



A Stone of Stumbling

1 Peter 2:7-8 Study Guide

1. Since we are moving slowly through this section of 1 Peter, it is important to keep the flow of thought clearly in mind. Babies (Christians) grow by the nourishment that comes from the pure milk of God's Word (2:1-3). A significant part of this growth is the offering of spiritual sacrifices (2:4-6). In 2:7-8 Peter draws a sharp contrast between believers and unbelievers. Why do you think he does this at this point? What is the relationship of Christ to believers (2:7a)?
2. As Peter turns his attention to unbelievers he quotes Psalm 118:22. Look this passage up in its Old Testament context. Who is the stone? Who are the builders who rejected the stone? In what sense has "the stone" become the chief cornerstone? How was Psalm 118 used in the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem (Matt. 21:42)?
3. How do people stumble over the stone (2:8)? How does Peter use Psalm 118:22 in Acts 4:11? What is the context of Acts 4:11? Can you not see the value in having a mastery of Scripture when you teach? How well do you know the Old Testament? How many messianic passages do you know in the Old Testament? Without looking in your Bible mention
4. one messianic prophecy from the Old Testament and tell how it was fulfilled in the first coming of Jesus Christ.
4. 1 Peter 2:8 has been a stone over which many have stumbled in attempting to interpret it. The NASV says, "For they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed." This brings up the important question, "Why do the unsaved go to eternal condemnation?" The lead-in for this issue is Peter's quote of Isaiah 8:14. Look up this passage and take note of its context. Who is it that stumbles? Over what do they stumble? What is the result?
5. Why is Peter making this statement about the stumbling of unbelievers? As you answer this question think about the effect that the fierce, hostile unbelief of non-Christians can have upon Christians?
6. The difficulty referred to above (#4) is related to "as they were destined to do." Who did the appointing? To what were the disobedient appointed? As you answer these questions keep in mind what causes the stumbling of the unsaved. Does anyone (God included) make unbelievers refuse to believe? Does God destine unbelievers to eternal judgment? Harmonize your answer with Romans 9:14-25, 2 Thessalonians 2:11, Acts 4:27-28, Jude 4, and John 3:36.