

STONE OF STUMBLING

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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)
(quote from Isaiah 28:16)

"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 Rock of Offense**; and whoever believes on Him shall not be ashamed.'" (Romans 9:30-33) (quote from Isaiah 8:14, & 28:16)

"Sanctify the LORD of Hosts Himself; and let Him be your fear, and let Him be your dread; and He shall become a sanctuary; but to both the houses of Israel a **Stone of Stumbling** (of striking) and a Rock of Offense (of stumbling); and a trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem. And many among them shall stumble, and fall, and be broken, and be snared, and be taken." (Isaiah 8:13-14-15)

Stone: from the Greek word *lithon* (lithos) which means: a stone; a primary word; a stone (literally or figuratively); used of Jesus as He Himself being the Chief Stone in a building – the Church. (Hebrew: *ul'le en* – a stone, or an object (brick) made of stone)

Stumbling: from the Greek word *proskommatos* which means: a stumbling, an occasion of stumbling; a stumbling-block, an occasion for falling, a moral embarrassment; an obstacle in the way which if one strike his foot against it he necessarily stumbles or falls; figuratively - that over which the soul stumbles, and by which someone is caused to sin. (Hebrew: *negeph* - a blow, a striking, a plague, a stumbling)

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).

Jesus is, and was, a **Stone of Stumbling** to many people; especially to those people who "**Stumble at the word**" – His Word concerning Himself – as to who He was! Consider these these situations and sayings of Jesus that caused people to stumble in unbelief:

"Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much soil: and after they sprung up, and because they had no deepness of soil; and when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away." ... "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)." (Matthew 13:5-6, & 20-21)

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“... 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)

“... Afterward Jesus found him in the Temple, and said unto him, 'Behold, you have been made whole, sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto you.' But the man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him whole. Therefore the Jews were persecuting Jesus, and were seeking to kill Him, because he had done these things on the sabbath day. But Jesus answered them, 'My Father is working until now, and I am working.' Therefore the Jews were seeking even more to kill Him, because not only had He broken the sabbath, **but said also that God was His Father, making Himself equal with God.**” (John 5:1-18 - read in context)

“Jesus answered them and said, 'Truly, truly, I say unto you, 'You seek Me, not because you saw the miracles, but because you ate of the loaves, and were filled.' From that time many of His disciples went back, and walked no more with Him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, 'Will you also go away?' Then Simon Peter answered Him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the Words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that You are that Christ, the Son of the living God.' “ (John 6:26-69 – please read in context)

“... Truly, truly, I say unto you, **If a man keeps My Word, he shall never see death.** Then the Jews said unto Him, 'Now we know that You have a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and You say, 'If a man keeps **My Words**, he shall never taste of death. Are You greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead; whom do You make Yourself to be?' ... Then they took up stones to cast at Him; but Jesus hid Himself, and went out of the Temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by. (John 8:44-59 - read in context)

“Truly, truly, I say unto you, he who enters not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber. ... Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life, that I might take it up again. No man takes it from Me, but I lay it down Myself. ... therefore there was a division again among the Jews because of these Words. And many of them said, 'He has a devil, and is mad; why listen to Him?' Others said, 'These are not the **Words** of one who has a devil. Can a devil open the eyes of the blind?' “ (John 10:1-21 – please read in context)

“Jesus cried and said, He who believes on Me, believes not on Me, but on Him who sent Me. And he who sees Me sees Him who sent Me. I am come a light into the world, that whoever believes on Me should not abide in darkness. And if any man hears My Words, and does not believe, I judge him not; for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world. He who rejects Me, and does not receive My Words, has one who judges him. **The Word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.** For I have not spoken of Myself; but the Father who sent Me, He gave Me a commandment, of what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that His commandment is life everlasting; therefore whatever I speak, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.” (John 12:44-50 – please read in context)

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“Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, who planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, ...; Jesus said unto them, 'Did you never read in the scriptures, **'The Stone which the builders rejected, the same has become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?'** Therefore say I unto you, the Kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits of it. And whoever shall fall on **this Stone** shall be broken; but on whomever it shall fall, it will grind him to dust.' And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard His parables, they perceived that He spoke of them. But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they held Him (Jesus) to be a Prophet.” (Matthew 21:33-46 - read in context)

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:

“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)

“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 Stone of Stumbling

**He is a Stone of Stumbling to those who do not receive His words!
He is a Stone of Stumbling to those who fear His influence on the people!
He is a Stone of Stumbling to those who adhere to the old covenant Law!
He is a Stone of Stumbling to those who reject Him as the Chief Corner-stone!**

**Although rejected indeed by men, He is chosen and precious alongside God!
The Stone who the builders rejected, the same has become the Chief Cornerstone;
this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes!!**

**Lord Jesus You are the Living Stone, the Chief Corner-stone,
and we are the living stones, who are being built up into a spiritual house in You!!**

**All Praise, and Glory, and Honor, be Yours forever and ever!
Thank You Lord Jesus for the righteousness that I have through Faith in You!**

Amen, and Amen!!