

“Anchored” *The Book of 1 Peter*
Class Notes
Session 12

1 Peter 2.4-6 Peter introduces the “stone” imagery...Jesus is the living, resurrected, and therefore life-giving *stone*!

We see in this text two realities about the “living stone” (Jesus).

First...He was rejected.

“The term ‘rejected’ implies examination by builders and then casting aside as a reject, unfit for the future building of the nation. With that the readers can surely identify, for they were feeling the rejection of their fellow-citizens as well.”¹

Secondly...Even though humanity rejected Jesus, God did not!

This is an allusion to *Isaiah 28.16*, which will be quoted in *v. 6*...here interpreted from the Septuagint as a *cornerstone*.

In Judaism, the Targum (Aramaic translation of the Old Testament) interpreted the stone in *Isaiah 28* as referring to the King or the Messiah.

What is important to remember is that when believers come to Jesus...the living stone...believers become part of that spiritual house which God is building!

1 Peter 2.7-8 In these verses, Peter quotes three Old Testament texts to support this understanding that Jesus is the “living, corner- stone.”

The cornerstone was the visible support on which the rest of the building needed for stability.

Believers trust in Christ much as a building rests on its cornerstone.

Peter shows how the Old Testament ideas of temple, priest and sacrifice now have new meanings because of Jesus.

God is building a spiritual temple... the Church...with Christ as the corner-stone...and Christians are “stones” in God’s Church.

God has created a new “chosen people” ... Now...not a particular family or race, but out of those who are now in Christ!

All Christians (you) are part of the spiritual temple and priesthood. All Christian believers offer prayers and spiritual sacrifices...The believer’s life itself.

“Sacrifices aren’t dead animals any more, but the committed lives of Christians who love and serve the Lord. No wonder Christians feel strange. They are living as God’s people in a pagan world. Peter encourages them to live in such a way that the only thing they can be accused of is being good!”²

¹ P.H. Davids. *The First Epistle of Peter* (Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co, 1990).

² A. Knowles. *The Bible Guide* (Minneapolis, Minnesota: Augsburg, 2001).

To illustrate this hope, Peter quotes *Psalm 118.22*, describing both Jesus' rejection, and because of this human rejection, Jesus' becoming a "stone of stumbling" for those who will not believe.

This leads to Peter's third Old Testament quote, taken from *Isaiah 8:14*, which affirms that:

"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...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."³

1 Peter 2.9-10 As we can see in *vs.9*, another contrast is being made by Peter.... While God knows there are some who have (will) reject the Gospel ...Believers have been...are...a "chosen people."

Peter also quotes *Exodus 19.6* in identifying the church as a "holy nation"...

ἔθνος (*ethnos*)... "People" (Nation)... ἅγιος (*hagios*)... "Clean." (Set Apart)

The church of Jesus is a people now set apart for the Lord, enjoying His special presence, favor, and mission.

Finally, the purpose of God's people as a called and claimed people for God is explicated. God has...

"...chosen them to be his people, established them as a royal priesthood, appointed them as a holy nation to be his special possession, so that they would "declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. As God formed Israel to praise him, now the church has been established to praise his wonders...They proclaim God's praises for calling them "out of darkness into his wonderful light." This is a description of their conversion and employs the language of Genesis 1, where God utters the word and light becomes a reality (Gen 1:3–5), pushing back the darkness...Just as God's word creates light, so God's call creates faith. Calling is not a mere invitation but is performative, so that the words God speaks become a reality."⁴

Going Forward...

- "The Church is the temple of the Holy Spirit, where He dwells...All Christians are priests, having direct access to God through Christ...Priests offer sacrifices; thus Christians offer the sacrifices of prayer, praise, and thanksgiving. These are acceptable to God because of the greatest sacrifice, Jesus Christ (cf Heb 9–10). [Luther]: "Since Christ is the Groom and we are the bride, the bride has everything that the Groom has, even His own body. When He gives Himself to the bride, He gives Himself entirely as what He is; and the bride, in turn, also gives herself to Him" (AE 30:53)."⁵

³ J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.). *The Bible Knowledge Commentary* (Wheaton, Illinois: Victor Books, 1985).

⁴ T.R. Schreiner. *1, 2 Peter, Jude* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2003).

⁵ *The Lutheran Study Bible* (Saint Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2009).