

1 Peter 2:4 - And coming to Him as to a living stone which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, (NASB)

1. The second chapter begins with those things that hinder the believer from having a positive impact on the on the Client Nation's Pivot:

1 Peter 2:1 - Get rid of all evil and all deceit, all hypocrisies and jealousies, and all slander. (EXT)

2. Such mental attitudes are not conducive to maintaining *exōterikē harmonía* in the body of Christ.
3. Conspiracies, cliques, factions, and discord destroy the harmony that should be a primary objective and responsibility of every Christian's daily *modus operandi*.
4. A Client Nation cannot efficiently function if the members of its Pivot are in Operation *Gang Aft Agley*.¹
5. If these attitudes and behaviors are habitual then those involved are functioning in an emotional revolt of the soul. These can only be eliminated by what is recorded in verse 2:

1 Peter 2:2 - As newborn babes, desire without deceit the pure nourishment of the Word so that you may grow spiritually as a result because of your salvation. (EXT)

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6. The responsibility of Pivot members is outlined in verses 4-5. Verse four begins with the phrase, "coming to Him." This is figurative for the believer placing his complete trust in Christ and following Him as disciples.

¹ A lyric from, "To a Mouse," by Robert Burns who wrote in the Scottish dialect of England. It is translated, "often go awry."

7. This phrase also implies the doctrine of election. Those that come to Christ are so qualified by the God's efficacious grace response to their faith in Christ for salvation.
8. A personal relationship with God and Christ is what defines Christianity and separates it from all other efforts to have a relationship with deity.
9. Religion and Christianity are antithetical ideas. These two systems are defined as follows:

Religion is an antigrace system whereby man by his own human good works, effort, and merit seeks to gain salvation or the approbation of God. As a strategy by which Satan counterfeits Christianity, religion was invented to distract the unbeliever from the laws of divine establishment and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and divert the believer from executing God's plan, will, and purpose for his life through moral or immoral degeneracy. Antithetical to Christianity, which is not a religion but a relationship with Jesus Christ by grace through faith alone, religion is the devil's ace trump in deceiving the human race.²

10. All religions may be defined as stated above and that definition sadly excludes several Protestant denominations from true Christianity.
11. Christ is identified by the figurative title "living stone." Jesus is identified as **λίθος (lithos)**, a Stone or Rock throughout Scripture:
 1. Christ as the Rock of salvation is indicated in Isaiah 28:16 and 1 Peter 2:4.
 2. He is the Rock of judgment to the unbeliever in Isaiah 8:18 and 1 Peter 2:8.
 3. He is the Rock of provision in Isaiah 26:4.
 4. Jesus is the Rock of perfection as taught in Zechariah 3:9.³
 5. Christ is the foundation stone for Israel in Zechariah 28:16 and 1 Peter 2:8.
 6. Jesus is the foundation stone for the church in Ephesians 2:20–22.

² R. B. Thieme, Jr., *Reversionism*, 2d ed. (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 2000), 94fn65.

³ "The seven eyes are symbolic of divine omniscience and universal dominion" (*The NET Bible* [Dallas: Biblical Studies Press, 1996–2005], 1791sn4).

7. Christ is the destroying Rock of the Second Advent in Daniel 2:34-35.
12. The Jews rejected Jesus as Messiah, the living Stone, “which has been rejected by men.” The verb here is the perfect passive participle of ἀποδοκιμάζω (*apodokimázō*).
13. This word means that the rejection came from the ultimate source of a system which system is the law. Here the verb is in the perfect tense and is in agreement with *lithos*: stone.
14. Jesus was rejected, repudiated, and renounced throughout the Incarnation. These refusals were endured by Christ in three categories:
15. During His public ministry, the people refused to accept Him as King, therefore would not submit to His authority. They rejected Him by refusal to hear Him and admit He was the Messiah.
16. Both the Jewish and Roman legal systems each renounced Him as God. The Sanhedrin called Him a blasphemer while Pilate allowed Him to be crucified.
17. The Jewish mob repudiated Jesus as Savior by pressuring Pilate to execute Him.
18. All of these attitudes with emphasis of the sins they reflect resulted in His judgment on the cross for the sins of the world.
19. The phrase “of men” indicts the citizens of Judah including the ruling authorities who were steeped in religion and thus blinded to the prophecies that identified Jesus as Messiah.
20. In opposition to these factions is the testimony of the Father: “but is choice and precious in the sight of God.”

21. The word “choice” is **ἐκλεκτός (eklektós)** which is the word for election. Jesus was elected in eternity past to take on true humanity and provide salvation from whoever would believe in Him.
22. The word “precious” is **ἔντιμος (éntimos)** which refers to honor. Jesus is the highest and most valuable thing the Father could provide to affect the salvation of the human race.
23. In eternity past, Jesus was elected; in time, he was the most honorable gift from the Father. When the stone in verse 4 refers to Christ it is symbolic of salvation. He is the living stone that provides eternal life to those who believe.

1 Peter 2:4 - Coming to Jesus, the eternal living stone which was rejected by the authority of men, but elected by God in eternity past and considered by Him as the most honored and valuable One, (EXT)

1 Peter 2:5 - you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. (NASB)

1. This verse opens with the proclamation that believers are living stones because we have an eternal relationship with God.
2. With top-circle assets, forty things imputed, and the available status of spirituality, the believer who is weak is made strong.
3. Since Christ is the Rock and we are in Him, then we also are living stones who are to be built up to form a building functioning as an edifice with Christ as the cornerstone.
4. The process is stated next. We are “being built up as a spiritual house.” “Built up” is the present passive indicative of the verb **οἰκοδομέω (oikodoméō)**: the process of constructing a building which is the living Church, the body of Christ.

5. The term “body of Christ” refers to all Church Age believers. This “body” is trifold in its origin and sustenance. The Father appointed Jesus Christ as Ruler of the church: “Head of the church which is His body” (Ephesians 1:22–23 cf. 4:4–5).
6. Jesus Christ is certified as the founder of the church: “He is head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead” (Colossians 1:18).
7. The Holy Spirit certifies members of the body of Christ through His baptism of those who believe in Christ into that body: “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body” (1 Corinthians 12:13).
8. Since all Church Age believers are baptized into Christ, the supreme Ruler of all things, then since He is royalty, believers are members of His royal family.
9. The eternal life possessed by believers is made possible when the Spirit’s baptizes them into Christ.

1 John 5:11 - The testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this [eternal] life is in His Son.

v. 12 - He who has the Son has [this eternal] life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have [this eternal] life.

v. 13 - These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. (NASB)

10. The term “built up” (*oikodoméō*) in 1 Peter 2:5 illustrates of the body of Christ as a building. This “body” is under constant construction which will not be completed until the Rapture of the church.