

## **His Name Shall Be Called Wonderful (8)**

### **Cornerstone**

In construction, the cornerstone is traditionally the first stone laid. It serves as a reference point for the alignment of the whole building, carefully set as the place from which all other measurements were taken. Correct positioning of the corner stone is essential to maintaining precise and accurate measurements and ensuring strength and stability, and the over all integrity of the building, since the weight of the entire building rests on this stone.

The “*Cornerstone*”, is another divine title of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is interesting to note that the first mention of the term, “*cornerstone*”, is found in the book of Job. The Lord reprimanded Job because he spoke without having knowledge of certain things. He asked Job regarding the creation of the earth, “*Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? or who laid the corner stone thereof?*” (Job. 38:4-6).

We know from other Scriptures that the Lord Jesus is the divine architect of this world, and indeed of the whole universe. John tells us, “*all things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made*” (Jn. 1:3). The apostle Paul wrote concerning the Lord Jesus, “*all things were created by him and for him*” (Col. 1:16). The writer of the epistle to the Hebrews informs us that God made the worlds by the Lord Jesus (Heb. 1:2).

In the last chapter, of the Hallel, a collection of Psalms (113-118) which express gratitude and praise to God for all that He is and all that He has done, the psalmist wrote, “*The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it*” (Ps. 118:22-24).

The psalm looks forward to a future day, when the rejected stone, the Lord Jesus Christ is established as the foundation and a new day is inaugurated, when all of the redeemed will say, *This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it*”.

The stone which the builders refused, which became the head stone of the corner, is clearly speaks of the Lord Jesus. He quoted from this psalm in reference to Himself (Matt. 21:42; Mk. 12:10; Luke 20:17). Peter also quoted the words of this psalm, pointing out that the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, as the only name under heaven whereby men can be saved (Acts 4: 11-12).

The builders were the religious leaders and elders of Israel. They refused the Lord Jesus. Isaiah wrote of Him, “*he is despised and rejected of men*” (Isa. 53:3). John wrote concerning Him, “*He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not*” (Jn. 1:10-11).

The Prophet Isaiah wrote of the Lord Jesus as the corner stone, “*Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste*” (Isa. 28:16).

Peter referred to the Lord Jesus as a “*living stone*”, when he wrote concerning Him, “*to whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious*” Here, to the believer, the Lord Jesus is not an inanimate piece of stone, but a living person, to whom we may come in vital, vibrant relationship as priests. Interestingly, Peter refers to believers as well, as, “*living stones*”. He wrote, “*Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ*” (1<sup>st</sup> Pet. 2:4-5).

Incredibly, the Lord Jesus was disallowed by men. He was refused and cast aside as not suitable to be used in building, certainly not to be used as a corner stone. But it is God's estimation that counts in the end.

Peter says of the Lord Jesus, as the corner stone, that He is "*chosen of God and precious*". He is not only chosen of God, but He is precious to God. As a servant, He was all the delight of the soul of Jehovah (Isa. 42:1). As the Son, He is loved of the Father, and brings pleasure to His heart (Matt. 3:17). Peter also quoted from the passage in the Psalms of the precious Corner Stone, laid by God, citing that whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame (1<sup>st</sup> Pet. 2:7).

In his first letter to the believers in Corinth, Paul assured them of the fact that the foundation of the church has already been laid, and that the Lord Jesus Christ is that foundation. He has been installed permanently and is not subject to change or replacement. He is the only suitable and sure foundation that believers can build upon and indeed, rest upon.

In the book of Ephesians, Paul writes how Jews and Gentiles, being reconciled to God through the blood of Christ, are brought together in one spiritual body and in one spiritual building. He tells us that believers are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, and that Jesus Christ Himself, is the "*Chief Corner Stone*" (Eph. 2:14-20).

*We have a sure foundation,  
A precious corner stone;  
Redeemed from every nation,  
We rest on Christ alone.*

*By all mankind rejected,  
As unfit to be used;  
Yet by His God selected,  
This stone which men refused.*

*A place of habitation,  
On Corner Stone is built;  
For praise and adoration,  
By Holy Spirit dwelt.*

*Tis all the Lord's own doing,  
That Christ be thus displayed;  
We rejoice reviewing,  
The day the Lord has made.*

**Bernie Payne**