

“Jesus Our Rock”

1 Peter 2:4-8

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I. Introduction

* It was Simon (the human author of this letter) that Jesus nicknamed “Peter,” which means “stone.”

- It’s fitting that “Peter the Stone” tells us about Jesus, whom he calls (v. 4) “a living stone.”
- Peter, or “Rocky,” is still writing to encourage the suffering saints to “stand in salvation.”

A. He wanted them to grow, so he gave them three steps:

1. “Lay aside” (v. 1)
 - a) Sins that hinder
2. “Desire” (v. 2)
 - a) Scripture that helps
3. “Remember” (v. 3)
 - a) The Savior that is God
4. Who Jesus is, and how they are related to Him (vv. 4-8)
 - a) Today, we look at “Jesus our Rock.”

B. Coming to who? (v. 4)

1. To whom are we coming?
 - a) “You have tasted that the Lord is gracious.” (v. 3)
 - b) It’s Jesus, and we have tasted His goodness.
2. Peter moves from (v. 3) “Jesus our food” to (v. 4) “Jesus our Rock.”
 - a) “coming” or “we keep coming.” (v. 4)
 - b) After our conversion, we must keep coming to Him for sustenance and strength.
3. God as a “rock” is a common metaphor used in the Bible.
 - a) “The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; My God, my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold” (Psalm 18:2).
 - b) “He only is my rock and my salvation; He is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved” (Psalm 62:2).
 - c) “He is the Rock, His work is perfect; For all His ways are justice, A God of truth and without injustice; Righteous and upright is He” (Deuteronomy 32:4).
4. The picture of God as our “rock” speaks of
 - a) Stability

- b) Strength
- c) Security
- d) “From the end of the earth I will cry to You, When my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I” (Psalm 61:2).

* What kind of “rock” or “stone” is Jesus Christ?

II. He is a Living Stone (1 Peter 2:4)

- A. Jesus is the Living Stone because He is the Living God
 - 1. God is not dead
- B. Jesus rose from the dead
 - 1. He lives
- C. When we put our trust in Jesus as a Living Stone, we have a living hope

III. He is the Chief Cornerstone (1 Peter 2:6)

- A. It’s a messianic prophecy.
 - 1. “The stone which the builders rejected; Has become the chief cornerstone” (Psalm 118:22).
 - a) “Cornerstone” is also known as “keystone.”
 - 2. It’s the most important stone or the stone that holds a building together.
 - a) Jesus is to have preeminence.
 - b) “Therefore, thus says the Lord God: ‘Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; Whoever believes will not act hastily” (Isaiah 28:16).
 - 3. Jesus is our fixed point. He is the foundation that we stand on.
 - 4. Jesus should have preeminence in your life.
 - a) “And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence” (Colossians 1:18).

IV. He is the Chosen and Precious Stone

- A. “Chosen of God and precious.” (v. 4)
- B. “Elect,” “precious” (v. 6)
- C. Jesus is the only Son of God. He is unique
 - 1. He came from Heaven
 - 2. He was born of a virgin

3. He lived a sinless life
4. He died a substitutionary death
5. He rose from the dead
6. He ascended back to Heaven
7. He will return to reign

D. Peter says He is the “Precious Stone.”

1. Do you desire Him more than anything else in your life?

V. He is the Dependable Stone

A. “He that believeth on Him shall not be confounded” or “shall not be disgraced.” (v. 6)

B. If you trust in Jesus, He won’t let you down.

1. He will never leave you or forsake you.
2. You can depend on Him.
3. He will never be moved.
4. “For in the time of trouble, He shall hide me in His pavilion; in the secret place His tabernacle; He shall hide me; He shall set me high upon a rock” (Psalm 27:5).
5. “From the end of the earth I will cry to you, when my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I” (Psalm 61:2).

VI. He’s the Rejected Stone

A. “rejected indeed of men.” (v. 4)

1. (v.4) God says He’s “chosen and precious,” but by men, he is “rejected.”
2. (v.7) “The stone which the builders rejected.”
3. Jesus used it in Matthew 21 when He told the parable of the wicked farmers.
 - a) “Then last of all he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son’” (Matthew 21:37).
 - b) “Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?’” (Matthew 21:42).
4. The Jewish leaders of Jesus’ day rejected Him.

- a) As many people still do today, but it doesn't change who He is
- b) It's also a part of God's great plan
 - 1) Romans 9
 - 2) Romans 10
 - 3) Romans 11

VII. Jesus is The Smitten Stone

- A. It is Jesus who was smitten on the cross
 - 1. Exodus 17
 - 2. John 7

VIII. He's the Stone of Stumbling

- A. Why do they stumble?
 - 1. "A rock of offense." (v. 8)
 - a) "Disobedient to the word of gospel" (v. 8)
 - b) As a result, they will stumble or fall in judgment.
 - 2. It's the sin of unbelief because God commands us to believe.
 - a) "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (John 3:18).
 - b) Don't stumble in disbelief over Jesus.

IX. One Day, He Will be the Smiting Stone

- A. In the same parable of the wicked farmers (Matthew 21), Jesus said, "whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder."
- B. Daniel 2- Nebuchadnezzar's dream
 - 1. Gold- Babylon
 - 2. Silver- Medo-Persia
 - 3. Brass- Greece
 - 4. Iron- Rome

- a) Iron and Clay- Roman Empire
- b) Stone- Jesus Christ
- c) It's the Second Coming

X. Conclusion

- A. Don't wait for the stone to fall on you in judgment
 - 1. Fall on Him and be saved