

CHRIST, THE STONE

by Walton Weaver

Introduction:

1. The figures used in the Bible to portray Christ are very graphic. None is used more often than that of a stone.
2. David spoke of "my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer." Isaiah called Jehovah a "shadow of a great rock in a weary land."
3. Jesus is the Rock upon which the church is built — the foundation stone — and the spiritual Rock from which the Old Testament saints drank, and that Rock did follow them (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 2:20; 1 Cor. 3:11; 10:4).
4. This simile represents Christ as the shelter from the desert heat, the refuge from trouble, the power or strength upon which all things rest, the sustaining and refreshing water that quenches man's spiritual thirst.

I. THE STONE FROM GOD (1 Pet. 2:4, 6).

A. The Living Stone

1. Stones are dead, but Christ is a living stone. "Living" is the same word found in Jn. 4: 10-11 and Jn. 6:51.
2. Because He is the "living" Stone, Christians have a "living hope" (1 Pet. 1:3), and are in the "new and living way" (Heb. 10:20). He "ever liveth to make intercession for" the saints (Heb. 7:25).

B. The Chosen Stone.

1. Not man's choice, but God's. God does not always choose as man would. See Isa. 55:8-9 and 1 Cor. 1:18-31.
2. When man rejects God's choice he always loses. God does not make mistakes. He always does what is best for us (Jas. 1:17-18).

C. The Precious Stone

1. God's choice of the Stone was based on what He knew of Christ and what He was. Accordingly, He prized and honored it---the meaning of "precious."
2. "By the very tests which these men who reject this stone apply they show that they want only a poor, earthly stone; by their findings they place themselves most violently in opposition to God" (Lenski).

II. THE STONE FOR MEN (1 Pet. 2:8-16).

A. The Rejected Stone.

1. Men of all walks of life rejected Him, but especially the wise, the mighty, the noble (1 Cor. 1:26).
2. He was rejected for various reasons.
 - a. His lack of political interest (Lk. 13:31-32).
 - b. His lack of material wealth (Matt. 8:20).
 - c. His lack of formal education (Jn. 7:15; Matt. 13:54-57).
 - d. His hatred of sin and love of right (Lk. 10:15; Matt. 23:15,33).
 - e. His challenge to their religious authority (Matt. 7:28-29; Matt. 27:18).

B. The Indispensable Stone.

1. Made the chief corner stone; the first stone of the building; the main stone, the strongest. Cf. Eph. 2:20.
2. He is distinct and stands alone---no other way (Jn. 14:6; 6:66-68), no other name (Acts 4:12).

Conclusion:

1. Jesus as the Head Stone must be recognized and accepted. If rejected He becomes the means by which we are destroyed (Matt. 21:44).
2. We reject Him by rejecting His Word (1 Pet. 2:8; Rom. 10: 1- 18; Jn. 12:48).
3. He is your last opportunity (Heb. 10:26). Obey Him today (Heb. 5:8-9; Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 1 Cor. 15:58; Gal. 6:9).