

“1 Peter 2:4–5—Part 1”

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I began a five-part series about 1 Peter 2:4-5 before the Day of Trumpets. From time to time through the years, I had spoken about 1 Peter 2:4-5 by mainly concentrating upon three concepts mentioned there. (Those three concepts will be covered in this series as Parts 3, 4 and 5. But Parts 1 and 2 include additional information added to this series.)

- Part 1—“Christ was chosen by God to be a living stone.”
- Part 2—“You are to be a living stone.”
- Part 3—“You are being built up as a spiritual house.”
- Part 4—“You are being built up as a holy priesthood.”
- Part 5—“You are to offer spiritual sacrifices—acceptable to God.”

Chosen to be a living stone

This article will focus upon part 1—“Christ was chosen by God to be a living stone.”

- 1 Peter 2:4—“Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious.”

Old Testament prophecies

To talk about Christ being a living stone, I wanted to look at some Old Testament prophecies about Him. When I looked back at previous presentations that I have given through the years, I saw a seven-part series that I gave at the Wednesday-night Bible studies from March 5, 2008, through April 23, 2008, titled “Prophecies about Christ’s First Coming.”

The material of the presentations in that seven-part series included the following.

1. Prophecies about Christ’s Sovereignty
2. Prophecies about Christ’s Ancestry
3. Prophecies about Christ’s Birth
4. Prophecies about Christ’s Ministry

5. Prophecies about Christ's Suffering
6. Prophecies about Christ's Death
7. Prophecies about Christ's Resurrection

When I decided to refer to those seven concepts in the presentation about Christ being the living stone, I was restricted by time to mention the volume of material to support each concept. But I chose to mention a few scriptures for each point.

Christ's sovereignty

- Genesis 3:15—While the serpent did manage to bruise Christ's heel, Christ definitely bruised the serpent's head.
- Psalm 110:1—"Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies Your footstool." (This verse was referenced in Matthew 22:41-46, Acts 2:34-35 and Hebrews 1:13.)
- Psalm 110:4—"You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek." (This verse was referenced in Hebrews 5:6, Hebrews 5:10, Hebrews 6:20, Hebrews 7:11, Hebrews 7:17 and Hebrews 7:21.)

Christ's ancestry

- Genesis 49:10—"The scepter shall not depart from Judah."
- 1 Chronicles 5:1-2—The ruler came through Judah, but the birthright was given to Joseph.

Christ's birth

- Isaiah 7:14—"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."
- Micah 5:2—"Though you [Bethlehem] are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel."

Christ's ministry

- Isaiah 40:3-5—A messenger would prepare the way of the Lord.
- Isaiah 9:1-2—Christ's ministry would begin in Galilee. (Christ referred to Isaiah 9:1-2 in Matthew 4:15-16.)

Christ's suffering

- Psalm 22:1—"My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Christ spoke those words on the cross.)
- Psalm 22:7-8—"All those who see Me ridicule Me." The witnesses said: "He trusted in the Lord. Let Him rescue Him. Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him."
- Psalm 22:11—"There is none to help." (Matthew 26:56—they all forsook Him.)

■ Psalm 22:15—"My tongue clings to My jaws. (John 19:28—Christ said: "I thirst!")

■ Psalm 22:18—"They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots." (Read Matthew 27:35).

■ Isaiah 53:1-10—These verses described the sorrows, griefs, afflictions, wounds, bruises and chastisement of the Lamb.

Christ's death

■ Exodus 12:1-13—These verses talked about the Passover lamb—the blood came from a lamb without blemish. (Read 1 Peter 1:19.)

■ Exodus 12:46—There was to be no broken bone for the Passover lamb. (Read Numbers 9:12, Psalm 34:20 and John 19:32-36.)

Christ's resurrection

■ Psalm 2:7—"You are My Son. Today I have begotten You." (Read Acts 13:30, 33.)

■ Psalm 16:8—"Because He is at my right hand, I shall not be moved." (Read Acts 2:34-35.)

■ Psalm 16:10—"For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption." (Read Acts 2:27 and Acts 13:35.)

■ Psalm 16:11—"In Your presence is fullness of joy. At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore." (Read Acts 2:28.)

Final scriptures

After giving those scriptures for the seven concepts, I concluded the Bible study with three sections of Scripture.

■ Psalm 118:22-23—"The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing. It is marvelous in our eyes."

■ Isaiah 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."

■ Ephesians 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."