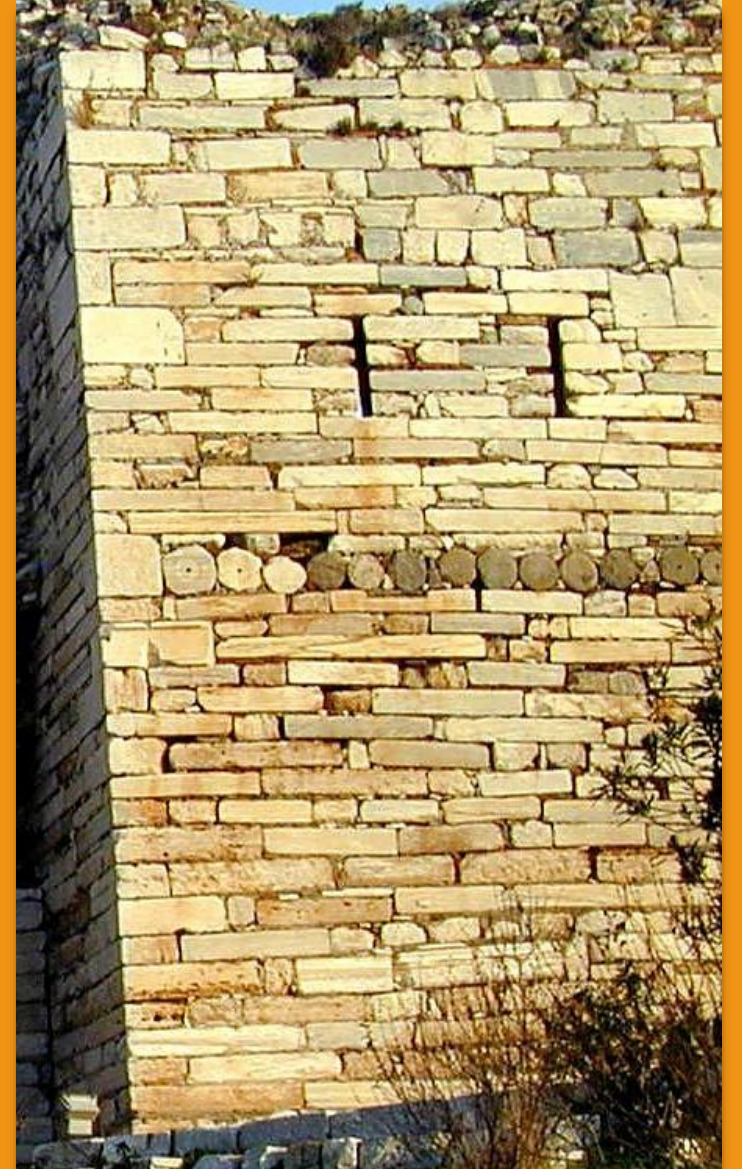


God's Precision-Built Temple

The Church: Living Stones

“You also as living stones are being built up as a spiritual house...”



Ephesians 2:19-22
Message

Believers are now the one people of God in a relationship with Him marked by an intimacy even greater than a close family bond.

Members of God's Family (Eph 2:19-22)

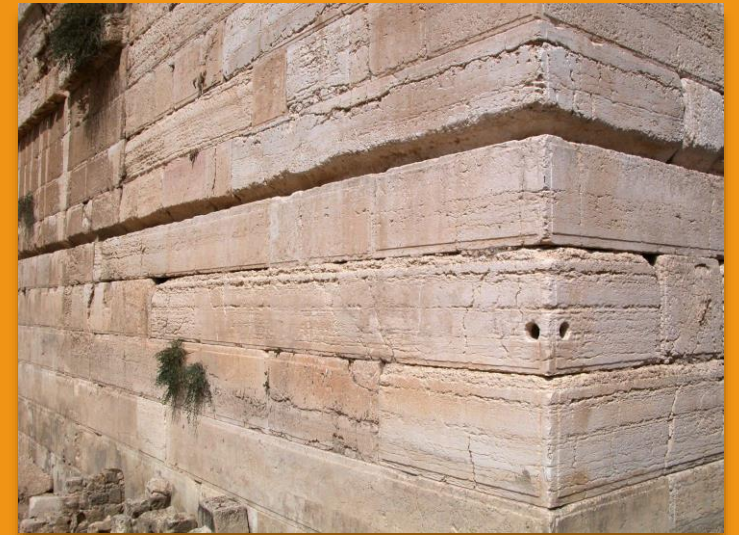
- I. We have a new association: citizens of God's kingdom (19a)
- II. We have a new relationship: members of God's household (19b)
- III. We have a new purpose: to serve as God's dwelling place—His temple (20-22)

God's Precision-Built Temple (Eph 2:20-22)

- A. The foundation of the church is Jesus with His apostles and prophets (20)
- B. The formation of the church is the careful fitting of all believers into the whole (21)
- C. The function of the church is to serve as God's dwelling place (22)

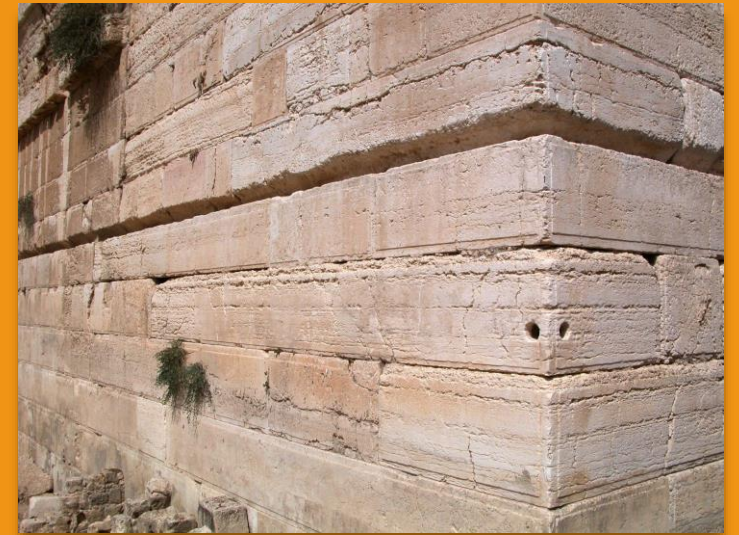
Corner Stone

- The first stone laid when constructing a building
- Placed at one corner it was a guide for laying the rest of the foundation
- Helped to keep everything square
- Supported the structure
- Gave unity to the building



Jesus as our Corner Stone

- He sets the standard for this new building, the church
- He determines our mission
- By Him we can measure our unity
- He is the source of growth for the church



Our standard, mission, unity and growth are founded upon Jesus and His work

Corner Stone - OT Background

Psalm 118:22

- Quoted in Mt 21:42 and Acts 4:8-12

Isaiah 8:14

Isaiah 28:16

- Referred to in Eph 2:20

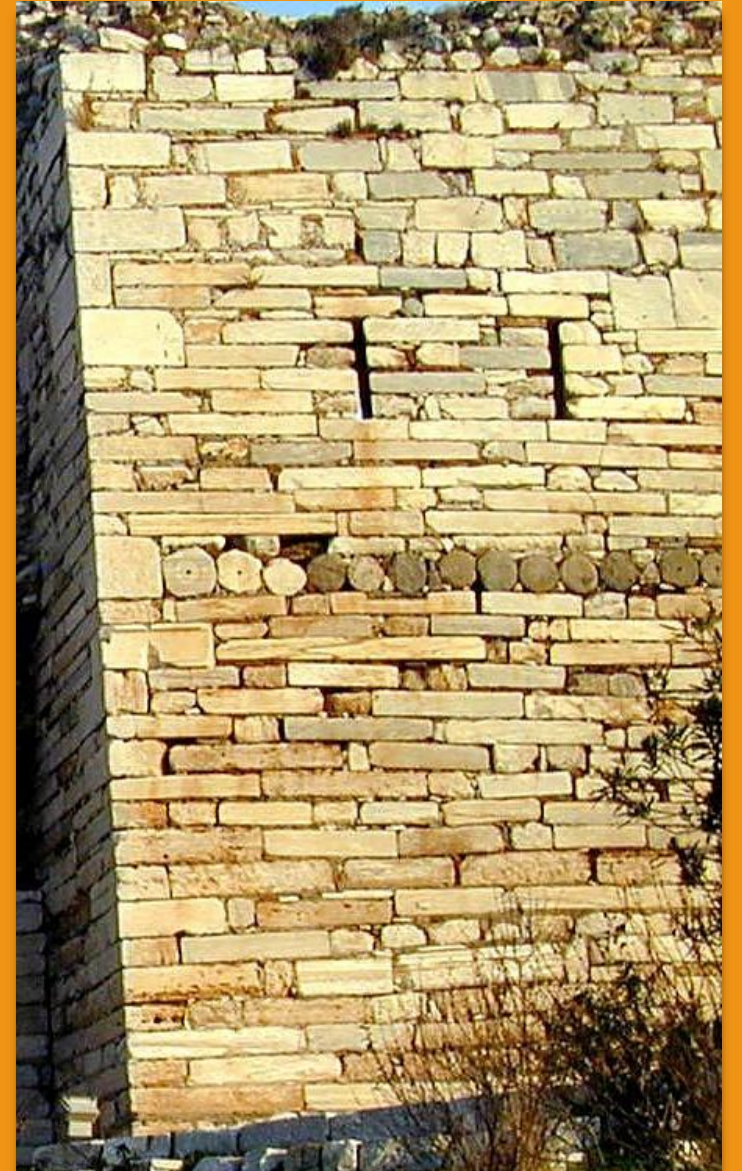
1 Peter 2:4-8

- Used all 3 OT texts



Fitted Together

God joins and fits believers together with skill and care, keeping the final structure's purpose in view



Harold Hoehner,
Ephesians, p. 409

“If ancient masons used an elaborate process to fit the stones together, one can be assured that God, even more, by his grace is carefully fitting together the individuals who are a part of his building. His desire is to bring inner unity in order that corporate growth can occur”

Temple

Hieron - Temple and its courts



Naos - Holy place - God's dwelling place

