

# TESTED STONE

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"Therefore hear the word of the LORD, 'You scornful men, who rule this people who are in Jerusalem. Because you have said, 'We have made a covenant with death, and with Sheol we are in agreement. When the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us; for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves. Therefore thus says the Lord GOD, 'Behold, I firmly-place (establish) in Zion **a Stone**, a **Tested Stone**, a **Precious (Costly) Cornerstone**, a firmly-placed (established) **Foundation**. He who believes shall not act hastily.' " (Isaiah 28:9-16)

**Tested:** from the Hebrew word **bohan** which means: tried, or tested. (from bochan baw-khan' a primitive root; to test, or a testing (especially metals); generally and figuratively, to investigate:--to examine, to prove, to tempt, to try.

**Stone:** from the Hebrew word **en** which means: a stone, a rock broken free from bedrock, or an object carved from stone, such as or a brick, or block, a foundation stone, or some other object.

**Tried Stone:** a stone approved by someone, by prior testing and examination, often for use as a foundation-stone; which was laid upon the chiseled surface of bedrock, along with other tried stones to form the foundation for a structure such as a house, or the Temple.

In context: the Lord GOD (the Father) will, and now has Himself, established and firmly placed in Zion (in Israel) a Stone, **a Tested, Tried, and Proven Stone**; and a Costly and Precious Head-Cornerstone as a firmly placed, and well established **Foundation**. Jesus is the Living Stone who has been tested by the Father, and was approved by the Father to be the Costly and Precious Head Cornerstone of the House of God (the Church). The analogy of comparing the promised Messiah Jesus with a costly, and tested foundational cornerstone, is drawn from the planing and construction of the First Temple built by Solomon. Consider this passage:

"And king Solomon raised a levy out of all Israel; and the levy was thirty thousand men. And he sent them to Lebanon, ten thousand a month by courses: a month they were in Lebanon, and two months at home: and Adoniram was over the levy. And Solomon had 70 thousand that bore burdens, and 80 thousand stone cutters in the mountains; Beside the chief of Solomon's officers which were over the work, three thousand and three hundred, who ruled over the people who were doing the work. And the king commanded, and they brought **great stones, costly stones, and hewed stones**, to lay the foundation of the house. And Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders did cut them, and the Gebalites. And so they prepared timber and stones to build the house (the Temple). (1 Kings 5:1....13-18 - please read in context)

Just as the House of God, the Temple, was founded upon great and costly 'cut' stones; so also now The Temple of God, the Church, is founded upon Jesus: **the tested, and tried, and costly Head Cornerstone**. And we, the members of the church of God, as living stones, are being built upon the firmly placed **Living Foundation Stone** who is Jesus the Christ, the Son of the Living God! (please read John 2:18-21; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 2 Corinthians 6:16)

Before Jesus became the firmly-placed, well established, and secure Foundation of the Church of God, He first had to be proven to be a **Tested Stone**!

**Tested, Tempted:** from the Greek word **peirazó** which means: to test, to tempt, to make proof of, to attempt; most often means either test or tempt; the context alone determines which sense is intended, or if both apply simultaneously.

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Consider the Following:

“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He was afterwards hungry. And when the tempter came to Him, he said, 'If You are the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.' But He answered and said, 'It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.' Then the devil took Him to the Holy City, and stood Him on a pinnacle of the Temple, and said unto Him, 'If You are the Son of God, cast Yourself down; for it is written, 'He shall give His angels charge concerning You; and in their hands they shall bear You up, lest at any time You dash Your foot against a stone.' Jesus said unto him, 'It is written again, you shall not test the Lord your God.' Again, the devil took Him up onto an exceeding high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; and said unto Him, 'All these things will I give You, if You will fall down and worship me.' Then said Jesus unto him, 'begone Satan; for it is written, you shalt worship the Lord your God, and Him only shalt you serve.' Then the devil left Him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto Him.” (Matthew 4:1-11)

“And they sent unto Him certain of the Pharisees and of the Herodians, to trap Him in His words. And when they had come, they said unto Him, 'Teacher, we know that You are true, and favor no man; for You do not regard the person of men, but teach the way of God in truth; Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar, or not? Shall we give, or shall we not give?' But He, knowing their hypocrisy, said unto them, 'Why are you testing Me? bring me a coin, that I may see it.' And they brought it. And He said unto them, 'Whose is this image and superscription?' And they said unto Him, 'Caesar's.' And Jesus answered them, 'Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.' And they marveled at Him..” (Mark 12:13-17)

“The Pharisees also came unto him, testing Him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for any cause? And He answered and said unto them, 'Have you not read, .....” (Matthew 19:3-12 please read in context)

“... And they say unto Him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned; but what do You say?' This they said, testing Him, so that they might accuse Him...” (John 8:3-11 please read in context)

“But when the Pharisees had heard that He had put the Sadducees to silence, they gathered together. Then one of them, who was a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and said, ....” (Matthew 22:34-39 please read in context)

Note: what Jesus said and taught, and how He answered and responded to the testings and temptations of His adversaries; these words, and many more, of Christ Jesus are what proved Him to be a Tested Stone worthy and qualified to be the rock-solid Head Foundational Cornerstone – approved by His father in Heaven!

Perhaps the greatest Test that Jesus had to endure was the Cross:

“Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said unto the disciples, 'Sit here, while I go and pray over there.' And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very distressed. Then He said unto them, 'My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death; remain here, and keep watch with Me.' And He went a little further, and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, 'O My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; but not as I will, but as You will.' And He came unto the disciples, and found them asleep, ....” (Matthew 26:36-46 please read)

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“And when they had come to the place, which is called Calvary, **there they crucified Him**, and the criminals, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. Then said Jesus, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.' .... And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in the midst. And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, He said, '**Father, into Your hands I commend My Spirit;**' and having said this, He breathed His last.” (Luke 23:33-34, 44-46)

“Therefore seeing that we also are surrounded about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of our faith; **who, for the joy that was set before Him, endured the cross**, despising the shame, and has sat down at the Right Hand of the Throne of God. For consider Him who endured such hostility of sinners against Himself, lest you be wearied and faint in your minds.” (Hebrews 12:1-3)

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus; who, **being in the Form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God**: But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Himself the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men. And being found in fashion as a man, **He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross**. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him, and given Him a Name which is above every name; so that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, **to the glory of God the Father**. (Philippians 2:5-11))

Jesus was truly a Tested Stone! For us He was truly proven to be a Costly and Precious Cornerstone. Jesus, and His words are the sure foundation upon which His church is founded and established! Therefore:

“Seeing then that we have a Great High Priest, who has passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we do have have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses; but was in all things **tested** like us, **yet without sin**. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.(Hebrews 4:14-16)

## JESUS is...

### a Tested Stone

**He is a Tried and Proven and Costly Corner Stone!  
He is the Foundation Stone upon whom the Father builds His Church!  
His word is the Bedrock upon which we build our spiritual House!**

**Lord Jesus, for the joy that was set before you, our salvation, You endured the Cross!  
For my redemption – You humbled Yourself – and in obedience to the Father...  
... were crucified on the Cross, and died in my place for the forgiveness of my sin!**

**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God, the Fathers Tested Stone ...  
... Upon whom You will build Your Church!  
Upon You I place my trust! Upon You my faith is built!**

**And the gates of hell shall not prevail against us!!**