

## **Building a Good Foundation, #2** **Jesus Christ: the *Stone of Stumbling* and *Rock of Offense***

In the previous lesson on this topic (about a month ago), we examined both “*Why Jesus is the Chief Cornerstone?*” and “*Why the apostles and prophets are the “foundation” of God’s household?*” from Eph.2:20-21. Subsequent lessons have dealt mostly with various issues pertaining to *the Wisdom and Word of God/Christ, Exactly what is “the gospel” of Jesus Christ*, and issues related the *Means and Methods of Evangelism with the Gospel*. However...

Today I’d like to turn our attention to **1Pet.2:6-8**, where Peter quotes from Isa.28:16; Psa.118:22; and Isa.8:14 concerning Jesus Christ as the ***choice and precious cornerstone***. Please note from:

- v.6 that those who *believe in Him* “*shall not be disappointed.*”
- v.7 that though of “*precious value*” to the *believer*, this *cornerstone* was “*rejected*” by those who *disbelieve*; and,
- v.8a that to those *disbelievers*, He became a “***stone of stumbling***” and a “***rock of offense...***”

But why would a (in fact *the*) *choice and precious cornerstone* be rejected and become instead a ***stumbling stone*** and a ***rock of offense***? **Was it because:**

- Ø They weren’t aware of the ***miracles*** and ***signs*** He performed that *proved* His *origin, power, and purpose*? No, it wasn’t that, cf. John 3:2; 9:33; 10:38; 11:47.
- Ø They didn’t know how He ***fulfilled every OT prophecy*** regarding the Messiah, and how these *testified* His identity? How could they not know, cf. Matt.11:3-6; 23:34-38?
- Ø They didn’t realize He ***died for their sins***? Nope, cf. Matt.27:25; John 11:49-50; and Acts 5:28.
- Ø They didn’t understand what His ***resurrection*** meant? Hardly, Matt.28:11-15; cf. Acts 2:24,32; 3:15,26; 4:10; 5:30; 10:40; 13:30,33,34,37

No, those were not the reason(s) Jesus was *rejected* and *stumbled over*. **Instead it was:**

- ✓ ***Jealousy***, John 12:9-11,17-19;
- ✓ Their own ***thirst for position and power***, John 11:47-48; and perhaps most importantly,
- ✓ They ***stumbled*** over His ***words***, 1Pet.2:8b; John 6:60-61 (cf.vv.41-59); 11:10; 16:1; cp.Matt.11:6; and,
- ✓ They were ***offended*** by what He ***said/taught***, Matt.13:53-57; 15:7-12.

Has anything really changed regarding *why* people today ***stumble over*** or are ***offended*** (and ***reject***) the *choice and precious cornerstone*, Jesus Christ?

⇒ People are *aware of His miracles*- John 20:30-31; and,

- ⇒ People *know* **He fulfilled prophecies**- 11 times Matt. alone specifies that Jesus *fulfilled the prophets*, Matt.2:15,17,23; e.g.; and,
- ⇒ People surely know was **crucified for our sins** and **raised from the dead**, Acts 17:31; Rom.1:1-5. But...
- ⇒ They are **lovers of self** and **money, boastful** and **arrogant**, 2Tim.3:1-5;
- ⇒ They are unwilling to **give up/over their position, power**, and **lives**, Luke 14:26-27; Matt.13:19-22;
- ⇒ They **stumble over His words**, 1Cor.1:18-25; and
- ⇒ They are **offended** by what He **teaches**, 2Thess.3:10,12.

### **Behold, Jesus the Christ:**

Either the **choice** and **precious cornerstone** “*in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit,*” Eph.2:21-22; or...

The “**stone the builders rejected... a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense,**” 1Pet.2:7-8.

**Which will He be for you?**