

A Corner Stone, Elect and Precious

Isa 28:16 "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."

The passage we shall consider this morning is preceded by these words, "Therefore hear the word of the Lord, you scornful men, who rule this people who are in Jerusalem, because you have said, "We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol we are in agreement. When the overflowing scourge passes through, it will not come to us, for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood we have hidden ourselves." (Isa 28:14-15) The only comfort that the ungodly have is a false comfort for "having made lies their refuge" they believe that death, judgment and hell will never touch them.

This is why the rulers of Isaiah's day were so bold against the warnings of the prophets. This is why the rulers of Christ's day were so bold against the Lord and His Anointed. *'The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us break Their bonds in pieces and cast away Their cords from us."* (Ps 2:2-3) And this is why the ungodly in our day are so bold against the Lord and His church. With the Pharaoh of old they boldly proclaim, "Who is the Lord that I should serve Him?" The old economy is coming to an end. The beginning of the end is about to take place. The prophet has been uttering dreadful threatenings of the judgment of God upon the nation because of their rejection of God as Lord and God's law as authority over them. Judah with its king will no longer exist as a nation, and in time that very people will reject the LORD and His Anointed. But immediately in that context God gives to His people the promise of a comfort that is sure, steadfast and eternal. *"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.* 1) God is the Builder of His church, 2) Christ is the Chief Cornerstone, 3) The redeemed are the blessed recipients of the grace bestowed for salvation is ours by faith in that promise will bring eternal comfort and peace.

A. God is the Builder - *Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation*

1. Once again Isaiah used the Hebrew word translated "Behold" which speaks of the certainty of the promised action
2. I lay in Zion. The "I" here is emphatic, we read "I" that is, God Himself lay in Zion a tried stone

Ps 127:1 Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain who build it

3. A "tried" stone that is a faithful and secure foundation

2 Tim 2:19 Nevertheless **the solid foundation** of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His,"

- a. It is solid for we have been known of God from all eternity
- b. It is solid for it is God who has chosen us from all eternity

Eph 1:4 He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world,

- a. It is solid for it is God who has loved us God from all eternity

Jer 31:3-4 The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you. Again I will build you, and you shall be rebuilt."

B. Christ is that Corner Stone - *a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation*

1. We know that this passage speaks of Christ for both Paul and Peter quote it as referring to our Lord
 - a. Paul speaking of the Jews rejection of Christ wrote:

Rom 9:32-33 For they stumbled at that stumbling stone. As it is written: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, and whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

- b. And Peter referring to Christ as rejected by man but chosen of God quotes this passage

1 Peter 2:6 Wherefore 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."

2. He is called a "corner-stone" for He supports the whole weight of the building

1 Cor 3:11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ

3. He is the corner-stone for there is no other name given under heaven whereby one can be saved (cf. Acts 4:12)

*Acts 4:11-12 This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is **no other name under heaven** given among men **by which we must be saved.**"*

4. It is a "tried" or "sure foundation", for there is no other foundation provided for our salvation
5. It is a precious corner-stone
 - a. It is God Himself who humbled Himself that He might redeem His people from their sins

Phil 2:5-8 Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

- b. It speaks of that one who loved us and offered Himself a sacrifice in our behalf

Eph 5:2 Christ . . . loved us and gave Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.

- c. In this we learn that we are not redeemed with silver and gold "*But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*" 1 Peter 1:19

6. In Zion - Clearly to the church of Jesus Christ as composed of both Jews and Gentiles as witnessed for us by Peter

1 Peter 2:5-6 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. 6 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."

1 Peter 2:9-10 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.

Conclusion: The redeemed are the blessed recipients of the grace bestowed for salvation is ours by faith in that promise will bring eternal comfort and peace

whoever believes will not act hastily - Or as both Peter and Paul quote it as it is written in the Septuagint - and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame

That is we may have full assurance of our salvation

It is by faith in this One we have peace with God

Rom 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ

Once again the Gentile church is included in this promise

Eph 2:19-22 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.