

## Lively Stones

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**1 Peter 2:5** 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.

Lively stones? – an alive rock?

An oxymoron like jumbo shrimp, military intelligence, airline food, freezer burn, or routine surgery?

Living stones must be the believers, the people to whom Peter was and is writing.

Why call them stones? Used in building the spiritual house or temple.

How will we be used in building?

We are built together, fitting together, to make the holy temple, the church and bride of the Lord Jesus.

**Ephesians 2:20-21** And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

How are we qualified to be a lively stone in the temple? Who do we think we are? God is our supplier of every need. His plans are higher than our plans and His ways higher than our ways.

Look at the shadow in the old testament, when Solomon was building the first temple in Jerusalem.

**1 Kings 5:17** And the king commanded, and they brought **great** stones, **costly** stones, and **hewed** stones, to lay the foundation of the house. 18 And Solomon's builders and Hiram's builders did hew them, and the stonesquarers: so they prepared timber and stones to build the house.

Consider the stones used:

- ◆ great stones - largest 7 x 16 x 40 feet, about 500 tons (1 million pounds), for strength and stability, as a monolithic pour of concrete,
- ◆ costly stones - cheap limestone, added costs of skill, time, and effort to be in the foundation
- ◆ hewed stones - prepared before off site, out of sight and sound, rough edges

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literally removed, to fit together

Attention to the adjectives used of the stones and their order, reverse order as done.

**Hewed** – prepared

- **1 Kings 6:7** “made ready before” same rock until chosen or separated from other rock, great effort to cut out of mountain of mankind

**Isaiah 51:1** “look to the Rock from which you were hewn”

**Costly** – precious

- **Hebrews 12:2** “for the joy that was set before him” valuable because of the effort to separate and future worth to the kingdom

**Great** – purpose

- **Matthew 28:19** “go therefore teaching all” only people can preach the gospel to others, this began with the 11 disciples and there is no other plan. The church only accomplishes its goal when all stones are fit together.

On the foundation of Jesus who is our cornerstone. We are built upon Him.

M. Henry - “The closer the stones lie, and the better they are squared to fit one another, the stronger is the building.”

**1 Corinthians 3:10** According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. 11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

**Isaiah 28:16** Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, 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.

A Spartan king boasted to a visiting monarch about the walls of Sparta. The visiting monarch looked around and could see no walls. He said to the Spartan king, "Where are these walls about which you boast so much?" His host pointed at his bodyguard of

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magnificent troops. "These," he said, "are the walls of Sparta, every man a brick."

All done for our future and eternal life.

**1 Timothy 6:19** Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.