

Acts 4:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders,
which is become the head of the corner.

Analysis

Peter quotes Psalm 118:22 - 'the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner' - applying Israel's rejected-then-exalted stone to Christ. The Greek 'exouthenetheis' (set at nought) means 'counted as nothing,' revealing the depth of religious leaders' contempt. Yet God made this rejected stone the 'head of the corner' (Greek 'kephalēn gōnias,' cornerstone) - the critical stone uniting two walls, bearing the building's weight. The builders' rejection doesn't nullify God's choice.

Historical Context

Psalm 118, recited during Passover, celebrated God's unexpected deliverance. Jesus quoted this verse predicting His rejection (Matthew 21:42). Peter now fulfills this prophecy, identifying the 'builders' (religious leaders) as Christ's rejectors. Ancient construction required cornerstones to align entire structures - Christ performs this role cosmically.

Related Passages

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does human rejection of Christ serve God's purposes in making Him cornerstone?
2. What does it mean that Christ is the 'head of the corner' for the church's unity and stability?

Interlinear Text

οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ λίθος ὁ ἐξουθενηθεὶς ὑφ' ὑμῶν
This is which the stone which was set at nought of you
G3778 G2076 G3588 G3037 G3588 G1848 G5259 G5216

ὁ οἰκοδομούντων, ὁ γενόμενος εἰς κεφαλὴν γωνίας
which builders which is become of the head the corner
G3588 G3618 G3588 G1096 G1519 G2776 G1137

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 28:16 (Parallel theme): 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.

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.