

LIVING STONES

What's a "living stone"? That's the fascinating metaphor the Apostle Peter uses to describe Christ – and believers in Christ. It's found in 1 Peter 2:4-12.

Would you say rocks are a lifeless thing? But they're used to build things. And that's what Peter's analogy points to – believers in Christ being lined up and built up – with Christ as the cornerstone.

If the cornerstone isn't straight, no stone laid next to it or above it will be in right alignment. But anyone who is lined up with Christ will realize their ultimate purpose in life, in Him.

Jesus Christ is described as THE "living stone" which God chose as the Cornerstone of His kingdom, but which human builders rejected. They stumbled over Him, just as anyone does today who rejects Him.

Jesus is the promised Messiah, the Anointed One, the Savior who would make everything right that had gone wrong because of sin in the world. The Bible says He is the only way to salvation, by believing in Him and receiving Him as Lord and Savior.

Anyone who rejects Christ, the cornerstone, will then be askew, out of alignment, and will perish.

But those who come to Christ, who obey the call to believe – to align their lives

by the chosen cornerstone – will be built up and fitted and transformed by Christ. That's our ultimate purpose, so that we will live forever with Him in heaven, where everything will be perfectly set aright.

All this is also fascinating because the Bible says Jesus is not only our Redeemer, but also our Creator. Everything was created through Him, by Him, and for Him. And in His earthly life Jesus was also a master builder, the carpenter of Nazareth.

Also, Peter's name means "rock" in Greek. The Bible says Christ is the head of the church, the "called out ones," the worldwide congregation of believers. Peter became the first spokesman for the disciples. And Jesus promised "I will build My church" through Christ-followers, which Peter explains here.

Peter applies several important Old Testament descriptions to the New Testament believers. What was first said of Abraham's people has been fulfilled in Christ, and all people who are "in Christ" are also part of His fulfillment of these promises. (see Galatians 3 and Ephesians 2:11-22).

In the Old Testament, God's presence on earth was in the wilderness Tabernacle, and in the Temple of the promised land of Israel. After the life and death and resurrection

of Jesus, the presence of God on earth is within the very lives of believers.

We're no longer spectators, but participants! Not lifeless – we are living stones!

Because He dwells within us, believers in Christ are now a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus. He is our Savior, Advocate, Mediator, and High Priest. Romans 12:1-2 says that our very lives are "living sacrifices" to be lived out for Him, as His new life lives through us.

Peter says once we were not God's people, but now in Christ we His people, a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession. And he tells us our purpose – to proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Just like stones are fitted perfectly to line up with the cornerstone, so the lives of believers in Christ are being fitted, built up, transformed, to line up with Christ and to reflect and proclaim His glory – as the chosen cornerstone, who gives salvation to all who call upon Him in repentance and faith.

That's good news – and being a "living stone" is certainly something fascinating to talk about ! Tell someone today !