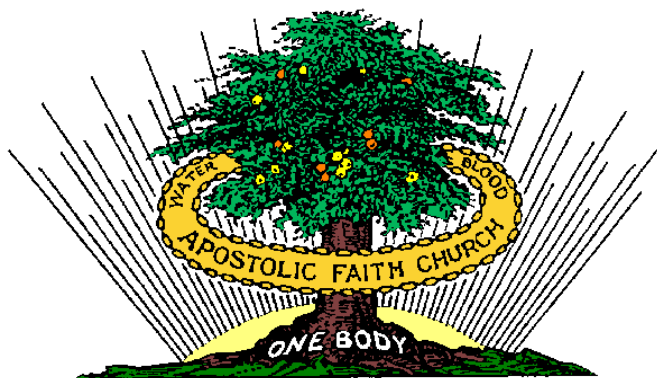


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Showers of Blessing

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The Chief Cornerstone: Rejected by Men; Established by God

“Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, 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. Therefore, it is also contained in the Scripture, ‘Behold, I lay in Zion, a Chief Cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame’” (1 Peter 2:4-6, NKJV).

Despite being rejected by men - the religious leaders, the priests and the Pharisees, the Lord Jesus became the Foundation and Chief Cornerstone upon which Christianity stands.

Jesus Himself in the book of Matthew 21 as he addressed the multitudes among whom were the priests and the Pharisees, after telling the parable of the wicked vinedressers where a landowner sends servants who were beaten, stoned and killed, and, ultimately, he sends his son to collect the fruits from the vinedresser-tenants, trusting that he would be respected and honoured, but they rejected him, cast him out and killed him instead. The Lord Jesus concludes by citing Psalm 118:22-23, and said to them in Matthew 21:42:

“...Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord’s doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’?”

He went on to say to them “Therefore I say to you, the Kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a nation bearing the fruits of it. And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.” Now when the chief priests and Pharisees heard His parables, they perceived that He was speaking of them”.

The Lord Jesus here spoke of Himself in the scriptures, signifying that He is the rejected stone who had become the Chief Cornerstone and Foundation of Kingdom of God.

In the Book of Acts 4, the Apostles were arrested after preaching and teaching people about Jesus and the resurrection from the dead, and after having healed a lame man in Chapter 3. They were brought before the Sanhedrin the next day. And the priests, the rulers, the elders, the scribes, sadduces etc. asked them, “By what power or by what name have you done this?” (Acts 4:7, NKJV).

‘Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them’ as recorded in the scriptures from verse 8 to 12 declaring “Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: ...let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. **This is the ‘stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.’ Nor is there Salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**”

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More greetings and messages to the Root:

From Mozambique, the Country Overseer Rev. Miguel Mabote writes: To the International Chief Overseer Rev Duncan Lee, I send my greetings to you and your respected wife and our Mother in the Lord and all the beloved at the Root Church in Bournemouth, we give honour to God because of you and your labour in the Lord. I do so on my own behalf, on behalf of my family and on behalf of all the faithful who attend the Apostolic Faith Church in Mozambique. We speak best wishes, blessings and a prosperous 2025. All in the Grace of our Savior and Resurrected Lord Jesus Christ.

And from Zimbabwe the Acting Country Overseer Pastor Mweembe says: To our beloved ICO and Father Rev Duncan Lee, our Mother in faith Mum Jean Lee and all the brethren at our International Headquarters, the church in Zimbabwe wishes you blessings, good health and a successful 2025. We wish, as always, to benefit more from your guidance concerning both the spiritual and physical matters that make Apostolic Faith Church Zimbabwe a true part of the body of Christ it is today, as we remember and honour God for the many years of your sacrifice and labour in Zimbabwe from the 1950s to the early 60s. May our Almighty God pour out His Blessings to you and our Regards to the brethren and all believers with you in Jesus Christ. Amen.

Further, from Angola, the Country Overseer Rev. Samuel Paquissi writes: To the International Chief Overseer, Esteemed Members of the International Headquarters Church at Bournemouth: Grace and abundant peace to you in the matchless name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! As the dawn of this year illuminates the horizon, I stand humbled and grateful to God for you, our spiritual pillars and beacons of unwavering faith, from this corner of God's vineyard. On behalf of the Church in Angola, it is with a heart full of reverence that I extend greetings to the ICO and all who labor tirelessly at the Headquarters for the advancement of God's Kingdom.

This new year is a profound reminder that our God, who crowned the past year with His faithfulness, stands ready to do exceedingly abundantly above all we could ask or imagine in the years ahead. Your visionary leadership and relentless sacrifice have set a standard that inspires us across nations to pursue excellence in service and unwavering devotion to our calling.

In this year we are filled with renewed zeal and a deepened commitment to the cause of Christ, as we unite our hearts and hands in the work of the Lord, as One Body, bearing fruit that will remain and bring glory to His name.

I pray that this year brings divine health and breakthroughs, supernatural strength, and heavenly wisdom in all endeavors. May the Lord's anointing flow mightily upon the International Headquarters, igniting a global revival that will bring nations to their knees in worship.

Article by Rev. Jeremiah Sande – Deputy ICO.

