

THE RIGHT FOUNDATION

Jesus, the Rock of our Salvation

“To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious . . . Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. 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, and a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.”

1 Corinthians 10:4

“And did all (Israel) drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.”

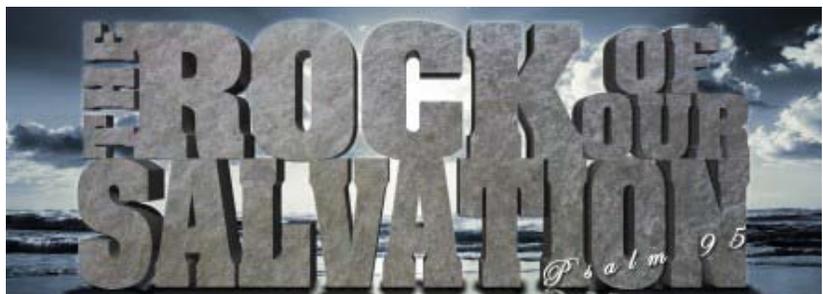


1 Peter 2:4-10

Whether we are building a house or building our lives we need a solid foundation upon which to build. The Scriptures are filled with illustrations to support this point.

In Matthew 7 we find the parable of two builders where Jesus said,

“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: ²⁵ And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house;



and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. ²⁶ And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: ²⁷ And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”

We also find in the book of Psalms the prophetic words of Asaph. He wondered why wicked men seemed to prosper without any rebuke. However, when he sought the Lord on this matter, he was shown they built their life on a slippery slope and faced terrifying consequences.

“But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well-nigh slipped. ³ For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. . . . until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end. ¹⁸ Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction. ¹⁹ How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.”

They may for a time appear to prosper, but since they built their lives on a wrong foundation they will one day face a terrifying end.

Peter is writing about the necessity of having the right foundation. He is assuring his readers that they (unlike their persecutors) built their lives on the right foundation — Jesus, the Christ, the Son of the Living God. The wicked may appear to be prosperous, but their worldly gain is temporary . . . an illusion. When faced with eternity, what appears today as prosperity, will in a moment change forever.

1. Identifying Key Terms:

- a. List the six times Peter uses the terms “Rock” or “stone” in this passage (1 Peter 2:4-10).
 - 1) 1 Peter 2:4 – “a living stone”
 - 2) 1 Peter 2:5 – “Ye also, as living stones”
 - 3) 1 Peter 2:6 – “a chief corner stone”
 - 4) 1 Peter 2:7 – “the stone that the builders disallow.”
 - 5) 1 Peter 2:8a – “stone of stumbling”
 - 6) 1 Peter 2:8b – “a rock of offense”
- b. How does Peter use the following terms, “**chosen/elect**” and “**precious.**” Note, he uses these terms three times (1 Peter 2:4-10).
 - 1) 1 Peter 2:4 - “Living Stone . . . is **chosen**¹ of God, and **precious**¹”
 - 2) 1 Peter 2:6 - “chief corner stone, **elect**², **precious**²”
 - 3) 1 Peter 2:7 - “Unto you therefore which believe he is **precious**³”
 - 4) 1 Peter 2:9 - “Ye are a **chosen**³ generation”

2. **Discuss how the Lord came to be known as the “Rock” or “Stone” in the Old Testament era.** See Exodus 17:5-6; Numbers 20:8-11 cf. 1 Corinthians 10:4; Deuteronomy 32:3-4, 18, 2 Samuel 22:2, 32-37, 47 and Isaiah 8:14.

Also note how the Lord uses this same terminology when speaking to Peter in Matthew 16:15-16, 18.

3. **How do the above verses help us understand 1 Peter 2?**

Answer

Peter pulls his thoughts from the Old Testament in order to help us understand just how firm our faith is in the LORD. He uses the analogy of the LORD being the “Rock” or a “stone.” That concept was first used in Exodus 17:6 and occurred a second time in Numbers 20:8-11. Both events took place in a time of crisis. The nation was without water and facing certain death. Then the LORD instructed Moses to . . .

“Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and **speak ye unto the rock** before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the **rock**: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink. ⁹ And Moses took the rod from before the Lord, as he commanded him. ¹⁰ And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the **rock**, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this **rock**? ¹¹ And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the **rock** twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts *also*.”

In 1 Corinthians 10:4 – Paul speaks of this same Rock saying,

“And did all (Israel) drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.”

The rock from which the water flowed was a literal rock. It produced water only by the miraculous power of the LORD. His presence never faltered. He was with them through-out their wilderness wanderings. The rock became a symbol of His power and presence. He was their Protector, Provider and Savior. The literal rock symbolized the LORD who was the foundation of their salvation. Christ in His pre-incarnate state followed Israel throughout their wilderness wanderings and provided for them. He is the right foundation. He is the true Rock of our salvation.

By the time we get to Deuteronomy 32:3-4, we find Moses saying,

“Because I will publish the name of the Lord: ascribe ye greatness unto our God. ⁴ **He is the Rock**, his work *is* perfect: for all his ways *are* judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right *is* he.”

and in Deut. 32:18 –

“Of the Rock *that* begat thee thou art unmindful, and hast forgotten God that formed thee.”

King David later said, in 2 Samuel 22:2 and Ps. 62:2 –

“**The Lord is my Rock**, and my fortress, and my deliverer.

2 Samuel 22:32-37 –

“For who *is* God, save the Lord? and **who is a rock, save our God?** ³³ God *is* my strength *and* power: and he maketh my way perfect. ³⁴ He maketh my feet like hinds’ *feet*: and setteth me upon my high places. ³⁵ He teacheth my hands to war; so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms. ³⁶ Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy gentleness hath made me great. ³⁷ Thou hast enlarged my steps under me; so that my feet did not slip. . . .

⁴⁷ **The Lord liveth; and blessed *be* my rock;** and exalted be the God of the rock of my salvation.”

Later, the same Rock is referred to as “the stone that Israel rejected”.

“And he (*the LORD*) 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” - Isaiah 8:14.

In this letter, Peter is pointing his brethren back to “the Rock.” He is writing to his trial worn brethren. They are discouraged and wondering if they had misplaced their trust. The trials of their faith were causing them to question whether they placed their trust on the right foundation. They took their eyes off Christ.

So Peter says in 1 Peter 2:4 “To whom coming, *as unto* a living stone.” In other words, this One you have come to is the same ROCK referred to in the Old Testament. It is also a reminder of Matthew 16:16 where Jesus asked Peter, “Who do you say I am?” And Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” To this Jesus replied, “Upon this **rock** I will build my church.” That is, Jesus Christ is the Rock, the Son of the living God. This is the foundation of the saints. That is why Peter continues in 1 Peter 2:4 by saying “Coming as unto a living Stone.” We have not come to an inanimate object, but to the Living Stone that followed Israel in the wilderness — the Messiah, the Son of the Living God. He is the only true foundation for our faith.

4. How do the following references encourage Peter’s audience?

- a. “disallowed indeed of men” (1 Peter 2:6).
- b. “but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, 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” (1 Peter 2:7-8).

Answer:

1. He is, “disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, *and* precious.” - 1 Peter 2:4b
 - a. **Disallowed by men.** Sadly, men have rejected this foundation. By doing so they have rejected the only true foundation — Jesus. He is God’s chosen plan and the only way in which we are saved.
 - b. **He is precious.** Precious to God — His Son. Precious to us — our Savior. He is the only foundation that is safe. All other foundations will crumble.

2. The world rejects Him - 1 Peter 2:7-8:

- a. To the saints, Jesus is precious. To the disobedient, He is rejected. He is a stone of stumbling. He is a rock of offense. He is an offence to those who reject God’s Holy word. Remember, because they rejected the only true foundation which leads to eternal life, their position before God remains unchanged — appointed to wrath.

John 3:18 – “He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

John 3:36 – “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.”

John 8:24 – “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am *he*, ye shall die in your sins.”

2. Peter continues to remind his readers of who they are in Christ. They are on the right foundation.

“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 marvellous light”

5. **How does Peter describe God’s view of those who have placed their trust in Him? (1 Peter 2:7a, 9-10).**

Answer

^{7a} Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: . . . 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 marvellous light: 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.

We are called chosen, royal, holy, special and are designated to show forth praises of Him who called us out of darkness.

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.” – 1 Peter 2:9-10

This is a reference to Hosea 1:6-10 where God calls Israel not His people because of their rejection of Him.

“And God said unto him, Call her name Loruhamah: for I will no more have mercy upon the house of Israel; but I will utterly take them away” — Hosea 1:6.

But Hosea reminds us that one day that will change . . .

“Yet the number of the children of Israel shall be as the sand of the sea, which cannot be measured nor numbered; and it shall come to pass, that in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people, there it shall be said unto them, Ye are the sons of the living God. ¹¹ Then shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel be gathered together, and appoint themselves one head, and they shall come up out of the land: for great shall be the day of Jezreel” — Hosea 1:10-11.

- 6. What does 1 Peter 2:5 tell us to do?** What are the seven spiritual sacrifices that a believer can offer unto God? Romans 12:1-2; Hebrews 13:15, 16a, 16b; Rom. 15:15-16; 1 Peter 4:8, 7.

Answer:

So what should we do?

We are called a “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.” – 1 Peter 2:5

The following are the seven spiritual sacrifices we should be offering to God by Jesus Christ.

1) Our Bodies – 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. 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.”

2. Our Praise – 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.

3. Our Good Works – Hebrews 13:16a

“But to do good”

4. Our Possessions – Hebrews 13:16b

“and to communicate (share) forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”

5. Our Converts – Romans 15:15-16

“Nevertheless, brethren, I have written the more boldly unto you in some sort, as putting you in mind, because of the grace that is given to me of God, ¹⁶ That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, *that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.*”

6. Our Love – 1 Peter 4:8

“And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.”

7. Our Prayers – 1 Peter 4:7

“But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.”