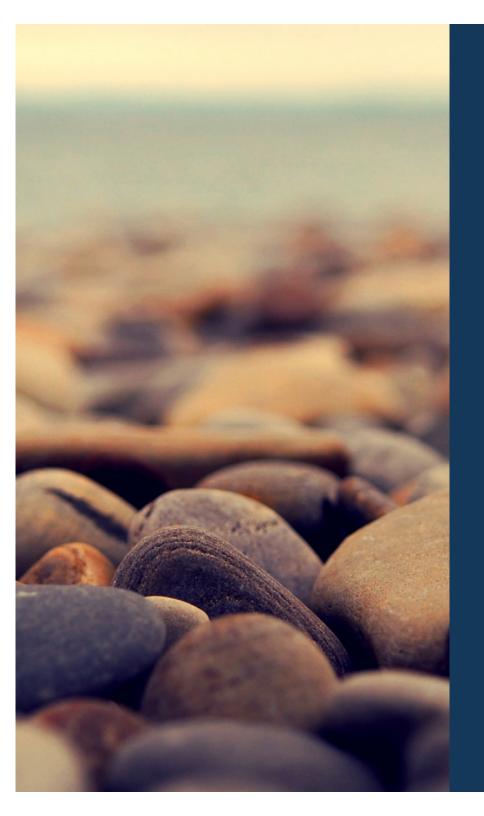
CHOICE AND PRECIOUS

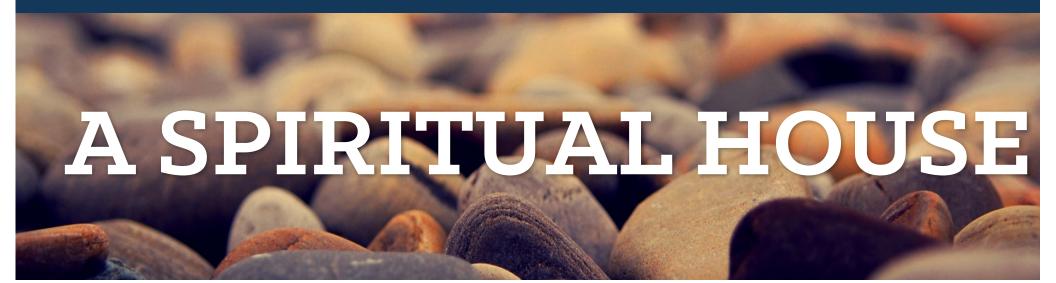


A LIVING STONE

- A "living stone", organic, vibrant, as opposed to just another brick in the wall of the Temple a building that Jesus said would be replaced by Himself after the resurrection (John 2:19).
- "Rejected" Like a stone inspected and deemed inadequate, Jesus was cast into the "scrap heap" when He failed to measure up to expectations (Luke 22:66ff).

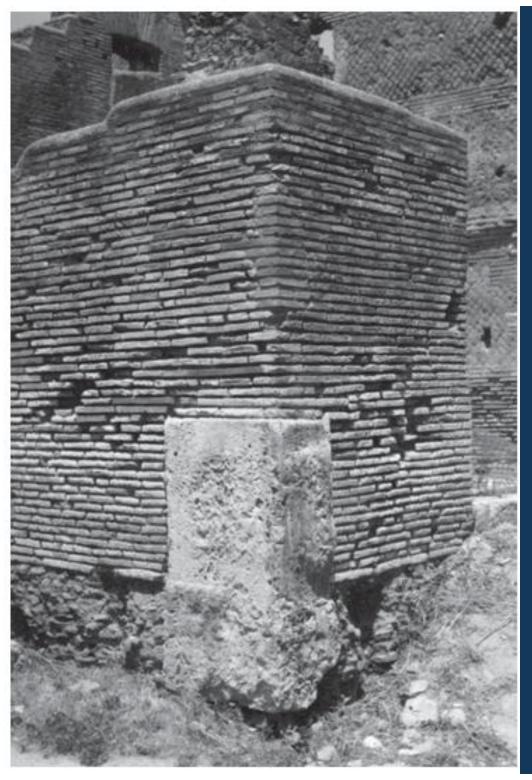
CHOICE AND PRECIOUS IN THE SIGHT OF

- "You also" We are asked to share in the suffering and alienation of Jesus (1 Pet. 2:21, Heb. 13:13).
- Though the cost appears high at first, things are not always what they appear to be. While losing things of the world we are actually investing in something eternal (Matt. 10:39, Jn. 12:25) and being built up into God's household, which is the church (1 Tim. 3:15).
- Words like "living", "built up", "offer", and "acceptable" are very empowering. Christians are not mindless automatons, but vibrant, engaged, energetic workers.



THE STONE

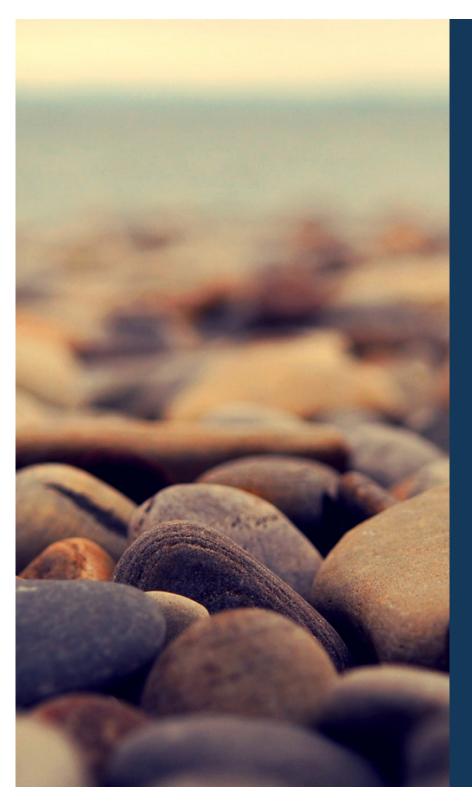
- The scriptures predicted what would happen to the choice and precious stone of God (Psalm 118:22). Jesus knew it would happen, as well (Luke 20:9-18). The apostles also used this fact in their preaching (Acts 4:11-12).
- "Shall not be disappointed" Think about how frustrated you are when some essential component of a car or house fails.
- There are two sides to Jesus. On the one hand, blessing for the believer, and on the other, nothing but disappointment and vexation for the unbeliever.



CORNERSTONE

- Jesus is called the cornerstone in Psalm 118:22. He quotes this very scripture to describe Himself in Luke 20:17.
- The cornerstone was no mere ornamentation as it is so often today. Every other stone in the structure depended on it.
 Precision was a necessity, as the other stones took their cue from it, so to speak.

THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS



PEOPLE OF GOD

- It is a bit paradoxical to realize that rejection can actually be a means to inclusion. We become God's people when we share in the suffering and alienation of His Son.
- Should this surprise us, though? Every aspect of our citizenship in Heaven defies worldly explanation and expectation. We become choice and precious to God when we embrace rejection by the world!