

# *Stumbling Stone*

Isaiah 8:14 & 1 Peter 2:4-12

*He will be a stone that causes men to stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall. Isaiah 8:14*

*...you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house  
to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable  
to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:5*

## **Isaiah foretold the REJECTION of The Rock of Israel**

*...he will be a stone that causes men to stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall.*

## **Peter to the persecuted: you together have a holy CALLING**

*As you come to him, the living Stone-- rejected by men but chosen by  
God and precious to him--you also, like living stones, are being built  
into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual  
sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

## **Using Isaiah's image, Peter affirmed their decision of FAITH**

*For in Scripture it says:*

*"See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone,  
and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame."*

*Now to you who believe, this stone is precious.*

*But to those who do not believe,*

*"The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone,"  
and, "A stone that causes men to stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall."*

*They stumble because they disobey the message—  
which is also what they were destined for.*

**He reminded them of their privileges and RESPONSIBILITY**

*But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.*

*Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

**And urged them to a life REFLECTING God's glory.**

*Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul.*

*Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.*

**We Are Living Stones**

Built TOGETHER (Christ alone is the cornerstone)  
as a Spiritual House (a safe place for healing & growth)  
to offer Spiritual Sacrifices (heart, head and hands)  
(worship, word and work)  
to DECLARE His Praises (in what we say & how we live)

**To this end, we are**

CHOSEN *But you are chosen people,*  
GIFTED *a royal priesthood*  
SET APART *a holy nation, a people belonging to God  
that you may declare the praises of him*  
REDEEMED *who called you out of darkness  
into his wonderful light.*  
and DIFFERENT *aliens and strangers in the world.*