

UPWARD CALL

Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but this is my one aim: to forget everything that's behind, and to strain every nerve to go after what lies ahead. I press on toward the finish line, where the prize waiting for me is the upward call of God

IN KING JESUS.

(Philippians 3:13-14)

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Stones Cry Out

As soon as He was approaching, near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the miracles which they had seen, shouting: "**BLESSED IS THE KING WHO COMES IN THE NAME OF THE LORD**; Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples." But Jesus answered, "***I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!***" (Luke 19:37-40 NASB [bold added])

As Jesus set His face toward Jerusalem and the cross, in so doing, He faced head-on the full onslaught of evil, something no single human has ever done or will ever do because God's Son was and still is victorious over evil. We cannot fathom the forces of evil that came against Jesus, along with the forces of man.

Why are the nations in an uproar and the peoples devising a vain thing? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers take counsel together against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying, "Let us tear their fetters apart and cast away their cords from us!" (Psalm 2:1-3 NASB)

But what was God's response? *He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall mock at them. I have set My king on My holy mount on Zion* (Psalm 2:4, 6).

In that day, the crowds did not know what Jesus was about to face; all they knew was that there was something remarkably different about this man. He had preformed many miracles as He announced that the kingdom of the heavens was at hand. He stood in the midst of His people as the full embodiment of the kingdom of God and proved it by all that He did and said. In that hour, the whole crowd of disciples proclaimed that He is the King. True to form, the religious elite wanted the voice of the crowd rebuked, for they would not have Jesus as their king. The Pharisees repeatedly stood against Jesus, even to the point of demanding He be crucified. They wanted the crowd silenced.

To all this, Jesus replied that if the crowd were to be silenced, the stones would cry out that He is King. In reading this, our first reaction might be that the stones Jesus referred to were literally inorganic rocks that were more than likely lying about on His route to Jerusalem.

However, perhaps, He had a much greater meaning, one that was spiritual and that pointed to something that would come forth with His resurrection, ascension, and glorification that led to the spirit of truth being poured out on His disciples – namely, a spiritual house built of living stones.

Paul lays the groundwork for this house as he presents to us the one new man in Christ.

Consequently, then, no longer are you guests and sojourners, but are fellow-citizens of the saints and belong to God's family, being built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, the capstone of the corner being Christ Jesus Himself, in Whom the entire building, being connected together, is growing into a **holy temple in the Lord:**" in Whom you, also, are being built together for **God's**

dwelling place, in spirit." (Ephesians 2:19-22 CLV [bold added])

Clearly, Paul uses the metaphor of a building project, even referring to it as *the entire building*, which is a holy temple in the Lord that is being built as a dwelling place *in* spirit for God. It is a spiritual house, for God is spirit and we worship in spirit and truth. This is the promise of Jesus to His people.

Yet whenever that may be coming - the spirit of truth - it will be guiding you into all the truth, for it will not be speaking from itself, but whatsoever it should be hearing will it be speaking, and of what is coming will it be informing you." (John 16:13 CLV)

Now, Peter adds to this building project.

Whom approaching, **a living Stone**, having been rejected indeed by men, yet chosen by God, held in honor, you, also, as **living stones**, are being built up **a spiritual house**, into a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, most acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. " (1 Peter 2:4-5 CLV [bold added])

It starts with Jesus as the living Stone – *a Stone which is rejected by the builders, this came to be the head of the corner* (1 Peter 2:7). With the corner in place as the strength of the entire foundation and the rest to follow, the project continues with other living stones being built into God's spiritual house, whose house we are (Hebrews 3:6). These living stones are connected or joined together with not only one another but, most importantly, with the chief cornerstone, the one the Pharisees rejected.

I recognize that all of this is (or: should be) well understood by most of the Lord's people, so this should be nothing new.

However, I offer this thought. When Jesus stated the stones would cry out, He was actually looking to what would rise up from the grave with Him – the new temple of His glorious body, the spiritual house of God made of living stones. The crowds that proclaimed His kingship were silenced by the cross as they dispersed in disbelief and bewilderment: How could this have happened to Him? We thought He was the king who was going to deliver us out of Roman rule.

Oh, but a new voice rose up with the empty tomb and with the spirit of truth descending on Jesus' new body, His temple of believers. These are the stones that could not be silenced! **Blessed is King Jesus!**

Mark these words: there are people in our present day that want to silence this voice once again. The spirit of antichrist wants to silence the voice of the living stones. People being forced to wear masks and speak with muffled voices is a sign of what the antichrist spirit or spirit of the world seeks to do. It wants our voices to not only be muffled so no one can understand us but to be silenced completely.

Praise God; Jesus proclaimed that these living stones would yet cry out and they did just that with the arrival of the spirit of the Lord. This voice has gone forth down through the centuries since Pentecost. Are we to be a generation to be silenced in fear? May it not be coming to that! We are on the cusp of the arrival of God's King and His kingdom manifesting to the nations. Today is the day for us to be bold and proclaim the coming of the Lord, not in code language or muffled speech but clearly and distinctly. **The King of all kings is coming and His name is Jesus!** He alone will rescue this lost world from all that ails it. He alone will usher in true peace and righteousness and justice and truth and love. **Blessed is the King who comes!**