

Rock of Ages

1 Peter 2:4-10

Introduction – This section begins with the participle “coming to Him...” and is connected to the previous verses. We are to be those who not only have come to Jesus, but are coming to Him, always renewing our covenant with Him, always growing in the grace He bestows. And how do we come to Him? *“I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.”* (John 6:35) We are also coming to Him ‘as to a living stone’, our Rock of Ages.

A Stone With a Purpose – The prophets and the apostles refer to Christ as this Stone, as does Jesus Himself (Matt 21:42).

Old Testament Shadows (Is 28:16) – We learn from Jesus and the writers of the New Testament how we are to understand the Old. The prophecies of deliverance for God’s people as they were taken into exile are fulfilled in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Accepted/Rejected – Christ is the Rock of salvation to those who believe and He will not put any who believe to shame (v6). But Christ remains the Rock even to those who deny Him, even the chief cornerstone (v7). This second quotation (from Psalm 118:22) is quoted by Peter as he addresses the family of the high priest (Acts 4:5-12). This verse was fulfilled in the Resurrection - on “*the day the Lord has made*” (Psalm 118:23-24)

“A Stone of Stumbling...” (v8) – Peter’s comments on this verse from Isaiah is the same as Paul’s comments in Romans 9. There are two clear reasons why they stumbled. Their rejection of Christ was by ‘their disobedience’. They freely chose to reject Him and they are fully responsible. Their rejection of Christ was also what they were appointed to do. God is not surprised, mocked or thwarted in any way, but rather remains completely sovereign over the affairs of men, having predestined all things. How can God do this? Your head can’t hold the answer (Job 40:41, Rom 11:33-36, Deut 29:29).

A Spiritual House - There is a temple made without human hands in which the Lord dwells. Jesus Christ did not come to change the blueprints of the Old Testament temple. He came to fulfill the plans of that temple.

Creation (Job 38:4-7) – God refers to the Creation as the building of a house or temple.

Solomon (1 Kings 8:27-30) – God commanded this temple to be built for Him, but Solomon understands that this is only a shadow.

Jesus (John 2:19) – Jesus is the temple. He is where man and God dwell together. Everything about the Old Testament temple was a foreshadowing of what Christ would do and be (Heb 9:11-15).

The New Jerusalem (Rev 21:9-10, 22:7) – We are the holy city, the bride of the Lamb, and Christ dwells with us so there is no need for a temple.

“But you are...” (v9) – Peter is full of Old Testament quotes and language as he describes for us how we are God’s people (Ex 19:5-6). There is continuity in the purposes, promises, and language of the Old and New.

Chosen – We are not first choosers. We are first chosen. God chose us to be His special people and called us out of darkness. It was His doing before time began (2 Tim 1:8-9). He chose Abraham. He chose Israel. And He chose us – all by His grace and good pleasure.

Royal Priesthood – The priesthood of all believers means there is no ‘two-tier’ system in the church. You don’t ‘really serve God’ by going into ‘full time Christian ministry’. This means everyone has a calling, a vocation, and in that vocation we are to ‘*proclaim the praises of Him*’ as a priest, and exercise dominion as ‘royal’ princes of the king (Rev 5:10).

“Now the people of God...” (v10) – Peter shows us that Hosea’s prophesy (Hos 1:9-10) refers to the adoption of the Gentiles into the ‘people of God’. God has rebuilt the tabernacle of David, and brought faithful Jews and Gentiles who are called by His name into His house. They are the house, and Jesus Christ is the chief cornerstone (Acts 15:16-18) – “*Known to God from eternity are all His works*”. Jesus is the Rock of Ages.

Final Thoughts –

Called Out of Darkness – Have you been living in darkness? Adulterers, murderers, liars, thieves, drunkards? You qualify as those to be called out.

Living Stones – Having been brought to life, you are placed in Christ and in His temple. There you are to sing His praises and have dominion through your life as His prince and priest. And you are ‘*being built up*’, so you must understand that this is a process. And so you must continue ‘*coming to Him*’, to His house, to His people, to His Word, and to His Table.

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