

LIVING AS EXILES

WORDS OF GRACE FOR TROUBLED TIMES



THE HOUSE OF GOD'S
CORNERSTONE

1 PETER 2:4-12

1

Introduction

- Some of my “extra-curricular” activities over the last couple of weeks which have returned me to considering worldview issues...
- Three great questions in worldview/philosophy
 - What is (metaphysics)?
 - How do we know (epistemology)?
 - How shall we then live (ethics)?
- One way to meditate on Scripture is to think in these terms and with these questions in mind.

2

THE PRIESTLY SERVICE (4-5)

*As you come to him,
a living stone rejected by men
but in the sight of God chosen and precious,
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.*

3

BELIEVING IN GOD'S CORNERSTONE (6-7a)

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*."

So the *honor* is for you who believe,

4

REJECTING GOD'S CORNERSTONE (7b-8)

but for those who *do not believe*,

"The *stone* that the builders rejected
has become the *cornerstone*,"
and "A *stone of stumbling*,
and a *rock of offense*."

They stumble

because they disobey the word,
as they were *destined* to do.

5

THE PURPOSE OF GOD'S PEOPLE (9-9)

But you are a chosen *race*,

a royal *priesthood*,

a holy *nation*,

a *people* for his own possession,

that you may proclaim the excellencies
of him who called you out of *darkness*
into his marvelous *light*.

6

THE GRACE OF GOD'S PEOPLE (10)

Once you were not a people,
but *now* you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but *now* you have received mercy.

7

A Return to Our Questions

- What is?
 - Jesus: the Living Cornerstone
 - We the believing: living stones, spiritual house, holy and royal priesthood, sacrifice givers, chosen race, God's possession, His people, called from darkness to light,
 - God the mercy-Giver
- How do we know?
 - Jesus resurrected, God's declaration
- How shall we then live?

8

Application/Transition (11-12)

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

Keep your conduct among the Gentiles *honorable*,
so that *when* they speak against you as *evildoers*,
they may see your *good deeds*
and *glorify* God
on the *day of visitation*.

9