

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

Isaiah 28:16 Christ a sure foundation and a corner stone cf:

Ephesians 2:19-22.

Isaiah 8:13-16 Christ shall be a sanctuary for some, but a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence for others cf:

Romans 9:32-33.

Psalms 118:18-23 Christ a cornerstone will be refused by the Jews but become the head stone of the corner cf:

Matthew 21:28-46. Peter speaking under inspiration tells us we are tracking these verses correctly cf:

Acts 4:7-13, Jesus is the stone. I Peter takes these Old Testament passages and again teaches Jesus is the corner stone.

Peter 2:1-10 The Church of Christ is the Temple of Living Stones

I Peter 2:1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

Wherefore. In view of the salvation and duty of brotherly love pointed out in chapter 1. "Laying aside all malice". These things to be laid aside are inconsistent with brotherly love. Malice to wish ill for your brother, to have an enemies list or to want to bring down your brother is the mental state opposed to love. Guile to be two faced is the mental state opposed to sincerity cf: 1:22. Hypocrisies is Guile *exhibited* in word and deed. Envy wanting anything of your brother's "Love envieth not" (1 Cor. 13:4). Evil speakings is Speaking evil of others or tale bearing.

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

Newborn babes. The new birth has been spoken of in 1:23. They are babes in Christ. Babes hunger for milk. Let babes in Christ earnestly desire the sincere milk of the word. This word, unadulterated, is the food upon which Christians must feed in order to grow.

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

If so be. This is the proper food for those who have tasted that the Lord is gracious, or been converted 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,

“To whom coming” To Christ the Lord is A living stone. Christ is often called a Stone, or Rock, as the foundation, Whom we build upon our spiritual life, and of the church; a "living stone" because he imparts life to all who build upon him, and himself lives eternally cf:

Rev. 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.

“Disallowed”, and rejected by the Jewish nation. Chosen, not of men but of God who raised him from the dead.

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.

“Ye also, as lively stones” Christians, born again to eternal life, become living stones also built into the spiritual temple of which Christ is the corner stone. **“Spiritual house”** is the church. The Church is God's spiritual temple of which the Jewish temple was a type or a shadow. **“An holy priesthood”** Christ, the High Priest, hath anointed them all as priests in his spiritual house. They need no human priest to stand between them and God. Every Christian can offer up spiritual sacrifices cf:

Heb. 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. 12:2 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 sacrifices of the Christian priest are prayer, praise, good deeds, the consecration of our bodies and substance to God's service. "Acceptable to God" When offered in the name of Christ.

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: Isa. 28:16, and Rom. 9:33. Hence God had foretold that Christ should be a Living Stone. Peter has not quoted the passage in full which declares that the stone is "a tried stone," "a sure foundation." "Elect" Hence, "chosen by God" Precious is a term applied to Christ in V:4. Since it is "the chief corner stone" without which the structure could not be built. "He that believeth on him" Hence 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,

"Unto you therefore which believe" The prophecy is now applied. He is precious to believers because they enjoy all the promises embraced in "he that believeth," etc. "Unto the disobedient" Those who do not believe and hence, disobey; to these he is the stone which the builders disallowed, which is spoken of in Ps. 118:22. See also Matt. 21:42, and Acts 4:11. The head of the corner. Peter in Acts 4:11, quotes this passage from the Old Testament and applies it with great force. The rejected Savior had become the "Head of the Corner" of God's spiritual temple upon which all other stones are built. Another way God said it to the prophet is cf:

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. Isa 22:23 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.

“A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence” He is this to the disobedient. To the disobedient, a stone over which they stumble and fall. “Whereunto” means unto stumbling over the stone and falling. This is God’s appointment to the disobedient. It is the result of their unbelief. The idea is that stumbling is their condition. When they reject Christ they become stumblers in that they stumble more and more.

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 marvellous light:

“But ye are a chosen generation” God’s chosen people at the very right time, like ancient Israel. Christians are now the chosen people (Isa. 43:21). “A royal priesthood” God had always wanted His people to conduct themselves as His representatives and priests in the world cf:

Exod. 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: 19:6 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.

The Hebrew passage which Peter refers to means “a kingdom of priests.” 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. “Out of darkness” In this and the next verse Peter surely has in mind 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.

“Which in time past were not a people” Not the people of God. Cf: Hosea 2:23, which Peter quotes. The prophets in many places foretold the call of the Gentiles.

Sources: KJV Bible, e-Sword, B. W. Johnson Commentary, Clarks Commentary.