

God's Cornerstone—the Intersection of Eternal Honor and Disaster 1 Peter 2:6-8

Historical Clues About the Cornerstone of God's Spiritual Temple

1. A Qualified Man Honored by God and sent to Jerusalem, Verses 6-7a.

The first Old Testament Scripture that hints at the founder of God's Spiritual House: Isaiah 28:16.

God is the strength and security of this new spiritual house.

Seven Old Testament references to Christ as a *stone* or *rock*.
Four **not** cited by Peter: Exodus 17:6, Numbers 28:8-11 (note: 1 Corinthians 10:4), Daniel 2:34-35, Zechariah 10:4.

The teaching of Isaiah 28:16

A. The message to the original readers.

Ahaz was King of Judah of this passage from Isaiah 28:16?
His Kingdom under threat from Israel—Aram alliance.

The Lord's gracious warning to Ahaz through Isaiah:
Believe in My cornerstone and be unshakable.
Alliance with Egypt will be treachery and disaster.

The image of the stone-built temple in Jerusalem was a picture of the secure God they were to trust in.

B. The message to Peter's readers and to us:

Jesus Christ is God's living cornerstone.
God says, if you trust in My Son, you are trusting in Me.
You will never be disappointed over decisions you make in your life that put Christ first.

There is honor in giving your life to Jesus (verse 7a).

2. A Man Rejected by His own People and the Nations, verse 7b.

The teaching of Psalm 118:22

A warning about those who refuse to believe the gospel: Psalm 118:22.
The great empire builders around Israel rejected Her law and did not see her God as worth knowing.

They failed to see that Israel's law and Israel's God was the only solid foundation to build a nation on.

The religious leaders and people of Jesus' day who wanted a king to lead them to world domination, rejected Jesus.

But God raised Him from the dead and made Him the living cornerstone for His Church.

Christ, though rejected by Israel's leaders and by so many people around them and us, is nevertheless alive and drawing people to Himself and into His growing spiritual house.

God is building His living Kingdom on the resurrection power of His chosen cornerstone. Persecution has never stopped it.

3. A God You Reject at Great Peril, verse 8b,c.

The teaching of Isaiah 8:14

God called himself the sanctuary and stone that His people should trust in.

Isaiah's 8th chapter written in the year that Ahaz became the King of Judah--732BC.

Ahaz's plan: go to Assyria and make a treaty.
Isaiah prophesied that such an alliance was bad and God was going to break these enemies for Ahaz.
But Ahaz needed to turn to the Lord and trust in Him for security.
Ahaz ignored Isaiah.

But God let Isaiah know that He was going to be a sanctuary for all who were faithful, but a stumbling stone in Jerusalem for all who rejected Him.

Peter selected this warning to exhort his readers to keep their eyes on the Lord.

There are painful consequences for people who persist in rejecting the gospel.

But the rejection of Christ by our friends and neighbors should not surprise us or cause us to doubt our faith. It was predicted.

Summary:

The point for Peter's references to in the Old Testament:
to call us to put our trust in the Lord in the hardships of trying to live for Christ and suffering rejection for it.

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