected by people today? Why?

12. How is Christ precious to you? Why?

13. How could being disobedient to God cause someone else to stumble?

14. *How does being chosen by God for a special task make you feel?

15. What are the implications of believers being a chosen people, a royal priesthood, and a holy nation?

16. In what way were you in darkness before you became a believer?

17. When have you felt that you were at war with sinful desires?

Get It Thursdays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

18. Why is it so hard to abstain from sinful desires?

19. Why do we need encouragement to live good lives among non-Christians?



20. What good deeds in your life do non-Christians see?

21. How can we do good deeds so they are both a witness and a discrete act of service (that is, not merely for show)?

22. What does it mean to live a good life?

23. *To what people can your good deeds be a witness?

Drive it Home, Fridays, keep the rhythm of personal study moving.

24. What good deeds can you use as a witness to your neighbors?

25. *How do you need to change your plans for the near future so that you will be an example to the unbelievers with whom you have regular contact?

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