

## STONES & PILLARS

I. Matt 16: 18 “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”

A. Jesus committed His life to building one thing: “**My (His) Church**”

1. **Def build:** to be a house builder, to edify, to construct

a. I want to speak to you today about the building material Jesus uses for building His church

2. First it is important that we understand what Jesus means when He said He Would build His Church:

a. **Def Church:**

(1) Jesus is not speaking about one individual person who has been Born Again, The Lord is not talking about one believer

b. The word Church means: a congregation, called out ones (plural) a governing assembly

c. This governing assembly is to administrate the affairs of the Kingdom of God as God’s ambassadors upon the earth

3. Then Jesus tells us that “the gates of hell (or the authority of the powers of darkness) shall not **prevail** (overcome) the church:

a. Because of the **delegated authority Jesus has given to His church:**

(1) Matt 16: 9 And I will give you the **keys of the kingdom of heaven**,...

(a) some of these keys of the Kingdom of heaven that has been delegated To The Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ are:

(1) The power to **bind & loose** in the spirit realm:

Matt 16:19 whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

(2) The Power of Jesus Name Matt 16:17 to cast out devils

(3) The anointing of God that breaks the yoke Isa 10: 27

(4) The baptism of the Holy Spirit Acts 1:8

(2) The Power of Praise & Worship that ushers in God’s presence into our Midst Ps 22:3

(5) The Power of Prayer & Intercession Matt 7:7

(6) The Power of living, preaching, teaching, confessing The Word of God Mk 16:15

4. That is why Jesus describes the church He is building and one day will come Back for as: **GLORIOUS:**

a. Eph 5:27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

## B. REED Believers:

1. Matt 11:7 As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the Wind”

a. Jesus asked the Jewish people:

(1) when you went out to listen to the preaching of John the Baptist:

(a) did you see a reed shaking in the wind

(1) did you go to see someone who was life, walk with God, & Ministry was Unstable ....blown about by the wind

(2) or, did you see a person that regardless of what he faced in life:

(a) he was not blown about by the winds of adversity

(b) what he believed did not change .... His message did not change

© he did not become unfaithful to the call of God that rested upon his life

(d) he did not allow himself to be blown off course from the will of God for his life

(1) John the Baptist was stable, unshakeable, steadfast, uncompromising

(2) The Heavenly Father was able to build the kingdom of God with John The Baptist ....

(a) Because John fulfilled his destiny & Prophetic word spoken over his life:

(1) Isa 40:3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God.

4 Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth;

5 The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

C. Reed type believers are unstable .... And unlike John the Baptist

1. They do not fulfill the Prophetic word spoken over their life

a. they fail to enter their destiny

b. and do not fulfill their ministry they were called & anointed to

(a) in regards to their part in Building The Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ

2. they are like a reed that bends when the wind begins to blow:

a. and they are not dependable, unfaithful, & unable to stand up under the winds of:

(1) adversity, trials, tribulations, temptations... blow they are unable to stand up

against the pressure of the blowing wind.

3. **You do not build a house with reed type people**

a. A reed was used to build baskets, not a house:

(1) Reeds were long, hollow bamboo type plant

(2) that was easily blown about by the wind

b. You do not use reeds to build a house:

(1) The house can e your life, your marriage, the Church

(a) Reeds are not good building material

D. We see the characteristics of a Reed type believer in the following passages  
Of scripture:

1. Eph 4:14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

a. Reed type of believers are:

(1) **tossed to & fro**

(a) one day God has called them to do one thing ... next day...they

Mistakenly think God has called them to do something else

(2) **carried about by every wind of doctrine**

(a) they believe anything that comes their way & are subjective to embracing

Unscriptural teachings, doctrines of devils & traditions of man

(3) carried about.... By **the trickery of men**

(a) subject to false prophets & false apostles

(b) easily manipulated by trickery used in receiving offerings

(4) carried about by ..... **cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting**

(a) unable to discern the craftiness of the devil

(1) 2 Cor 11:3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

4. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted — you may well put up with it!

(5) **children** .... Spiritually immature

(a) Jesus cannot build a church with believers with these type of attributes'

(b) a pastor of a local church cannot build a strong church with these type  
Of believers

2. James 1:6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like

a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

a. note the attribute of a reed type of believer in this passage:

(1) filled with doubt instead of faith

(2) compared to : “a wave of the sea driven & tossed by the wind”

(3) vs 7 non-effective prayer life ... unable to receive from The Lord

(4) vs 8 double minded

(5) vs 8 unstable in all his ways

E. looking at these passages of scripture, we can easily understand that not even Jesus can build a prevailing, glorious church with a “Reed” type believer as building materials:

1. Rather Jesus uses Stones & Pillars as the building materials for His church

II. We discover a prophetic picture of the building materials Jesus is going to use to build His prevailing glorious church in Gen 28: 10-22

Gen 28:10 10 Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran.

11 So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. and he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep.

12 Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

13 And behold, the Lord stood above it and said: “I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.

14 Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

15 Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have spoken to you.”

16 Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it.”

17 And he was afraid and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!”

18 Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put at his head, set it up as a pillar, and poured oil on top of it.

19 And he called the name of that place Bethel; but the name of that city had been Luz previously.

20 Then Jacob made a vow, saying, “If God will be with me, and keep me in this way that I am going, and give me bread to eat and clothing to put on,

21 so that I come back to my father’s house in peace, then the Lord shall be my God.

22 And this stone which I have set as a pillar shall be God’s house, and of all that You give me I will surely give a tenth to You.”

A. In this passage of scripture we receive a revelation of the building materials That God uses for building His Church:

1. In this stage of Jacob’s life, He is fleeing from his brother Esau, because he had Stolen the birthright of the first born from him:

a. it states in vs 11 that Jacob **“came to a certain place”**

(1) Jacob did not arrive there by accident, God was moving behind the scenes  
In his situation

B. Jacob then took **stones** for a pillow to lay his head upon & then he dreamed a Dream:

1. God speaks to Jacob thru a dream

a. and in this dream Jacob sees a ladder that connects heaven to earth, with angelic ministry manifesting

b. and the **stone he used for a pillar then becomes a pillar**

c. and names this certain place: **Bethel**

(1) **Def Bethel:** house of God / a prophetic picture of the Church

(a) a place from which God desires to put a **dream** in the heart of His people

(b) vs 17 Bethel / the House of God is to be **“a gate of heaven”** / or a **Gateway** /portal into a dimension... the spirit realm

© a place that connects heaven to earth, this **ladder** is a **type & shadow of Jesus Christ**, the means by which God reconnects with mankind on earth

(1) and releases angelic ministry minister to mankind

(d) a place where the **voice of God** is heard / **Word of God** is proclaimed / & the prophetic is manifested

(1) and Jacob proclaims in vs 17 “And he was afraid and said, “How awesome Is this place! This is none other than the **house of God, and this is the gate of heaven!**”

C. Next we discover the building material Jesus Christ uses to build His prevailing Glorious church:

1. Gen 28:22 “And this **stone** which I have set as a **pillar** shall be **God’s house**”

a. even as in the days of Jacob, Jesus Christ uses **STONES & PILLARS** to build His prevailing, glorious church.

2. 1 Peter 2:4 Coming to **Him as to a living stone**, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious,

5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

a. “**Coming to His as to a living stone**” / Jesus Christ

(1) Jesus Christ was the first “**living stone**” upon which the church is built

(a) 1 Peter 2:6 “Behold, I lay in Zion A **chief cornerstone**, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.”

7 Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, “The stone which the builders rejected Has become the **chief cornerstone**,”

3. vs 5 “you also, **as living stones**, are being built up a **spiritual house**”

a. The “**Spiritual House**” is the Born Again Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ

b. This Spiritual House / The Born Again church is built with: **living stones**

c. A living stone is speaking of a person who has repented of their sin & accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord & Savior & now live for Jesus:

(1) Eph 2:1 And you **He made alive**, who were dead in trespasses and sins,

(a) You are **one of two type of stones**

(a) a stone / a person who is dead in their trespasses & sins

(b) or a stone / person who has been made alive:

(1) because you have repented of your sins

(2) and you sins have been forgiven / cleansed / washed away by the Precious Blood of Jesus

(3) and now made alive because the Holy Spirit dwells within you

D. Once you have become a “living stone”, Jesus Christ desires to place you in The walls of the “Spiritual House” He is building:

1. This wall is made up of Born Again, Local Churches who preach the Gospel Of Jesus Christ:

2. Thru the deposit of the anointing of God, gifts of the Holy Spirit, & talents

Jesus Christ has graced your life, & the call of God that rests upon your life

- a. Jesus Builds a prevailing, glorious church
3. Living stones are stable people by which Jesus builds His church
  - a. Living stones know where they fit in the wall / in the church
  - b. Living stones also know their function within the wall / church & faithfully fulfill it for the glory of God
    - (1) & take their calling, ministry anointing, spiritual gifts, fruit of the Spirit
    - (2) and help build the one and only thing Jesus Christ said He would build:
      - (a) His Church

E. If your life can be compared to that of a Reed, or a dead stone: you can transition

into becoming a living stone:

1. thru the Power of The Holy Spirit
  - a. You can go from being dead in trespasses and sin ... to alive in Jesus
  - b. you can go from being blown about by the winds of life and being unstable to becoming a living stone by which Jesus Christ builds a prevailing, overcoming, glorious church

III. Also, **living stones are also to go thru a transition .... From a stone to a pillar**

A. In Gen 28, **Jacob is a prophetic picture of Jesus Christ building His church:**

1. Gen 28:18 Then Jacob rose early in the morning, and **took the stone** that he had

put at his head, **set it up as a pillar**, and **poured oil on top of it**. 19 And he called the name of that place Bethel; (or the house of God)

1. Jacob a type & Shadow of Jesus building His church takes a stone & sets it up As a **PILLAR**:
  - a. This is what Jesus Christ desires to do with every believer / every living stone
    - (1) make you a Pillar in His church:

B. Stone Believers help build the church .... But Pillar Believers help expand the Church:

1. **Def & Role of a Pillar in a House:**

- a. to support, to hold up, carry or bear weight, to lift up, to relieve pressure successfully
2. A Pillar believer is a mature believer ... filled with character

- a. a Pillar believer is a holy believer
- b. a Pillar believer is not limited to just partaking of the milk of the Word
  - (1) eats the meat & strong meat
- c. A Pillar Believer is interested in more than just themselves

C. God moves thru pillars:

1. When God manifested Himself in the wilderness to Israel, He showed up  
As:

- a. Pillar Fire: Ex 13:21
- b. Pillar of cloud: Ex 13:22

(1) And The Lord desires to make each of us a Pillar in the House of God:  
(a) for the fire & glory of God to manifest thru on the behalf of others

2. It is when we become a spiritual pillar in the Bethel / House of God, that the  
Anointing of God manifest in our lives with a greater measure:

a. Gen 28:18 “He / Jacob set it up as a **pillar**, and **poured oil on top of it**”

(1) if we will take our place as pillars in the church

(2) Jesus Christ will anoint our lives so we may be able to bear the pressure &  
responsibilities of being a pillar in the House of God

(a) get under some pressure as a pillar in the House of God by getting

Involved in the work of the ministry .... And the Lord will pour oil on  
Top of you, like Jacob did the pillar

D. 1 Kings 7:21 Then he set up the pillars by the vestibule of the temple; he set up  
the pillar on the right and called its name Jachin, and he set up the pillar on the  
left and called its name Boaz.

1. In the temple of Solomon, that was filled with the glory of God stood **two**  
**Pillars that were given names: Jachin & Boaz**

a. **Def Jachin:** he shall establish

b. **Def Boaz:** in it is strength

2. These two pillars are a prophetic picture of what every “living stone” is to  
Become:

a. pillar people are immovable

b. pillar people pillar people are established

c. pillar people are able to bear the pressures of the responsibilities that come in:

(1) living victoriously for Jesus

(2) faithfully functioning in the ministry

E. Prov 9:1-2 **Wisdom** has **built her house**, She has hewn out her **seven pillars**;

1. The wisdom spoken of in Proverbs is a type & shadow of the person of Our Lord Jesus Christ: 1 Cor 1:30

a. Wisdom / Jesus teaches that a house is build with **seven pillars**

(1) **Seven**: type & shadow of perfection & completeness

(a) Jesus stated that He is building a church, that the gate of hell shall not Prevail against in Matt 16:18

(1) In order for the church to prevail against the powers of darkness

(2) In order for the church to be built with the glory of God

(a) we need Pillars in the House of God

(b) we need living stones who are willing to transformed into the image of Jesus Christ and walk in the Wisdom of the Word of God

© taking their life, ministry, calling, anointing, spiritual gifts, talents, Fruit of the Spirit, time, finances & give it all to Jesus

(1) become a pillar of support with a fresh anointing from Jesus Christ Resting upon your life

(2) becoming a pillar of support that your pastor can depend upon for Doing your part in helping to build a glorious church that Jesus Christ Is coming back for

IV. I want you to ask yourself this question: **“AM I BUILDING MATERIAL GOD**

**CAN USE TO BUILD HIS PREVAILING GLORIOUS CHURCH?”**

A. Am I a reed, unstable & blown about in the wind

1. Have I become a Living stone, set in the wall of a local church

a. living for Jesus

2. have I matured into a Pillar in the House of God

a. Who understands that the purpose upon my life is to contribute in building The Born Again, Prevailing, Overcoming, Glorious Church

(1) That is making dead stones living stones thru by taking the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost

(2) by taking Reeds / whose lives are unstable and making them living stones By functioning in ministry within the local church & see them become Living stones

(3) and personally growing, spiritual maturing & becoming a pillar