

Matthew 21:42

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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?

Analysis

The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner—Jesus quotes Psalm 118:22-23, identifying Himself as the rejected stone (λίθον ὃν ἀπεδοκίμασαν, lithon hon apedokimasan). The 'builders' (religious leaders) assessed Messiah and rejected Him as unsuitable. Yet God made this rejected stone κεφαλὴν γωνίας (kephalēn gōnias)—the cornerstone, the foundation of the new temple (Eph 2:20).

This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes—God's wisdom inverts human evaluation. What experts reject, God exalts. The crucified carpenter becomes the cornerstone of salvation. Human rejection doesn't nullify divine purpose—it fulfills it. Jesus connects the parable's son to Messianic prophecy, making His identity unmistakable.

Historical Context

Psalm 118 was sung during Passover celebrations—Jesus's hearers knew it intimately. The 'hosannas' of the Triumphal Entry (v.9) quoted this same psalm. Now Jesus reveals its Messianic meaning: the stone rejected by Israel's builders becomes the foundation of God's new temple, the Church, built of living stones (1 Pet 2:4-8).

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How does Christ as the 'rejected stone' comfort you when you face rejection for faithful obedience?
2. In what areas might you be functioning as a 'builder' who rejects what God has chosen because it doesn't match your expectations?

Interlinear Text

λέγει αὐτοῖς ὁ Ἰησοῦς Οὐδέποτε ἀνέγνωτε ἐν ταῖς
saith **unto them** G3588 **Jesus** **never** **Did ye** **in** G3588
G3004 G846 G2424 G3763 G314 G1722

γραφαῖς Λίθον ὃν ἀπεδοκίμασαν οἱ οἰκοδομοῦντες
the scriptures **The stone** **which** **rejected** G3588 **the builders**
G1124 G3037 G3739 G593 G3618

αὕτη ἐγένετο εἰς κεφαλὴν γωνίας· παρὰ κυρίου
the same **doing** G1519 **the head** **of the corner** **is** **the Lord's**
G3778 G1096 G2776 G1137 G3844 G2962

ἐγένετο αὕτη καὶ ἔστιν θαυμαστὴ ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖς ἡμῶν
doing **the same** **and** **it is** **marvellous** **in** **eyes** **our**
G1096 G3778 G2532 G2076 G2298 G1722 G3788 G2257

Additional Cross-References

Isaiah 28:16 (References Lord): 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.

Acts 4:11 (Parallel theme): This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

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

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.

Habakkuk 1:5 (Parallel theme): Behold ye among the heathen, and regard, and wonder marvellously: for I will work a work in your days, which ye will not believe, though it be told you.

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