

Title: Living stones

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We are living stones, chosen and precious

1 Peter 2:4-5 NKJV Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ

Acts 7:44-46 ESV ⁴⁴"Our fathers had the tent of witness in the wilderness, just as he who spoke to Moses directed him to make it, according to the pattern that he had seen. ⁴⁵ Our fathers in turn brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations that God drove out before our fathers. So it was until the days of David, ⁴⁶ who found favor in the sight of God and asked to find a dwelling place for the God of Jacob. ⁴⁷ But it was Solomon who built a house for Him. What kind of house will we build for Him? ⁴⁸ Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made by hands, as the prophet says, ⁴⁹"Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? ⁵⁰ Did not my hand make all these things?"

It starts with the heart

Isaiah 57:15 For thus says the High and Lofty One, Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: "I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

The most important part of the house of God, is the heart of the individual believer – submitted to His loving rule and reign.

A house of heart-felt worship

Psalms 22:1-3 ESV ¹.My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? ².O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer, and by night, but I find no rest. ³.Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

A house without heart-felt worship is no different than any other physical building – bound to the cycles of human emotion and circumstances.

Revelation 22:1-3 ESV ¹ Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

A house of worship is outward focussed

Where God is enthroned in worship, the nation's become a priority.

2 Samuel 6:16 ESV As the ark of the Lord came into the city of David, Michal the daughter of Saul, looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord , and she despised him in her heart.

A house of worship, not built on pride

2 Samuel 6:21-22 ESV ²¹ And David said to Michal, "It was before the Lord, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me as prince over Israel, the people of the Lord —and I will celebrate before the Lord . I will make myself yet more contemptible than this....

Worship of God and human pride cannot co-exist in the same house.

We feed the one to starve the other.

What are we starving and what are we feeding in our hearts and in this house?

A worshipping house invites the reign of God

Where God is praised, He reigns.

Where God reigns, His healing river flows.

Is His river flowing in our hearts and through your mouths and bodies?

Do we desire this river to flow to the nations?