

## **Advent Reading for Sunday, December 10, 2017**

### ***“The Chief Cornerstone” (Isaiah 26:16)***

Earlier in our Advent devotionals we examined Isaiah 8:14, a prophecy portraying the Messiah as *a rock*; to some He would be a *protective refuge or sanctuary*, but to others *a stumbling stone*. Today’s verse picks up this same theme of Him being *a rock or a stone*, but in this prophecy He is *the Costly Cornerstone*: *“Thus says the Lord God, ‘Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, a costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed, and He who believes in it will not be disturbed’”* (26:16).

The Psalmist also used this analogy in writing about the coming Messiah: *“The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This is the Lord’s doing; it is marvelous in our eyes. This is the day which the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it”* (Psalm 118:22-24).

When we look for New Testament fulfillment, there are several passages to consider. The first is from Himself in Matthew 21. With the religious leaders gathered around, Jesus gave them the parable of a landowner who planted a vineyard, and rented it out to vine growers before going away on a journey. Later, the land owner sent his servants to the vineyard to receive his produce; the vine growers beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. The landowner then sent his only son, thinking he would be respected. But the vine growers threw *the heir* out of the vineyard and killed him. When Jesus finished His story, He said to the religious leaders: *“Did you never read the Scriptures, THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED, THIS BECAME THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE?”* (Matthew 21:42)

The Apostle Peter also referenced Isaiah’s prophecy when he explained in Acts 4 that the lame man had been miraculously enabled to walk by the name and power of Jesus Christ. Peter went on to explain: *“He is the STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED by you, THE BUILDERS, but which BECAME THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE.”*

Some years later, Peter again referenced Isaiah's prophecy in his first epistle. After describing the church as *living stones*, he went on to describe: "**BEHOLD, I LAY IN ZION A CHOICE STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNERSTONE, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED**" (I Peter 2:6). The Lord Jesus Christ is and always will be the *PRECIOUS CORNERSTONE* of the church!

Finally, when the Apostle Paul was explaining to the predominately Gentile church in Ephesus their equal status in the church, he again referenced a portion of Isaiah's prophecy: "*So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, **Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone**, in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit*" (Ephesians 2:19-22).

**Giving Thanks – Though You were rejected and crucified by men, You conclusively demonstrated through Your resurrection that You are the Precious Cornerstone just as Isaiah prophesied! Thank You for graciously calling us into Your church!**