

THE SURE FOUNDATION

Text: Isaiah 28:16

INTRO: Those who have ever been involved in building a house or other large building do not need to be reminded how important a foundation is. No matter how costly or well built the building may be, it can never out-last its foundation. If and when the foundation gives way, the building will go down in destruction.

Our text points us to a sure and solid foundation in building lives that will endure to everlasting life.

I. I LAY IN ZION A STONE FOR A FOUNDATION.

- A. Though originally Mt. Zion was just a small part of the territory in and around Jerusalem, that term later came to be applied to the entire area.

Great is the Lord, & greatly to be praised in the city of our God, in His holy mountain. Beautiful in elevation, the joy of the whole earth is Mt. Zion on the sides of the north, the city of the great King. (Psa 48:1-2).

Do not swear... by the earth for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. (Matthew 5:35).

[Isaiah prophesied:] Many people shall come and say "Come & let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways & we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law & the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. (Isaiah 2:3).

- B. The Lord's church was established in Jerusalem or Zion as it is called in our text. Acts 2.

- C. [Those who are members of Christ's church have] come to Mt. Zion & to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem... to the general assembly & church of the firstborn... (Hebrews 12:22-23).

D. The stone, the foundation stone, is Christ.

Eph 2:19-20, Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints & members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.

1 Peter 2:4-8, Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, 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. 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." Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone," & "A stone of stumbling & a rock of offense." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

II. JESUS IS A **TRIED STONE**.

- A. Challenged His enemies to convict Him of sin, John 8:46.
- B. The High Priest & Jewish council had to seek false witnesses to testify against Him, MT 26:59-60
- C. Pilate could find no fault in Him at all, John 18:38.
- D. But the real test of Jesus--the real proof of His qualification as the foundation of an enduring life was His resurrection from the dead.

Jesus Christ our Lord... was born of the seed of David according to the flesh & declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. (Romans 1:3-4).

III. JESUS-OUR FOUNDATION STONE-IS A PRECIOUS STONE.

1 Peter 2:6.

- A. There is nothing we may possess as valuable as our soul,

Matthew 16:26.

B. We see the preciousness of Christ in that He provides the only way our souls can be redeemed from the guilt & consequences of sin. Acts 4:12; 1 Cor 3:11; JN 14:6
1 Peter 1:19

C. A realization of the preciousness of the blood of Christ should make us aware of the value of His church, for which He gave His blood. Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:25

IV. **CHRIST-OUR REDEEMER IS A PRECIOUS CORNER-STONE.** The cornerstone is the most important stone in a building. On it two walls come together & receive their stability.

A. In Jesus Deity & humanity come together. Rom. 1:3-4;
John 1:1-3, 14; 14:6; Heb. 1:1-2

B. He is the fulfillment of the O.T. & the mediator of the New.
Matt. 5:17; Heb. 9:15; 10:9 (est. 2nd)

C. In Him, both Jews & Gentiles are reconciled to God.

McKnight's expanded translation of Eph 2:20: "Being built, equally with the Jews, upon the foundation of the doctrine of the apostles & prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the bottom cornerstone, by which the 2 sides of the building are united & on which the whole corner rests."

In Matt. 21:42, Jesus applied a similar chief cornerstone passage, Psa 118:22-23 to Himself. In 1 Peter 2, Peter links both these texts with Isa 8:14 showing that the Jesus, rejected by the Jewish leaders of the 1st century, is indeed the One God sent to be the foundation of all true religion.

V. **JESUS, OUR ROCK, IS A FIRM FOUNDATION.**

A. His church is founded on the truth of His identity as the Son of God & that foundation is stronger than death.

Matthew 16:18.

B. His rule in our hearts makes possible to us a kingdom
which cannot be shaken or removed, Heb. 12:27; Dan.
2:44.

C. His words will never pass away, but will judge us in the
final judgment, Matt. 24:35; John 12:48.

CONCLUSION: We commend to you Jesus Christ & His gospel, just as it
taught in the N.T. Build your life on His truth & you will have made an
adequate preparation for time & eternity. Ignore Jesus & His teachings,
& when life is over, you will have been a failure.

La Porte, TX, November 20, 1983

Exton, PA, December 4, 1983

Exton, PA, November 25, 1983

Exton, PA, May 5, 1991

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, November 27, 1994

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, February 2, 2003