

Isaiah 28:16 & I Peter 2:5-9 The Temple of Living Stones

The Messiah Jesus Christ is to be a sure foundation and a corner stone cf:

Isaiah 28:16 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner [*stone*], a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

Ephesians 2:19-22 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [*stone*]; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

Christ shall be a sanctuary and place of refuge for some, but a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence for others cf:

Isaiah 8:13-16 Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and [*/ef*] him [*be*] your fear, and [*/ef*] him [*be*] your dread. 14 And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. 15 And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken. 16 Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.

The Jews stumbled and fell because they did not accept Jesus as their Messiah and repent of their unbelief cf:

The metaphors for Christ are (1) elect; (2) cornerstone; (3) tried; (4) sanctuary; (5) stone of stumbling; and (6) rock of offense. It might also be added that Christ is the stone "from another world," and he is "the living stone" (Zechariah 3:9), and the "growing stone" (Daniel 2:34-35).

It should be noted that the way of God's revelation is always, "here a little, and there a little," as mentioned in this very chapter. One must even put two passages of Isaiah together for the information here indicated. Paul also quoted these passages Of Isaiah 28:16 & 8:14 together in Romans 9:33.

Romans 9:32-33 Wherefore? Because [*they sought it*] not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone; 33 As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumbling stone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

Christ a cornerstone will be refused and rejected by the Jews but become the head stone of the corner of this New and Living Temple of God cf:

Psalms 118:18-23 The LORD hath chastened me sore: but he hath not given me over unto death.

The Messiah will be abused but His death will not stand God will raise Him up from the dead.

Psalms 118:19-21 Open to me the gates of righteousness: I will go into them, [*and*] I will praise the LORD: 20 This gate of the LORD, into which the righteous shall enter. 21 I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation.

The heavenly gates were opened to Jesus at His resurrection and ascension cf: Daniel 7:13-14

The next verse in Psalm 118:22-23 Jesus says is talking about Him cf:

Psalms 118:22 The stone [*which*] the builders refused is become the head [*stone*] of the corner. 23 This is the LORD'S doing; it [*is*] marvellous in our eyes.

Matthew 21:28-46 28 But what think ye? A [*certain*] man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. 29 He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. 30 And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I [*go*], sir: and went not. 31 Whether of them twain did the will of [*his*] father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you. 32 For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen [*it*], repented not afterward, that ye might believe him. 33 Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it

round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country. 34 And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. 35 And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. 36 Again, he sent other servants more than the first: and they did unto them likewise. 37 But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. 38 But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. 39 And they caught him, and cast [him] out of the vineyard, and slew [him]. 40 When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen? 41 They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out [his] vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons.

Now Jesus quotes Psalm 118:22-23

Matthew 21:42 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? 43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. 44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. 45 And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them. 46 But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet.

Peter speaking under inspiration tells us we are tracking these verses correctly cf:

Acts 4:6-13 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. 7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this? 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, 9 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; 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.

Now Peter under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit quotes Psalm 118:22

Acts 4:11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. 12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. 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.

Have you “been with Jesus”?

Jesus is the stone. I Peter takes these Old Testament passages and again teaches Jesus is the corner stone.

I Peter 2:1-10 in these verses Peter will use extremely sophisticated exegesis and proper hermeneutics blending together all of these prophecies into one lesson on the Church of Christ as the Temple of Living Stones.

I Peter 2:1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

Wherefore. In view of the salvation and duty of brotherly love pointed out in chapter one ...“Laying aside all malice” ... These things to be laid aside are inconsistent with brotherly love. Malice to wish ill for your brother, to have an enemies list or to want to bring down your brother is the mental state opposed to love. ... Guile ... to be two faced is the mental state opposed to sincerity cf: 1:22. ... Hypocrisies ... is Guile *exhibited* in word and deed. ... Envy ... wanting anything of your brother’s “Love envieth not” (1 Cor. 13:4). ... Evil speakings ... is Speaking evil of others or tale bearing.

I Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Newborn babes ... The new birth has been spoken of in I Peter 1:23. They are babes in Christ. Babes hunger for milk. Let babes in Christ earnestly desire the sincere milk of the word. This word, unadulterated, is the food upon which Christians must feed in order to grow.

I Peter 2:3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

If so be ... This is the proper food for those who have tasted that the Lord is gracious, or been converted. We are challenged to cf:

Psalm 34:8 O taste and see that the LORD *is* good: blessed *is* the man *that* trusteth in him.

I Peter 2:4 To whom coming, *as unto* a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, *and* precious,

“To whom coming ...” To Christ the Lord is A living stone. Christ is often called a Stone, or Rock, as the foundation, Whom we build upon our spiritual life, and of the church; a "living stone" because he imparts life to all who build upon Him, and himself lives eternally cf:

Revelation 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.

“Disallowed ...” and rejected by the Jewish nation. Chosen, not of men but of God who raised him from the dead.

I Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

“Ye also, as lively stones” Christians, born again to eternal life, become living stones also built into the spiritual temple of which Christ is the corner stone. “Spiritual house” is the church. The Church is God's spiritual temple of which the Jewish temple was a type or a shadow. “An holy priesthood” Christ, the High Priest, hath anointed them all as priests in his spiritual house. They need no human priest to stand between them and God. Every Christian can offer up spiritual sacrifices cf:

Hebrews 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye

transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

The sacrifices of the Christian priest are prayer, praise, good deeds, the consecration of our bodies and substance to God's service. "Acceptable to God" When offered in the name of Christ.

I Peter 2:6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion (Zion) a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

Behold, I lay in Zion. Cf: Isaiah 28:16, and Romans 9:33. Hence God had foretold that Christ should be a Living Stone. Peter has not quoted the passage in full which declares that the stone is "a tried stone," "a sure foundation." "Elect" Hence, "chosen by God" Precious is a term applied to Christ in V:4. Since it is "the chief corner stone" without which the structure could not be built. "He that believeth on him" Hence this stone is a person, and faith in Him is the basis of salvation.

I Peter 2:7 Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

"Unto you therefore which believe ..." The prophecy is now applied. He is precious to believers because they enjoy all the promises embraced in "he that believeth," etc. "Unto the disobedient" Those who do not believe and hence, disobey; to these he is the stone which the builders disallowed, which is spoken of in Psalm 118:22. See also Matthew 21:42, and Acts 4:11. The head of the corner. Peter in Acts 4:11, quotes this passage from the Old Testament and applies it with great force. The rejected Savior had become the "Head of the Corner" of God's spiritual temple upon which all other stones are built. Another way God said it to the prophet is cf:

Isaiah 22:22-23 And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. 23 And I will fasten him *as* a nail in a sure place; and he shall be for a glorious throne to his father's house.

I Peter 2:8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

“A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence” He is this to the disobedient. To the disobedient, a stone over which they stumble and fall. “Whereunto” means unto stumbling over the stone and falling. This is God's appointment to the disobedient. It is the result of their unbelief. The idea is that stumbling is their condition. When they reject Christ they become stumblers in that they stumble more and more.

I Peter 2:9 But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light:

“But ye are a chosen generation” God's chosen people at the very right time, like ancient Israel. Christians are now the chosen people Isaiah 43:21.

“A royal priesthood” God had always wanted His people to conduct themselves as His representatives and priests in the world cf:

Exodus 19:5-6 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth *is* mine: 19:6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

The Hebrew passage which Peter refers to means "a kingdom of priests." All Christians in this Kingdom are "anointed ones" like Christ, are in some sense like him, priest-kings. “An holy nation” Set apart to God. “A peculiar people” Differing from the world in our walk of life. “That ye should show forth” They differ from the world that their holy lives may shine as a light and they honor God. “Out of darkness” In this and the next verse Peter surely has in mind Gentile Christians.

I Peter 2:10 Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

“Which in time past were not a people” Not the people of God. cf: Hosea 2:23, which Peter quotes. The prophets in many places foretold the call of the Gentiles.

Sources: KJV Bible, e-Sword, B. W. Johnson Commentary, Coffman’s Commentary & Clarks Commentary.