

## The Stone the Builders Rejected

*Psalms 118:19-24 Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the Lord. 20 This is the gate of the Lord; the righteous shall enter through it. 21 I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation. 22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. 23 This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. 24 This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

*Isaiah 28:16 therefore thus says the Lord God, See, I am laying in Zion a foundation stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation: "One who trusts will not panic."*

*Isaiah 8:14-15 He will become a sanctuary, a stone one strikes against; for both houses of Israel He will become a rock one stumbles over—a trap and a snare for the inhabitants of Jerusalem. 15 And many among them shall stumble; they shall fall and be broken; they shall be snared and taken.*

Notice that these verses are scattered quite far from each other in the Scriptures, yet Yeshua tied two of them together after telling the parable about the wicked tenants.

*Matthew 21:42-44 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes"? 43 Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. 44 The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."*

Yeshua was calling the religious leaders the “builders.” They rejected the cornerstone, but He is saying that they will be rejected instead.

Peter having learned from the Lord, proclaims that the verse in Psalms is fulfilled in Yeshua’s death and resurrection. Peter is speaking to the Jewish leaders who have just arrested him. He flat out, plainly tells them they are the “builders.”

*Acts 4:11-14 This Jesus is "the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone." 12 There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other Name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.*

The beautiful words in verse twelve of Acts 4 above are Peter’s own words. He is not quoting any Scripture from what I can find. The Holy Spirit is speaking new awesome, powerful words of truth through Peter.

Peter then ties all three of the verses in the Old Testament together in his letter, giving clear explanation of what they mean.

I Peter 2:6-8 *For it stands in Scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in Him will not be put to shame." 7 To you then who believe, He is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," 8 and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.*

I just love to see how Yeshua and the New Covenant writers use the Old Testament Scriptures, don't you? Now let's apply them to our lives.

If we believe in Him, we "will not be put to shame." "If we trust we will not panic." This is the gate that we walk through to salvation. "There is no other Name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved." "This is the Lord's doing." "Let us rejoice and be glad." Let us believe and trust. We do not need to panic about what is going on around us. He is our Rock. Let's abide in Him and bear fruit for His Kingdom and His Kingdom will be given to us!!

I Peter 2:9 *But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people,...*

Why are we chosen?

*... in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.*

O, Yeshua our Messiah, thank you for choosing us! Thank you for saving us. Thank you for being the chief cornerstone that we can trust in. Thank you for calling us out of darkness into Your MARVELOUS LIGHT!! Help us now to proclaim Your MIGHTY acts. Help us to tell people what all You have done and are doing!! We want to proclaim Your MIGHTY WORKS to the WHOLE WORLD!!!

Help me, Lord, to proclaim this in a pure, marvelous way—untainted by my faults and shortcomings—untainted by pride and failure. Please help us, Adonai, so that our lives show forth Your GLORY!!! We need your help, Adonai. Help us to declare Your Glory in the midst of all the disasters happening all around us today. In Your Holy Name, Yeshua, we pray. Amen.