

THE DAY THE LORD HATH MADE

February 3, 2019

Psalm 118

“The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.”

Psalm 118:22-24

Jesus told a parable of a farmer who planted a vineyard, then hired a manager to tend it during his absence. Repeatedly, the owner sent messengers to collect his harvest, but the manager and his helpers abused each messenger, even killing one. The owner then sent his son, reasoning that the son would be respected. But they killed his son also. Jesus then affirmed the obvious: “the lord of the vineyard . . . will come and destroy the husbandmen, and will give the vineyard unto others.”

The parable was told for the sake of Israel's religious rulers, and they perceived that it spoke of them. They were entrusted with the spiritual care of God's people. Yet prophets God sent through the centuries, they rejected, and in some cases killed. Now, God had sent His Son, and they were rejecting Him. In their hearing Jesus quoted from Psalm 118, applying it to himself: “The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner: this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes” (Mark 12:10, 11).

After Christ's ascension to heaven, Peter preached that the miracles he and John performed were by the power of Christ, whom the religious establishment killed. Repeating their error, the religious leaders forbade Peter to preach. The next day Peter continued preaching Christ's resurrection, quoting from Psalm 118, “This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner” (Acts 4:11). Christ's death and resurrection had fulfilled this prophecy.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus, stressing the priceless benefits that we have through Jesus Christ. He cited our resurrection from death in sin to spiritual life in Christ, the fact that we are Christ's, that we are rescued by Him from hopeless alienation. All of these benefits are unto believers, for they “are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone” (Ephesians 2:20).

In Peter's first epistle, he describes believers as “lively stones . . . built up a spiritual house . . . acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” He continues, citing Psalm 118: “Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded” (I Peter 2:6).

Christ, Peter and Paul show this psalm to be prophetic of Christ's triumph and exaltation. This is a psalm used by Israel at the Passover. There, a lamb foreshadowing the Lamb of God was offered as a sacrifice, then eaten by those for whom it was offered. “The day which the Lord hath made” is that day of Christ's triumphant

God ordained Jesus Christ a “Lamb slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8). “When the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons” (Galatians 4:4, 5). When Mary would have had her Son exalted, “Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come” (John 2:4). Christ's prayer the day before His crucifixion

began, "Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee" (John 17:1). To sleeping disciples in Gethsemane, He said, "the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners" (Matthew 26:45).

The believing heart and mind see the exactness by which matters pertinent to our salvation have been attended to by God. The psalmist wrote with prophetic vision of that day determined by God as the day of Christ's triumph and glory. "The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the LORD'S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day which the LORD hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it."