

“WORD OF LIFE”

August 13, 2023

38. CHRIST IN HIS PERSON (18) – In the Fulfillment of the OT Prophecies

N 49. The **Stone Rejected** by the Jewish Builders **Who Became the Cornerstone**

N 50. A **Stone of Stumbling**, a Rock of Offense, at **Which Israel Stumbled**

N 51. A **Stone of Foundation** on **Whom the Believers Believed**

Hymns: # 199 / # 1106 / # 7

✚ “...the words which I have spoken to you are **spirit** and are **life**” (John 6:63)

Stone Rejected – the Cornerstone

[Prophecy]

Psa. 118:22 - The **stone** which the builders **rejected** Has become the **head of the corner**.

Psa. 118:23 - This is from Jehovah; It is **wonderful in our sight**.

[Fulfillment]

Matt. 21:42 - Jesus said to them, Have you never read in the Scriptures, “The **stone** which the builders **rejected**, this has become the **head of the corner**. This was from the Lord, and it is **marvelous in our eyes**”?

Act 4:11 - This is the **stone** which was considered as nothing by you, the builders, which has become the **head of the corner**.

Stone of Stumbling – Israel Stumbled

[Prophecy]

Isa 8:14 - Then He will become a sanctuary, yet a **stone** to strike against And a **rock of stumbling** To both houses of Israel, A trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

Isa 8:15 - And many will **stumble** at these, And will fall and be **broken to pieces**, And will be snared and taken captive.

[Fulfillment]

1Pet. 2:8 - And, “A **stone of stumbling** and a rock of offense”; who **stumble** at the word, being disobedient, to which also they were appointed.

Stone of Foundation – Believers Believed

[Prophecy]

Isa 28:16 - Therefore thus says The Lord Jehovah: Indeed I lay a **stone** in Zion as a **foundation**, A tested stone, A precious **cornerstone** as a **foundation** firmly established; He who believes will not hasten away.

[Fulfillment]

1Pet. 2:6 - For it is contained in Scripture: “Behold, I lay in Zion a cornerstone, chosen *and* precious; and he who **believes** on Him shall **by no means be put to shame**.”

1Pet. 2:7 - To you therefore who **believe** is the preciousness; but to the unbelieving, “The **stone** which the builders rejected, this has become the head of the corner,”

✚ “...to **reveal** His Son in me...” (Gal. 1:16a)

❖ Christ the **stone rejected** by the Jewish builders who became **the cornerstone**

- The **prophecy** concerning **Christ** as the **stone rejected** by the Jewish builders who became in resurrection the **cornerstone**. (Psa. 118:22-23)
 - The **stone** here is Christ for **God’s building** (Isa. 28:16; Zech. 3:9; 1 Pet. 2:4),
 - and the **builders** are the **Jewish** leaders, who were **supposed** to work on God’s building.
 - **Jewish** leaders’ **rejection** of Him and
 - **God’s honoring of Him** for the building of His habitation among His people on earth.
- It is fulfilled in, Peter’s **quoting** of Psalm 118:22 (1 Pet. 2:4-7)
 - The **stone despised, rejected** by the builders has **become** the **cornerstone**.
 - Christ is the **precious stone held in honor by God**,
 - **not only** as the Savior for the salvation of sinners
 - **but also** as the stone for God’s building.
 - This **living stone is Christ for God’s building**.
 - **As we experience Christ as the stone living in us**,
 - He makes us living stones, transformed with His stone nature,
 - so that we may be built with others a spiritual house upon Him as the foundation and cornerstone.

❖ Christ a **stone of stumbling**, a rock of offense, at which **Israel stumbled**

- Christ is also **prophesied** in Isaiah 8:14, a **stone of stumbling**, a rock of offense, at which Israel stumbled.
 - Because **Israel** rejected Him, He **became** to Israel a **stone of stumbling**, a rock of offense.
- This word is **fulfilled** in Romans 9:32-33a; Luke 2:34; and 1 Peter 2:8.
 - Christ was appointed by God **to be a test to the children of Israel** so that many of them would be stumbled by Him and many raised up by Him.

❖ Christ a **stone of foundation** on whom the **believers believed**

- The Old Testament **prophesy** Christ is also a **stone of foundation** on whom the **believers believed**.
- It is **fulfilled** in 1 Corinthians 3:11; Romans 9:33b; and 1 Peter 2:4, 6-7a.
 - As the Christ and the Son of the Living God, the Lord Jesus Christ is the unique foundation laid by God for the building of the church (Matt. 16:16-18). No one can lay any other foundation.
 - “He who believes on Him shall not be put to shame.” (Romans 9:33b)

✚ “...let all the peoples **speak praise to Him ...**” (Rom. 15:11)

✚ Christ is not only the foundation stone (Isa. 28:16) and the topstone (Zech. 4:7), but also the **cornerstone**. Christ is the **unique salvation** to sinners and the unique name under heaven, a name despised and rejected by the Jewish leaders **but honored and exalted by God** (Phil. 2:9-10), where **sinners must be saved** (Acts 4:12). He as the stone despised by the builders has **become** the cornerstone, and there is no salvation in any other name. We can be saved only in the name of Jesus, and Jesus is the stone. He is the Stone-Savior.

✚ Christ is not only the **building stone** but also the **stumbling stone**. The Jews who have rejected the Lord Jesus have fallen upon this stone and have been broken to pieces.

✚ “Behold, I lay in Zion a chosen stone, a cornerstone held in honor, and he who believes on Him shall by no means be put to shame. To you therefore who believe is the preciousness.” Preciousness is a kindred word to honor, the very Christ chosen by God as a **stone** held in honor is the **preciousness** to His believers.

{(Reference: The Conclusion of the New Testament Ch. 38, letter N – point 49 - 51)
[Preparing this “word of life” (SUPPLYING THE WORD IN MEETINGS OF MUTUALITY) was motivated by:
The Elder’s Training Book 8, Ch. 4, and The Administration of the Church and the Ministry of the Word, Ch. 11]}

<p style="text-align: center;">Hymn 199</p> <p>1 Thou art the Rock everlasting, Spiritual Rock cleft for me; Drinking of Thee as the Spirit, Thus I become one with Thee. Thou art the Rock never shaken, 'Tis on this Rock we are built; Joined unto Thee thru redemption, Nothing can shake us thru guilt.</p> <p>Chorus Lord, how we treasure Thy value, All that Thou art is for us; While here in loving remembrance We share Thy wealth glorious.</p> <p>2 Thou art the Stone tried by many, Precious to God, dear to us, Thou art so sure and trustworthy, Thy strength is so marvelous. Thou art the Stone that is living, Chosen of God, made our own; So energetic and pow'rful, With endless life to us known.</p> <p>3 Thou art the Stone of Foundation Laid by our God, safe and sure; It is by this sure foundation Safety fore'er we secure.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Cont. Hymn 199</p> <p>To us no other foundation Of any kind man can lay; Thou art the only foundation Which we have now and for aye.</p> <p>4 Lord, for God's spiritual building, Thou art the Chief Cornerstone; Both of the Jews and the Gentiles By Thee are built into one. Lord, Thou art also the Topstone, Brought forth in measureless grace; Thou art our cover and glory, Moving our hearts in Thy praise.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hymn 1106</p> <p>1 We gather together to eat the Lord's supper: By eating and drinking, our oneness we show. His presence possessing, our oneness confessing, 'Tis thus we eat and drink, and His blessing we know.</p> <p>2 We're eating the bread of His body once broken As now we're enjoying His Body made one: One loaf on the table—one Body, we're able To testify to all that the Lord's made us one.</p>	<p>3 We also are drinking the cup of His blessing, The church's true fellowship of the Lord's blood; Redeemed by believing, all saints we're receiving, All those who through redemption have come unto God.</p> <p>4 Oh, what can we say now except “Hallelujah!” For such a reality given to us. Thy blood we're employing, Thy Body enjoying; Thus Thou wilt have the church for Thyself glorious.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Hymn 7</p> <p>1 Glory, glory to the Father! Glory, glory to the Son! Glory, glory to the Spirit! Glory to the Three in One!</p> <p>Let us praise Him! Let us praise Him! Praise our God, the Three in One! Give Him glory; give Him glory! Wondrous things for us our God hath done.</p> <p>2 Praise the Father who has purposed! Praise the Son who all has done! Praise the Spirit who transmitteth! Praise the Three who work as one!</p>
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