



# KING'S CHAPEL

## Daily Devotional - 1 Peter Study

Week 2 - Day 4

### Approaching God

**Read Psalm 19:7-11** - *The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb. By them your servant is warned; in keeping them there is great reward.*

**Open with Prayer:** Lord, I am so grateful that you don't make us guess about who you are, but that you speak directly to us. But if the Word is going to be sweet and life-giving to me, I must let it examine, search, and warn me. Help me have the discipline and faith to let it do that in my life today. Amen.

### Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - 1 Peter 2:4-8

**Passage Introduction:** Chapter 2:4-8 begins a new section in which Peter uses extensive Old Testament imagery to show the New Testament believers (both Jew & Gentile) are in fact a new 'people of God' who have come to possess all the blessings of Old Testament Israel but in far greater measure. This is meant to encourage believers to live before the world with that awareness, emphasizing both humility & submission.

**"BEN & EBEN":**  
*the word **stone** in ancient Hebrew is very like the word for **son**. Just as our word son has three out of the five letters of stone, so the Hebrew word for son, "**ben**", has three out of the four letters of the word for stone, "**eben**." How do the "stone" and the "son" join up? In a famous biblical promise quoted in Jesus' day, God promised David that his "son" would build the temple in Jerusalem, and that this son of David would actually be the son of God himself (2 Samuel 7:12-14).*

**1 Peter 2:4-8** - **4** As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, **5** you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. **6** For it stands in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." **7** So the honor is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," **8** and "A stone of stumbling, and a rock of offense. "They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

**Start with Engaging the Text:** Take a few minutes to highlight, circle, or underline key words. What words or ideas are repeated, related, compared, contrasted?

## Daily Study Questions

You may find it helpful to read through the commentary in “Resources for Further Study” at the end of today’s study to answer these questions.

### Questions for Study

- What image does Peter use to describe Christ & Christians in 2:4-5? “ \_\_\_\_\_ ”  
(Note how this image builds on his words from earlier sections of the letter: 1:3 - “he has caused us to be born again to a **living** hope.” and 1:23 - “you have been born again, not of perishable seed but of imperishable, through the **living** and abiding word of God.”)
- Four types of “stone” metaphors are applied to Jesus in this passage - one is Peter’s from the question above. The other three come from OT passages he quotes (Psalm 118:22, Isaiah 8:13-15, Isaiah 28:16) Look up these passages and note each metaphor next to its reference in 1 Peter. Using a dictionary to help, try to explain why each metaphor describes Jesus well.

2:4 -

2:6 - (Isa 28:16)

2:7 - (Ps. 118:22)

2:8 - (Isa 8:13-15)

- Summarize your observations about the original "living stone" (v. 4). What was the contrast between the true identity of that living stone and how he was misunderstood?

### Questions for Meditation & Application

- What do you think is meant by the phrase “and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame?” How does this impact you as you meditate on this promise today?
- Like Christ, what kinds of rejection have you faced as a “living stone?” How does such rejection shape your understanding of what it means to follow Him? Of what it means to enjoy fellowship with other “living stones?”

### Close in Prayer:

**Rejoice:** What one truth can you rejoice in from today’s passage?

**Repent:** What one issue is God bringing to your attention that you can confess and repent of?

**Request:** What one request do you have in light of today’s passage?

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## Resources for Further Study

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1 Peter chapter 2 notes

### Commentary & Notes on 1 Peter 2:4-8

**1 Peter 2:4** - As you come to him indicates a daily personal relationship with Christ, beginning at but not limited to the time of conversion. As believers continue in fellowship with Christ, they “are being built up as a spiritual house” (v. 5). Just as his followers suffer persecution, Jesus also was rejected by men. Still, he is risen from the dead and hence is the living stone—the foundation of God’s new temple. He is God’s elect (chosen) one, and as the exalted Lord he is honored above all.

**1 Peter 2:5** - Once more we see the pattern of gospel obedience: believers “offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God *through Jesus Christ*” (v. 5). Our sacrificial lives of devotion to the Lord are not what makes us acceptable to God. Jesus himself made the ultimate sacrifice on our behalf; in light of his great work of redemption, we devote ourselves wholeheartedly to the Lord of mercy. Believers are living stones in God’s new temple (i.e., spiritual house). Since the components that make up the house are “living,” the house itself is also growing: you yourselves ... are being built up. Peter sees that the OT temple anticipated the new temple where God dwells (i.e., in his people). But believers are not only God’s temple but are also a holy priesthood, which offers spiritual sacrifices (cf. Rom. 12:1; Phil. 4:18; Heb. 13:15–16) by the power of the Holy Spirit. 1 Pet. 2:6 In support of the idea that Jesus is the cornerstone (see note on Eph. 2:20) of God’s temple, Peter cites Isa. 28:16 (cf. Rom. 9:33; 10:11). Jesus is the elect Messiah whom God has honored by raising him from the dead. Those who put their trust in him will enjoy vindication on the last day.

**1 Peter 2:6** - Eschatological (i.e., end-time) honor belongs to believers, but unbelievers will find the prophecy from Ps. 118:22 fulfilled. The stone the builders repudiated is the foundation of God’s temple, his new people.

**1 Peter 2:7** - In stumbling, unbelievers fulfill the prophecy in Isa. 8:14, where the stone God has established becomes the means of their falling. Their stumbling, however, is their own fault, for they are tripped up because of their refusal to obey the “word” of the gospel. They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. Some understand this to teach that God has predestined not *who* will disobey but only what the *result* of disobedience will be for those who disobey (i.e., that those who disobey will stumble). It is more likely that Peter teaches that God appoints all that will occur (cf. note on Eph. 1:11). In teaching this, Peter does not deny human responsibility, for he emphasizes that people are guilty if they fail to believe (they “stumble because they disobey”).

*“All this means that we are a part of something much larger than ourselves. No matter where we are, no matter how small our gathering, we are God’s building project, God’s temple. And he will continue building it by bringing people from different ethnicities, generations and socio-economic backgrounds together in Christ. Wherever Christians are gathered throughout the world, God is there. Wherever there is a true church, there the rule of God is displayed and the worth of Christ—the fame of Christ—is proclaimed. When someone is converted, they become a living stone, brought into the church and built into the temple—Christianity is not an individual endeavor; we were created for community.”*

**Juan Sanchez: 1 Peter For You**