

1 Peter 2:4-10

Verses 4 - 8

These verses continue the theme of growth and show the basis for the exhortations to be holy, fearful, loving, and consuming of the Word. The basis is Jesus who is presented as the living stone, the cornerstone, the rejected stone, and the stumbling stone.

Verse 4

The Living Stone: Rejected by men but Choice and precious in the sight of God - The word "stone" is *lithos* and is most often used of building stones.

The Living Stone:

God is often referred to the rock or foundation stone in the OT. Note Deuteronomy 32:4, Psalm 18:2 and Psalm 62:2. Jesus is seen as the Living Stone in the NT. He is the foundation upon which we build (1 Corinthians 3:11, Ephesians 2:20).

Verse 5

You also as living stones – Peter saw the church as a living temple to which God was adding living stones with the conversion of each new believer.

A holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices – In contrast to Israel's physical sacrifices. Romans 12:1 defines our spiritual sacrifice as a presentation of our selves.

Acceptable to God through Jesus Christ – Because of our Great High Priest, every believer can now with confidence draw near to the throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16).

Verses 6 -8

Peter uses three major OT passages to affirm that Jesus is the choice, precious, Living Stone.

Verse 6 – Isaiah 28:16, the Cornerstone.

Verse 7 – Psalm 118:22, the Rejected Stone.

Verse 8 – Isaiah 8:14 – the Stone of Stumbling.

Verse 6 – *The Cornerstone...He who believes in Him will not be disappointed.*

Verse 7

But for those who disbelieve...

Verse 7 - *The rejected stone*

Verse 8 - *The stone of stumbling*

Verse 8

They stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom, they were also appointed. -

Do they stumble because they were appointed to stumble or do they stumble because of disbelief?

"Their disobedience is not ordained, the penalty of their disobedience is".

A.T. Robertson

Because of their unbelief (verse 7) they are appointed to stumble at the Word (verse 8). Note Hebrews 11:3, Romans 10:17, 1 Corinthians 1:12, John 3:18.

Verse 9

Peter uses four figures that all applied to Israel to describe the church. The church does not replace Israel or become Israel. However, the church does take over Israel's purpose in the world during the age of the church.

A chosen race – God choose Israel to be the people through whom He would bless all mankind (Genesis 12:3). It was not because they were anything special but because of His grace. Now the church is commissioned to go to the world.

A royal priesthood – God intended for Israel to be a nation of priests (Exodus 19:6), however because of the golden calf He gave the priesthood to the tribe of Levi (Numbers 3:12). In contrast, now every believer is a priest who worships, intercedes, and ministers before God.

A holy nation – God's intention was for Israel to be a nation set apart to Him. They were to be holy like their God (1:15-16). Instead they rebelled and desired to be like all the other nations (1 Samuel 8:4-7). As the church we are to be holy and reflect the Lord.

A people for God's own possession – In Isaiah 42:21 God calls Israel His people who will declare His praise. The church is now the people of God's own possession (Titus 2:14).

That you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light – Believers are to be the instrument through which the light of God reaches individuals who still sit in spiritual darkness.

Verse 10

Peter quotes Hosea 2:23 to remind them that they became children of God by believing in Christ. They received mercy because of the death of Christ for their sin. It is their duty to proclaim the message of God's grace and mercy to all.