

Peter is writing a letter to God's elect, who are temporary residents in this world:

- *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!*
- *He gave us new birth into a living hope, an inheritance in heaven.*
- *You rejoice, even if grieved with trials, while believing in Jesus and receiving salvation.*
- *Hope completely in the grace being brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*
- *"Be holy, because I am holy."*
- *Live your temporary stay in fear, knowing you were redeemed with the blood of Christ.*
- *Love each other fervently—you were born again from the living and enduring Word of God.*

Peter wrote in 2:2,3...|

*Crave pure spiritual milk, that you grow in salvation, since you tasted that the Lord is good.*

Building on *the Lord* (the Lord Jesus), Peter continues his next section.

Read 1 Peter 2:4-6.

Let's explore why the Lord Jesus is called a *living stone*.

*He was rejected by people.*

*The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.*

*This came from the LORD; it is wonderful in our sight. (Psalm 118:22,23 CSB)*

Read Luke 20:9-19.

Read Acts 4:8-12.

Give details on how our Lord was and is rejected by people.

*He is chosen and precious in the sight of God.*

In verse 6 Peter quotes Isaiah 28:16.

Read Acts 4:10-12.

How did and how does God demonstrate how chosen and precious Jesus is?

Peter also calls believers in Jesus *living stones*. What picture is Peter drawing for us?

Additionally, Peter calls believers in Jesus a *spiritual priesthood*.

Priests in the old covenant were Levites from the family line of Aaron.  
They approached God, stood before him, and ministered in his presence.  
They taught the Israelites God's decrees.  
They offered up and burned up the sacrifices to God.

What *spiritual sacrifices* do we offer up?

The sacrifices are *acceptable to God through Jesus Christ*. Why is that significant?

Read 1 Peter 2:7,8.

*He will be a sanctuary; but for the two houses of Israel,  
he will be a stone to stumble over and a rock to trip over.* (Isaiah 8:14 CSB)

What does the living stone do to those who do not believe?

What were the unbelievers *destined for* (CSB, NIV)—the unbelief, or the stumbling?

What warning should you take from these verses?

Read 1 Peter 2:9,10.

List the four things that Peter says we are:

1)

2)

3)

4)

What is God's intended purpose for us?

Practically speaking, what are the ways we do that?

Read 1 Peter 2:11-17.

Compare the description of you in verse 9 with the description of you in verse 11.

What does Peter tell us to avoid and why?

In verse 12, what is the purpose of conducting ourselves well?

*Submit to every human creation for the sake of the Lord.*

Why do you think government is called that here?

Why do you think *for the sake of the Lord* is added here?

What is a governor's fundamental mission?

What is God's will for us?

Christians are both free persons and slaves. Explain that.