

Mark 12:10

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And have ye not read this scripture; The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner:

Analysis

In the parable of the vineyard tenants, Jesus said: 'Have ye not read this scripture; The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner' (Οὐδὲ τὴν γραφὴν ταύτην ἀνέγνωτε, Λίθον δὲ ἀπεδοκίμασαν οἱ οἰκοδομοῦντες, οὗτος ἔγενήθη εἰς κεφαλὴν γωνίας;). This quotes Psalm 118:22-23, applying it to Himself. The 'builders' are Israel's leaders who rejected Jesus. The 'cornerstone' (κεφαλὴν γόνιας, κεφαλὴν γωνίας) is the foundational stone determining building alignment. Jesus, rejected by religious authorities, becomes foundation of God's new temple, the church (Ephesians 2:20-22; 1 Peter 2:6-8). This reversal—rejected stone becoming essential—illustrates gospel paradox: what humans despise, God exalts. The crucified Christ becomes salvation's cornerstone.

Historical Context

Psalm 118 was messianic psalm sung at Passover and Feast of Tabernacles. The 'stone' imagery had building/temple associations. Jesus applied it to Himself after the parable condemning Jewish leaders for killing God's son (Mark 12:1-9). Early church extensively used this text (Acts 4:11; Romans 9:32-33; Ephesians 2:20; 1 Peter 2:6-8). Peter, quoting this before the Sanhedrin, identified them as the 'builders' who rejected Jesus (Acts 4:11). The imagery became foundational for ecclesiology—Christ as cornerstone, apostles/prophets as foundation, believers as living stones (1 Peter 2:5). The rejected stone's exaltation demonstrates God's sovereignty reversing human judgments.

Related Passages

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Study Questions

1. How does the rejected stone becoming cornerstone illustrate the gospel pattern of God exalting what humans despise?
2. What does Christ as cornerstone teach about His centrality to the church's foundation and identity?

Interlinear Text

οὐδὲ	τὴν	γραφὴν	οὗτος	ἀνέγνωτε	Λίθον	ὅν
not	G3588	scripture	is	And have ye	The stone	which
G3761		G1124	G3778	G314	G3037	G3739
ἀπεδοκίμασαν	οἱ	οἰκοδομοῦντες	οὗτος	ἐγενήθη	εἰς	
rejected	G3588	the builders	is	G1096	become	
G593		G3618	G3778		G1519	
κεφαλὴν	γωνίας·					
the head	of the corner					
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.

Matthew 21:42 (Word): 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?

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

Matthew 21:16 (Parallel theme): And said unto him, Hearest thou what these say? And Jesus saith unto them, Yea; have ye never read, Out of the mouth of babes and sucklings thou hast perfected praise?

Mark 2:25 (Parallel theme): And he said unto them, Have ye never read what David did, when he had need, and was an hungred, he, and they that were with him?

Matthew 19:4 (Parallel theme): And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,