

Psalms 118:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The stone which the builders refused is become the head
stone of the corner.

Analysis

"The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner." This messianic verse uses construction imagery. Even *ma'asu habonim* (stone rejected by the builders) pictures builders examining stones, discarding one as unsuitable. *Ma'as* (refuse/reject/despise) indicates conscious rejection after examination. *Haytah l'rosh pinah* (became the head of corner) pictures this rejected stone becoming the cornerstone—the crucial stone determining building alignment, bearing weight, holding structure together. The paradox: what builders deemed worthless proved most essential. Jesus applied this to Himself (Matthew 21:42, Mark 12:10, Luke 20:17)—rejected by Jewish leaders yet chosen by God as foundation. Peter preaches this (Acts 4:11), and Paul develops the metaphor (Ephesians 2:20-22, 1 Peter 2:6-8). God's chosen Messiah was rejected by human authorities yet exalted as cornerstone of redemptive building.

Historical Context

Israel's leaders repeatedly rejected God's messengers—prophets were persecuted, true worshipers marginalized, righteous suffered while wicked prospered. David was rejected by Saul and opposed by Absalom. Yet God vindicated David, establishing his throne. The ultimate fulfillment came in Jesus—rejected by chief priests, scribes, Pharisees, Herodians, and Sadducees, handed over to Romans for crucifixion. Yet God raised Him, exalting Him to highest place (Philippians 2:9-11). Early church experienced similar pattern—rejected by synagogue authorities yet

chosen by God for gospel proclamation. Church history shows God's pattern: what religious/political establishments reject, God often vindicates.

Related Passages

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

1 John 4:8 — God is love

Study Questions

1. How does God's pattern of choosing what humans reject challenge your evaluations of people and ministries?
2. In what ways might you be guilty of "rejecting the stone" God has chosen by dismissing people or truths deemed unsuitable?
3. How does Christ as the cornerstone provide stability and alignment for individual and corporate Christian life?

Interlinear Text

אֶבֶן	מָאָס וְ	הַבּוֹנֵי יָם	הָ יָתָה	לְרֹאשׁ
The stone	refused	which the builders	H1961	is become the head
H68	H3988	H1129		H7218

פֶּנֶה:
stone of the corner
H6438

Additional Cross-References

Luke 20:17 (Parallel theme): And he beheld them, and said, What is this then that is written, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner?

Matthew 21:42 (Parallel theme): 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?

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.

Zechariah 4:7 (Parallel theme): Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.

From KJV Study • kjevstudy.org