

Isaiah 28:16 & I Peter 2:5-9 The Temple of Living Stones

Isaiah 14:28 In the year that king Ahaz died was this burden.

II Kings 18:1-7 Now it came to pass in the third year of Ho-she'-a son of E'-lah king of Israel, [that] Hez-e-ki'-ah the son of A'-haz king of Judah began to reign. 2 Twenty and five years old was he when he began to reign; and he reigned twenty and nine years in Jerusalem. His mother's name also [was] A'-bi, the daughter of Zach-a-ri'-ah. 3 And he did [that which was] right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father did. 4 He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brazen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Ne-hush'-tan. 5 He trusted in the LORD God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor [any] that were before him. 6 For he clave to the LORD, [and] departed not from following him, but kept his commandments, which the LORD commanded Moses. 7 And the LORD was with him; [and] he prospered whithersoever he went forth: and he rebelled against the king of Assyria, and served him not.

Isaiah 28 must be assigned to a date prior to the capture of the northern kingdom of Israel's capital Samaria by Assyrians 722 B.C.

Hezekiah began his reign under the shadow of an Assyria ruled by Sargon II, the king credited with destruction of Israel. The western part of the Assyrian Empire became restive in Hezekiah's early years, and Egypt seems to have incited portion of it to revolt. Indeed, in either 712 or 711 Pharaoh Shabako of Egypt joined with Philistia and other areas against Assyria. Sargon II reported the plotting this way.

Philiste (Philistia), laudi (Judah), [Edom], Moab ... payers of tribute [and] tax to Ashur, my lord (they sent) numberless inflammatory and disdainful (messages) to set them at enmity

with me, to [pharaoh], king of Egypt, a prince who could not save them, they sent their presents (bribes) and attempted to gain him as an ally.

Isaiah reports that an Assyrian army was sent into Palestine and at Ashdod scored a victory over the uprising Isaiah 20:1. Sargon II listed Judah as a participant in the rebellion, but perhaps Hezekiah was only a bystander. For the next three years Isaiah encouraged Judah not to trust Egypt for salvation (Isaiah 20:2-4). Isaiah gave a consistent message to his contemporaries: they were not to trust in people or nations for their strength; they were to trust in God the Holy One of Israel for help. Isaiah was not preaching pacifism, but he was warning against collaboration with those who did not honor God.

Samaria's luxury, drunkenness & infidelity (God) pave way their ruin

Isaiah 28:1-6 Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim, whose glorious beauty [is] a fading flower, which [are] on the head of the fat valleys of them that are overcome with wine! 2 Behold, the Lord hath a mighty and strong one, [which] as a tempest of hail [and] a destroying storm, as a flood of mighty waters overflowing, shall cast down to the earth with the hand. 3 The crown of pride, the drunkards of Ephraim, shall be trodden under feet: 4 And the glorious beauty, which [is] on the head of the fat valley, shall be a fading flower, [and] as the hasty fruit before the summer; which [when] he that looketh upon it seeth, while it is yet in his hand he eateth it up. 5 In that day shall the LORD of hosts be for a crown of glory, and for a diadem of beauty, unto the residue of his people, 6 And for a spirit of judgment to him that sitteth in judgment, and for strength to them that turn the battle to the gate.

Even the rulers and the religious leaders are no more than wicked filthy drunkards.

Isaiah 28:7-8 But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble [in] judgment. 8 For all tables are full of vomit [and] filthiness, [so that there is] no place [clean].

“they” in V:7 shows a switch from Northern kingdom of Israel to the Southern kingdom of Judah. They too are drunkards and sinners

The nobility of Israel also known as E'-phra-im mock prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 28:9-10 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? [them that are] weaned from the milk, [and] drawn from the breasts. 10 For precept [must be] upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, [and] there a little:

We understand this verse as the prophet trying to teach the leaders of Judah ... pointing out to them that babies went straight from the breast to school and were taught “precept upon precept” and to write “line upon line” ... a little of one and a little of another. Some translations are “order on order”, “rule on rule”, or, “do on do” ... the prophetic revelation of the Bible is given a little at a time by many different prophets hence: “... here a little, [and] there a little: ...”

The leaders of Judah were also being scornful and making mockery of Isaiah. The words “... precept upon precept ...” is *kav la kav* (kawv) and “... line upon line” is *tsav la tsav* (tsawv) in Hebrew. So we see a rhyme and rhythm, and this is how a parent would teach a baby a couple of syllables of the alphabet in the Hebrew language. But the drunken scornful rich and powerful magistrates in Judah are rebuking Isaiah, with mockery of baby talk, and singing this when they were

drunk. They are saying “who do you think you are teaching here, babies?” or, “let him teach babies”.

Isaiah 28:11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

Tongue-speaking in O. T. and as in the New it's a language not “mumbo jumbo.” God would reckon with them severely by depriving them of plain preaching. "Paul quoted Isaiah 28:11 in teaching that unknown tongues are not God's greetings to Christians but they are God's teaching and rebuke of an unbelieving and rebellious people.

You reject Isaiah's messages from God. Then I, God, will speak to you with the words of a cruel invader. You pretend not to understand what God says by Isaiah but you will really not be able to understand the brutal language of your slave masters in the Assyrian army.

Isaiah 28:12 To whom he said, This [is] the rest [wherewith] ye may cause the weary to rest; and this [is] the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

God had been merciful and longsuffering as teaching a people like a terrible 2 year old in demanding repentance by making sinners “weary” in their way & offering forgiveness to “whosoever will come”

Isaiah 28:13 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, [and] there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

This is a rebuke of the blind guides of the northern kingdom of Israel. God had fed them a little at a time warning after warning “going in one ear and out the other”, generation after generation, precept & promise and lines of words by the prophets ... so it's their own fault they have fallen into the Assyrian captivity.

Isaiah 28:14 Wherefore hear the word of the LORD, ye scornful men, that rule this people which [is] in Jerusalem.

In Jerusalem the magistrate's bench has become "the seat of the scornful" the wicked high & mighty were misleading God's people.

Isaiah 28:15 Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves:

This is their actions, instead of their exact words. This indicates the thoughts and attitudes in their hearts ... they made light of His judgments and actually challenge God to do His worst ...

Hezekiah should not have listened to his advisors and entered into any covenant with Egypt ... he should have fully trusted in the LORD.

Isaiah 20:1-4 In the year that Tar'-tan came unto Ash'-dod, (when Sargon the king of Assyria sent him,) and fought against Ashdod, and took it; 2 At the same time spake the LORD by Isaiah the son of A'moz, saying, Go and loose the sackcloth from off thy loins, and put off thy shoe from thy foot. And he did so, walking naked and barefoot. 3 And the LORD said, Like as my servant Isaiah hath walked naked and barefoot three years [*for*] a sign and wonder upon Egypt and upon Ethiopia; 4 So shall the king of Assyria lead away the Egyptians prisoners, and the Ethiopians captives, young and old, naked and barefoot, even with [*their*] buttocks uncovered, to the shame of Egypt.

Isaiah 30:1-4 Woe to the rebellious children, saith the LORD, that take counsel, but not of me; and that cover with a covering, but not of my spirit, that they may add sin to sin: 2 That walk to go down into Egypt, and have not asked at my mouth; to strengthen themselves in the strength of Pharaoh, and to trust in the shadow of Egypt! 3 Therefore shall the strength of Pharaoh be your shame, and the trust in the

shadow of Egypt [your] confusion. 4 For his princes were at Zo'-an, and his ambassadors came to Ha'-nes.

God has a long term solution for the problem.

Isaiah 28:16 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner [*stone*], a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

The Messiah Jesus Christ is to be a sure foundation & a corner stone.

Isaiah 28:17 Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place.

These are building tools the mason uses a line ... which is still used in brick laying today. The plummet is used to keep the building level. God has laid the foundation & cornerstone of the Church. He will raise it up as builders do ... formed and re-formed by scripture.

Psalm 94:15 But judgment shall return unto righteousness: and all the upright in heart shall follow it.

Isaiah 28:18 And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it.

Egypt will not save Israel or Judah from Assyria is the theme ...

Now back to the Messianic promise of deliverance by the “stone”

Isaiah 28:16 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zi'-on for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner [*stone*], a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

The New Testament Apostles use Isaiah's imagery over and over.

Ephesians 2:19-22 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner [*stone*]; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

They had previously refused to trust in God through Christ (Shiloah the Messiah cf: Genesis 49:10) to deliver them. Earlier God said:

Isaiah 8:6 Forasmuch as this people refuseth the waters of Shiloah that go softly ... God then promises a great river in the form of the Assyrian Army would be the rod of His anger and punishment.

Then we see Christ shall be a sanctuary and place of refuge for some, but a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence for others cf:

Isaiah 8:13-16 Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and [*let*] him [*be*] your fear, and [*let*] him [*be*] your dread. 14 And he 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. 15 And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken. 16 Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.

The Jews stumbled and fell because they did not accept Jesus as their Messiah because of unbelief, they were snared & taken by Rome

The metaphors for Christ are (1) elect; (2) cornerstone; (3) tried; (4) sanctuary; (5) stone of stumbling; and (6) rock of offense.

It might also be added that Christ is the stone "from another world," and he is "the living stone"

Zechariah 3:9 For behold the stone that I have laid before Joshua; upon one stone [shall be] seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.

Christ is the "growing stone"

Daniel 2:34-35 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet [that were] of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. 35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

It should be noted that the way of God's revelation is always, "here a little, and there a little". The Apostle Paul put two passages of Isaiah together of Isaiah 28:16 & 8:14 together in Romans 9:33.

Romans 9:32-33 Wherefore? Because [*they sought it*] not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone; 33 As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumbling stone and rock of offence: (Isaiah 8:13ff) and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. (Isaiah 28:16)

Romans 10:11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

Christ the cornerstone will be refused and rejected by the Jews but become the head stone of corner of this New Living Temple - Church

Psalms 118:18 The LORD hath chastened me sore: but he hath not given me over unto death.

Messiah abused - His death will not stand God will raise Him - dead

Psalms 118:19-21 Open to me the gates of righteousness: I will go into them, [and] I will praise the LORD: 20 This gate of the LORD, into which the righteous shall enter. 21 I will praise thee: for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation.

The heavenly gates were opened to Jesus at His ascension

Daniel 7:13-14 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, [one] like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. 14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion [is] an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom [that] which shall not be destroyed.

The next verse in Psalm 118:22-23 Jesus says is talking about Him cf:

Psalms 118:22-23 The stone [which] the builders refused is become the head [stone] of the corner. 23 This is the LORD'S doing; it [is] marvellous in our eyes.

Jesus quotes Psalm 118:22-23 and indicates it is talking about Him.

Matthew 21:42-46 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes? 43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. 44 And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. 45 And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them. 46 But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet.

Peter speaking under inspiration of the Holy Spirit tells us we are tracking these verses correctly cf:

Acts 4:6-10 And Annas the high priest, and Caiaphas, and John, and Alexander, and as many as were of the kindred of the high priest, were gathered together at Jerusalem. 7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this? 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel, 9 If we this day be examined of the good deed done to the impotent man, by what means he is made whole; 10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, [*even*] by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

Peter under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit quotes Psalm 118:22

Acts 4:11-13 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. 12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. 13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

Have you “been with Jesus”?

Jesus is the stone in I Peter takes these Old Testament passages and again teaches Jesus is the corner stone. Peter will use extremely sophisticated exegesis and proper hermeneutics blending together all of these prophecies into one lesson on the Churches of Christ as the Temple of Living Stones.

I Peter 2:1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hy-po’-cri-sies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

In view of our salvation and duty of brotherly love ...“Laying aside all malice” ... These things are inconsistent with brotherly love. Malice to wish ill for your brother, to have an enemies list or hate list ... Guile ... to be two-faced ... Hypocrisies ... is Guile in word and deed ... Envy ... wanting anything of your brother’s “Love envieth not” I Corinthians 13:4 ... Evil speakings ... is Speaking evil of others or tale bearing Proverbs 26:20 Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.

I Peter 2:2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Babes in Christ hunger for milk the word is the food upon which Christians must feed.

I Peter 2:3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

We are challenged to cf:

Psalm 34:8 O taste and see that the LORD *is* good: blessed *is* the man *that* trusteth in him.

I Peter 2:4 To whom coming, *as unto* a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, *and* precious,

**“... disallowed ...” and rejected by own people the Jewish nation.
“... chosen ...” not of men but of God who raised him from the dead.**

He is a "living stone" he imparts life to all who build upon Him cf:

Revelation 1:18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

I Peter 2:5 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.

Christians, born again to eternal life, become living stones ... built into the spiritual temple of which Christ is the corner stone. "spiritual house ..." is the church. The Church is God's spiritual temple which the Jewish temple was a type or a shadow. "... an holy priesthood ..." Christ, the High Priest, hath anointed us as priests in His spiritual house. We need no human priest to stand between us Christ is often called a Stone, or Rock, as the foundation. Upon whom we build our spiritual life. He is a "living stone" because he imparts life to all who build upon Him, and He Himself lives eternally cf:

Revelation 1:18 *I am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

and God. Every Christian can offer up spiritual sacrifices cf:

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.

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.

The word "service" is the same word used to describe the work of a priest in the Temple. The sacrifices of the Christian priest are prayer, praise, good deeds, the consecration of our bodies and substance to God's service. "... acceptable to God ..."

I Peter 2:6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion (Zion) a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

Behold, I lay in Zion. Cf: Isaiah 28:16 & Romans 9:33. Hence God had foretold that Christ should be a Living Stone. Peter has not quoted the passage in full ... Since it is "the chief corner stone" without which the structure could not be built. "He that believeth on him" Note "Him" this stone is a person, and faith in Him is the basis of salvation.

I Peter 2:7 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,

He is precious to believers because they enjoy all the promises of God in "he that believeth". "Unto them which be disobedient" Those who do not believe and hence, disobey; to these he is the stone which the builders disallowed, which is spoken of in Psalm 118:22. (Matthew 21:42, and Acts 4:11). The head of the corner Peter in Acts 4:11, quotes this passage from the O. T. and applies it with great force.

Isaiah 22:22-23 And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. 23 And I will fasten him *as* a nail in a sure place; and he shall be for a glorious throne to his father's house.

I Peter 2:8 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.

He is this to the disobedient: a stone over which they stumble and fall. Stumbling & falling is God's appointment to the disobedient as the result of their unbelief. The idea is that stumbling is a condition.

I Peter 2:9 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 marvelous light:

God's chosen people at the very right time, like ancient Israel.

Christians are now the chosen people Isaiah 43:21.

“A royal priesthood” God had always wanted His people to conduct themselves as His representatives and “a kingdom of priests.”

Exodus 19:5-6 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth *is* mine: 6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

All Christians in this Kingdom are “anointed ones” like Christ, are in some sense like him, priest-kings. “An holy nation” Set apart to God. “A peculiar people” Differing from the world in our walk of life. “That ye should show forth” They differ from the world that their holy lives may shine as a light and they honor God as Gentile Christians.

I Peter 2:10 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.

Not the people of God. cf: Hosea 2:23, which Peter quotes.

The prophets in many places foretold the call of the Gentiles.

Are you a Christian ? Now is the time.

Sources: KJV Bible, theWord.com, Burton Coffman, BW Johnson, Adam Clark, FF Bruce, McKnight and JW McGarvey, George Faulstich Commentaries, Archaeology & the Old Testament by Alfred Hoerth, On the Reliability of the O.T. K.A. Kitchen, Google Images, Halley's Handbook, Wikipedia, Google Images