

3 HOPE VS. REJECTION

2 4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him — 5 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. 6 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.”

7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,”

8 and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.”

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

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 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.

1. Who rejected Jesus? Who chose him?
2. V6-8 quote [Isaiah 28:16, Psalm 118:22 and Isaiah 8:14](#) to explain that, just as God himself was a “stone” by which Israel would either be protected or tripped - depending on their response - so is Jesus. What does this say about the fate of those who reject Jesus?
3. This short passage is thick with further references to Israel in Episode 2, now applied to Christians in Episode 4. Try to find the similarities:
[Isaiah 60:7;61:6](#) v5
[Exodus 19:5-6](#) v9
[Hosea 1:9-10;2:23](#) v10
What do you think is being said by these similarities?
4. How are followers of Jesus both rejected and chosen, similar to Jesus himself? Why would this be helpful to hear in the situation the letter addresses?
5. Which feeling is stronger for you: fear of rejection by people, or hope based on acceptance by God? Does this passage influence those feelings at all?
6. If you’ve been saved by Jesus, what have you been saved to do? (v9)
What holds you back from that? In what ways could you be doing that more?

