

1 Peter 2:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,

Analysis

Peter introduces Christ as living stone, foundation of spiritual house. "To whom coming" (pros hon prosechomenoi)—present participle indicating continuous action: believers keep coming to Christ. He is "a living stone" (lithon zōnta)—paradoxical imagery, as stones are typically dead/inert. Christ lives eternally, the cornerstone of God's building (the church). He is "disallowed indeed of men" (hypo anthrōpōn men apodedokimasmen on)—rejected by human builders who deemed Him unsuitable (fulfilled in Sanhedrin's rejection). Yet "chosen of God, and precious" (para de theō eklekton entimon)—God selected and valued Christ supremely. Human rejection doesn't nullify divine election. This anticipates verses 6-8's fuller development of cornerstone theme.

Historical Context

Peter alludes to Psalm 118:22 ("stone which builders rejected became chief cornerstone") and Isaiah 28:16 ("I lay in Zion a chief corner stone, elect, precious"). Jesus applied Psalm 118:22 to Himself (Matthew 21:42). Religious leaders rejected Jesus, but God vindicated Him through resurrection and exaltation. For persecuted believers facing rejection by Roman society and Jewish communities, this provided enormous encouragement—they aligned with God's chosen one, not human rejecters. Early church understood itself as built upon Christ the cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20-22).

Related Passages

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Psalms 19:1 — Heavens declare God's glory

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Study Questions

1. How does Christ's rejection by humans but election by God encourage you when facing rejection for faith?
2. What does it mean practically to keep 'coming to' Christ as living stone in daily Christian life?

Interlinear Text

πρὸς	ὃν	προσερχόμενοι	λίθον	ζῶντα	ὑπὸ
To	whom	coming	stone	as unto a living	of
G4314	G3739	G4334	G3037	G2198	G5259
ἀνθρώπων	μὲν	ἀποδοκιμασμένον	παρὰ	δὲ	θεῷ
men	indeed	disallowed	of	but	God
G444	G3303	G593	G3844	G1161	G2316
ἐκλεκτὸν	ἔντιμον				
chosen	and precious				
G1588	G1784				

Additional Cross-References

1 Peter 2:7 (Parallel theme): Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

Isaiah 28:16 (References God): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

Colossians 3:4 (Parallel theme): When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

Zechariah 3:9 (Parallel theme): For behold the stone that I have laid before Joshua; upon one stone shall be seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.

Zechariah 4:7 (Parallel theme): Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.

John 5:40 (Parallel theme): And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.

Daniel 2:34 (Parallel theme): Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.