

The Chief Cornerstone

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Psalm 118:22-24, Matt. 21:33-46, Is. 28:14-20, 1 Peter 2:6-8, Acts 4:4-12

Psalm 118:22: "The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone." This verse gives a clear representation of the resurrection of Christ, Is. 28:16: "tried, precious, sure."

Here are 6 facts about the Cornerstone, Jesus:

- 1) **The Cornerstone's Victory:** Matt. 21:33-46, the parable of the wicked vinedressers depicts a master who sent his servants to gather the fruit of his vineyard and were killed. The landowner sent his son, and they killed him also. Two truths about the passage in Ps. 118:22-23, 1) The stone will rise again: "**has become** the chief," and 2) The believer sees how marvelous the plan of God is to establish Jesus. Yahweh predicted all the events of the life of Christ and has fulfilled all that He has spoken would happen. Ps. 118:24, the day of resurrection is the Lord's doing and we will rejoice and be glad in it.
- 2) **The Cornerstone's Grace:** Matt. 21:44, having been offered and now rejected by Israel, the grace of God will be given to a nation of regenerated believers. The church is the fulfillment of this promise, Eph. 2:19-22. As the household of God, we are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus being the chief cornerstone. Mark 7:26-30 shows that Christ was sent first to the house of Israel, but when they rejected Jesus, the gospel would be proclaimed to the nations and salvation would come to the nations through Christ.
- 3) **The Cornerstone's Future:** Is. 28:14-20, details a people who have rejected obedience and faith in God and have tried to create their own righteousness (V14-15, 20). The Lord was on Israel's at Mt. Perazim (2 Sam. 5:20) and the Valley of Gibeon (Josh. 10:10-11). But now God will do something unusual, He comes against them (the strange thing) (Is. 28:21-22).
>>Is. 28:16-17, The chief cornerstone will be established in God's holy city, Zion.
- 4) **The Cornerstone's Knowledge:** 1 Pet. 2:6-8 gives a picture of those who reject Christ. The unbeliever rejects the salvation of Christ and the purpose of His coming. As they trip over Christ (the stone), they are appointed to stumbling and finding offense in Christ. It is the unbeliever who rejects the salvation Christ offers, in not believing the Son (Jn. 3:36), that Jesus was sent from the Father to die for sinners (Jn. 8:24), and to give rest to those who would come to Him (Matt. 11:28).
- 5) **The Cornerstone's Superiority:** Acts 4:4-12, Peter preaches to the those of the Sanhedrin that have previously condemned Christ. His message is that they crucified the innocent Son of God, but God has raised Him from the dead, and salvation can still be granted if they accept the Father's offer of salvation in Jesus, the stone which they had rejected (V11). No other name under heaven, given to men, by which we [all] must be saved.
- 6) **The Cornerstone's Power:** See again Matt. 21:33-44. Jesus asks the chief priests and elders (21:23) in verse 40 a question. Their answer in 41 is the right response. In V42, Jesus answers them with God's position on those who would reject and kill His prophets. Jesus provides them understanding (V45) and they desired to kill Him all the more (V46).
>>**Verse 43**, Jesus reveals the plan of God to take the Gospel and create a nation of regenerated believers who will bear fruit from the salvation they have received. Jesus asks the Jewish leaders if they are going to reject Him, the chief cornerstone of God?
>>**Verse 44** provides a promise for those who reject Him. They will be ground into powder. This is fulfilled in Rev. 20:11-15. The word "falls" better depicts an attack or ambush of thieves. The image here is that for those who attack the gift offered by the Father in Christ, will be destroyed and cast into the Lake of Fire.

Further Discussion and Application

Read Ps. 118:22-23. List the marvelous actions of God for those who have come to faith in Christ. What promises in His word demonstrate His mercy towards us? We have the comfort of forgiven sin, what number of other blessings do we have in Christ that the world rejects from our Father?

Easter is a celebration of the resurrection of Christ. Read Ps. 118:24 and Romans 16:25-27. What is being commanded in these passages? Why is the command of God a wonderful assurance that we have? Why is accepting what God has commanded a place of rest? Read John 10:22-30. What is the strength of our God in this passage?

Knowledge of Christ is a blessing that believers enjoy that is other-worldly (1 Cor. 2:1-16). What happens with the knowledge of God to believers and unbelievers in 1 Cor. 2? There are tangible blessings to knowing the Father. What are some of those blessings from Psalm 19?

The gospel is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16-17). How has God built upon the faith He bestowed upon us by granting an ever-increasing amount of truth from His Word and the preaching of the Gospel? How does God choose to mature believers? What have we learned about God as we've struggled in our weakness and our fight against sin in our lives? How have we experienced victory to overcome and be transformed in our minds and actions by the Gospel?

Humility is vital in the life of believers. How has the measure of grace bestowed on us by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit shaped our actions and obedience to Him? What are the things that we are doing because we have realized that without the Father's love we would have remained lost and dead in our trespasses and sins?