

PREPARED TO LIVE IN VICTORY: WE WILL NOT BE ASHAMED

Houses of Light Church • April 9-10, 2022 • Pastor Netz Gómez

1 Pet. 2:4-8

'As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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." ⁷ 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," ⁸ and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense." They stumble because they do not obey God's word, and so they meet the fate that was planned for them.'

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. From the text we saw last week to this one, there seems to be an abrupt change in the figures Peter is using. He began this chapter by telling us about desiring like newborn children the pure spiritual milk to grow for salvation because we are enjoying the Lord's kindness.
- B. And now this whole section is the result of a new portrait: Jesus is the Living Stone and we as living stones are being built as a spiritual house, a priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices pleasing to God.

II. DRAWING CLOSER TO JESUS

- A. **"As you come to him, a living stone"** When we grow unto salvation by drinking the pure spiritual milk of God's goodness, we turn away from evil and thereby draw closer to Jesus who is the Living Stone. Peter presents this new image based on three Old Testament passages:

Is. 28:16 "therefore thus says the Lord God, "Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion, a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation: 'Whoever believes will not be in haste.'"

Psal. 118: 22-23 "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. ²³ This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes."

Is. 8:14 "And he will become a sanctuary and a stone of offense and a rock of stumbling to both houses of Israel, a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem."

- B. You can see that Peter was reading the Old Testament and he found these three texts that speak of Jesus as the stone. It is interesting that Peter, whose name means 'stone,' speaks of Jesus as the Living Stone and of us as living stones.
- C. **He understood that Jesus is the Stone because he heard from the Master the parable of the wicked tenants (Matt. 21:33-44)** which speaks of the master who sent his servants so that the farmers, who had leased his vineyard, would bear fruit. but they beat these servants and then the Master sent His Son but they said: **"This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his**

inheritance," (Matt. 21:38) so Jesus quoted **Ps. 118:22-23** to interpret what he described through this parable:

Matt. 21:42 *"Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"*

- D. Peter knew that Jesus Himself is this Stone and that He had been rejected by the builders but that He became the main Stone of the building and this is something that the Lord has done. These who rejected Jesus had been put there to rule under the authority of God but they rejected the most important and that is what we see in today's world which is leading the nations to failure.

Psal. 127:1 *"Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain."*

- E. Pedro speaks like this to the recipients of the letter because he knows that they were also being rejected and that is why they had fled to those regions:

1 Pet. 1:1 *"... exiles of the Dispersion in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia."*

1 Pet. 2:11 *"Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul."*

1 Pet. 4:3-4 *"For the time that is past suffices for doing what the Gentiles want to do, living in sensuality, passions, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and lawless idolatry. 4 With respect to this they are surprised when you do not join them in the same flood of debauchery, and they malign you."*

- F. We who follow Jesus are foreigners, exiles waiting for our heavenly homeland and we are called to live a lifestyle that places us outside the mainstream of the world and the result is that the world is a dangerous place with a lot of human power that He supports him, he is going to outrage and insult us because of Jesus.

Matt. 24:9 *"Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake."*

- G. Peter tells them: I am encouraging you to follow the same life that Jesus lived, although it was a life of rejection, you will also enjoy a life of glorification.

2 Tim. 2:12a *"if we endure, we will also reign with him..."*

- H. Peter wants us to know that these are us, we are rejected by men because we follow Jesus, but we are also chosen and precious to the Father.

III. WE ARE BUILT TO BE A TEMPLE AND A PRIESTHOOD FOR GOD

- A. As we draw near to Jesus, He imparts what He is and as Him we become stones of the spiritual building and participate in His life. As He comes, He

takes us and builds us together to be a temple for the presence of the living God.

Eph. 2:22 "In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit."

- B. **Together we are a corporate temple of God's presence and together we will be a priesthood.** First we are a house where God dwells and then we function in that temple as a holy priesthood and what we do is offer spiritual sacrifices, things like money, praise, helping others and our obedience:

Phil 4:18 "I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God."

Heb. 13:15-16 "Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. 16 Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

Rom. 12:1 "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

- C. **The New Testament priesthood does not offer lambs or calves but sacrifices of obedience and praise to God and** perhaps we think, my sacrifices are not as good as they should be; we are not loving, nor being genuine, nor as generous as we should **but the good thing is that these sacrifices are "acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" who covers all the inadequacy of our acts of obedience.**
- D. **Because of the redemptive work of Jesus Christ, the good in our sacrifices is acceptable, so you can please God by offering spiritual sacrifices.** Now we can all offer you things that really satisfy Him.

IV. THE TWO KINDS OF RESPONSES AND THE CONSEQUENCES

- A. **What Peter does at the end of this section marks the contrast between two different kinds of responses to the Stone: they are those who believe and those who do not believe;** and he does it to show us how we should think about ourselves in God's favor and how we should feel about those who are rejecting and persecuting us.
- B. **"For as it is written"** The first quote (**Is. 28:16**) is for **"those who believe"** (v.7); and the second quotes **Psal. 118:22-23** and **Is. 8:14** are **"for those who do not believe."** So if someone does not believe then that Living Stone that is Christ becomes a stumbling block or a rock that offends him.
- C. **"They stumble because they disobey the word"** that is, they do not believe. The word they disobey is the gospel of Christ crucified and risen; and when you disobey the one who tells you: 'believe in Me' there are lethal consequences.
- D. **On the other hand, God honors those who believe, "he who believes will not be put to shame",** even if now it looks like you are being rejected and you see yourself as a loser, just as He Himself did not have the honor He

deserved when He came to this land. He was put to shame by men but in the resurrection he was honored and vindicated and those who believe in him will share his honor, they will not be ashamed in the end as they are being now as foreigners and pilgrims.

Acts. 2:32-33 *"This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses. ³³ Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing."*

- E. Although the world has rejected Jesus and rejects us; God chose Him to be the main one and through Him He will judge the world, He has also chosen us to be His forever so we must remain anchored in that hope.

Acts. 17:31 *"because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man [Jesus] whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."*

V. REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. How does it make you feel that although you are rejected because of your faith in Christ you are also chosen and precious to God?
2. According to these texts, why can you know that God is pleased with the sacrifices you offer Him?
3. Why can we feel confident even though in this world it seems that we are losing?

THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- HOLY58 YOUTH SERVICE Wednesday, April 13 at 7:00pm.
- 5 RESURRECTION SERVICES APRIL 16 AND 17 **BRING YOUR 3 GUESTS:**
 - SATURDAY 5:00 PM (SPANISH) AND 7:00 PM (ENGLISH)
 - SUNDAY 8:30 AM (SPANISH) • 10:30 AM (SPANISH) • 12:30 PM (BILINGUAL)
- BREAKFAST TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE HOUSE OF PRAYER: Saturday, April 23 at 9:00 a.m. All who wish to support are invited. In praise Niko Gaggero of Upperroom. (Registration at the entrance table).
- INNER HEALING RETREAT FOR MEN April 29-30 there will be English translation (You can register in the Bookstore or online).
- MEMBERSHIP COURSE starts Monday, May 2 at 7:00 pm (in person and online) you can register at www.housesoflight.org
- If you are a new member of the church we invite you to fill out your CONNECTION CARD to keep you informed about our church, events and ministries..