



## A Desire for the Word



## Chapter 2

**Verse 2-** *and like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation, you may grow-* So the salvation you possess will grow.

Peter has already made clear that God has secured our salvation (justification in 1 Peter 1:3-5), that we are being saved (sanctification in 1 Peter 1:9), and that we will receive salvation fully when Christ is revealed (glorification in 1 Peter 1:5). For now, taking in the “milk” of God's Word is the way to grow spiritually.



## Chapter 2

**Verse 3-** *if you have tasted the kindness of the Lord.*

*If-* Could be translated “since.”

Peter is once again quoting Scripture- Psalm 34:8-

*Taste and see that the Lord is good;  
How blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!*

Peter is not saying we should “try out” God to see if He is kind. He is saying we “taste” the kindness of the Lord in and through our suffering and in His promises that our suffering will end as we transition to eternity.

## Chapter 2

**Verse 4-** *And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by people, but is choice and precious in the sight of God,*

Yet again, Peter infuses his letter with Scripture. He quotes Psalm 118:22:

*A stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone.*

Peter identifies Jesus as the “living hope” (1:3), the “living word” (1:23), and now as the “living stone,” which is an oxymoron. These emphasize Jesus’ resurrection after His death on the cross



## Chapter 2

**Verse 4-** *And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by people, but is choice and precious in the sight of God,*

Peter shows that the Lord is both the rejected one and the chosen one. He was rejected by Israel but chosen by God. Christians who experience the world's rejection can know that Jesus was rejected as we are and, like Him, we are also chosen by God and precious to Him.

Salvation is joining and identifying with Christ, not a religious group.

## Chapter 2

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

*are being built up-* Jesus is the one doing the building.

*as living stones-* Just as Jesus is a living stone, so are we as His followers. He offers us resurrection and eternal life just as He was resurrected from the dead.

*a spiritual house for a holy priesthood-* The followers of Jesus form the living stones of a spiritual house (temple). We are the temple and the priests offering sacrifices in the temple.



## Chapter 2

**Verse 6-** *For this is contained in Scripture: "Behold, I am laying in Zion a choice stone, a precious cornerstone, And the one who believes in Him will not be put to shame."*

All barriers to God that existed in the old sacrificial system are now removed.

*For this is contained in Scripture-* This is the first of three quotations from the Old Testament which Peter bases the entire doctrinal paragraph (2:4-10).

Peter supports his point by quoting Isaiah 28:16. The cornerstone is the foundation of the building and assures it will not fall.

## Chapter 2

**Verse 7-** *This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for unbelievers, "A stone which the builders rejected, This became the chief cornerstone,"*

*A stone which the builders rejected-* Peter references Psalm 118:22: *"A stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone."*

The ones who used to be responsible for the temple (religious leaders) rejected Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus used this verse when talking with the religious leaders in Matthew 21:42-46.



## Chapter 2

**Verse 8-** *and, “A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense”; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this they were also appointed.*

*A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense-* Peter is quoting Isaiah 8:14:

*“Then He will become a sanctuary; But to both houses of Israel, He will be a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.”*

We either put our faith in Jesus, the foundation stone, or we dash our foot against it. Unbelievers stumble and fall because of Jesus' message. Jesus is “a rock that makes them fall.” (Luke 2:34)

## Chapter 2

**Verse 8-** *and, “A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense”; for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this they were also appointed.*

*and to this they were also appointed-* Those who are disobedient to God are sure to stumble.



## Chapter 2

**Verse 9-** *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*

This is in contrast to the previous verse. The “you” is emphatic.

*a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession-* We are not a holy nation like Israel, built on ethnicity. We are a spiritual race that transcends ethnicity- We all have the same spiritual Father. We are also a royal priesthood that will reign with Christ in His future kingdom.

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This is in contrast to the previous verse. The “you” is emphatic.

*so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him-* This is our purpose- to proclaim the “excellencies” (praises- *aretas* – used only here in the NT) of Him.

God formed Israel to praise Him; now, the church has been established to do the same.



## Chapter 2

**Verse 9-** *But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;*

*darkness into His marvelous light-* God has called us out of the darkness of a meaningless life into the light of salvation. Because we belong to Him, we belong in His light.

## Chapter 2

**Verse 10-** *for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

*now you are the people of God-* Peter is quoting Hosea 2:23:

*"I will sow her for Myself in the land. I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained compassion, And I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!' And they will say, 'You are my God!'"*

The church used to belong to themselves, but now we belong to God.



## Chapter 2

**Verse 10-** *for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

*but now you have received mercy-* In our life before surrendering to Jesus, we would not have received mercy (*ēleēmenoi*- aorist participle “having received mercy.”) There was a definite point in time when His mercy was applied- at our salvation, as we stood before Him in judgment. Now our life is marked by mercy and grace.