



March 12th, 2023 • 1 Peter 2:4-8
Standing Firm in the Grace of God • The Book of 1 Peter
Message #4 • by Pastor Marcus Johnson



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Honor, Destiny & Christ the Living Cornerstone

1. Coming to Christ – a living stone

2. The honor of believing in Christ – the cornerstone

3. The destiny of disobedient, unbelief in Christ – a stumbling stone & a rock of offense

Some Highlights of 1 Peter 2:4-8

Sources: *1 Peter* by Karen H. Jobes (ECNT) and the ESV Study Bible (ESVSB)

Stone & Cornerstone Imagery & Theology in Scripture

There are three OT passages that reference the stone or cornerstone imagery and theology that Peter emphasizes here in 1 Peter 2:4-8 (Ps 118:22f; Isa 8:14f; 28:16). There are seven NT passages, including 1 Peter 2, that quote one or more of these OT passages (Mt 21:42-44; Mk 12:10f; Lk 20:17f; Ac 4:11f; Ro 9:32f; Eph 2:20ff; 1Pe 2:6-8). See Jobes (pp.146-47).

“The Christian community is portrayed as a temple, implying that now it – not a literal stone building – is the place of God’s earthly dwelling by the Holy Spirit, a place of true worship and of acceptable sacrifice ... In Peter’s imagery, Christ is included in the spiritual temple alongside believers, but as the foundational, first, and preeminent stone in the new temple, a stone that holds a unique place. Christ is the foundation stone of this new temple; apart from him the new temple would not exist. The placement of the Living Stone with living stones in the temple implies the close relationship of Christ with believers and their common nature as human beings. The Cornerstone is called “living” by virtue of his resurrection; the same resurrection life enlivens the stones that come to him and take their place in the new temple. The image of the living stones of the new temple also has implications for the conception of the Christian’s relationship to other believers ... The image of living stones being built into a spiritual house whose cornerstone is Christ also speaks of the unity, significance, and purpose of all believers, concepts essential for Christian self-understanding ... The imagery of the living stones being built into a single unit implies that the significance and purpose of the individual Christian cannot be realized apart from community with other believers.” (Jobes, pp.148-49).

Background & Highlights of Isaiah 28 (Isa 28:16 is quoted in 1Pe 2:6)

Isa. 28:1–35:10 God’s Sovereign Word Spoken into the World: “Ah!” The Lord speaks into history (chs. 28–33), moving events toward final judgment and salvation (chs. 34–35). He is the powerful ally of his people, above all earthly powers. Therefore, to trust in him is a wise policy for real life in the here and now. (ESVSB)

Isa. 28:11–13 Now that God’s people have rejected Isaiah’s clear message of **rest** in God, God will speak to them by the **foreign tongue** of invaders (cf. Jer. 5:15). The same invitation saves some and hardens others (cf. Isa. 6:9–10; 8:11–15). (ESVSB)

Isa. 28:15 a covenant with death. Jerusalem’s leaders rejoiced over their alliance with Egypt for protection from Assyria (cf. 30:1–5; 31:1–3), but Isaiah rephrases their glad report to reveal the truth of what they have done. **the overwhelming whip.** The Assyrian army. (ESVSB)

Isa. 28:16 God has established another **foundation** for the **Zion** of his remnant people. That **sure foundation**, embodied in Jesus Christ, is the good news that God saves as no one else can (Rom. 9:33; 1 Pet. 2:4–8 combines this with Isa. 8:14; cf. also Rom. 10:11). Isaiah heaps terms upon terms to emphasize that God’s salvation is worth believing in. (ESVSB)