

**21S20 1st Peter 2:4-10**

Hello everyone. Thank you for joining me today @ the PUNLA Coffee Table. I hope everyone is doing well. Today we are continuing our series on 1<sup>st</sup> Peter with 1 Peter 2:4-10.

The author is the Apostle Peter. Most scholars believe this letter was written sometime in AD60-64. The main theme of 1<sup>st</sup> Peter is “Where does our Hope come from?” for those suffering persecution. This letter was written to Christians living in the Roman Empire and facing persecution because they follow Jesus.

I’m reading from the International Children’s Bible (ICB) today, I like the plain English in this translation.

Let’s read 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:4-10 (ICB) *<sup>4</sup>The Lord Jesus is the “stone” that lives. The people of the world did not want this stone. But he was the stone God chose. To God he was worth much. So come to him. <sup>5</sup>You also are like living stones. Let yourselves be used to build a spiritual temple—to be holy priests who offer spiritual sacrifices to God. He will accept those sacrifices through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup>The Scripture says (Isaiah 28:16): “I will put a stone in the ground in Jerusalem. Everything will be built on this important and precious rock. Anyone who trusts in him will never be disappointed.” <sup>7</sup>This stone is worth much to you who believe. But to the people who do not believe, he is (Psalm 118:22) “the stone that the builders did not want. It has become the cornerstone.” <sup>8</sup>To people who do not believe, he is (Isaiah 8:14) “a stone that causes people to stumble. It is a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they do not obey what God says. This is what God planned to happen to them. <sup>9</sup>But you are chosen people. You are the King’s priests. You are a holy nation. You are a nation that belongs to God alone. God chose you to tell about the wonderful things he has done. He called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup>At one time you were not God’s people. But now you are his people. In the past you had never received mercy. But now you have received God’s mercy.*

Okay let’s look closer at these verses

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:4 (ICB) *<sup>4</sup>The Lord Jesus is the “stone” that lives. The people of the world did not want this stone. But he was the stone God chose. To God he was worth much. So come to him.*

Living Stones ?? what is this all about. Well, I think the following verses will help us a little bit but. Recognize Peter is drawing a parallel between the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem and the new “temple” which is the Christian Church. The NKJV puts it this way “ 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:4 (AMP) *<sup>4</sup> Come to Him [the risen Lord] as to a living Stone which men rejected and threw away, but which is choice and precious in the sight of God. or 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:4 (NKJV) <sup>4</sup> Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious,*

Jesus was rejected by the religious establishment and killed or as Peter says thrown away. But Jesus was chosen by God, precious or worth more than anything else.

The word translated as “rejected” or not wanted is the Greek word “apodedokimasmenon” (apo'-dok-im-ad'-as-me-non) meaning to be disqualified or rejected after testing or examination. So, it's this idea that the religious people looked at Jesus and decided this was not what they wanted.

The word translated as “Choice” or chosen is the Greek word “eklekton” (ek-lek-ton) which is often translated as “elect” or “select”. It implies more like favorite. The word translated as “precious” or worth much is the Greek word “entimon” (en'-tee-mon) which is often translated as “Honored” or “high value”. It implies something of great importance.

So, Peter saying what people rejected, God considered to be His most important favorite, His son Jesus.

Next Peter is confirming our part in this as the building blocks or stones of the Church, 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:5 (ICB), *[5You also are like living stones. Let yourselves be used to build a spiritual temple—to be holy priests who offer spiritual sacrifices to God. He will accept those sacrifices through Jesus Christ.](#)*

The Christians are the living stones that the new temple is built with. We ourselves are the new temple or the Church. Each of us are called to be priests in this new temple and sons and daughters of God. And God will hear us because of Jesus Christ.

Let's look and the three old testament quotes, Peter uses from *[Isaiah 28:16](#)*, *[Psalm 118:22](#)*, *[Isaiah 8:14](#)*

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:6 (ICB), *[6 The Scripture says \(Isaiah 28:16\): “I will put a stone in the ground in Jerusalem. Everything will be built on this important and precious rock. Anyone who trusts in him will never be disappointed.”](#)*

NKJV puts it this way, 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:6 (NKJV), *[Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily.](#)*

I like the way the NJKV version states this almost four different ways. Stone for foundation, tried stone, precious cornerstone, sure foundation. In the ancient world, the cornerstone was the most important part of any building. Everything was built relative to this stone. If a cornerstone was slightly out of alignment, then the whole building would be compromised and unsteady. It was impossible to have a proper foundation without a proper laid cornerstone and the walls of the building lean or be distorted if the cornerstone was angled and set properly. Jesus is a perfect cornerstone, and our new Temple the Church is patterned after the perfect life of Jesus. If we line up with Jesus, then we can live the life God wants for us.

1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:7 (ICB), <sup>7</sup> *This stone is worth much to you who believe. But to the people who do not believe, he is (Psalm 118:22) “the stone that the builders did not want. It has become the cornerstone.”* Peter uses Psalm 118 to show how the rejection of Jesus was foretold and that He Jesus would be the basis for new or renewed relationship with God.

Lastly, Peter uses another scripture from Isaiah to describe how Jesus will impact non-believers. 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:8 (ICB), <sup>8</sup> *To people who do not believe, he is (Isaiah 8:14) “a stone that causes people to stumble. It is a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they do not obey what God says. This is what God planned to happen to them.*

Peter knows there are a lot of people that don't want Jesus. They are going to reject Him again and again and again. But Isaiah had prophesied that Jesus would cause many to stumble or another way to say this was to make obvious what they are doing wrong. Jesus is only way. If you don't line up with Jesus, you will fall over him or trip over him trying to do our own things. The image Peter is trying to get across to his reader is the people who reject Jesus will try to do their own things, their own way but will in the end fail. The evil of their ways will be revealed when they are compared to Jesus and His church.

Let's continue in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 2:9-10 (ICB),<sup>9</sup> *But you are chosen people. You are the King's priests. You are a holy nation. You are a nation that belongs to God alone. God chose you to tell about the wonderful things he has done. He called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.* <sup>10</sup> *At one time you were not God's people. But now you are his people. In the past you had never received mercy. But now you have received God's mercy.*

Peter says it over and over again. We are chosen, King's priest, holy nation, belong to God, out of darkness. Peter is stressing that we have been adopted into God's family through Jesus Christ. Before we had a relationship with Jesus, we were not God's people but after we have a relationship with Jesus we are God's people. This is just like how God selected Israel to be His chosen people in the old testament. Now in the New Promise, we are God's new chose people if we are followers of King Jesus. Now everyone can be one of God's chosen people, if they only accept Jesus as their savior and King.

The last thing Peter tells us in this section is about God's mercy. Before Jesus we had not experienced God's mercy but because of Jesus, now we have received the mercy of God. His gift of eternal life for those who chose to follow Jesus. The free gift God promises to His followers is a new life patterned after Jesus.

Review,

- 1) **Remember what a cornerstone is?** In ancient times this was the first stone placed for a building. The entire building was built around this stone. The Cornerstone is like the pattern for the whole building.

- 2) **Jesus is the living stone used as the cornerstone of the new temple, what are the other building stones?** Us, We are the living stones that Jesus uses to build the Church. All Christians are the integral living stones that build the new temple the Church of Jesus.
- 3) Let me leave you with this question. **If Jesus is the pattern for how we should live, how can we learn more about living like Jesus.?** You got it. Study His word, the Bible.

**Let's Pray.**

**Father God in heaven, thank you for your word the bible. Thank you for the encouragement we get from studying your word. Thank you for giving us a pattern to follow for our lives. Even though I fail, you show me mercy because of Jesus. Help me to align my life with your plan for me, so I can show others the way to Jesus. I trust you Lord with everything I have and everything I am. Use me to your glory. Thank you for accepting me into your family. In your Name Lord Jesus. Amen**

I hope you are enjoying our study of 1<sup>st</sup> Peter. I truly love this letter of Peter's. I hope you will join me for the rest of this series

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