

# ROCK OF OFFENSE

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"And coming to Him (Jesus), as unto a **Living Stone**, rejected indeed by men, but chosen and precious alongside God, you also, as living stones, are being built up into a spiritual house, into a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Therefore, also it is contained in the scripture, 'Behold, I lay in Zion **a Stone**, a chosen and precious **Chief Corner Stone**; and he who believes on Him shall not be put to shame.' Therefore, unto you who believe He is precious; but unto those who disbelieve, **the Stone** which the builders rejected, **the Same** has been made the **Head of the Corner** (the Chief Corner-stone), and a **Stone of Stumbling**, and a **Rock of Offense**, even to those who **stumble at the word**, being disobedient; to which also they were appointed." (1 Peter 2:4-8)

"What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, who followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith. But Israel, who followed after the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. Why? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that **Stone of Stumbling**; as it is written, 'Behold, I lay in Zion a **Stone of Stumbling** and a **Rock of Offense**; and whoever believes on Him shall not be ashamed.' " (Romans 9:30-33)

**Rock:** from the Greek word *petra* which means: a mass of connected rock; solid or native bed-rock rising up through the earth.

**Offense:** from the Greek word *skandalou* which means: a stick for bait (of a trap), generally a snare, figuratively - an offense. Properly, the trigger of a trap (the mechanism closing a trap down on the unsuspecting victim); sometimes translated 'stumbling-block'; figuratively - an offense, putting a negative cause-and-effect relationship into motion. Stresses the method (means) of entrapment, i.e. how someone is caught by their own devices (like their personal bias, or carnal thinking).

This title speaks of two concepts concerning Christ Jesus:

1. Jesus is the **Rock!** He is the solid Bed-Rock promised Messiah – the Christ, the Son of the living God; anointed by the Father as the Savior of the World.
2. The facts that Jesus is the promised Messiah – the Christ, the Son of the living God; anointed by the Father as the Savior of the World – these facts will be an **offense** to many people!

Thus Jesus is, and will continue to be, a **Rock of Offense** to many people! Consider the truth implied by this title of Christ Jesus in the following scripture quotes:

"For the preaching of the cross is to them who perish foolishness; but unto us who are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save those who believe. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom; But **we preach Christ crucified**, unto the Jews an **offense (a stumbling)**, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the Power of God, and the Wisdom of God." (1 Corinthians 1:18-24)

"And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the **Offense of the Cross** has ceased." (Galatians 5:11)(by Grace we are saved through the death of Christ on the Cross! And not by circumcision and the works of the law.)

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“But he who received the seed into stony places, the same is he who hears the word, and right away receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while; but when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, he quickly stumbles (is offended, or falls away) (from skandalizetai).” (Matthew 13:20-21)

“And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these parables, He departed from there. And when He had come into His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, 'From where has this Man this wisdom, and these mighty works? Is He not the Carpenter's Son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas; and His sisters, are they not all with us? From where then has this Man all these things?' And they were **offended-stumbled** in Him. But Jesus said unto them, 'A prophet is not without honor, except in his own country, and in his own house.' And He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.” (Matthew 13:53-57-58)

“Then Jesus said unto them, 'Truly, truly, I say unto you, except you eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh, and drinks My blood, has eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is meat indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh, and drinks My blood, dwells in Me, and I in him. As the living Father has sent Me, and I live by the Father; so he who eats Me, even he shall live by Me. This is that Bread who came down from heaven; not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead; but he who eats of this Bread shall live forever.' These things said He in the synagogue, as he taught in Capernaum. Many therefore of His disciples, when they had heard this, said, 'This is a difficult saying; who can listen to it?' When Jesus knew in Himself that His disciples grumbled at this, He said unto them, 'Does this offend-stumble you?' ... From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no longer with Him. (John 6:53-66)

These passages are just a few of many things spoken by Jesus that offended the unbelievers who were stumbled at the word of Christ. But Jesus also did things, and spoke words to His disciples that would help them to not be offended or stumbled:

“Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and tell John again those things which you do hear and see: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he, whoever shall not be offended-stumbled in Me.” (Matthew 11:5-6)

“These things have I spoken unto you, **that you should not be offended/stumbled.**” (John 16:1 - in reference to things spoken by Jesus in John 15:12-27, which read)

## JESUS is...

### a Rock of Offense

**He is Christ Crucified: unto the Jews an Offense (a Stumbling Block),  
and unto the Greeks foolishness**

**He was a Prophet without honor in His own Country**

**Lord Jesus, blessed are we who are not offended or stumbled in You!  
for You are the power unto salvation for all those who believe in You!**

**Lord Jesus You are the Power of God, and the Wisdom of God !!  
Always and always!!**