

1 Peter 2:6

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

Analysis

Peter quotes Isaiah 28:16, introducing Scripture's testimony to Christ. "Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture" (dioti periechei en graphē) appeals to written word's authority. The quotation: "Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious" (idou tithēmi en Siōn lithon akrogōniaion eklekton entimon). God lays the stone (divine initiative), in Zion (covenant community), a cornerstone (foundation upon which everything rests), elect (divinely chosen), precious (infinitely valuable). The promise: "he that believeth on him shall not be confounded" (ho pisteuōn ep' autō ou mē kataischynthē)—believers won't be ashamed/disappointed. Faith in Christ brings security, never shame.

Historical Context

Isaiah's prophecy promised Messiah as covenant foundation. Peter, echoing Jesus (Matthew 21:42), affirms fulfillment in Christ. First-century believers facing shame from society (mocked for faith) received assurance: trusting Christ never brings ultimate shame but vindication. Cornerstone imagery signifies Christ's foundational role—entire spiritual building depends on Him. Early church, rejected by Judaism and Rome, found identity as God's new temple built on Christ.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does knowing Christ is God's elect, precious cornerstone strengthen your confidence when faith brings social shame or rejection?
2. What does it mean practically that believers 'shall not be put to shame'—both now and at final judgment?

Interlinear Text

διὸ	καὶ	περιέχει	ἐν	τῇ	γραφῇ	Ἰδοὺ,	τίθημι
Wherefore	also	it is contained	in	G3588	the scripture	Behold	I lay
G1352	G2532	G4023	G1722		G1124	G2400	G5087
ἐν	Σιὼν	λίθον	ἀκρογωνιαῖον	ἐκλεκτὸν	ἔντιμον	καὶ	ὁ
in	Sion	stone	a chief corner	elect	precious	also	G3588
G1722	G4622	G3037	G204	G1588	G1784	G2532	
πιστεύων	ἐπ'	αὐτῷ	οὐ	μὴ	καταισχυνθῇ		
he that believeth	on	him	G3756	G3361	confounded		
G4100	G1909	G846			G2617		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 28:16 (Faith): 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.

1 Peter 2:4 (Parallel theme): To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,

Ephesians 2:20 (Parallel theme): And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

Zechariah 10:4 (Parallel theme): Out of him came forth the corner, out of him the nail, out of him the battle bow, out of him every oppressor together.

Mark 12:10 (Word): And have ye not read this scripture; The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner:

Romans 10:11 (Faith): For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

Isaiah 50:7 (Parallel theme): For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.

Isaiah 42:1 (Parallel theme): Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

Isaiah 54:4 (Parallel theme): Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more.

John 7:38 (Faith): He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.