

1 Peter 2 v 4-12: The Rock

Jesus nicknamed one of His key, leading disciples Simon Peter 'Cephas'. It's an Aramaic term suggesting strength. We might translate it as 'Rocky'.

On one occasion, when Peter declared his faith conviction that Jesus was indeed the promised Rescuer the 'Christ' and Son of God, the Lord declared He would 'build His Church' with people like this, people who firmly profess their faith in Him. (Matthew 16 v 18) Some traditions subsequently name Peter as the 'rock' on which Christianity is built.

It's interesting then to read how in a circular letter to be distributed among fledgling 1st Century church fellowships, Peter very humbly directs attention away from himself and focusses firmly on Jesus.

Quoting from the Old Testament Psalms and famous prophet Isaiah he insists the only true foundation and 'cornerstone' of the worldwide Church is Jesus Himself.

Christians rest our lives on Him and so become the 'living stones' which together make up God's spiritual home on Earth. God's 'kingdom' on earth is no longer limited to a physical location or building as in Old Testament times, but is a living, mobile, global fellowship for His Spirit lives in all our hearts. As Christ says, the kingdom is now 'within' us!

As recipients of God's mercy through trusting in Christ's sacrifice on the cross, we are *all* now called to live as 'priests', to offer thankful, prayerful worship to God and 'declare the praises' (ie. announce globally the life-changing good news) of the Saviour Who calls us 'from darkness into His wonderful light.'