

#3 Cappadocia (published version)

JESUS CHRIST THE KEYSTONE

“He Made the Two One”

Welcome to [Cappadocia](#), where we were just touring some of these ancient churches from roughly the 10th century where they had frescoes painted inside of these cave walls.

There were believing [Christians](#) that lived in this part of the world in that era that were [seeking refuge from persecution](#). And in this area, they had not only [houses](#) in these karst formations that they [carved out of the limestone](#), but also [underground cities](#) that we visited today. Our tour guide Barcin was telling us how they would live under there for weeks or months at a time.

I was thinking how God has foreknowledge. God knew that people would believe in different eras of time. And so, back in prehistoric times, He thought, well, “Let's have some volcanic activity here. Let's bubble up these fantastical rock formations that have enough soft rock that somebody can later on, when they believe Me and they're seeking a way to get away, they can carve a home here and they won't get killed, and the Word will continue to live.” God is that big. He sees all time. He knows what we need at all times. So these people had what they needed in their time.

Since we're in Cappadocia, I wanted to talk to you about basically how [“He \[Jesus Christ\] made the two one.”](#) What I mean by that is the people in ancient times, starting in the first century, lived in a very [us and them world](#). We too live in a very polarized world. [The only hope for mankind getting over the polarization is Jesus Christ.](#)

So you have the “us” on the one side, you have the “them” on the other side. [Jesus Christ finishes the arch](#), he's [the keystone](#), he [makes them both one](#).

So, talking about the first century Christians, because we're in Turkey to see about the early spread of Christianity....

The Greeks had a word for *foreigners*, we were just hearing from our Barcin about the name Barbara. The Greek word for *foreigners* was *Barbarians*. They think it probably came from their thinking that since they didn't understand the foreigners' language, it was like "bah-bah-bah" to them. So they called them "Bah-barians." They had an "us" and "them" mentality. Either you were a *Greek* or you were *not a Greek*, and if you were *not a Greek* you were a *Barbarian*. Of course, the Jews also had that attitude in the sense that you were either a *Jew* or you were *not a Jew*. If you were *not a Jew*, you were *Greek*. It's an "us" and "them" dynamic.

But in Jesus Christ, all of this comes together.

Since we are in *Cappadocia*, I wanted to read you the first verse of first Peter, one of two Scripture references to this area.

1 Peter 1:1:

Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who are elect exiles of the Dispersion in *Pontus* [that's the part of Turkey on the Black Sea], *Galatia* [that's where we're going tomorrow, to Konya and *Lystra*, the area of biblical *Iconium*], *Cappadocia* [that's where we are today], *Asia* [that's where *Ephesus* is], and *Bithynia* [which is the area of what is today Istanbul, ancient *Constantinople* or before that, Byzantium],

So the Dispersion were the elect exiles who were scattered abroad to all these places in what is now Turkey. The opportunity to reach these people was opened up by coming to Turkey. Paul traveled through this whole area. I know he didn't necessarily come right here, but this was where in the city.

We learned when we were in Philippi, we saw the different *keystone arches*. I spoke to our tour guide in Greece, Taso, and he said that the word "keystone" is the same word that's used for "cornerstone" in other places. So in some places it talks about *Jesus Christ* being the

foundation stone. But in other verses like in 1 Peter 2, where it says corner stone, it's the word for [head of the corner](#). So the head of the corner can be the foundation stone here in the bottom corner. Or it can be the [keystone](#) instead of the arch. And that's also most important.

The way a [keystone](#) works is [the final stone that is laid](#). And you lay all the others before, so you might have the “us” and “them” stones, but at the top, you’ve got the keystone. The whole thing is not finished until you put it in, and then that [holds it all together](#). It could fall if you didn't have the keystone. As soon as you put the keystone in, it lasts for centuries. That's why we still have aqueducts, because the Romans developed that arch construction.

That is what Jesus Christ is. He's the one in whom it all hangs together. And so the Christians that were persecuted had everything that they needed because they had Christ Jesus the Lord and that brought them all together.

So as we journey through these different spots and as we think about the people who lived here, let's remember that there were people that were ministering to the circumcision and there were people who were ministering to the uncircumcision. So we'll be learning about that. So thanks to our tour guide, Barcin, as we tour beautiful Cappadocia.