

1 Peter 2:4-8

⁴ As you come to Him, the living stone, rejected by men but chosen and precious in God's sight, ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For it stands in Scripture:

“See, I lay in Zion a stone,
a chosen and precious cornerstone;
and the one who believes in Him
will never be put to shame.” [Isaiah 28:16 (see also LXX)]

⁷ To you who believe, then, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,
“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,” [Psalm 118:22]

⁸ and, “A stone of stumbling
and a rock of offense.” [Isaiah 8:14]

They stumble because they disobey the word—and to this they were appointed.

Berean Study Bible

⁴ You are coming to Him, a living stone,
thoroughly rejected by mortals,
but connected to God, chosen, and precious.

⁵ You also, as living stones,
are being built up as a spiritual house,
into a holy priesthood,
to offer spiritual sacrifices
acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

⁶ Therefore, it is also contained in Scripture,
‘Behold, I am placing in Zion a stone;
a chosen, precious, corner-piece.
And the one who believes on Him
Will no, not, be put to shame.

⁷ Therefore, this preciousness is for you who are believing.
However, to the unbelieving builders who have rejected the stone,
it has become the head of the corner.

⁸ Also, a stone of stumbling, and a rock of scandal.
They stumble at the Word, being disobedient,
into which they were also placed.

My own translation

1

Build A More Secure Future. 1 Peter 2:4-8

Meet the builders

You are building your life
God is building your life

Look at the plan

Build in the right place
Build in the right direction

Choose the materials

The Cornerstone was selected
The Cornerstone was rejected

Using the building

Build to the standard
Build for a purpose

2

Rolling stones, rolling into place. 1 Peter 2:4-8

The Stone

The Living Stone. 4a “the living stone”
The rejected Stone. 4b “rejected by men” + v7-8
The chosen Stone. 4c “but chosen” + v6
The precious Stone. 4c “precious in God’s sight” + v8b

The stones

Living stones. 5a “like living stones”
Useful stones. 5b “are being built”
Construction stones. 5b “into a spiritual house”
Holy stones. 5b “to be a holy priesthood”
Serving stones. 5c “offering spiritual sacrifices”
Faithful stones. 5c “acceptable to God...”

3

He is, so we are. 1 Peter 2:4-8 (1 John 4:16-17)

Jesus is the living stone, so we are alive. 4-5 "Living stone... living stones"

Jesus is the corner stone, so we are the temple. 6, 5 "cornerstone... house"

Jesus is the Great High Priest, so we are a holy priesthood. 5

Jesus is the final sacrifice, so we offer spiritual sacrifices. 5

Jesus is acceptable to God, so we are made acceptable. 5

Jesus is the rejected stone, so we are other worldly. 7

Jesus is the chosen stone, so we are God's elect. 4, 6, 1Thess.1:4

Jesus is the precious stone, so we are valuable. 4, Luke 12:6-7

4

It involves you, but it's not about you. 1 Peter 2:4-8

You are a temple, but it's not about you; it's about the Cornerstone.

Jesus determines the future.

I work with Jesus to build my future.

Jesus' strength gives me stability.

You are a priest, but it's not about you; it's about the Great High Priest.

Jesus is always present.

I partner with Jesus to better my present.

Jesus' grace gives me integrity.

You offer sacrifices, but it's not about you; it's about the final Sacrifice.

Jesus dealt with my past.

I move forward from my past.

Jesus' plan that gives me direction.

5

I am a work in progress. 1 Peter 2:4-8

"As you are coming..."

What I am progressing into. 2:4

I am coming into life. 4 "living"

I am coming into stability. 4 "stone"

I am coming into disappointment. 4 "rejected"

I am coming into discernment. 4 "alongside of God"

I am coming into position. 4 "chosen"

I am coming into perception. 4 "precious"

Who I am progressing into. 2:5a

I am becoming abundant. 5 “living”

I am becoming stable. 5 “stones”

I am becoming edified. 5 “being built up”

I am becoming complete. 5 “spiritual house”

I am becoming useful. 5 “holy priesthood”

What I am progressing to do. 2:5b

I am functioning for people. 5 “offer spiritual sacrifices”

I am functioning for God. 5 “acceptable to God...”

6

Making the most of your journey. 1 Peter 2:4-8

Know where you are going. 2:4

The destination is not Heaven. 4a “you come to Him”

The stone is not inanimate. 4a “the Living Stone”

The plan is not acceptable. 4b “rejected”

The value is not calculable. 4b “precious”

Know how to get there. 2:5

Connection to others. 5a “living stones... spiritual house”

Purpose for others. 5a “priesthood offering sacrifices”

Only doorway. 5b “through Jesus Christ”

Only roadmap. 5b “contained in Scripture”

7

My life’s journey. 1 Peter 2:4-8

I’ve already arrived at my destination. 2:4

Where I go. 4a “you come to Him”

Why I go. 4a “the Living Stone”

What people think. 4b “rejected”

What God thinks. 4b “precious”

I’ve still got to go the right direction. 2:5

I connect with others. 5a “living stones... spiritual house”

I serve with others. 5a “priesthood offering sacrifices”

I have only one doorway. 5b “through Jesus Christ”

I have only one authority. 5b “contained in Scripture”

Only two choices. 1 Peter 2:4-8

You can receive Him. 2:6

The future is set in stone. 4a, 6a

The future is built from the cornerstone. 4a, 6a

The future is going to be beautiful. 6b

You can reject Him. 2:7-8

Rejecting Jesus does not change His future. 4, 7

Rejecting Jesus does change my future.

I am excluded from God's home. 5 "spiritual house" (Heaven)

I am excluded from God's family. 5 "priesthood" (only Aaron's family)

I am excluded from God's plan. 5b "acceptable through Jesus Christ"

I will reap the offence I sow. 8 "offence... stumble... appointed"

Why it matters what you think about Jesus. 1 Peter 2:4-8

Why we place a high value on Jesus. 2:4-8

We value Jesus because of who He is. 4 "chosen"

We value Jesus because of what He does. 6, 7 "corner-piece"

For those who do value Jesus. 2:4-7a

Who we are is modelled on Jesus. 5a "living stones"

What we do is acceptable through Jesus. 5b

We have eternal confidence through Jesus. 6b

For those who don't value Jesus. 2:7b-8

Jesus is where people stumble.

Jesus is where people take offence.

Jesus is why people disobey.

Other possible titles

This has nothing to do with 'pet rocks'

Do you have rocks in your head, or the Living Stone in your heart?

Cross references

Build on rock or sand

¹⁰By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one must be careful how he builds. ¹¹For no one can lay a foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

¹²If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or straw, ¹³his workmanship will be evident, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will prove the quality of each man's work. ¹⁴If what he has built survives, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵If it is burned up, he will suffer loss. He himself will be saved, but only as if through the flames.

1 Corinthians 3:10-15, BSB

¹⁹Therefore you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of God's household, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone. ²¹In Him the whole building is fitted together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²²And in Him you too are being built together into a dwelling place for God in His Spirit.

Ephesians 2:19-22, BSB

¹⁶ So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. ¹⁷ By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

1 John 4:16-17, ESV

Music and songs

Songs about the Rock

Hear my cry... When my heart is overwhelmed lead me to that Rock (Psalm 61)

I go to the Rock (D Rambo).

Lead me to the Rock.

Rock of Ages, cleft for me. H 401 / 402

The building block. (Noel Paul Stookey)

There's a cleft in the Rock of Ages (S E Good)

Thru' my disappointments... I'm standing on the Rock of Ages.

When the angry winds are blowing... I stand upon the Rock of Ages.

When the billows are raging... I go to the Rock (S Parsons)
Why don't you lead me to that Rock that is higher than I (B Sherrill)

Songs about 'precious'

How precious is your love (M Shawky)
Lord, You are more precious than silver. 430
Precious Lord, take my hand (T Dorsey)
Precious memories (J Wright). CWH 18

Songs about 'cornerstone'

Cornerstone (C Boydston)
Cornerstone (Bob Marley)
Cornerstone (E Mote)

Thought starters for personal reflection or group discussion

1. Other than your home and car, what is the most valuable thing you have owned?
 2. What makes something valuable?
 3. Read 1 Peter 2:4. Jesus is both 'rejected' and 'precious'. How is it possible to be both?
 4. The term 'living stones' v4-5, is a mind-bender. Can you explain it?
 5. 'Living stones' v5a is what we already are. The rest of the verse tells what we are becoming. How does being living stones help us to fulfill each of those tasks?
 6. God hardened Pharaoh's heart in Exodus 4-14. Is that fair to poor Pharaoh; and could God do the same to us?
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