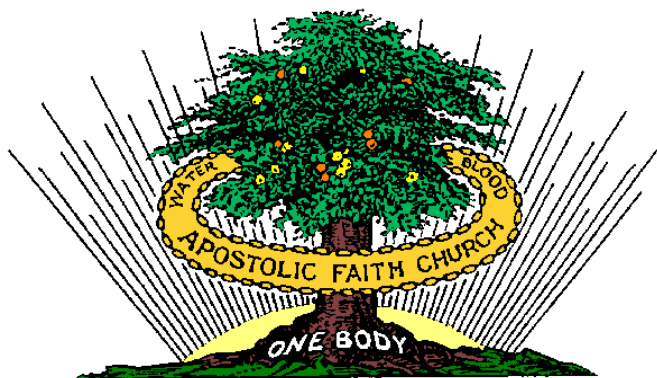


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Showers of Blessing

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The Stone That The Builders Rejected

Builders possess a diverse set of skills and knowledge essential for the successful construction of buildings of different designs and complexity. Their expertise and experience encompasses technical skills and knowledge to understand and interpret drawings and select materials for construction to ensure that structures are safe, durable, and meet the standards and building codes specified. They assess the strength and quality of materials for suitability for use.

However, Psalm 118:22 (NIV) tells us that “the Stone which the builders rejected has become the Chief Cornerstone” for the building. What manner of a stone is this, that even the skilled builders failed to identify it and perceive that it had the requisite strength and met the quality standards as per specified building codes to carry the core of the building they were constructing and safely hold it together? And how does the rejected stone find itself incorporated into the structure as the Chief Cornerstone holding the building together? Verse 23 of the same scripture says ‘this was the Lord’s doing: and It is marvelous in our eyes.’ It has to be the doing of the Lord by His grace.

This indicates to us that not all builders may have the right understanding, knowledge, skills and experience required for constructing certain types of buildings. Not all builders have the correct understanding and interpretation of the structural drawings and required standards and building code specifications, and not all builders have the skills to carefully select the right stones and materials and assess their strength and quality to place them in the right position in the building structure. We therefore need wise master builders who are well trained and prepared, full of the grace of God, to be able to do this work and supervise the construction of the building.

Apostle Paul states in 1 Corinthians 3:10 that “according to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.” Glory be to God. In the fullness of time, God raised and inspired master builders, the Apostles and Prophets, called according to the grace of God to lay a foundation for us upon which we are called as builders to build thereupon. Further to the early apostles and the prophets in the Bible, God in His timing raised Apostle William Oliver Hutchinson and other servants of God as master builders in the early days by His grace to lay a foundation for the Apostolic Faith Church, rooted at Bournemouth as the International Headquarters, after the pattern and order of the early Church (The Decrees of the Apostolic Faith Church, 1916, page 3), with the work spreading all over the world as according to the prophetic word and revelation that was given in the beginning under the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Rev. W.O. Hutchinson writes, “As this revelation was received and acted upon, the primitive notion that the work at Bournemouth would be simply a ‘Pentecostal Mission’ in the generally accepted sense of the term, was entirely superseded, in accordance to the Divine Will; and as the Holy Ghost laid special emphasis that this foundation of apostles and prophets must first be laid, and upon it a church should be built, *with* the title “Apostolic Faith Church.”

Which foundation did they lay for the Church and the work of the ministry? They pointed us to the Stone that the builders had rejected which has now become the Chief Cornerstone (Psalm 11:22). And who is this Chief Cornerstone? The Bible in narrating His rejection in the book of Isaiah 53 puts it this way, in verse 3: “He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, acquainted with grief. Like one from whom men hide their faces, He was despised, and we esteemed Him not...” and verse 7 states that “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth.” The same scripture in verse 5 declares “But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”

Apostle John says in John 1:10-11 (NLT): “He came into the very world he created, but the world did not recognize him. He came to his own people, and even they rejected him.” And in verse 12 he goes on to declare: “But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God!” The King James Version of the Bible puts it this way in verse 12 and 13: “But as many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.”

Apostle Paul declares in Ephesians 2:19-20 that we are therefore “...fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God; and are built upon the foundation of apostles and prophets with Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Corner Stone!” Hallelujah!! This is the sure foundation that was laid for us. Jesus Christ, whom they had rejected, became the Chief Cornerstone of the Household of God. Yes, Christ is the Stone the builders had rejected. And now he is our Sure Foundation, the Chief Cornerstone holding everything together and giving life to everything that was created! “For in him we live, and move, and have our being” (Act 17:28). Apostle Paul declares in 1 Corinthians 3:11, “For other foundation can no man lay than that is already laid, which is Jesus Christ”. Glory be to God!

The Bible warns, however: “But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon” (1 Cor. 3:10). As a builder called into the household of God, what materials are you using to build upon this foundation? Are you rejecting the Stone or choosing it as the Chief Cornerstone of your life and service in the Church to the Lord? Have you taken time to soak in the presence of God and seek to learn by the Holy Spirit the building codes and specifications required to meet the quality standards for building your life and the work of God in the Body of Christ? Are you building or tearing apart the Church of Jesus Christ, His Body? Are you interpreting the building drawings and plans according to the pattern and order given by the Lord? We shall continue with this discussion in the coming weeks.

Rev. J. Sande, Deputy ICO.

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We have more greeting messages received from Africa:

Rev. Joseph Lister Mutabelezi, Chairperson of the Board of Trustee, AFC Namibia writes: Blessed greetings to our dear beloved International Chief Overseer, Rev Duncan Lee, and our Mother in the faith Mrs. Jean Lee, and all those at the Root Church. In this Year of the Lord 2025, on behalf of the Apostolic Faith Church congregation in Namibia, we celebrate the grace of God on your life and ministry over the many years and herewith extend wishes for blessings to you and our resilient mother of the Church. We are inspired by your unwavering dedication to the work of the Lord and we thank God for Mother Jean Lee who has been a true pillar of strength and support to our Father Rev. Duncan Lee, our International Chief Overseer. Through the year you have demonstrated the character like that of Sarah to Abraham, Priscilla to Aquilla, Rebekah to Isaac. Much Blessings in the Lord.

