

I Peter 2:6-8

Jesus - The Chief Cornerstone, The Stumbling Block, Precious To Believers

I. Introduction:

A. Generally, when we think of a stumbling block, we think of what we do not want to be to others (**Romans 14:13; 14:21** and **I Corinthians 8:9**).

1. We don't, in general, want to cause the offense (**Luke 17:1-2**).

2. Even with those of the world (**I Corinthians 10:32-33**).

B. Think about how teaching truth, the way God wants His word taught, can be a stumbling block (**I Corinthians 1:18-24**).

1. Consider an account of what happened when Jesus exposed the scribes and Pharisees (**Matthew 15:1-14**).

2. The term translated "offended" [σκανδαλίζω] means: "To "scandalize"; from G4625; to entrap, that is, trip up (figuratively stumble [transitively] or entice to sin, apostasy or displeasure): - (make to) offend" (Strong's # 4624). Cf. **Luke 7:23**

II. Body: *"Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed" (I Peter 2:6-8).*

A. The initial prophesy referenced (**Isaiah 28:16**).

1. Even of old, God was a stumbling block to Israel (**Isaiah 8:1-15**).

2. In the first century, the refusal to have faith in Christ over the works of the Law of Moses caused them to stumble (**Romans 9:30-33**).

3. Sion [Zion] (**Matthew 21:5** and **Romans 11:26**).

a. Zion had significant meaning for the Jews (**I Kings 8:1, Psalms 2:6, Psalms 102:16, Psalms 128:5, Psalms 135:21, Isaiah 4:3, and Zechariah 8:3**).

b. Consider a few prophesies (**Isaiah 2:2-3, Isaiah 52:7, Isaiah 62:10-12, Obadiah 1:17, and Micah 4:1-2**).

4. Jesus is the chosen, precious corner stone (**I Peter 2:4**).

5. Those that have faith in Christ shall not be confounded [ashamed] (**Romans 10:11** and **I Thessalonians 5:9**).

B. Those addressed in this letter were people of faith (**I Peter 1:8; 1:20-21**).

1. Believers understand how to see Jesus (**John 3:36, John 6:66-69, John 11:25, John 20:30-31, Romans 5:21, Romans 6:23, and I Timothy 1:12-16**).

2. The Jews that rejected Jesus did not see Him through lasting faith (**John 8:30-40**).

C. The disobedient builders (**Acts 4:1-12**).

1. Through the seed of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, etc. (**Galatians 3:8**; cf. **Genesis 12:1-3**, **Genesis 26:1-5**, **I Chronicles 16:13**, **Isaiah 41:8**, and **Acts 13:21-23**).

a. They failed to see Christ was the promise made to Abraham (**Galatians 3:16**).

b. They also failed to understand that the nature of the seed promise was to benefit all nations (**Genesis 22:18**; cf. **Galatians 3:26-29**).

2. As the seed of Abraham, think about what many of them said concerning Jesus (**Matthew 27:15-25**).

3. Jesus was rejected of that generation (**Luke 17:25**).

4. They did not, as a whole nation, submit themselves to God (**Romans 10:1-3**; **10:20-21**).

5. The history of the people of Israel is not good regarding obedience to the will of God (**Deuteronomy 9:24**, **Deuteronomy 31:27**, **Isaiah 1:1-9**, **Isaiah 65:2**, **Ezekiel 20:18-21**, and **Acts 7:51-53**).

D. Though men rejected Jesus, that did not stop Him from being the head of the corner (**Luke 20:9-18**; cf. **Mark 12:10-11**).

1. God raised Him up from physical death (**Acts 5:30**).

2. Then exalted Him above (**Ephesians 1:19-23**).

E. Stumbling at the word, being disobedient, and even making things worse as time went on (**I Thessalonians 2:14-16**).

1. If they were of the truth, they would have listened to Jesus (**John 8:47** and **John 18:36-37**).

2. Those to whom this letter was written were obedient (**I Peter 1:14**).

a. The reward for disobedience is clear (**II Thessalonians 1:7-9** and **Hebrews 10:28-31**).

b. Salvation is the reward for obedience (**Hebrews 5:8-9**).

F. Whereunto they [the disobedient builders] were appointed (**Romans 9:1-26**).

1. Israel was the chosen people of God (**Psalms 135:4**).

2. Judah specifically was chosen to be the tribe from which our Lord came in the flesh (**Genesis 49:10** and **Hebrews 7:14**).

3. All that came about from Israel rejecting the Christ and forward was foreknown to God and happened according to His will (**Acts 2:22-24**; cf. **John 19:1-11**).

III. Conclusion: Our Next Study: *“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy”* (**I Peter 2:9-10**).