

The First Letter of St Peter - *Encouraging words for our time.*

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Session Four : Living Stones

Warm Up Exercise

Simon was given the name ROCK by Jesus (Cephass Aramaic, Petros NT Greek). Look up on Google images of men named Rock or Rocky. How do they fit with your image of Rock (Peter)? Email us your favourite image of Rock.

Read: 1 Peter 2:4-10

As Jesus was going out of the Temple one of his disciples said to him, "Teacher behold what wonderful stones and what wonderful buildings" Mark 13:1 (NASV)

Artist's Impression of the Temple at the Time of Jesus.



Study the image above. How many of the different types of stones mentioned in this week's passage can you identify?

Match up, as far as possible, the following Bible verses with the different types of stones.

Old Testament (Law, Prophets & writings): Genesis 49:24; Leviticus 19:14; Isaiah 8:13&14; Isaiah 28:16; Psalm 18:2; Psalm 118:19-24 (*probably the psalm sung by pilgrims entering Jerusalem the first Palm Sunday?*)

The Gospels: Matthew 16:18; Matthew 21:42-44; Mark 11:15-18; Mark 14:57&58; Luke 19:37-44; Luke 21:5&6; John 2:18-20

NT Epistles: Romans 9:31&32; Romans 14:13; 1 Corinthians 3:16&17; 2 Corinthians 3:7&8;

This passage in 1 Peter sounds to me, as a preacher, like a sermon outline. Optional: Write your own sermon outline on this passage (no more than one sheet A4): Classic three point sermon with a good introduction and strong conclusion which draws out the relevance for us today.

Is this stone passage Peter's signature sermon (Acts 4:11) or does it actually relate to the theme of his whole letter? *Discuss with your Bible study partner, if you have one; review your notes so far. You will need to be clear in your mind to solve this one!*

Clue: Do the stones refer to Jesus or to us? (For a similar but different voice of Hebrews 12:14-29)



Israel is a very rocky land. It is full of native rocks that jut up out of the ground which can be tripping stones or stumbling blocks. Jesus, Peter and others are described variously as stumbling blocks in the following passages. What differentiates them? 1 Corinthians 1:23; Matthew 16:23; Matthew 18:6&7

How can we avoid being a stumbling block to others?



The book of Revelation says we will each receive a new name written on a stone from Jesus (Revelation 2:17). Have you any thoughts on what yours might be?

The next session 5. We will look at Peter's Exhortations and Imperatives.