

The Cornerstone

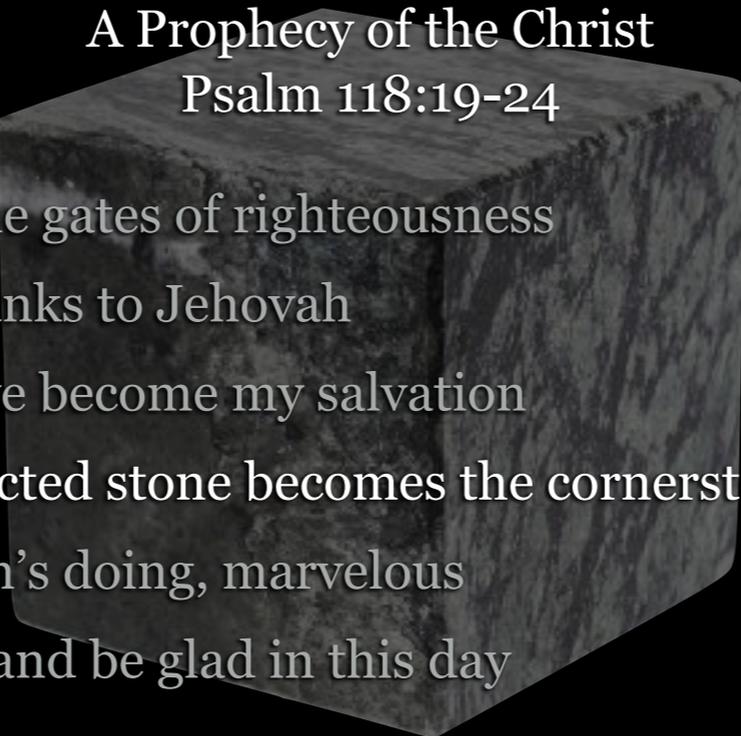
Acts 4:5-13



A Prophecy of the Christ
Psalm 118:19-24

- enter the gates of righteousness
- give thanks to Jehovah
- you have become my salvation
- the rejected stone becomes the cornerstone
- Jehovah's doing, marvelous
- rejoice and be glad in this day

- Psalms 118:19-24 (ESV)
- 19 Open to me the gates of righteousness, that I may enter through them and give thanks to the LORD.
- 20 This is the gate of the LORD; the righteous shall enter through it.
- 21 I thank you that you have answered me and have become my salvation.
- 22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
- 23 This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.
- 24 This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.



A Prophecy of the Christ
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- enter the gates of righteousness
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- In an overwhelmingly positive message about salvation and righteousness and joy, one statement stands out as different.
- 22 The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.
- And yet it's perceived as marvelous and something to be glad of.
- This verse looks forward to Jesus and is used by him to show the leaders of the Jews their failures: Matthew 21



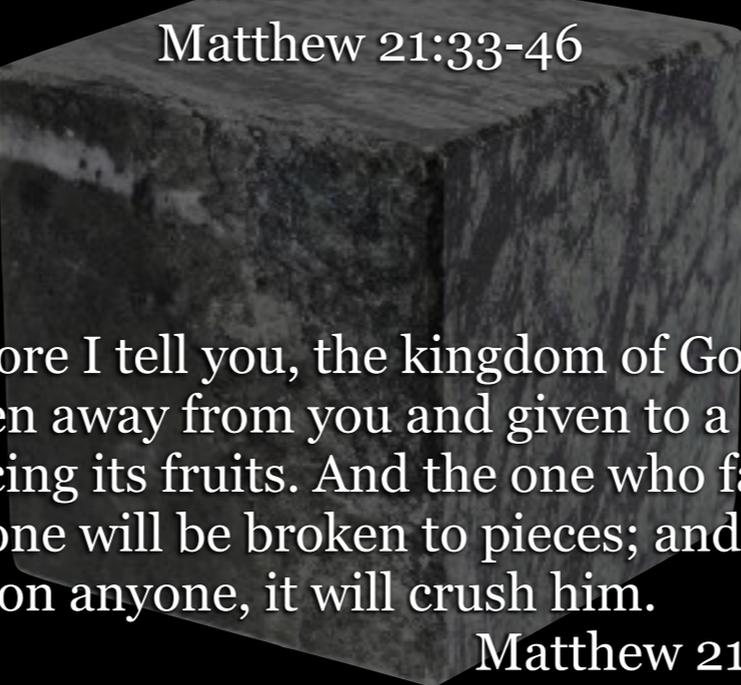
- The leaders of the Jews had questioned Jesus' authority, and in part he responds by telling them that they had abused their authority using the Parable of the Tenants.
- The very familiar imagery used by God in the OT was that Israel was like a vine that he had planted and cared for.
- Jesus uses this to show them that they had rejected him, the son of God.

Parable of the Tenants
Matthew 21:33-46

Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

Matthew 21:37-39

- Even the Jews realized that such actions deserved judgment.
- So Jesus quotes Psalm 118:22 and points to them as being the builders who rejected the cornerstone.
- But that passage is not just about the rejection.
 - It's about the hope: righteousness and salvation
- So Jesus delivers the message about the kingdom



Parable of the Tenants
Matthew 21:33-46

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.

Matthew 21:43-44

- Having rejected Jesus, they have no hope for the kingdom, salvation and righteousness.
- Their hopes are crushed.

This Jesus ... has become the cornerstone
Acts 4:5-12

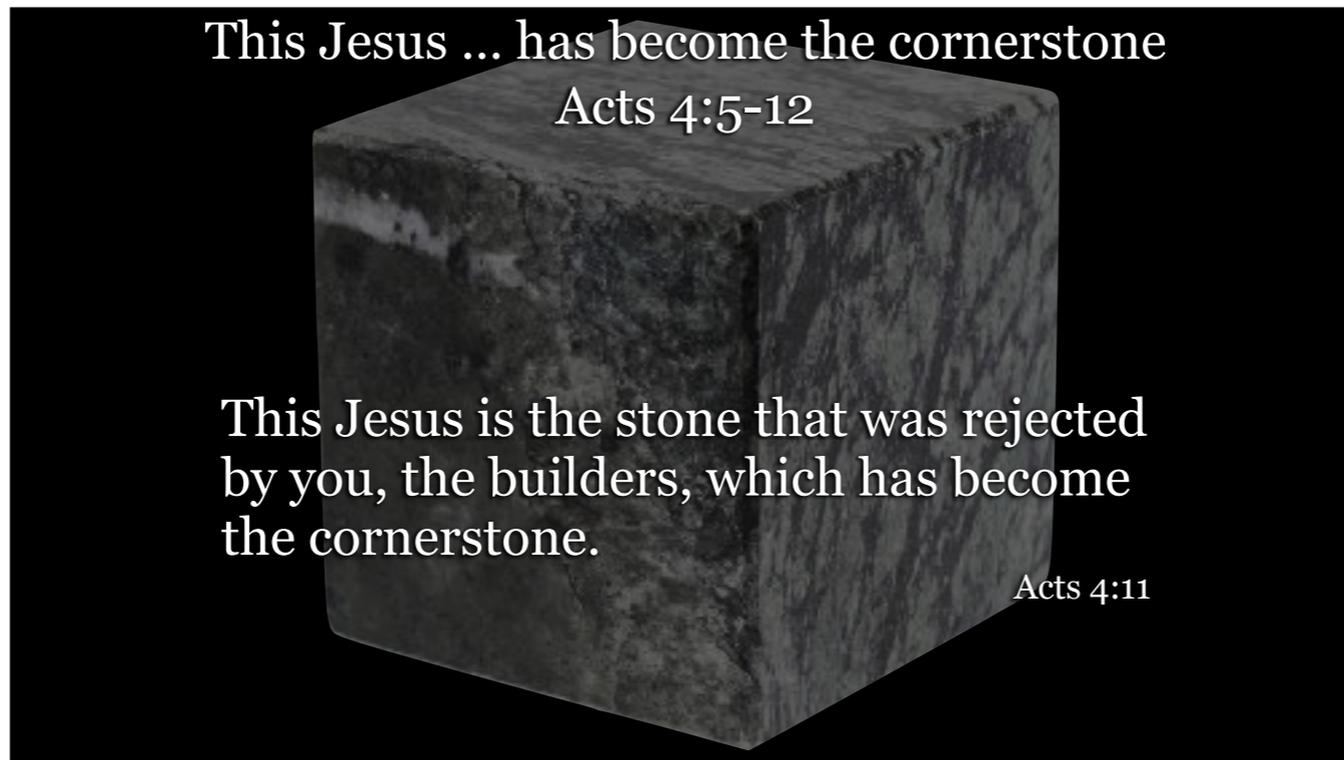


- After healing the lame man at the temple, Peter also faced questions about how he healed the man.
- By what power or by what name did you do this? (7)
- Read Acts 4:5-12

This Jesus ... has become the cornerstone
Acts 4:5-12



- Peter's Reply focuses on Jesus
- 9) Good deed — crippled man healed
- 10) By name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth
 - YOU crucified
 - GOD raise him from the dead
- 11) by HIM this man is standing before you — well



- Having answered their question, he makes sure that they know who this Jesus is and why he's important
- To do that, he refers back to Psalm 118:22; which they had heard not that long ago from Jesus himself.
- 11) This Jesus is the stone you rejected
 - Become the cornerstone

This Jesus ... has become the cornerstone
Acts 4:5-12

And there is salvation in no one else, for
there is no other name under heaven given
among men by which we must be saved.

Acts 4:12

- But Peter also brings the context of Psalm 118 to their minds
 - The psalm speaks of righteousness, salvation and joy
 - Now Peter makes the connection with Jesus:
 - No other name by which we must be saved

This Jesus ... has become the cornerstone
Acts 4:5-12

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Acts 4:12

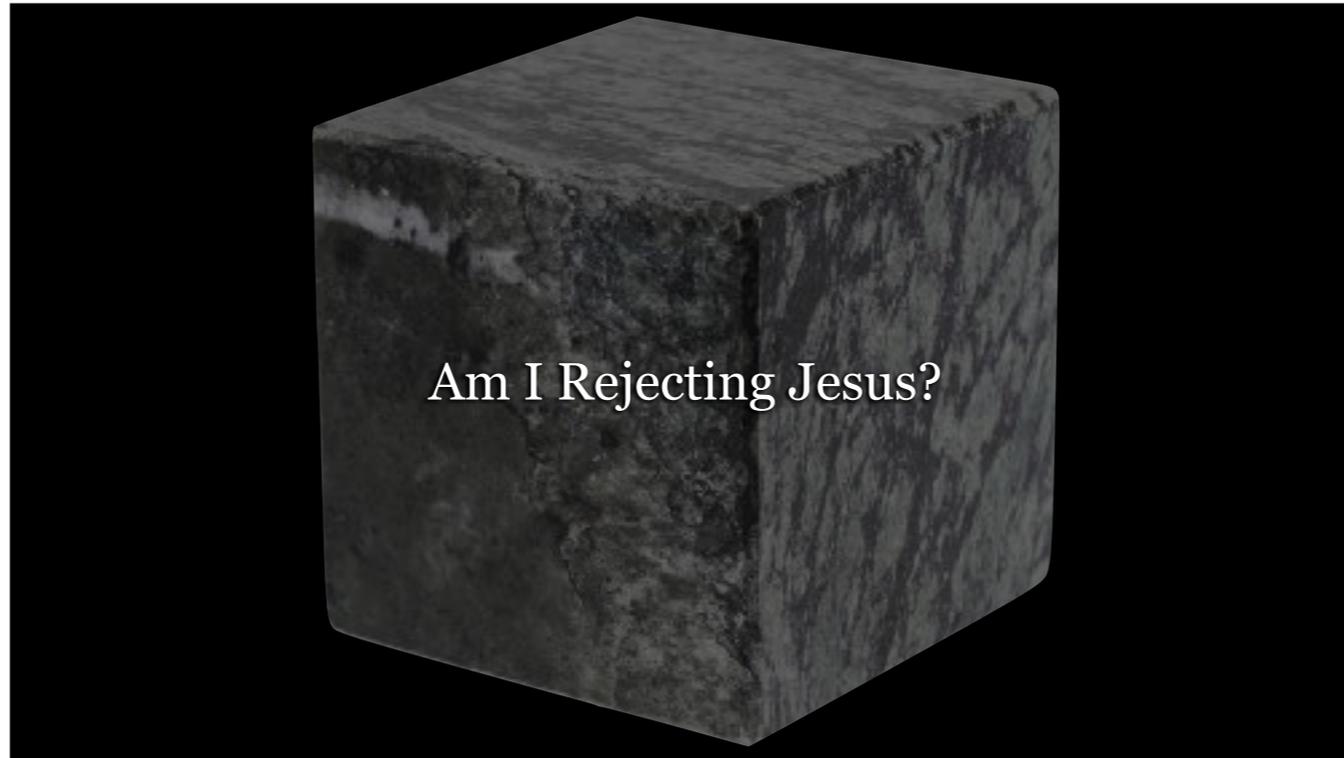
- Acts 4:12 And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.
- And this is an amazing offer that Peter is putting before them, reminding them that through Jesus there is still HOPE.

This Jesus ... has become the cornerstone
Acts 4:5-12

And there is salvation in no one else, for
there is no other name under heaven given
among men by which we must be saved.

Acts 4:12

- Of course, we are not the Jewish rulers, so why is this message important for us to consider?
- Perhaps even strange to ask a group of people who are here to worship Jesus why this is important for us.
 - But Jesus and Peter were both speaking to those who ostensibly honored and worshipped God.
 - So maybe we have things to consider.

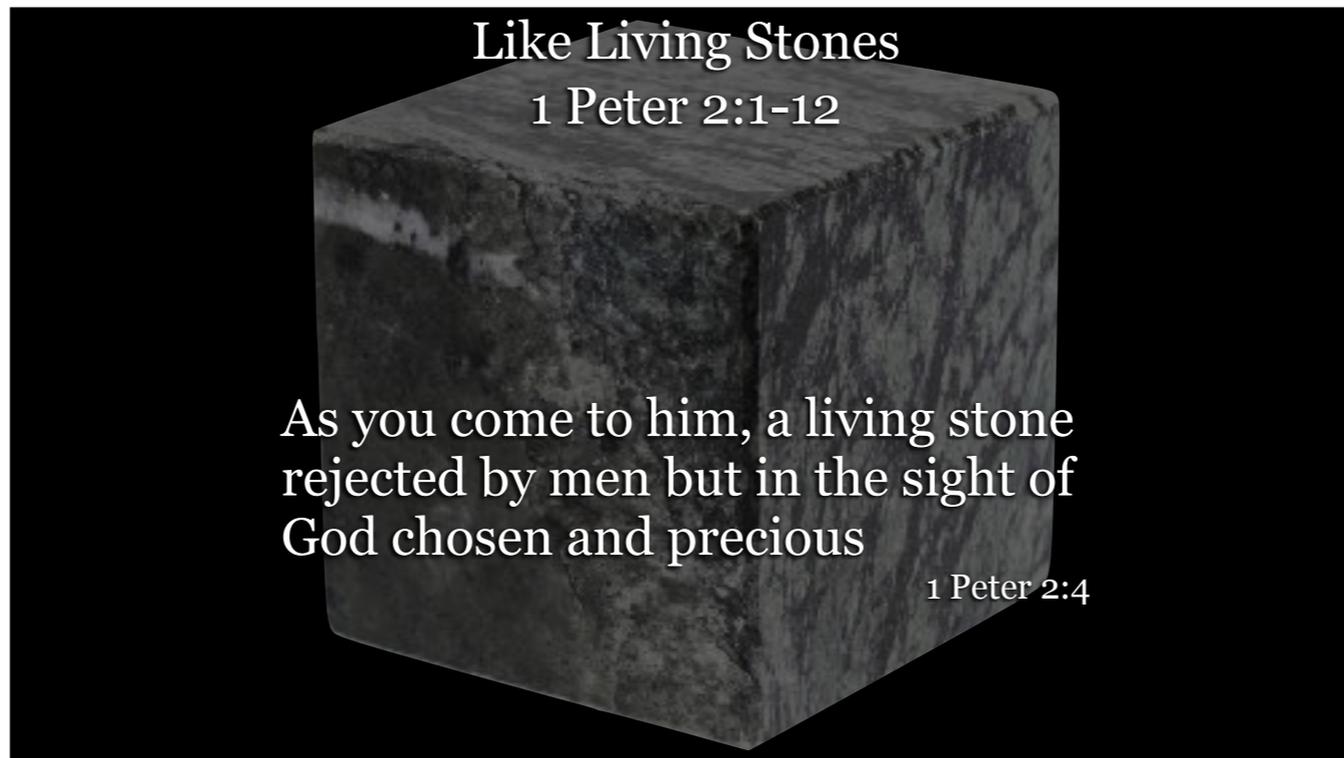


- Do I see Jesus as being the Christ?
- Do I listen to his teaching and obey?
- If you reject Jesus, there is no other salvation.

Like Living Stones
1 Peter 2:1-12



- For those of us who are believers, Peter uses this passage again in his first letter and makes important applications to those of us who follow Jesus
- 1 Peter 2:1-12



- 4) Come to Him
 - A living stone (strengthens the metaphor, reminder of resurrection)
 - Rejected — but you choose to come to him
 - God sees Jesus as chosen and precious
 - value in who he is and what he did

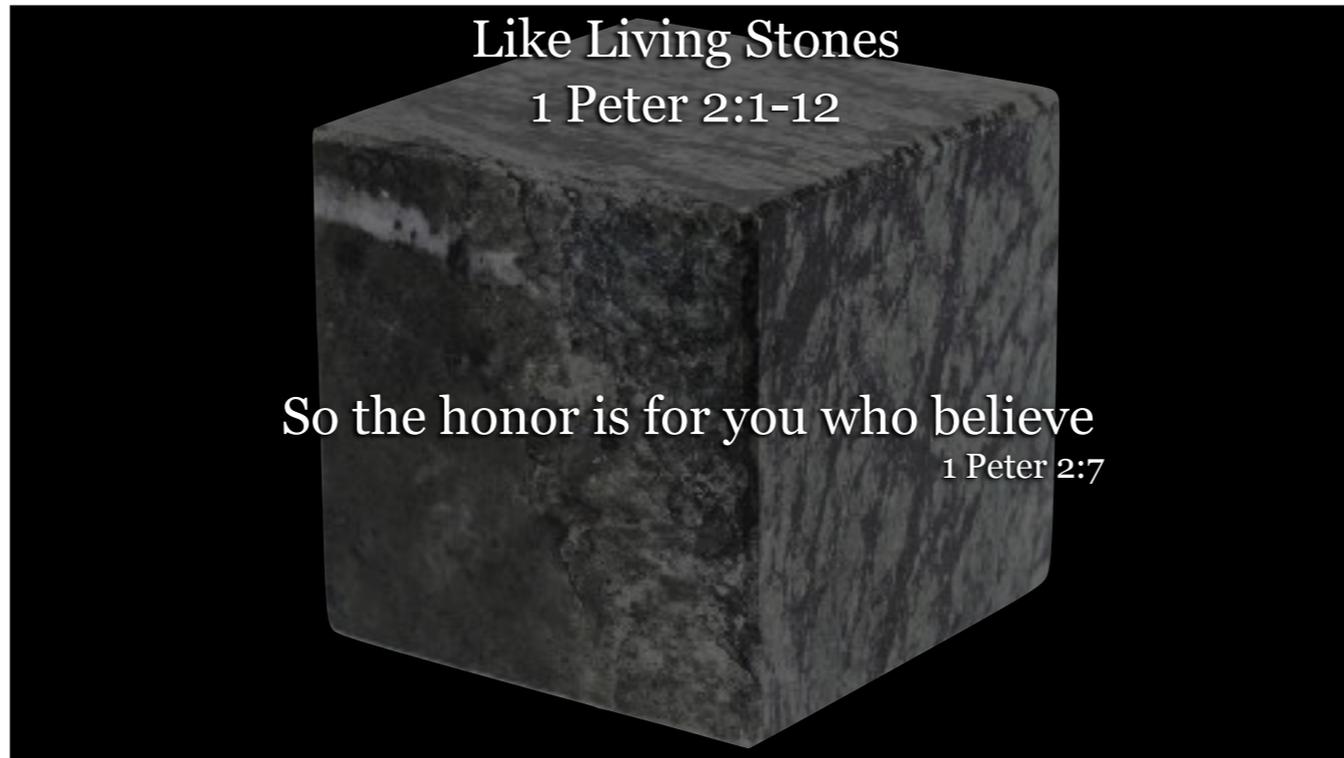
Like Living Stones

1 Peter 2:1-12

As you come to him, a living stone
rejected by men but in the sight of
God chosen and precious

1 Peter 2:4

- Peter quotes three passages to remind us of why Jesus is so special
 - Isaiah 28:16; Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 8:14
- Believers will not be put to shame
 - It is an honor to believe!
- Those who do not believe
 - reject, stumble, offended
 - disobey the word



- It is an honor for those who believe
- 5) you yourselves
 - like living stones
 - built up as a spiritual house
 - holy priesthood
 - spiritual sacrifices

Like Living Stones

1 Peter 2:1-12

So the honor is for you who believe

1 Peter 2:7

- 9) Chosen race
- Royal priesthood
- Holy nation
- People for his possession
- God's People
- Received mercy

Like Living Stones

1 Peter 2:1-12

Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation — if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

1 Peter 2:2-3

- Growing up to Salvation - 2
 - One danger we face is to reject Jesus by failing to continue to grow in our salvation
 - This can be subtle, a sense of contentment that we've done enough

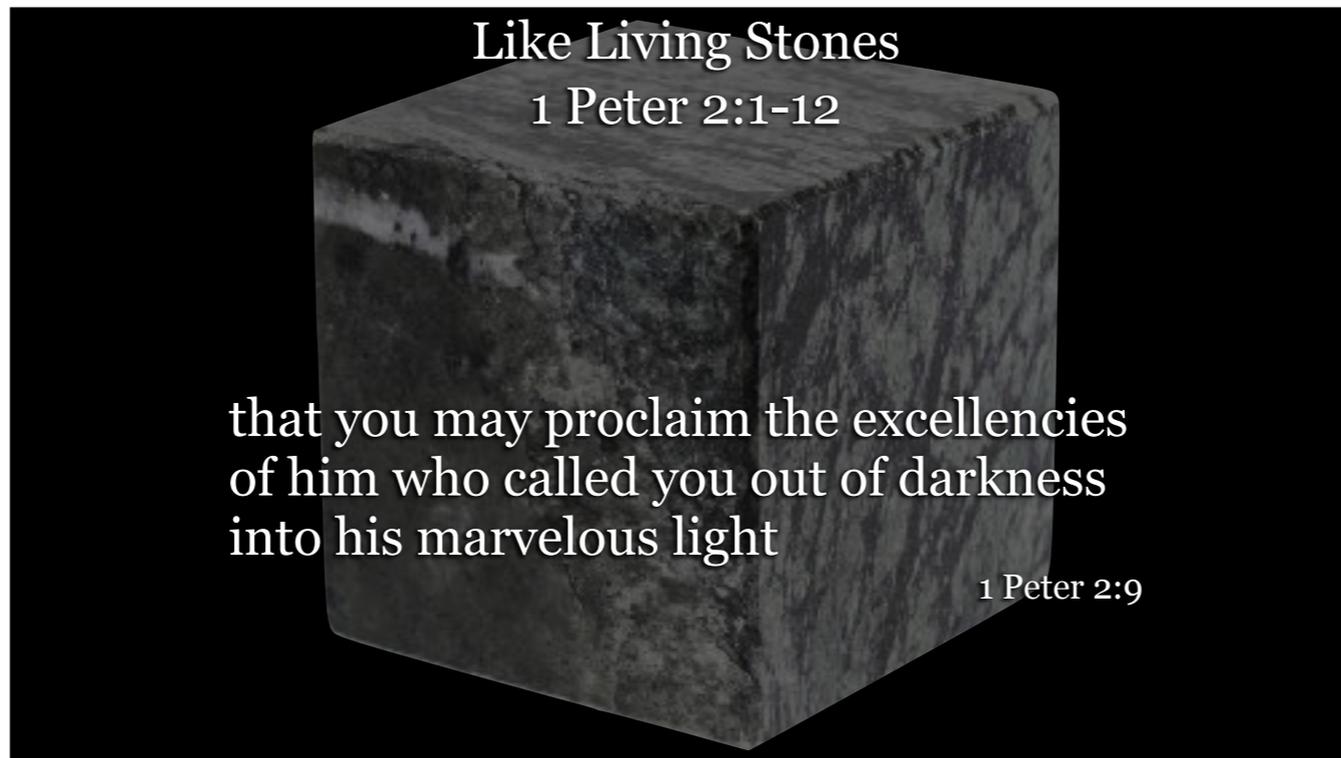
Like Living Stones

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1 Peter 2:2-3

- LONG for growth.
 - This warning would have been well to be heard by the Jewish rulers and elders.
 - For they had stopped growing, content in their knowledge
- Spend more time in the word: wise to salvation through faith (2 Timothy 3:15)
 - Get a taste for it and keep coming back to it.



- Leaving Behind the Darkness (9)
 - We can reject Jesus by failing to turn away from the darkness of the past.
 - The prophecy of Psalm 118 looks forward not just to salvation, but to righteousness
 - We must change our behavior:
 - we are living stones: so also chosen and precious like Jesus.
 - we have received God's mercy.

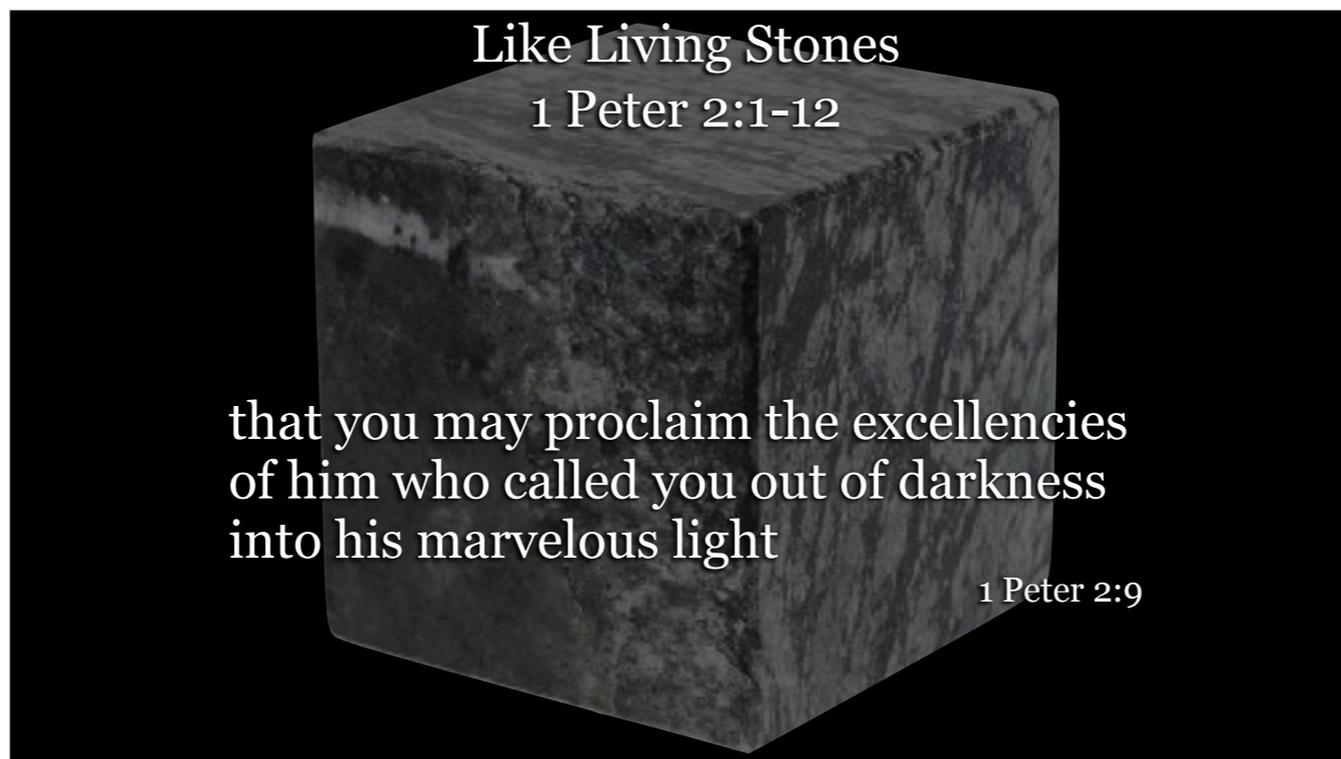
Like Living Stones

1 Peter 2:1-12

that you may proclaim the excellencies
of him who called you out of darkness
into his marvelous light

1 Peter 2:9

- 1 Peter 2:1 So put away all malice and all deceit and hypocrisy and envy and all slander.
- In rejecting Jesus, he faced such behavior from those who refused to see him as the Messiah
- We must beware that we reject these harmful and hurtful ways of behaving that lead us to rejecting those who could be saved.



- 1 Peter 2:11 Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.
- Passions of the flesh
 - wage war against your soul
- Focusing on righteousness and our salvation
 - We must beware of those desires that pull us away from the salvation we have in Jesus.

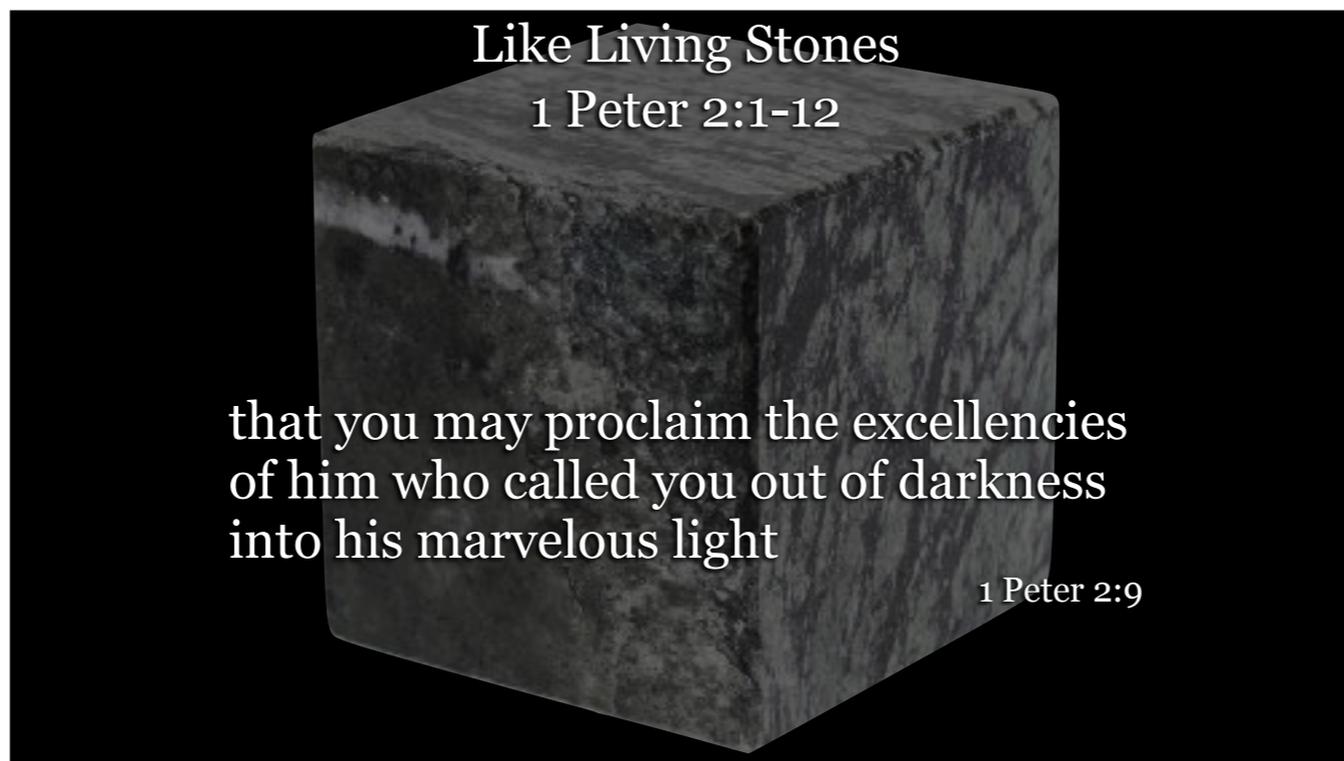
Like Living Stones

1 Peter 2:1-12

that you may proclaim the excellencies
of him who called you out of darkness
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1 Peter 2:9

- 1 Peter 2:12 Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation.
- We must beware that we reject these harmful and hurtful ways of behaving that lead us to rejecting those who could be saved.



- Honorable behavior reminds us not to just abstain from wrong, but to actively do good.
 - So what are you doing among those who do not believe?
 - Sometimes in our desire to be pure, we forget to be helping those in the world.
 - What good deeds do you do?
 - Volunteering, etc.

We implore you
on behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Call to Action

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Great News! Great Joy!

#03

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The Cornerstone

Acts 4:5-13

Synopsis: The Jewish Leaders rejected Jesus, despite being the cornerstone (head of the corner). In this rejection they failed to find salvation. In this lesson, we consider the importance of our not rejecting Jesus and the things we can do to as believers because of our salvation and righteousness in Him.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”