


Lesson 3 – September 18  
1 Peter 2:1-10

# *Building Our Faith*

*Rome*

# *Our Living Hope*

FBC Woodville  
Sunday School Class  
Michael G. Maness  
see  
[PreciousHeart.net/SS](http://PreciousHeart.net/SS)

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- |     |                |                                  |                           |
|-----|----------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1.  | Sept 4         | Living Hope                      | 1:1-12                    |
| 2.  | Sept 11        | Be Holy                          | 1:13-25                   |
| 3.  | <b>Sept 18</b> | <b><i>Building Our Faith</i></b> | <b><i>2:1-10</i></b>      |
| 4.  | Sept 25        | Living as Strangers              | 2:11-20                   |
| 5.  | Oct 2          | Living in Relationship           | 3:1-12                    |
| 6.  | Oct 9          | Always Ready                     | 3:13-22                   |
| 7.  | Oct 16         | Equipped to Live                 | 4:1-11                    |
| 8.  | Oct 23         | When Ridiculed                   | 4:12-19                   |
| 9.  | Oct 30         | Alert Living                     | 5:1-14                    |
| 10. | Nov 6          | Being Useful                     | 2 Pet. 1:1-11             |
| 11. | Nov 13         | With Trust                       | 2 Pet. 1:12-21            |
| 12. | Nov 20         | On Guard                         | 2 Pet. 2:1-13; Jude 16-25 |
| 13. | Nov 27         | With Anticipation                | 2 Pet. 3:1-13, 17-18      |



# Lesson Author's Theme

**Believers mature both personally and as a community through God's grace.**

## **1 Peter 2**

**1-3 Spiritual Milk – To Grow Up**

**4-8 Spiritual House – Living Stone, Holy Priesthood**

**9-10 Spiritual People – Chosen Race, Royal Priesthood,  
Holy Nation—God's People**



## **Key Verse – 1 Peter 2:9**

**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.**



**“Chosen People”—the pinnacle, even the top of the mountain that Peter takes us in 2:1-10**

Please ... selah ... pause and take a breadth  
Sometimes, the most PROFOUND things are the MOST SIMPLE  
Define *Loyalty*? ... Sure, but definition does compare to the

## Experience of Loyalty

1 Peter 2:9's divine words MEAN more WITH Peter's back story

**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.**



## **I Peter 2:1-3      Spiritual Milk – To Grow Up**

**<sup>1</sup> Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.**

**“Therefore”** – based on chapter 1 ...

**1:1-12, Based upon our Salvation, secured by God’s power**

- ✓ based upon the Church that God foreknew ...
- ✓ that was made possible by the Resurrection of Christ
- ✓ a salvation inheritance when Christ returns
- ✓ a **Living Hope** ... *Therefore, upon that **H o p e***

**1:13-25, Based upon the our GIRDING up the Loins of our Mind  
Lacing up our Boots for Action**

**upon our **LOVING** one another **DEEPLY** from the **Heart****

**RID yourselves of ALL Malice, Deceit, Hypocrisy, Envy, Slander**

## I Peter 2:1-3      Spiritual Milk – To Grow Up

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.

**Two Perspectives:** “rid yourselves” of

1. Former Pagan Lifestyle ... 2. Current Tendencies A.D. 64

Other than the journeys of Paul, we know little of the A.D. 64 churches in Galatia & Asia Minor

How about TODAY?

I think “malice, deceit, envy” are struggles in *every* age ...

**More of a struggle in some ages than in others**



## I Peter 2:1-3      Spiritual Milk – To Grow Up

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, rid yourselves of all **malice** and all **deceit**, **hypocrisy**, **envy**, and **slander** of every kind.

I have the **PERFECT** answer

**Become a DOG!**

While a bit funny ...

You've seen the Animal Kingdom

Many animals act better than  
many humans

Rid yourselves of ALL of each  
ALL of us KNOW to do this



## **I Peter 2:1-3      Spiritual Milk – To Grow Up**

**Proof – Henry – waiting patiently in the rain for a biscuit**



**Then, Henry after a biscuit**



**No malice, no deceit, no hypocrisy,  
no envy, and *totally* devoid of slander.**

## I Peter 2:1-3      Spiritual Milk – To Grow Up

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, rid yourselves of all **malice** and all **deceit**, **hypocrisies**, **envies**, and **slanders** of every kind.

Notice: Malice & Deceit, **singular**  
other 3 are **PLURAL**

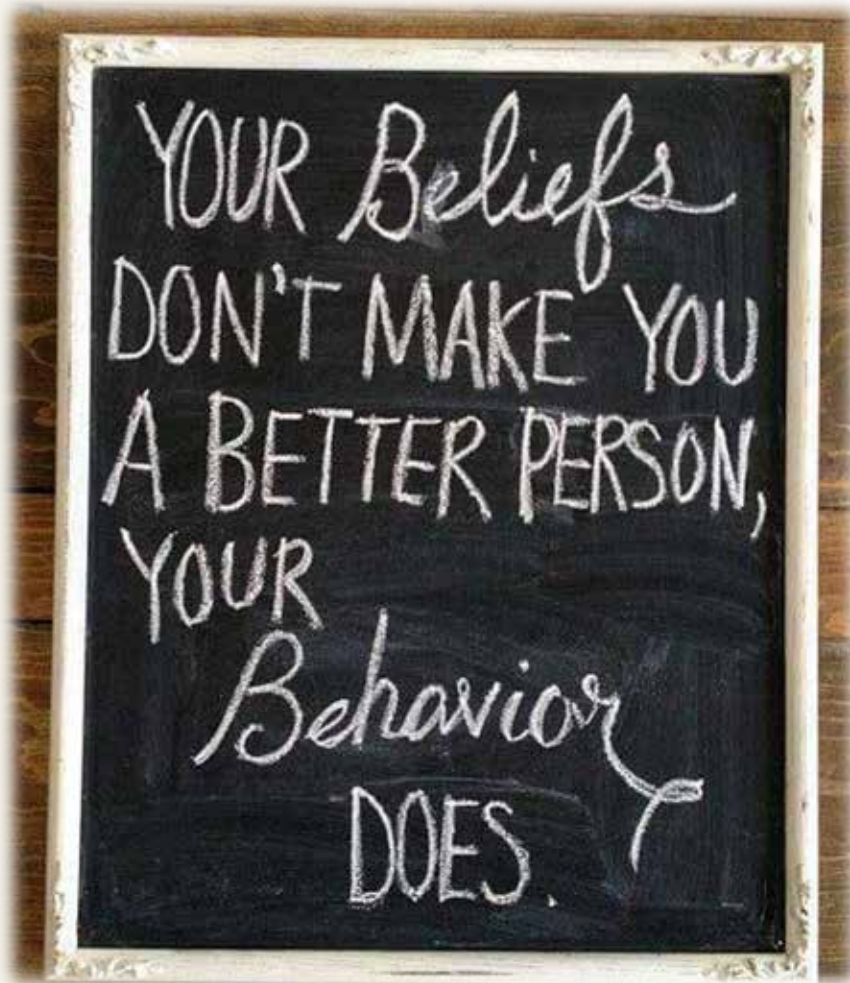
Oh ... the world **MARKETS** these well  
**Malice**—ill will, desire harm on others  
... *the stuff of movies*

**Deceit**—CIA specializes in it,  
companies base marketing on it

**Hypocrisies**—who is inoculated against?

**Envies**—Sales count on it

**Slanders**—like gossip, daily news, **comedians make millions!**



## I Peter 2:1-3      Spiritual Milk – To Grow Up

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, rid yourselves of all **malice** and all **deceit**, **hypocrisies**, **envies**, and **slanders** of every kind.

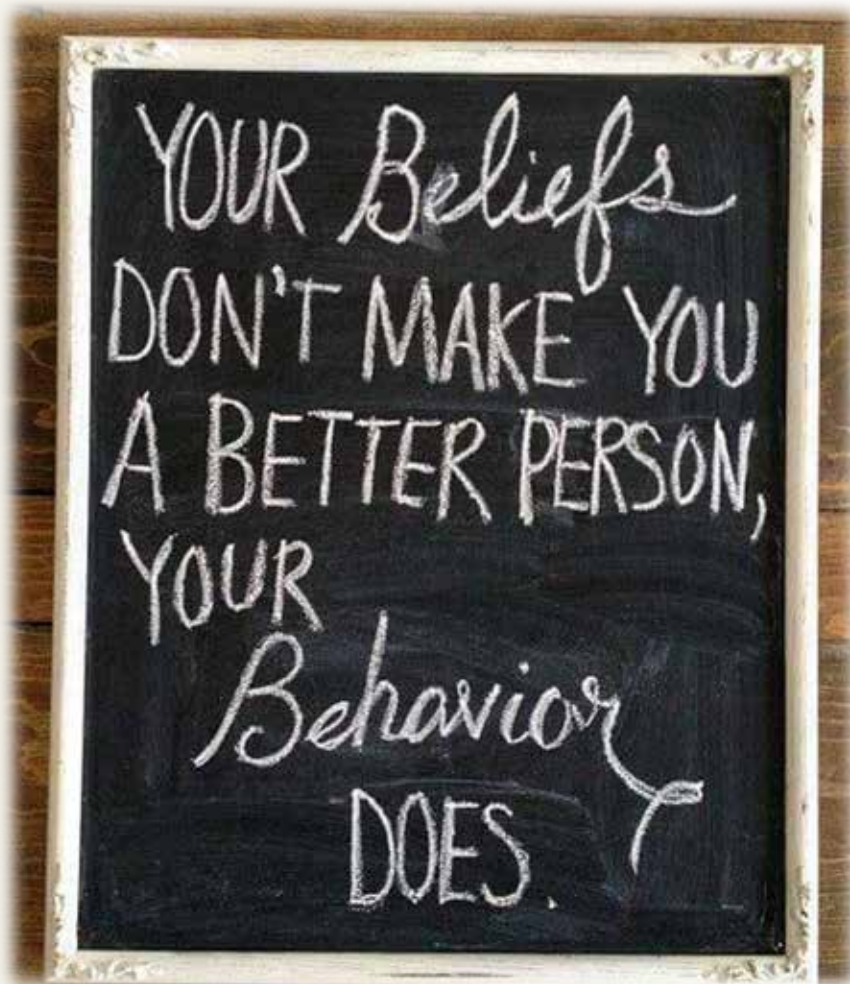
Sunday School teacher was teaching five- and six-year olds

After explaining the Ten Commandments and to “honor your Father and Mother”

The teacher asked, “Is there a command that teaches us how to treat our bothers and sisters?”

From the back, little Johnny perked up,

**“Thou shalt not kill!”**



## I Peter 2:1-3      Spiritual Milk – To Grow Up

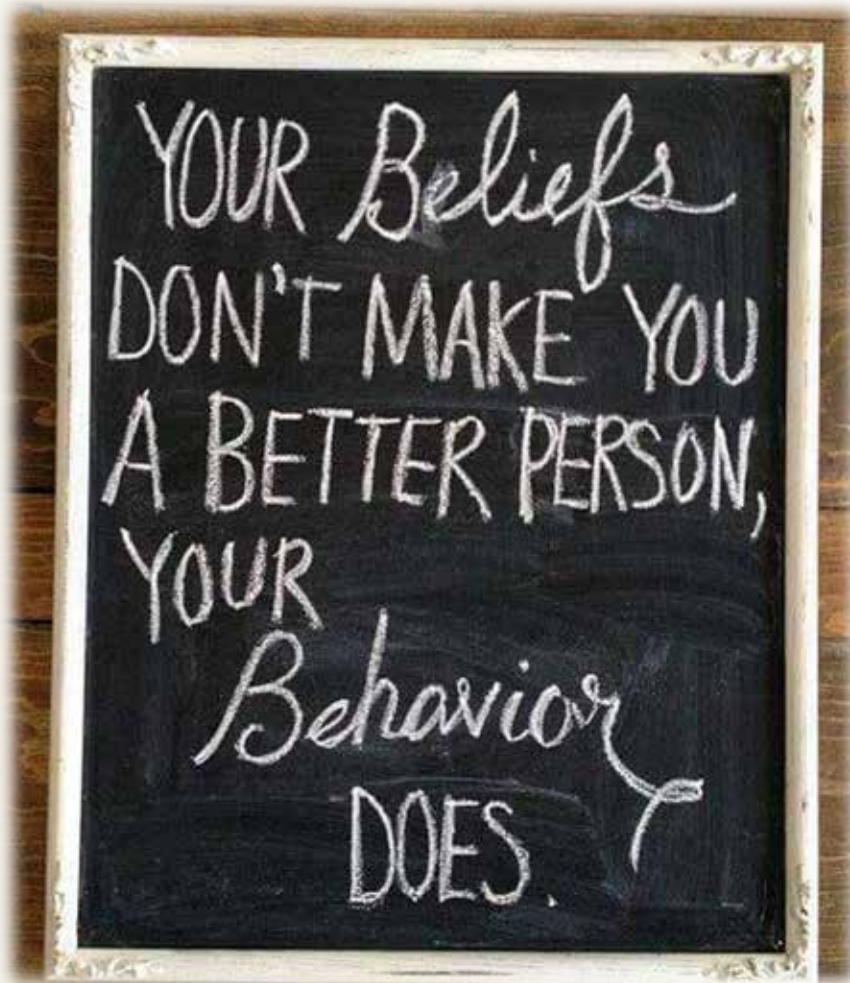
<sup>1</sup> Therefore, rid yourselves of all **malice** and all **deceit**, **hypocrisies**, **envies**, and **slanders** of every kind.

For the Christian ... and the honorable  
In very many respects, we do measure  
the BEST of us by those who  
Sincerely ...

in honest humility ...

**DO** succeed in **RIDDING** themselves  
of the worst parts of these

The best of us do NOT hold malice long,  
do not deceive, are not hypocrites,  
do not envy much and we truly do not slander



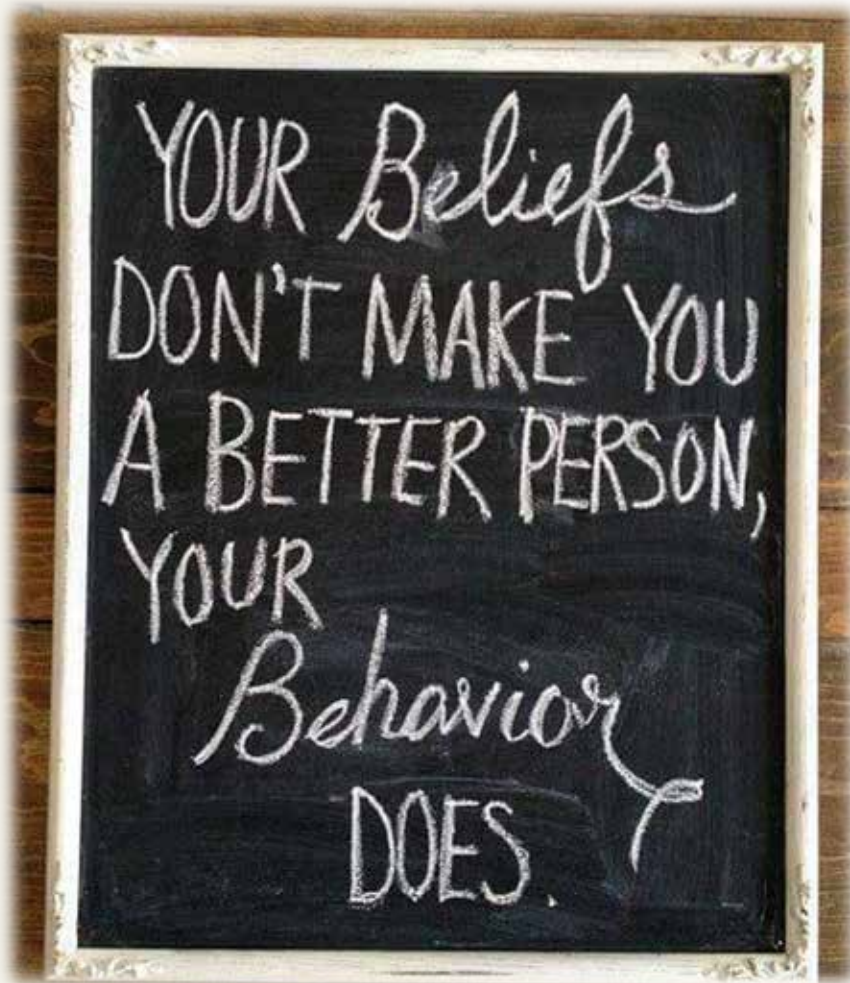
## I Peter 2:1-3      Spiritual Milk – To Grow Up

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, rid yourselves of all **malice** and all **deceit**, **hypocrisies**, **envies**, and **slanders** of every kind.

But in 1st Century Asia Minor & Galatia  
In A.D. 64 ... without a New Testament  
With only scattered news ...

Yet, with the best representatives, i.e.,  
- with the one and only Apostle Paul  
- with the Walk-on-Water Peter the Rock  
They had some GOOD teachers ...

Yet, all in all, they **STILL** had few writings  
had no New Testament  
***We do NOT know who they were ...***



## I Peter 2:1-3      Spiritual Milk – To Grow Up

<sup>2-3</sup> Like newborn babies, **CRAVE** pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

NOT in the same light as

1 Cor. 3:2 & Heb. 5:12-13 where “spiritual milk” is metaphor for “elementary Christian teaching”

*Odes to Solomon*, collection of 42 poems, A.D. 100-300, several copies, in which are lines referring to “milk”

“A cup of milk was offered to me, and I drank it in the sweetness of the Lord’s kindness.”

“I was carried like a child by its mother; and he gave me milk, the dew of the Lord. And I grew strong in his favor, and rested in his perfection.”



## I Peter 2:1-3      Spiritual Milk – To Grow Up

2-3 Like newborn babies, **CRAVE** pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

You know there was no Gatorade in A.D. 64

No Coke, Pepsi, Sprite ... no “bottled” anything!

Water, Wine and Milk ... and “strong drink”

**FRESH MILK** was a **STAPLE** then ...

I’ve known people who grew up on FRESH cow’s milk

They CANNOT stand pasteurized-homogenized milk

“Crave” is *imperative, a command*

The emphasis here is on **Craving Milk**



## **I Peter 2:1-3      Spiritual Milk – To Grow Up**

**2-3 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.**

- ✓ No matter how old you are, this applies
- ✓ No matter how wise a Christian you are, this applies
- ✓ No matter how mature “in Christ” you are, this applies
- ✓ This is not about BEING a baby ... it’s about the  
    **“CRAVING”** babies have for their mother’s milk
- ✓ Babies only NEED one thing to survive ...
- ✓ If they have **Milk**, they can survive, grow, flourish
- ✓ **Milk** – elixir of the young life, preferably its **MOTHER’s milk**



## I Peter 2:1-3      Spiritual Milk – To Grow Up

2-3 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Further-furthermore ... if you are NOT craving it

- ✓ You are NOT wise ... NOT mature
- ✓ Will NOT grow ...
- ✓ In fact and truth, with NO CRAVING, you'll starve!

The **MILK** here is the **WORD** and **MERCY** of God

See the last part of the verse ...

**“now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.”**

So good, that ... see what else God has done



## 2 Peter 2:4-8 **Spiritual House** – Living Stone, Holy Priesthood ...

4-5 As you come to him, the **Living Stone**—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—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.

Powerful verses ... sublime verses ...

**“Sublime”** means: very beautiful, causing strong feelings of admiration, wonder; lofty, exalted in thought, expression, manner; of outstanding spiritual, intellectual, or moral worth

Sublime verses **STACK extraordinary metaphor upon metaphor**

Verses ranked among several dozen other passages as among those that are **Supremely Sublime ...**

## **2 Peter 2:4-8 Spiritual House – Living Stone, Holy Priesthood ...**

**Review ...**

**Crave pure spiritual Milk ...**

**THE Living Stone ... we Living Stones built into a Spiritual House.**

***followed by ...***

**<sup>6</sup> 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.” = *from* Psalm 118:22**

**<sup>7-8</sup> 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,” 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.**

## 2 Peter 2:4-8 Spiritual House – Living Stone, Holy Priesthood ...

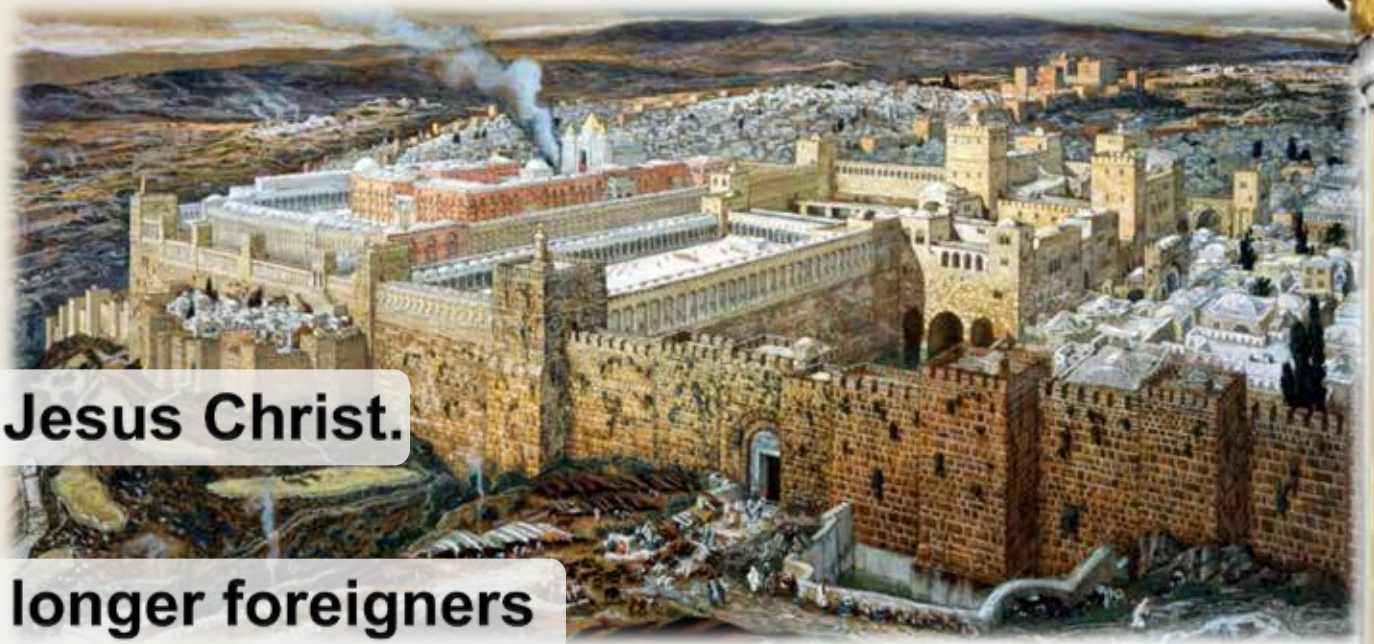
Apostle Paul said,

**1 Corinthians 3:11**

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

**Ephesians 3:19-21**

Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the **Chief Cornerstone**. In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.

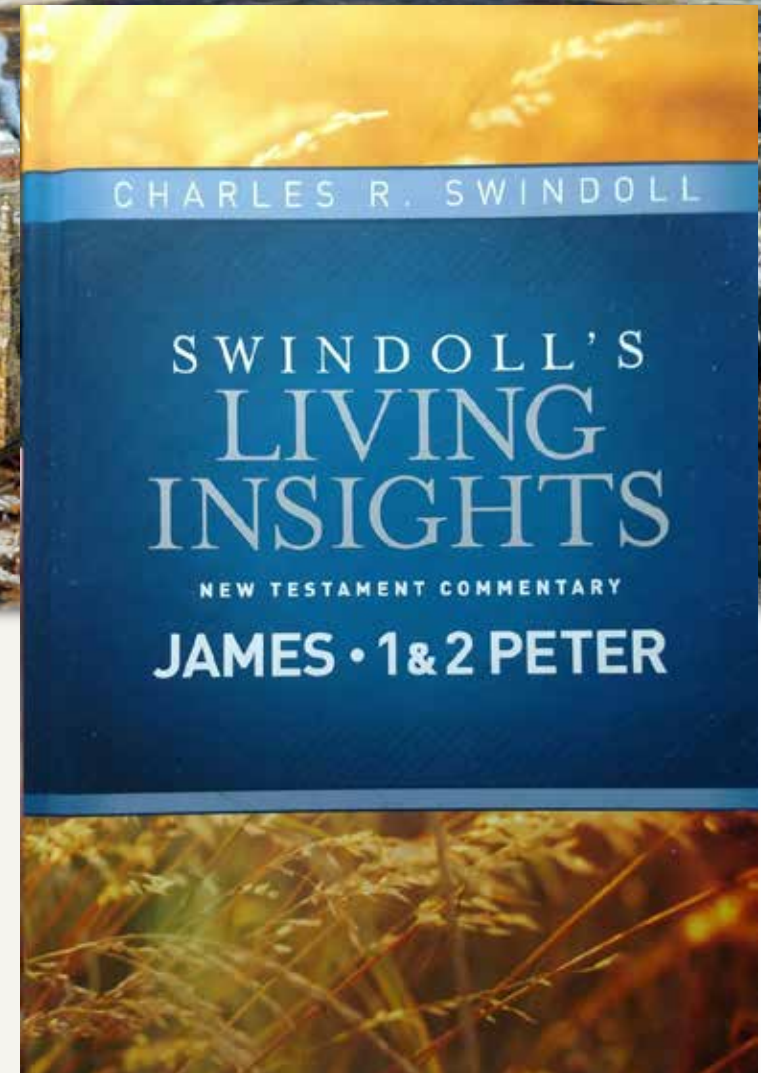


## 2 Peter 2:4-8 Spiritual House – Living Stone, Holy Priesthood ...

Charles Swindoll, in his *Living Insights* commentary reminds us how they quarried **New Stones**, yet also *reused* **Old Stones**, reshaping them to fit.

### **Living Stone—**

Swindoll noted whether stones come from **New Quarries, Gentile Believers**, or from **Old Buildings, Jewish Believers**, they BOTH require chiseling and shaping to fit them into a unified and stable structure.



## 2 Peter 2:4-8 **Spiritual House** – Living Stone, Holy Priesthood ...

Ignatius, A.D. 25-108

3rd Bishop of Antioch

*following St. Evodius following St. Peter*

**Student of Apostle John**

Martyred in A.D. 110 in Coliseum

respected Church Father

aka, Ignatius Theophorus, *God-bearing*

aka, Ignaius Nurno, *Fire Breather*

**Church Father Ignatius said**, “You are stones of a temple, prepared beforehand for the building of God the Father, hoisted up to the heights by the crane of Jesus Christ, which is the cross, using as a rope the Holy Spirit.”



Ignatius of Antioch  
torn by lions  
from the *Menologion*  
of Emperor Basil II  
c. A.D. 1000

huge liturgical book  
430 color illustrations

## 2 Peter 2:4-8 **Spiritual House** – Living Stone, Holy Priesthood ...

4-5 As you come to him, the **Living Stone**—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house ...

Powerful verses ... sublime verses on the **Living Stone**

The **Living Stone** that is the Cornerstone

See Peter's passion, his art ... he stacks metaphor on metaphor,  
Peter is *building*, too, upon Christ & Paul

- ✓ Christ said he was a the vine ... we are the branches
- ✓ Paul said Church is built upon Christ, we are his body on earth

Peter looked at the Herod's Temple in Jerusalem ...

THEN Peter becomes a world traveler through Turkey to Rome

## **I Peter 2:1-3      Spiritual Milk – To Grow Up**

From Herod's Temple in Jerusalem, Peter travelled through Cappadocia, Galatia, Pontus, Bithynia and Asia ...

What did Peter see for his 1,000-mile journey to Rome

He almost certainly set sail from Ephesus, one of the greatest ports of the ancient Aegean Sea

In Ephesus, he might have seen the great Temple of Artemis

daughter of Leto and Zeus  
twin of Apollo—goddess of the wilderness,  
the hunt and wild animals,  
and fertility.



## I Peter 2:1-3      Spiritual Milk – To Grow Up

From Herod's Temple in Jerusalem, Peter travelled through Cappadocia, Galatia, Pontus, Bithynia and Asia ...

Or, in Ephesus, Peter could have seen the Temple of Isis –  
*there was large Egyptian population there*

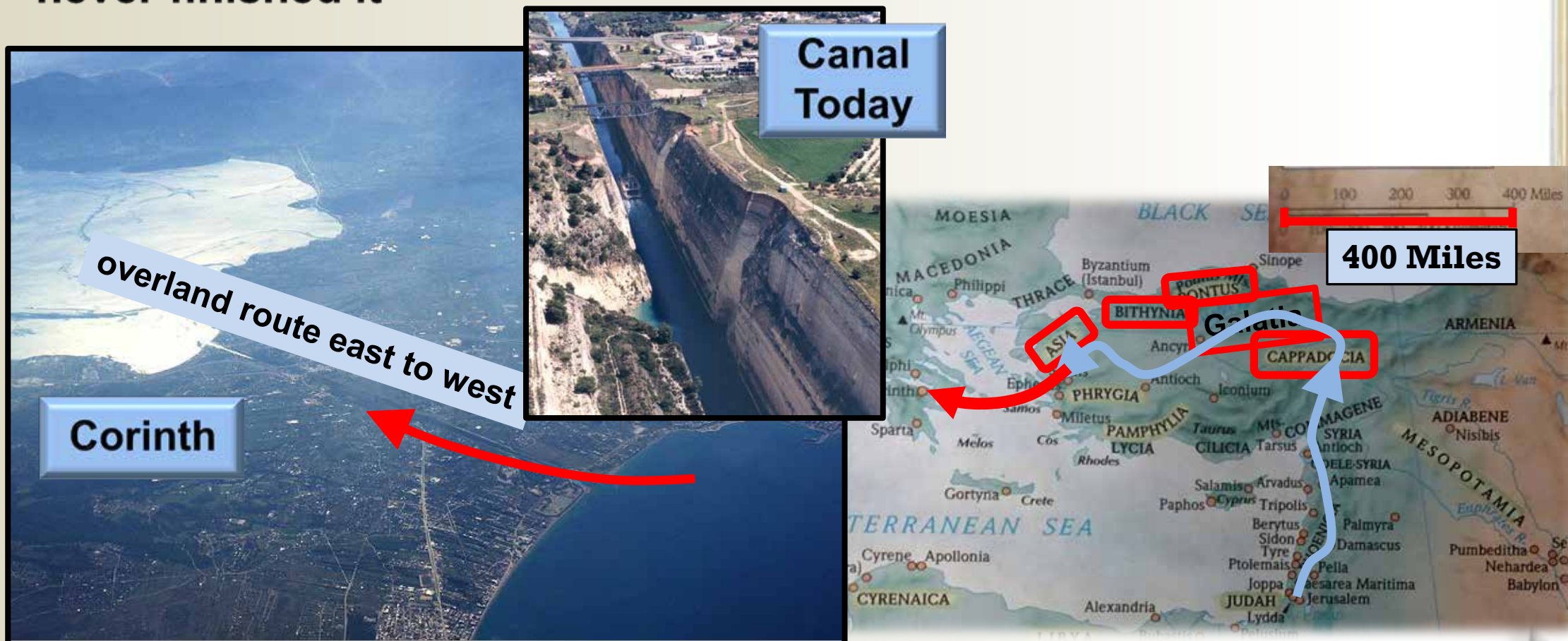


Ancient Ruins of  
Temple of Isis



# I Peter 2:1-3      Spiritual Milk – To Grow Up

Sailing from Ephesus, he could have travelled to Corinth, brief overland journey to another boat – Nero started a canal, but he never finished it



## I Peter 2:1-3      Spiritual Milk – To Grow Up

After Corinth, in the **Gulf of Corinth**, he would have passed by Delphi ... famous for the oracles dispensing wisdom ... to Rome

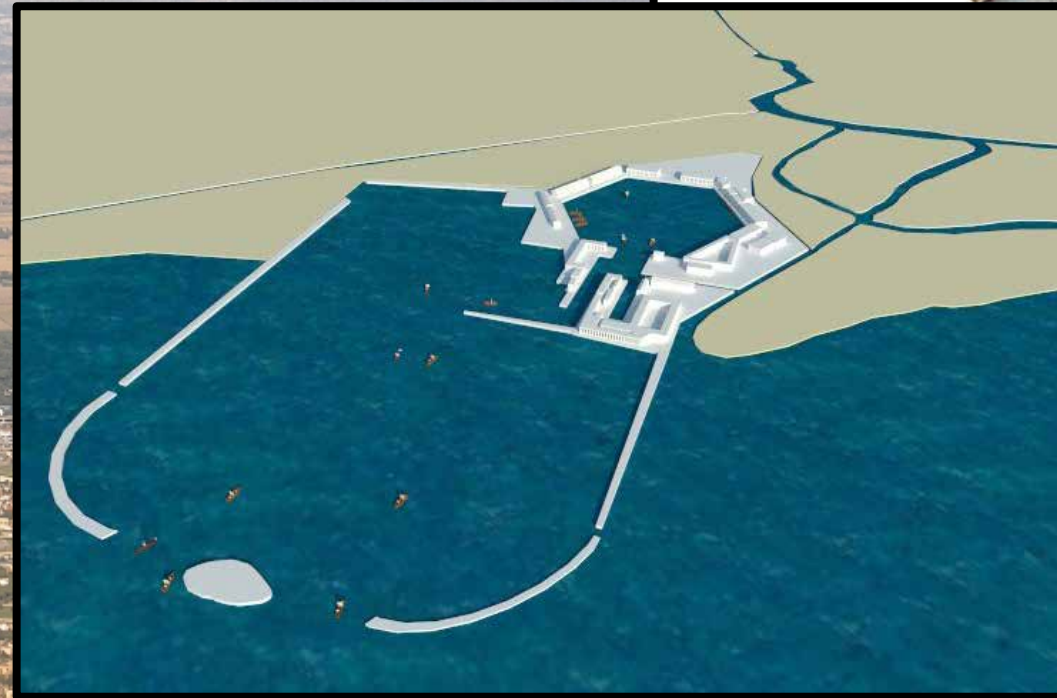
At Rome, he landed at Portus, large artificial harbor on the north side of the north bank of the Tiber and travelled by paved road throughout that magnificent city



Temples, palaces, commerce, the likes of which he had NEVER seen ...



# Portus, artificial harbor, north side, north bank of the Tiber



**Claudius' first harbor and hexagonal basin extension under Trajan**

## 2 Peter 2:4-8 Spiritual House – Living Stone, Holy Priesthood ...

From Rome, or “Babylon” as Peter closes in chapter 5 ...

The **Living Stone** with us Living Stones

metaphor upon metaphor – Christ the Vine, Christ the Body –  
*followed by ...*

<sup>6</sup> 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.”

<sup>7-8</sup> 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**,” 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.

## **2 Peter 2:4-8 Spiritual House – Living Stone, Holy Priesthood ...**

**“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.**

**Stumble the Israel did ... so did the Jews in the New Testament  
Crystal Clear ... What God had planned, Israel had rejected ...**

**John 2:19, "Destroy this temple, and  
in three days I will raise it up again."**

**Picture was clear and remembered,  
after arresting Jesus, the Chief Priests  
repeated Jesus' words in accusation:**

**Mark 14:58, "We heard Him say,  
'I will destroy this man-made temple,  
and in three days I will build another without hands.'"**



## 2 Peter 2:4-8 **Spiritual House** – Living Stone, Holy Priesthood ...

<sup>6</sup> “I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and **Precious Cornerstone**, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”

In Peter's eye, and Jews, when one thought of **CORNERSTONE**, they saw Herod's Temple, grandest edifice in Jerusalem

Some remember it being built ... or their fathers describing it

When they walked by it, they saw the huge stones that made the foundation of the **Temple Mount** ...

The Temple was destroyed in A.D. 70 as the Romans crushed the last of the Jewish rebels ... but some stones remain TODAY

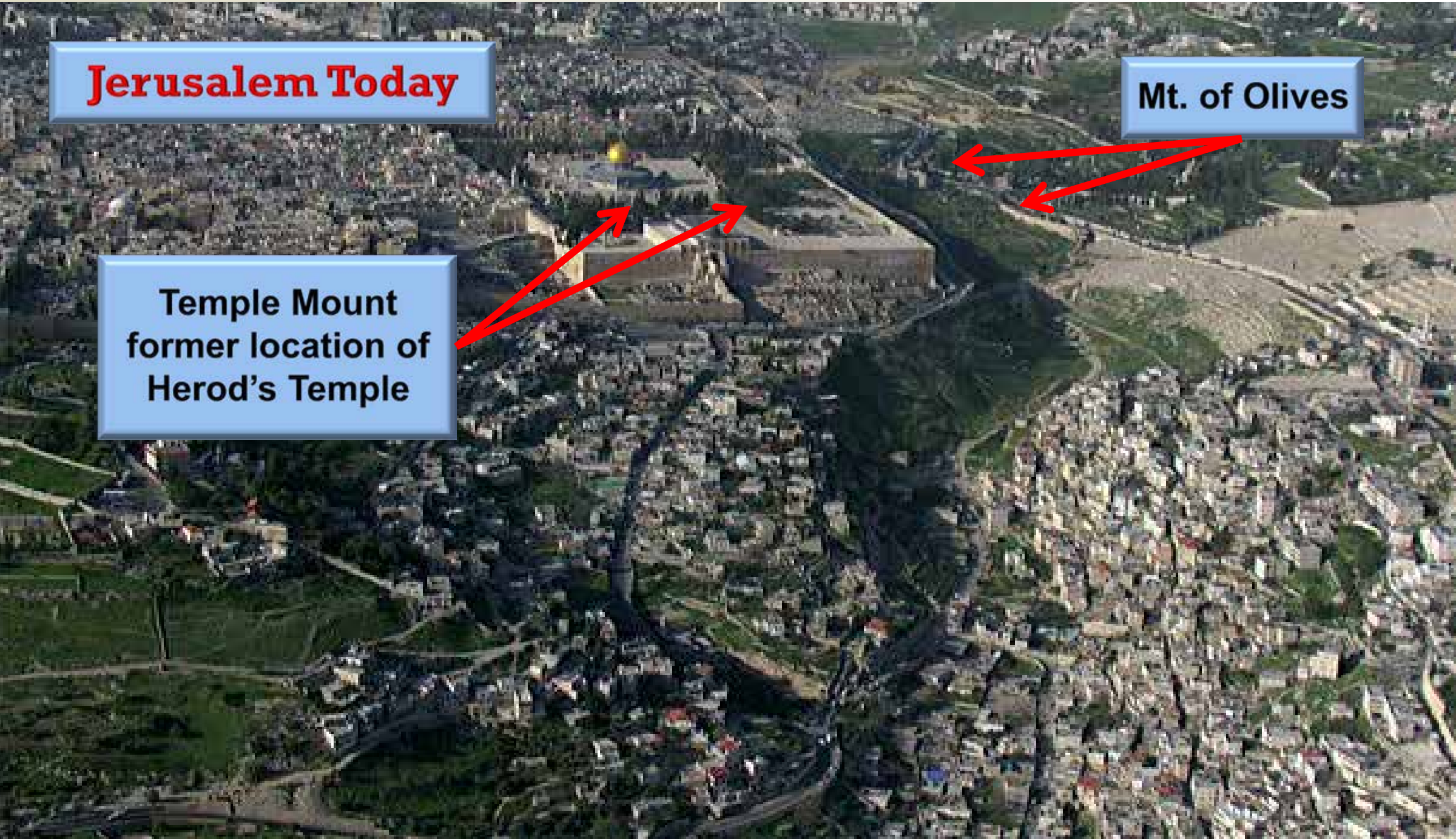
The **Living Stone** is Christ, and we are Living Stones too

Look at Jerusalem, even TODAY you can see vestiges, some remnants of its former GREATNESS

**Jerusalem Today**

**Mt. of Olives**

**Temple Mount  
former location of  
Herod's Temple**



## Jerusalem Today

An aerial photograph of Jerusalem, Israel. The Dome of the Rock, a large Islamic shrine with a prominent golden dome, is the central focus in the lower-left quadrant. The surrounding city is densely packed with buildings of various architectural styles, including traditional stone structures and modern high-rise apartment buildings. The background shows a clear blue sky and more distant city structures.

## Dome of the Rock

Built on top of Herod's Temple  
inside is the rock where  
Abraham Sacrificed Isaac

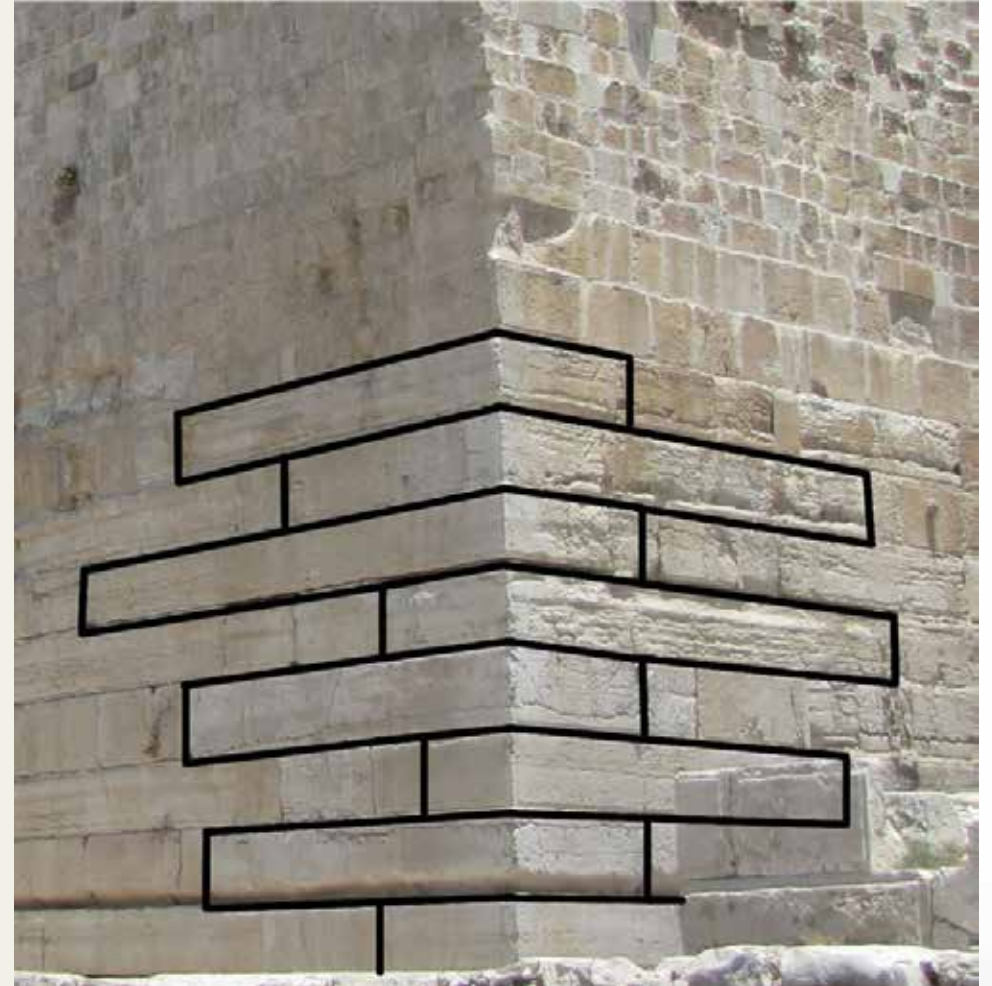
# Jerusalem Today

Wailing Wall  
foundation stones  
to Herod's Temple



# The Cornerstone

**Ashlars SW corner Temple Mount**  
**Some weigh 80 tons**  
**40 x 8 x 3.5 feet, interlocking**



## The Cornerstone

Cornerstones – long history

Nebuchadnezzar Cunneiform Cylinder

8.25" x 3.25"

Auctioned by Doyle, of New York,  
auctioneers and appraisers of fine art

In 2014 it sold for \$605,000 ...

Nebuchadnezzar Destroyed 1st  
Temple 587 B.C.

Nebuchadnezzar rebuilt temples all  
over Babylonia ...

Sippar, occupied since 2,500 B.C.,  
was already 2,000 yrs old when  
Jerusalem was razed in 587



E-barra, the radiant abode of  
the gods ... which had long ago  
fallen into disrepair in Sippar....  
**I found its old cornerstone....**  
**Over its old cornerstone I laid**  
**its foundation.** I erected E-barra  
as it was of yore and completed  
it. I caused it to shine like the  
bright day.

## 2 Peter 2:4-8 Spiritual House – Living Stone, Holy Priesthood ...

### Living Stone is **ALSO** the Cornerstone

metaphor to metaphor – Christ the Vine, Christ the Body –  
*followed by ...*

“Stone the builders rejected has become the **cornerstone**,”  
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.

From the imperative **Crave Milk** as a newborn baby

To **THE Cornerstone** ... and we as Living Stones

The Church is the edifice built **from, around, upon** the Cornerstone

The Church ... we are the Living Stones that form the Church

Those who MISS Christ ... stumble, fall ... *they don't make it*

## 1 Peter 2:9-10 Spiritual People – Chosen Race, Royal Priesthood

**Crave Milk** like a baby ...

**Living Stone** built upon the **Living Cornerstone**

*For What ... to what end ...*

<sup>9</sup> 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**.

<sup>10</sup> 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.

Supremely Sublime STACKED metaphors ALL point to us being

**God's Special Possession**

## 1 Peter 2:9-10 Spiritual People – Chosen Race, Royal Priesthood

With deference to our Catholic brethren,  
the Cornerstone is Christ ...

Matthew 16:16

Peter confessed, “You are the Christ, the  
son of the living God.”

Matthew 16:18

And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this  
**ROCK** I will build my church, and the  
gates of Hades will not overcome it.

2nd use **ROCK** is feminine—**CHURCH**

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee



Church **NOT** built on Peter  
The confession of Christ  
that is the Rock

Christ is the Cornerstone,  
the Rock that saves

Let's look closer at a clear  
metaphor in John

## 1 Peter 2:9-10 Spiritual People – Chosen Race, Royal Priesthood

You know John 3:16

For God so loved the world ... that  
whosoever believeth ... everlasting life.

John 3:16 is the glory ... the fact ...  
the quintessence of Gospel

But what comes BEFORE is the “How to”

And Salvation CANNOT be easier

John 3:14-15

As Moses lifted up the serpent in the  
wilderness, so must the Son of man be  
lifted up: that whosoever believeth in him  
should not perish, but have eternal life.



How easy?

Just look up ... SAVED

Look up ... believe ...  
and you HAVE IT ALL

**Eternal Life**

Cannot be easier!

## 1 Peter 2:9-10 Spiritual People – Chosen Race, Royal Priesthood

Supremely Sublime movement from

**“NOT being a People”**  
to the highest of all,  
to being **“THE People of God”**



A world of brutal pagan influence ... Hellenized and developed by the vast Roman Expansion ...

Those in Asia Minor GREW up without God, believed the preaching of the Gospel, were saved ... “tasted that God is good”

The CHURCH was born in Asia Minor ... now Peter writes to them  
To explain WHO they really were, to encourage them in the FIRE  
Peter writes to STRENGTHEN their identity, their HEART

## 1 Peter 2:9-10 Spiritual People – Chosen Race, Royal Priesthood

Supremely Sublime movement from

**“NOT being a People”**  
to the highest of all,  
to being **“THE People of God”**



Peter clarifies who they are **IN CHRIST—the CHURCH**

Who are they?

They are LIVING ... GROWING ... BUILDING ...

Invisible in this World ... made visible by metaphor

Growth in the HEART ... made visible by character, honor, virtue

Salvation Secured ... to be Fully Revealed at Christ's Coming

## 1 Peter 2:9-10 Spiritual People – Chosen Race, Royal Priesthood

Supremely Sublime movement from

**“NOT being a People”**  
to the highest of all,  
to being **“THE People of God”**



Because of WHO they are, they are now aliens here

Because of WHO they are, they are citizens of two cities

Here on earth, Visitors ... there in heaven, Eternal Residents

As pagan Gentiles, they had *nothing*, were *lost*, in darkness ...

As Christians, they are a NEW PEOPLE, in the LIGHT

## 1 Peter 2:9-10 **Spiritual People** – Chosen Race, Royal Priesthood

Of all the layers of meanings ...

We are NOT a alone ... **No Lone Ranger**  
***No Lone Ranger in the Church***

Minus Video  
online



We are not in this  
**ALONE ...**

You do not have to do  
church **ALONE**

**A great cloud of  
witnesses has gone  
before you and me!**

## 1 Peter 2:9-10 **Spiritual People** – Chosen Race, Royal Priesthood

Somethings just get sweeter with age  
I've mentioned before how much of the Bible  
is "**Adult Special**" ... sure children can joy too  
... *yet, the sauce gets better with age*

George Beverly Shea passed away in 2013  
at 104 – he sang in Billy Graham Crusades



Since I started for the Kingdom  
Since my life He controls  
Since I gave my heart to Jesus  
The Longer I Serve Him, the sweeter He grows

The Longer I Serve Him, The sweeter He grows  
The more that I love Him, More joy He bestows  
Each day is like heaven, My heart overflows  
The Longer I Serve Him, The sweeter He grows

## **1 Peter 2:9-10 Spiritual People – Chosen Race, Royal Priesthood**

Supremely Sublime

**DIVINE creation from**

**“NOT being a People”**

**to the highest of all,**

**to being “THE People of God”**



Sheese, was a miracle in my life in 1975 ...

Then in 1985 ... after a mere ten years of travel ... sweeter

Then in 1995 ... after surviving many an ambush, crossing several weak rattling bridges ... that miracle was confirmed SWEETER

Then, in 2005 and today ... SWEETER ...

## 1 Peter 2:9-10 Spiritual People – Chosen Race, Royal Priesthood

Supremely Sublime

**DIVINE** creation from

**“NOT being a People”**

to the highest of all,

to being **“THE People of God”**



You and I understand TODAY *much better* ...

what happened in your heart was a Resurrection from dead

It was New Birth into a divine Kingdom, God's Kingdom

Something NEW, the prophets & angels LONGED to see

Christ, the Living Cornerstone ... with you as Living Stones

On earth, the Called, the Chosen, the Special Possession ...

# The Church

# 1 Peter 2:9-10 Spiritual People – Chosen Race, Royal Priesthood

Supremely Sublime

**DIVINE** creation from

**“NOT being a People”**

to the highest of all,

to being **“THE People of God”**



Why did God do that? ... God Loved You,  
and ... verse 9 tells the rest of the story:

<sup>9</sup> 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.**

Declare the praises of HIM who called you ...

**If you're not “Praising God”**

**you are not “Living”**

# 1 Peter 2:9-10 Spiritual People – Chosen Race, Royal Priesthood

Supremely Sublime

**DIVINE** creation from

**“NOT being a People”**

to the highest of all,

to being **“THE People of God”**



Connected, then, to every other Christian

We ARE part of the Vine, the Body, and the TEMPLE founded upon the Living Cornerstone ... each a part of the whole

The Church—those who have gone before, those here today, and those to come to Christ tomorrow

When we ponder these ... I think and feel like ...

Praising God ... thanking Him for so great a salvation ...

# THE Church

When we ponder these ... I feel like ...

Amazing Grace by John Newton, 1779

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound

That sav'd a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found,

Was blind, but now I see.

When we've been there ten thousand years,

Bright shining as the sun,

We've no less days to sing God's praise,

Than when we first begun.



## THE Church—

Those who

- have gone before
- are here today
- that WILL come to Christ tomorrow



May we always **KNOW** we are  
**God's Own Possession**  
***THE* People of God**