

## SATAN'S GREATEST NIGHTMARE

1Co 2:8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

### **1Co 2:8**

**Which none of the princes** - None of those rulers who were engaged in the crucifixion of the Messiah, referring both to the Jewish rulers, and the Roman governor.

**Knew** - They did not perceive or appreciate the Excellency of his character, the wisdom of his plan, the glory of his scheme of salvation. Their ignorance arose from not understanding the prophecies, and from an unwillingness to be convinced that Jesus of Nazareth had been truly sent by God and was God manifested in the flesh. In Act 3:17, Peter says that it was through ignorance that the Jews had put him to death; see the note on this place.

### **For had they known it**

Had they understood the glory of his real character, the truth respecting his incarnation, and the fact that he was the long expected Messiah of their nation, they would not have put him to death. It is incredible that they would have crucified their Messiah, knowing and believing him to be such. They might have known it but they were unwilling to examine the evidence. They expected a different Messiah, and were unwilling to admit the claims of Jesus of Nazareth. They closed their eyes on those works, and were unwilling to be convinced - God always gives to people sufficient demonstration of the truth, but they close their eyes, and are unwilling to believe. This is the sole reason why they are not converted to God and saved.

## THE STONE SAT AT NAUGHT BY THE BUILDERS

Act 4:1 And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them,

Act 4:2 Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus **the resurrection from the dead.**

Act 4:3 And they laid hands on them, and put *them* in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide.

Act 4:4 Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.

Act 4:5 And it came to pass on the morrow, that their rulers, and elders, and scribes,

Act 4:6 And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem.

Act 4:7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?

Act 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel,

Act 4:9 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole;

Act 4:10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

Act 4:11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

Act 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

Act 4:13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

Psa 118:22 The stone *which* the builders refused is become the head *stone* of the corner.

What both Peter and the Psalmist are referring to is the occasion of the building of Solomon's temple. The Bible tells us that when Solomon built his temple, on the place where the Dome of the Rock now stands in Jerusalem, there was no sound of hammer or saw. The temple was erected in silence. The stones that formed the temple were quarried from a rock quarry underneath where the temple stands. And to this day in Jerusalem you can go down there and see what they call "Solomon's stables," where Solomon kept his horses, and see that they were hewn from solid rock. And from the stones removed from there the temple was built. It was built to such exacting dimensions, according to blueprints provided, that the rock was fitted perfectly before it ever left the quarry. Then it was sent up and put in place without the sound of hammers or pounding of any kind.

And there is a Jewish tradition which says that during the building of the temple, a great rock was quarried out and shaped by the stone mason, and sent up, but the

builders could find no place to put it. It did not seem to fit in any of the blueprints they were working from, and so they left it on the side. It sat there for some time. Then, as it seemed to be in the way, someone pushed it over the edge and it rolled down into the valley of the Kidron and was lost in the bushes. When the time came to put in the cornerstone, the great square rock that held everything else in place, they sent word for the cornerstone to be sent up. The quarrymen sent back word that it had already been sent up some time before. They looked around for it, and no one could find it. Then somebody remembered the great rock which had been pushed over the edge. Down they went to the valley of the Kidron and found it in the bushes. With great effort they raised it again and brought it to the top and fitted it into place. It fit perfectly -- the cornerstone of the temple.

That is what this Psalm meant, and that is what Peter means. God had designed that Jesus of Nazareth would be the cornerstone of his government on earth, the rock upon which all human government should rest, and from which it would take its authority. But the builders of various nations have rejected the Cornerstone. This is why no government can stand very long, why God's program through history has been one of overturning, overturning, overturning, as Ezekiel says, until he shall come whose right it is to reign. God has prepared a Cornerstone, and Peter's accusation is, "You have rejected him when he came. You had the chance to build the government of Jerusalem on the rock which God had ordained, but you rejected it; you crucified him. But God has raised him from the dead nevertheless, and has made him the head of the corner. Then he adds these amazing words:

**And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved. {Acts 4:12 RSV}**

This is a startling declaration! It says that there is no other who can fulfill the place of being the cornerstone of authority in the world. No other name! None of the religious leaders, none of the political leaders of all time could possibly do this work. There is only One adequately equipped, qualified to be the foundation of human government, the basis of human authority. You take all the religious names of history -- Buddha, Mohammed, Confucius, Mahatma Gandhi, Ramakrishna, Joseph Smith, Mary Baker Eddy -- whoever and whatever.

Notice Peter's interpretation, one part at a time.

Verse 10: the stone is Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

Verse 8: the builders are the rulers of the people and elders.

Verse 10: the rejection of the stone was the crucifixion of Jesus.

Verse 10: the elevation of the stone to the head of the corner was the resurrection of Jesus.

## Devils Greatest Nightmare

### Jesus Is Alive!

Luk 24:1 Now upon the first *day* of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain *others* with them.

Luk 24:2 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.

Luk 24:3 And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.

Luk 24:4 And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:

Luk 24:5 And as they were afraid, and bowed down *their* faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

Luk 24:6 He is not here, but is risen: remember how he spake unto you when he was yet in Galilee,

1. The Resurrection of is one of the fundamental doctrines of the Christian Faith. There are more than 104 references to the Resurrection in the New Testament.

Act 1:1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

Act 1:2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

Act 1:3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

**1Jn 1:1** That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

### Eyewitnesses:

1. Mary Magdalene John 20:14

2. Women returning from the tomb
3. Peter later in the day
4. Emmaus disciples
5. The apostles
6. Thomas
7. Seven by the lake of Tiberias. (John 21:1-23)
8. To a multitude of 500 plus
9. James
10. The Ascension
11. Paul
  
12. John on Patmos

**The Word Resurrection means:** “a rising from the dead, or coming back to life, the state of having risen from the dead.”

Mohammed died June 8, 632 A.D., at the age of 61, at Medina, where his tomb is annually visited by thousands of devout Mohammedans. All the millions of Jews, Buddhist and Mohammedans agree that their founders have never come up out of the dust of the earth in resurrection.

### **JESUS IS ALIVE**

1. Jesus conquered death hell and the grave: Death was not merely challenged, but it was defeated
  - a. Death was swallowed up in Victory! (1 Cor. 15:45)
  - b. “But now is Christ risen from the dead” 1 Cor 15:20)
  - c. The former enemy has now become, for those who are prepared, the very entrance into eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Heb 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

Heb 2:15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

2. **He descended into the lower parts, or the lower down divisions of the earth and then led captivity captive.**

Eph 4:8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

Eph 4:9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

Eph 4:10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

3. In ancient times, victorious kings, after returning from the battle, led their captives in a triumphant march into the city and then threw out as gifts the spoils of the battle to the citizens. So after Jesus triumphant victory of the cross and gave gifts to men.

4. **The aspect of “Leading Captivity Captive”**

a. Christ conquered Satan, and spoiled principalities and powers. He conquered sin, sickness, disease, the curse, daemons and death, all of which hold man captive. Thus Jesus led this “Captivity captive”

Rev 1:17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

Rev 1:18 *I am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

**FADS OF THE WORLD ARE THE SYMBOL OF DEATH**

1. Skeletons, death, peace signs, gory tee shirts, death looking tattoos

**Song:** More than Just a Man