

## Study God's Word – 1 Peter 2:4-8

GCT Spring 2026

Meaning to Application

### 1. What did the text mean to the biblical audience? Structure diagram 1 Peter 2:4-8

As you come to him,

a living stone rejected by men

but in the sight of God chosen and precious,

<sup>5</sup> you yourselves

like living stones

are being built up as a spiritual house,

to be a holy priesthood,

to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God

through Jesus Christ.

<sup>6</sup> For it stands in Scripture:

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone,

a cornerstone chosen

and precious,

and whoever believes in him

will not be put to shame.”

<sup>7</sup> So the honor is for you who believe,

but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected

has become the cornerstone,”

<sup>8</sup> and “A stone of stumbling,

and a rock of offense.”

They stumble because they disobey the word,

as they were destined to do.

### Truths From Cross References:

***As you come to Him...*** who is coming to Him (2:2)?

What is the result of “us coming to Him?” (2:5)

Who is the ***Living Stone***?

What is the metaphor?

What are the attributes of the Living Stone in this Scripture?

What happens when we come in contact with the Living Stone?

What are being built into together?

1 Corinthians 3:16

Who lives in this ***Spiritual house?***

Hebrews 3:4-6

Ephesians 2:19-22

What happens in this Spiritual house?

We as a church are meant by Christ to be a corporate dwelling of God in the Spirit.

We are being fitted together to be a temple and for a dwelling of God by His Spirit. We do not attend church; we are the church.

Although the church is not a physical building, Scripture does often use building metaphors to describe the church.

Matthew 16:13-20

John 1:42

Ephesians 2:20

***A holy priesthood***

Exodus 19:6

Revelation 1:6; 5:10

We are not merely the passive building where God dwells; we are also the active participants in worship. And not just participants, we are the priests. All of us. This is the great teaching about the "priesthood of all believers."

Our privilege now as priests is to draw near to God with spiritual sacrifices.

The priests brought the sacrifices into the tabernacle in the Old Testament. But now that tabernacle is replaced by the Christian church.

The atoning altar is replaced by Jesus Christ and His shed blood. And the priests are replaced by you, those who believe in Christ.

***Spiritual sacrifices*** - God's aim is that we offer Him spiritual sacrifices. And we can only do that "through Jesus Christ."

Isaiah 56:7

Malachi 1:11

What are spiritual sacrifices?

Romans 12:1

Hebrews 13:15-16

Philippians 4:8

Is GCT worship spiritual?

***Behold I am laying in Zion a stone*** - Peter calls Jesus a stone because of prophecies in the Old Testament:

Isaiah 28:16

Psalms 118:22

***Zion*** is the eastern hill of Jerusalem, also called the City of David or Ophel, southeast of the Temple Mount. It later expanded to mean the entire city of Jerusalem or even God's dwelling place.

***Whoever believes...whoever does not believe*** –

How are we being built into this spiritual house?

By coming to Christ. This is a reference to daily, hour-by-hour drawing near to Christ as a strong, living Person. Coming to Christ is what you do when you long for his Word the way a baby longs for milk, and, longing for it, come to it and feed on it and find Christ in it.

If we are going to be a spiritual temple for God's presence, and if we are going to be a holy priesthood, and if we are going to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God, then we must day-by-day, hour-by-hour come to Christ.

**Questions to use when preparing a Bible Study to uncover a passage's main theological point.**

**1. God-focused questions:**

- What does this verse show about who God is (His character, attributes, names, actions)?
- What does it show about what God loves, hates, desires, commands, or promises?
- How does this verse fit with God's overall purpose in the Bible's big story (creation, fall, redemption, new creation)?

**2. Gospel / Christ questions:**

- How does this verse connect to the person and work of Christ (who He is, what He did, what He is doing)?
- What problem of sin, brokenness, or spiritual need does this verse highlight, that the gospel answers?
- Does this verse point forward to Christ, flow out of Christ's work, or describe life in Christ?

**3. Human-condition questions:**

- What does this verse teach about people: our nature, identity, temptations, or tendencies?
- What "fallen condition" or heart issue (belief, desire, fear, idol) is exposed here?
- How does this verse show who I am "in Adam" (apart from God) or "in Christ" (redeemed)?

**4. Redemptive-story / context questions:**

- Where are we in the Bible's storyline (before the law, under the law, in the church, new creation)?
- How does the surrounding context (paragraph, chapter, book) clarify the main point of this verse?
- If this verse were missing from the Bible, what key truth would be lost?

**5. Main-point questions:**

Use these to force yourself to summarize the core theology in one sentence.

- If I had to state the author's main point in one sentence, what would it be?
- Which words, images, or repeated ideas carry the most weight in this verse?
- Is the verse mainly describing something (narrative) or prescribing something (command)? What truth about God and His ways does that reveal?

A helpful test: "This verse mainly teaches that God is \_\_\_\_\_ and therefore His people must / can \_\_\_\_\_."

## **6. Response / implication / application questions:**

These don't change the meaning, but they help you see why the theological point matters.

- If this verse is true, what should I think differently about God, myself, or the world?
- What should I now believe, desire, or hope for because of this truth?
- What concrete obedience, repentance, or comfort flows from this verse's main truth?
- Is there a command to obey in this passage?
- Is there an example to follow or avoid in this passage?
- Is there a reality to affirm in this passage?
- If so, how should that reality impact my life? (desires, thoughts, beliefs, actions)
- How can I praise Him through this scripture?
- How can I confess my sins on the basis of this scripture?
- If this is really true, what harmful emotions, what wrong behavior or false attitudes result in me when I forget this?
- What should I be aspiring to on the basis of this text?
- Why is God telling me this today?
- How could my life be different if I were absolutely sure of every one of God's promises that He gave me in this scripture?
- What are some of the challenges or roadblocks that make applying/obeying difficult? (sinful desires, temptations, struggles, wrong ideas, the culture we live in, etc.)
- What would it specifically look like if I lived this out?