

**Text: 1 Pt 2.9-10**

This morning we talked about the power that Jesus Christ, God's Living Stone, exercises in the lives of men.

This afternoon, we will move on to the last part of the passage, verses 9-10.

Read 1 Pt 2.4-10, text 9-10

Before we move into our text, let's think about verse 4 and 5 again.

We are called to approach the Living Stone (4).

Through this approach, we, as newly living stones, are built up as a spiritual house, made into a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices (5)

Our text this afternoon expands on the choice of believers to come to the Living Stone and on what God does for those who obey the summons.

Our message this morning really serves as our introduction, so let's get into our passage.

Our title:

## *Why God Made You into a Living Stone*

**Proposition:** God made you into a living stone to be a speaking stone.

### I. God's valuation of his people

#### A. The metadata of these terms

"metadata" – a simple definition: "data that provides information about other data"<sup>1</sup>

Example: when I save an audio file of our sermons (audio data), I tag the file with the Title, Passage, Speaker, and a brief description. That's metadata – data about data.

1. All these terms originally applied to Israel, they are quotations from the OT
2. Peter isn't saying Israel = the church, he is saying that the what the terms mean applies to the church

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<sup>1</sup> "Definition of METADATA," accessed November 20, 2021, <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/metadata>.

3. There is a “plurality” in these terms

- a. “You” is plural in this verse
- b. The terms are “collective singulars”<sup>2</sup>

4. Consequently, the terms describe character

“attention is focused on character rather than identity.”<sup>3</sup>

B. God’s view of the church:

1. A chosen race

- a. Race = *genos* — a group descended from a common ancestor (see New Birth)
- b. Chosen = elect
  - 1) Individuals (1 Pt 1.1)
  - 2) Jesus (1 Pt 2.4, 6)
  - 3) The Church (1.9)

2. A royal priesthood

- a. A priest mediates between God and people
- b. We access God directly on our own behalf, in a sense, we are our own priests (through Christ)
- c. This gives a hint of our purpose, however, as God calls us to mediate his truth to the world

3. A holy nation

- a. The emphasis of this phrase is distinctness
- b. First, separated from sin as a people
  - 1) God’s standards
  - 2) Our conduct (expected and usually realized)

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<sup>2</sup> Hiebert, 142.

<sup>3</sup> Hiebert, 142.

- c. Second, separated from the nations as a unique kind of people in the world
  - 1) We are citizens of our nation, but...
  - 2) We are distinct within our nation, we have a separate king, we are loyal to a different ruler
- 4. A people for God's own possession
  - a. There is a sense that God singled out his people for himself
  - b. Illustration: if you have something that is "your own," it has special value to you
    - 1) There may be hundreds or thousands of widgets, just like the one that's yours
    - 2) But the one that's yours is... yours
  - c. You are God's possession

God took you out of the world, he made you living stones through the Living Stone, and he says that makes you have these four qualities... chosen race, royal priesthood, holy nation, a people for his own possession.

You belong to God.

## II. God's mission for his people

- A. Our mission is a speaking mission
  - 1. You may quiver when you hear exhortations like this

"I am not a good speaker, I always mess it up."
  - 2. Remember, first of all, the collective singular! (this is God's mission for his people as a group)
  - 3. But don't forget that God uses the stammering tongue
- B. Our message is His excellency
  - 1. The more you know of God, the more you have that you can talk about
  - 2. The more you draw close to God, the more you will know of him

C. The specific message in our text: out of darkness to light

1. The Lord took us out of darkness into the light
2. More than that, he took the darkness out of us and put the light in

Col 1.13 For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son,

### III. God's enablement of his people

A. The source of this language: Hosea 2.23

Hos 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!*'"

1. The Lord's message through Hosea rebuked apostate Israel
2. The Lord's message through Hosea promised redemption for Israel

B. Peter adopts this language for New Testament Christians

1. It is the language of the New Birth
2. It is the proof that we have something to say to our world

### Conclusion:

We belong to God

God rescued us from darkness to light

God made us His people

God enabled our mission

**Proposition:** God made you into a living stone to be a speaking stone.