

1. Jesus is building His church on the **ROCK**

3618 οἰκοδομέω *oikodomeo*

- = to erect a building up from the foundation
- = to construct

4073 πέτρα *petra*

- = a large rock, cliff or ledge
- = bedrock
- = figuratively – a sure immovable foundation

**JESUS IS THE MESSIAH
THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD**

a) He is the tested **STONE** laid in Zion by God

68 עֶבֶן *eben (even)* = a stone

b) He is the precious costly **CORNERSTONE** placed for a firm and sure foundation

6434 פִּנָּה *pinna*

- = corner – bulwark, tower
- = figuratively = ruler or chief

c) He is the **FOUNDATION** of the house

- there can be no other foundation laid
- the apostles and prophets are the foundation, Jesus being the cornerstone

d) in Him the building is growing into a **HOLY TEMPLE OF GOD**

- a dwelling of God in the Spirit
- the Holy Spirit dwells in the church

(Matt 16:13-18; Isa 28:16; 1 Cor 3:10-11; Eph 2:19-22)

2. People respond to the choice **STONE**

a) some do not believe in Him

- they stumble over the Stone
- they are offended by the Stone
- they are disobedient to the word
- the builders (Israel) rejected the Stone

b) some believe in Him

- the Father has revealed to them that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God
- they are not disturbed, shaken, panicked
- no longer in anxiety and confusion
- they will not be humiliated, disgraced, or put to shame
- they are saved by the LORD's doing

(1 Pet 2:6-8; Matt 16:17; Acts 4:10-12; Isa 28:16; Ps 118:21-24)

3. The believers are **LIVING STONES** coming to **THE LIVING STONE** rejected by men but choice and precious in the sight of God

4334 προσέρχομαι *proserchomai*

- present, middle or passive participle
- = to come to, to approach
- = to draw near to
- = to move toward with the implication of a reciprocal relationship between the person approaching and the one who is approached

4. The church, the believers are being built up as a **SPIRITUAL HOUSE**

5. The spiritual house, the holy temple of God, is for a **HOLY PRIESTHOOD** to minister to God
(1 Pet 2:1-5)

6. The church is a royal, holy priesthood whose ministry and mission is

- a) to proclaim the excellencies of God
 - He called them out of darkness into His marvelous light
- b) to offer up acceptable spiritual sacrifices
 - our bodies as living sacrifices
 - a lifestyle of self-sacrificial love patterend after Jesus' life
 - continual praise and thanksgiving
 - doing good and sharing with others

(Rom 12:1-2; Eph 5:1-2; Heb 13:15-16; Phil 4:18-19)

Emphasis: The church is a **SPIRITUAL TEMPLE**
The church is a **HOLY PRIESTHOOD**

- God is present
- God is served and worshipped