

1 Peter 2:8

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

Analysis

Peter identifies the second stone prophecy: "And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence" (kai lithos proskommatos kai petra skandalou), quoting Isaiah 8:14. Christ becomes obstacle causing unbelievers to trip and fall. The explanation: "even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient" (hoi proskouptousin tō logō apeithountes)—they stumble because they disobey the gospel message. The phrase "whereunto also they were appointed" (eis ho kai etethēsan) indicates divine appointment—God ordained that disobedience results in judgment. This doesn't mean God causes disobedience but that He determined disobedience's consequence. The stone that saves believers destroys unbelievers.

Historical Context

Isaiah 8:14 warned that God would become sanctuary for faithful but stumbling stone for rebels. Peter applies this to Christ—same person brings opposite effects depending on response. This demonstrates gospel's dual nature: savor of life to believers, stench of death to unbelievers (2 Corinthians 2:15-16). The Reformed doctrine of divine sovereignty appears in "appointed"—even judgment serves God's purposes. Early church recognized this sobering truth: Christ divides humanity into two groups—those who believe and are saved, those who disobey and perish.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Study Questions

1. How does understanding that Christ is either foundation or stumbling stone (no neutral ground) clarify the urgency of the gospel?
2. What comfort and warning does the doctrine that unbelievers are 'appointed' to judgment provide?

Interlinear Text

καὶ	λίθος	προσκόμματος	καὶ	πέτρα	σκανδάλου·
And	a stone	of stumbling	And	a rock	of offence
G2532	G3037	G4348	G2532	G4073	G4625
ὃ	προσκόπτουσιν	τῷ	λόγῳ	ἀπειθοῦντες	
even to them which	stumble	at the word	being disobedient		
G3739	G4350	G3588	G3056	G544	
εἰς	ὃ	καὶ	ἐτέθησαν		
whereunto	even to them which	And	they were appointed		
G1519	G3739	G2532	G5087		

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 8:14 (Parallel theme): And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

1 Corinthians 1:23 (Parallel theme): But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;

Romans 9:22 (Parallel theme): What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction:

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,

2 Peter 2:3 (Word): And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

Jude 1:4 (Parallel theme): For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 (Parallel theme): For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

Luke 2:34 (Parallel theme): And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against;

2 Corinthians 2:16 (Parallel theme): To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?