

Isaiah 28:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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.

Analysis

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. Against false refuges (v.15), God provides true foundation. **I lay in Zion** (yissad be-Tsiyon, יִסַּד בְּצִיּוֹן, I have founded in Zion) emphasizes God's sovereign act. The fourfold description of **a stone** (even, אֶבֶן): **a tried stone** (even bochan, אֶבֶן בִּחָן, a testing stone, proven stone), **a precious corner stone** (pinnat yiqrat, פִּנְנַת יִקְרָא, corner of preciousness), **a sure foundation** (musar musad, מוֹסַד מוֹסַד, foundation established/founded). This stone is tested, precious, and permanently established.

New Testament universally applies this to Christ: Romans 9:33, 1 Peter 2:6-8 quote this directly. Jesus is the cornerstone rejected by builders (Matthew 21:42, Acts 4:11). Ephesians 2:20 identifies Christ as chief cornerstone on which the church is built. **He that believeth shall not make haste** (lo yachish, לֹא יַחִישׁ, shall not hurry, panic, flee in haste) or as 1 Peter 2:6 translates, "shall not be confounded/ashamed." Believers in Christ have unshakable foundation—no need for panicked self-protection or anxious scheming. Trust in the tested, precious cornerstone brings calm confidence versus the frantic covenant-making of verse 15.

Historical Context

This prophecy awaited Christ for full fulfillment. Jesus is the stone tested through temptation and suffering, proven perfectly obedient. He's precious to believers (1 Peter 2:7), the cornerstone aligning the entire building (church). Those who build on Him won't be shaken when storms come (Matthew 7:24-27). Jewish leaders rejected this stone and stumbled (Romans 9:32-33). Gentiles believed and were built on it (Ephesians 2:19-22). The church rests on Christ's sure foundation, not shifting political alliances or human strategies.

Related Passages

1 John 4:8 — God is love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. How is Christ the 'tried stone'—tested and proven—and why does this matter for believers' confidence?
2. What does it mean practically that those who believe in Christ 'shall not make haste' (won't panic or flee)?
3. In what areas of life are you building on Christ the cornerstone versus building on false foundations that will crumble?

Interlinear Text

לֵכִי	כֹּה	אָמַר	יְהוָה	אֵלֹהֵינוּ	מוֹטֵד
H3651	H3541	Therefore thus saith	the Lord	GOD	Behold I lay
		H559	H136	H3069	H3245
בְּצִיּוֹן	אֶבֶן	אֶבֶן	אֶבֶן	בִּחַן	פִּנֵּת
in Zion	for a foundation a stone	for a foundation a stone	a tried	corner	
H6726	H68	H68	H976	H6438	
יְקָרָת	מוֹטֵד	מוֹטֵד	הַמֵּאֲמֵן	לֹא	יִחְיֶשׁ:
a precious	foundation	Behold I lay	he that believeth		shall not make haste
H3368	H4143	H3245	H539	H3808	H2363

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 118:22 (Parallel theme): The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.

Romans 9:33 (Faith): As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

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

Matthew 21:42 (References Lord): Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

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

1 Corinthians 3:11 (Parallel theme): For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

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

Zechariah 3:9 (References Lord): 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.

Genesis 49:24 (References God): But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the hands of the mighty God of Jacob; (from thence is the shepherd, the stone of Israel:)

Isaiah 30:18 (References God): And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him.

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