



Living Stones (1 Peter 2:1-12)

Special Consideration: Peter, unlike the classically trained biblical scholar, Paul, is often considered the impetuous fisherman who shoots from the hip, as the uneducated disciple. However, as we dive into 1 Peter 2, we will see an immense use of scholarship as Peter weaves his message from the Torah and the Prophets. This is something to consider as we compare this fisherman's grasp of the Scriptures as opposed to the average modern-day Christian, who has little ability to relate to the Old Testament as such!

The End of Chapter 1: *“because “All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, But **the word of the LORD endures forever.**” Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.” I Peter 1:24-25 NKJV*


“Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, **desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby,** if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.” I Peter 2:1-3 NKJV

The Chosen Stone and His Chosen People

“Coming to Him as to **a living stone**, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, **as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood**, to offer up **spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God** through Jesus Christ. Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion **A chief cornerstone**, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.” Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; **but to those who are disobedient**, “The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,” and “**A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense.**” They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed. **But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people**, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who **called you out of darkness into His marvelous light**; who **once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.**”

I Peter 2:4-10 NKJV

I Peter 2:1-10

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*word, **that you may grow thereby**, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.” I Peter 2:1-3 NKJV*

Therefore...

- Because all flesh is grass and fades away and the Word endures forever...live like this!

The Word!

- The Word was God and the Word became Flesh!
- “In the beginning was **the Word**, and **the Word** was with God, **and the Word was God**. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.” John 1:1-5 NKJV
- “And **the Word became flesh** and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:14 NKJV

The word of the LORD endures forever, so...

- Lay aside everything that can hinder you:
- “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, **let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us**, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto **Jesus**

[**the Word**], the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2 NKJV

☑ And instead **desire Pure Milk of the Word** that you may grow:

☑ “For the **word of God** is **living** and **powerful**, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.” Hebrews 4:12-13 NKJV

☑ **Pure:** Without mixture, unadulterated: *“For God did not call us to uncleanness, but in holiness.”* I Thessalonians 4:7 NKJV

☑ **Milk:** primary sustenance of life; primary nourishment for the young; to suck everything out of something (*i.e. You should extract the entirety of unadulterated Word of God as the totality of your nourishment!*)

☑ *“Coming to Him as to a **living stone**, **rejected indeed by men**, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being*

*built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” I Peter 2:4-5
NKJV*

Living Stones—Christ the Rock!

“Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, **and that Rock was Christ.**” I Corinthians 10:1-4
NKJV

Rejected by Men

“He is despised and **rejected by men**, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.” Isaiah 53:3 NKJV

A Spiritual House

The Temple of the Holy Spirit: “Or do you not know that **your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit** who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” I Corinthians 6:19-20 NKJV

☑ **The Building that is the Church (the Body of Christ):**
“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the **equipping of the saints** for the work of ministry, **for the *edifying of the **body of Christ**, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ**; that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— **from whom the whole body, joined and knit together** by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, **causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself** in love.” Ephesians 4:11-16 NKJV

☑ *Edify: An edifice or building, architecture of a structure.

☑ Greek: ([oikodomēn](#)) [Strong's Greek 3619](#):

☑ **Body: The literal flesh of your body and as a whole the Body of the Church.

☑ Greek: ([sōmatos](#)) [Strong's Greek 4983](#):

☑ **Holy Priesthood**

☑ See Royal Priesthood Below!

☑ Acceptable Spiritual Sacrifices

- ☑ “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a **living sacrifice**, holy, **acceptable to God**, which is your **reasonable service**.”

Romans 12:1 NKJV

- ☑ **Living Sacrifice:** living your life in such a way that it is entirely dedicated to God, your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. **Note:** a burnt offering is the only sacrifice that is totally burned so all of its smoke goes up to the Lord; nothing is left over for use by anyone else. (To read all about the burnt offering see Leviticus 1 and 6:8-13)
- ☑ **Reasonable Service:** Nothing extraordinary; giving everything for God is His reasonable expectation!

- ☑ *“Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion A **chief cornerstone**, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.” Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, “**The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,**” and “A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense.” They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.” I Peter 2:6-8 NKJV*

☑ **The Chief Cornerstone**

☑ **The Messiah is our precious Cornerstone:** “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. Also I will make justice the measuring line, And righteousness the plummet; The hail will sweep away the refuge of lies, And the waters will overflow the hiding place.” Isaiah 28:16-17 NKJV

☑ **Rejected! A Stone of Stumbling and a Rock of Offense**

☑ **Rejected:** “I will praise You, For You have answered me, And have become my salvation. **The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.** This was the LORD’s doing; It is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day the LORD has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.”Psalms 118:21-24 NKJV

☑ **A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense:** “He will be as a sanctuary, **But a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense** To both the houses of Israel, As a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And many among them shall stumble; They shall fall and be broken, Be snared and taken.” Bind up the testimony, Seal the law among my disciples.” Isaiah 8:14-16 NKJV

☑ *“But you are a **chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;**”*
I Peter 2:9 NKJV

☑ **A Chosen Generation, a Royal Priesthood, a Holy Nation, a Special People**

☑ **Holy, Chosen and Special:** ““For you are a **holy people** to the LORD your God; the LORD your God has **chosen you to be a people** for Himself, **a special treasure** above all the peoples on the face of the earth. The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.” Deuteronomy 7:6-8 NKJV

☑ **A kingdom of priests and a holy nation:** “Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a **special treasure** to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me **a kingdom of**

priests and a holy nation. 'These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.'” Exodus 19:5-6 NKJV



You shall be named the priests of the LORD: ““The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.” And they shall rebuild the old ruins, They shall raise up the former desolations, And they shall repair the ruined cities, The desolations of many generations. Strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, And the sons of the foreigner Shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. **But you shall be named the priests of the LORD,** They shall call you the servants of our God. You shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, And in their glory you shall boast.” Isaiah 61:1-6 NKJV

☑ **He has made us kings and priests:** “John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and **has made us kings and priests** to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.” Revelation 1:4-6 NKJV

☑ **Proclaim going from darkness to marvelous light!**

☑ **A light to the Gentiles:** ““And now the LORD says, Who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, To bring Jacob back to Him, So that Israel is gathered to Him (For I shall be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, And My God shall be My strength), Indeed He says, ‘It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; **I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles**, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ”” Isaiah 49:5-6 NKJV

☑ **You are the light; let it shine:** “**You are the light of the world.** A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a

lampstand, **and it gives light to all who are in the house.**

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:14-16 NKJV

- ☑ **Once in darkness, now you are light:** “For you were **once darkness, but now you are light** in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. **And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.** For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by them in secret. But all things that are exposed are made **manifest by the light, for whatever makes manifest is light.** Therefore He says: “Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light.”” Ephesians 5:8-14 NKJV


- ☑ *“who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.” I Peter 2:10 NKJV*

- ☑ **No Mercy; Not Me People!**

- ☑ “It shall come to pass in that day That I will break the bow of Israel in the Valley of Jezreel.” And she conceived again and

bore a daughter. Then God said to him: **“Call her name Lo-Ruhamah, For I will no longer have mercy on the house of Israel, But I will utterly take them away. Yet I will have mercy on the house of Judah, Will save them by the LORD their God, And will not save them by bow, Nor by sword or battle, By horses or horsemen.”** Now when she had weaned Lo-Ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son. **Then God said: “Call his name Lo-Ammi, For you are not My people, And I will not be your God.** “Yet the number of the children of Israel Shall be as the sand of the sea, Which cannot be measured or numbered. And it shall come to pass In the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not My people, ’There it shall be said to them, ‘You are sons of the living God. ’Then the children of Judah and the children of Israel Shall be gathered together, And appoint for themselves one head; And they shall come up out of the land, For great will be the day of Jezreel!” Hosea 1:5-11 NKJV

 **Mercy; You are My People!**

-  “I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me In righteousness and justice, In lovingkindness and mercy; I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, And you shall know the LORD. “It shall come to pass in that day That I will answer,” says the LORD; “I will answer the heavens, And

they shall answer the earth. The earth shall answer With grain, With new wine, And with oil; They shall answer Jezreel. Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, **And I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy; Then I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!'** 'And they shall say, 'You are my God!' ”” Hosea 2:19-23 NKJV

From “not My people” to “sons of the living God”

- “What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction, and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory, even us whom He called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles? **As He says also in Hosea: “I will call them My people, who were not My people, And her beloved, who was not beloved.” “And it shall come to pass in the place where it was said to them, ‘You are not My people, ’There they shall be called sons of the living God.”** Isaiah also cries out concerning Israel: “Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, The remnant will be saved.” Romans 9:22-27 NKJV

Living before the World

“Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, **abstain from fleshly lusts** which war against the soul, having your **conduct honorable among the Gentiles**, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the **day of visitation.**” I Peter 2:11-12 NKJV

I Peter 2:11-12

☑ *“Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, **abstain from fleshly lusts** which war against the soul,” I Peter 2:11 NKJV*

☑ **Abstain from Fleshly Lusts**

☑ **The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life:** “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. **For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.** And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.” I John 2:15-17 NKJV

☑ **Make no provision to fulfill the lusts of the Flesh:** “Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on

the Lord Jesus Christ, and **make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.**” Romans 13:13-14 NKJV

☑ **What are those lusts?**

☑ **Evident works of the Flesh:** “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, **and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.** For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. **Now the works of the flesh are evident,** which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that **those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**” Galatians 5:16-21 NKJV

☑ **Those who crucify their flesh are those who display the Fruit of the Spirit**

☑ **Crucify the Flesh:** “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And **those who are Christ’s have crucified the flesh** with its

passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.” Galatians 5:22-25 NKJV

☑ **Protection against those lusts as we are reminded in Peter’s second letter!**

☑ **Escape the Lusts:** “Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, **having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.**” II Peter 1:2-4 NKJV

☑ **Always a way out!** “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation **will also make the way of escape**, that you may be able to bear it.” I Corinthians 10:13 NKJV

☑ *“having your **conduct honorable among the Gentiles**, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, **by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.**” I Peter 2:12 NKJV*

☑ **Honorable conduct among the Gentiles is your testimony!**

☑ **A testimony to the Gentiles:** “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. **You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles.** But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.” Matthew 10:16-20 NKJV

☑ **How you appear to those outside the faith! “Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside,** redeeming the time. **Let your speech** always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.” Colossians 4:5-6 NKJV

☑ **Your speech can impart grace, the supernatural empowerment of God! “Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth,** but what is good for necessary edification, that **it may impart grace** to the hearers.” Ephesians 4:29 NKJV

☑ **By Your Good Works Gentiles will Glorify God**

- ☑ **Again see Isaiah 49:5-6:** “...I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles...”
- ☑ **Saved for good works!** “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:8-10 NKJV
- ☑ **Your good works will be witnessed and they will glorify your Father:** “**You are the light of the world.** A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, **and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**” Matthew 5:14-16 NKJV
- ☑ **The Day of Visitation—you better know!**
- ☑ “Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, “**If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace!** But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when **your enemies** will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not

leave in you one stone upon another, **because you did not know the time of your visitation.**”” Luke 19:41-44 NKJV

NEXT WEEK

Submission is NOT a Four-letter Word (1 Peter 2:13-25)