

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, 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 בָּחוּן, a testing stone, proven stone), **a precious corner stone** (pinnat yiqrat, פִּנְתַּחַת יִקְרָאת, corner of preciousness), **a sure foundation** (musar musad, תָּסִין תָּסִין, 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, שֹׁׁחֵן לֹא, 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

מֹעֵד תְּהִלָּה לְכָא | אָמַר אָדָן | הַבָּנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהִים |

H3651 H3541 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD

H559 H136 H3069

H2005

Behold I lay

H3245

גַּת בְּזִין אָבִן | בָּצְיָה וְ |

in Zion for a foundation a stone for a foundation a stone a tried corner

H6726 H68 H68 H976 H6438

לֹא בְּמַאֲמֵן יְהִי קָרְבָּת: יְחִישׁ:

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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