



To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2: 4-5

On one occasion, when Jesus was asked to keep those who were praising Him quiet, He replied with these words found in Luke 19:40: " I tell you that, if these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out."

This verse announced how the believers, as time went by, were going to be silent and then it was going to be necessary for the stones through archaeology to speak to us again.

In the Bible we also find different stones, with different sizes and functions, from which we can learn significant lessons. Learn from these stones and apply their message to your spiritual life.



1

Stones That Get in the Way

Genesis 29:10

Jacob fled from his brother who wanted to kill him and traveled until he reached the area where his relatives lived. There he met several shepherds who were waiting to be able to water their sheep. "And he said, Lo, it is yet high day, neither is it time that the cattle should be gathered together: water ye the sheep, and go and feed them. And they said, We cannot, until all the flocks be gathered together, and till they roll the stone from the well's mouth; then we water the sheep." (Genesis 29:7-8). "And while he yet spake with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep; for she kept them. And it came to pass, when Jacob saw Rachel the daughter of Laban his mother's brother, and the sheep of Laban his mother's brother, that Jacob went near, and rolled the stone from the well's mouth, and watered the flock of Laban his mother's brother." (Genesis 29:9-10). So, Jacob removed this stone that was in the way so that his future wife's sheep could drink.

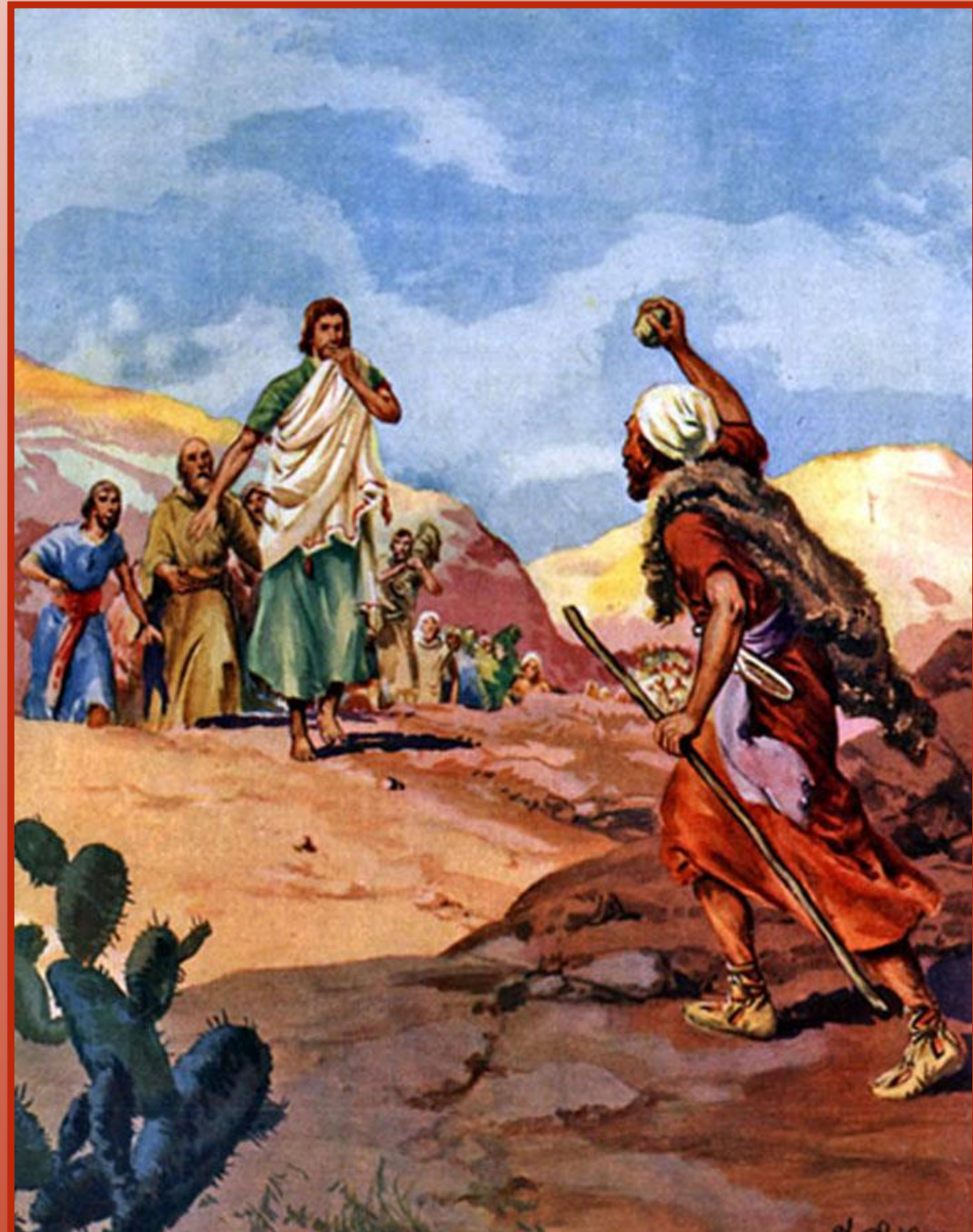


2

Harmful Stones

2 Samuel 16:5-8

King David was under attack by his son Absalom, who had entered Jerusalem to conquer the kingdom, so David was fleeing from his son to the Jordan River to cross it. In a distressing moment for David and his men, Satan used a man to hurt him with both his words and his acts of violence. “And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera: he came forth, and cursed still as he came. And he cast stones at David, and at all the servants of king David: and all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left. And thus said Shimei when he cursed, Come out, come out, thou bloody man, and thou man of Belial: The Lord hath returned upon thee all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose stead thou hast reigned; and the Lord hath delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom thy son: and, behold, thou art taken in thy mischief, because thou art a bloody man.” (2 Samuel 16:5-8).



3

Harmful Stones

John 8:59



Jesus is teaching in the temple and is telling them how they are preparing everything to kill him; that He has come to reflect and honor His Father; that he was divine; and that already existed before Abraham. The Jews, when the moment comes when Jesus says to them, "Truly, truly, before Abraham was, I am," "Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by." (John 8:59).

4

Useful Stones

Genesis 28:11

In the Bible we find stones that were very useful.

An example is when Jacob was beginning his journey of flight from Esau.

At the end of the second day, Jacob reached the vicinity of the city of Light, about 80 km north of Beersheba. He chose to spend the night outside the city itself for fear of the Canaanites.

There he went to sleep, and before going to sleep he took one of the stones of that place and put it as a pillow and lay down in that place. Later we will see that the stone was not a small stone, but a fairly large stone.

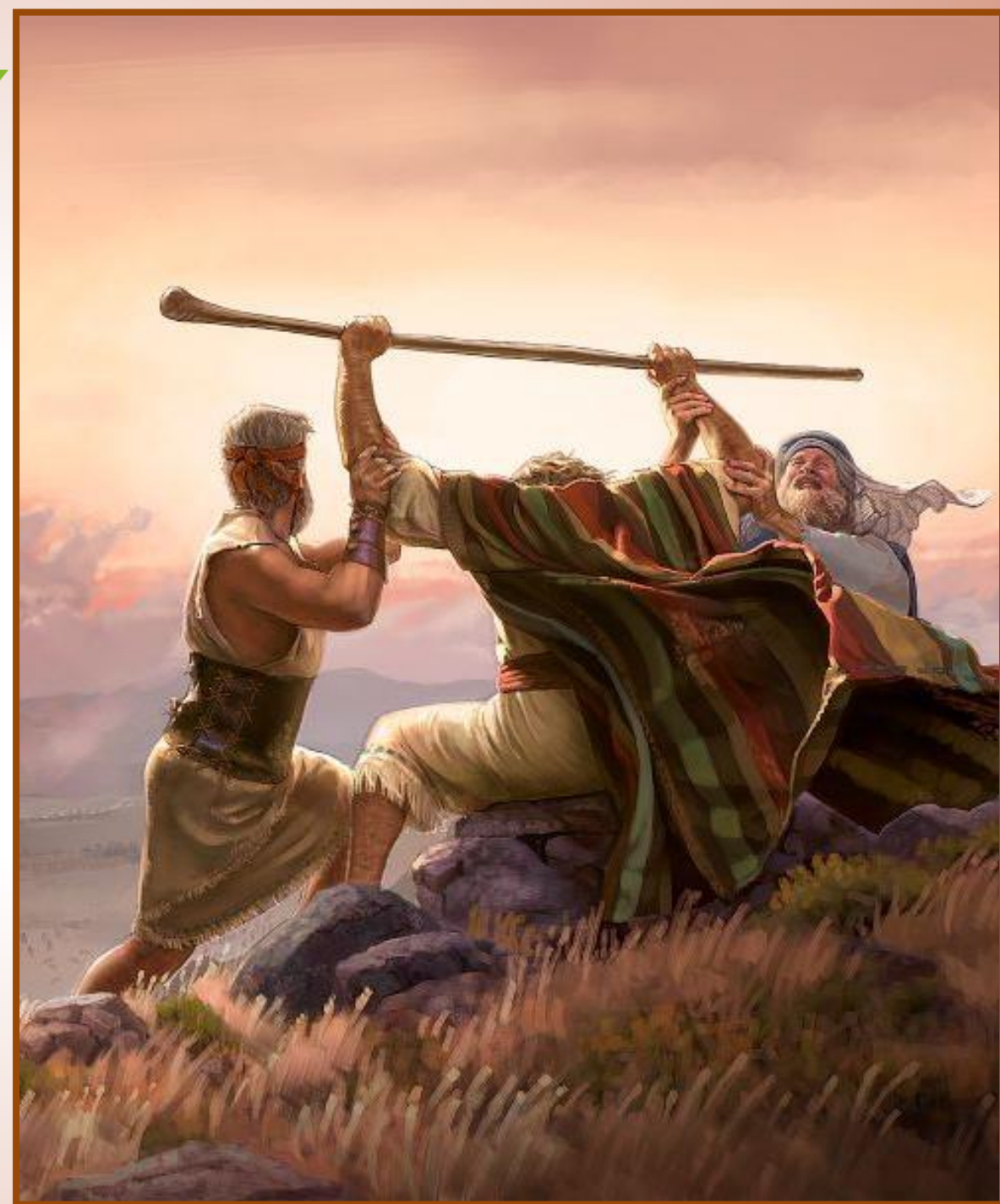


5

Useful Stones

Exodus 17:12

The Israelites were fighting against the Amalekites. While Israel, under Joshua's orders, fought for its very existence down in the valley. Moses went up to the mountain, and on the mountain, he began to pray, to intercede for the people of Israel to achieve victory. Moses raised his hands with his rod to pray. So, the people of Israel won. When he grew tired, he lowered his hands, and the people of Israel lost. There he was accompanied by his brother Aaron and his brother-in-law Hur. When they saw what was happening, they decided to look for a solution and find a useful stone to solve the problem. Exodus 17:12 tells us, "But Moses hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun." This stone was quite useful, as it was of help for victory.



At a certain point in Israel's early history, the ark fell into the hands of the Philistines, and they took the ark back to their cities. And that's where the problems began. They took her before their god Dagon, and he was found mutilated.

6

Useful Stones

1 Samuel 6:14-15



The inhabitants of the city began to have tumors and plagues of mice, so they took the ark to another city, and the same thing happened. There came a time when they said: "we are all going to die. Let us return the ark to Israel." They took two cows that had just given birth that would never have had their yoke on, and put them on a chariot, and sent them to Israel.

When they arrived in the territory of Israel we find this moment in which the men of Israel see the ark and are very happy, and they decide to also use a stone to help them: "And the cart came into the field of Joshua, a Bethshemite, and stood there, where there was a great stone: and they clave the wood of the cart, and offered the kine a burnt offering unto the Lord. And the Levites took down the ark of the Lord, and the coffer that was with it, wherein the jewels of gold were, and put them on the great stone: and the men of Bethshemesh offered burnt offerings and sacrificed sacrifices the same day unto the Lord." (1 Samuel 6:14-15)

This stone was useful and honorable, because it could have on it the very presence of God, symbolized in that ark.

7

Useful Stones

1 Samuel 14:33-34

Saul had said that no one should eat until they had defeated their enemies. So all that day they were fighting and fighting, non-stop, until, in the end, they had been defeated.

They took all their possessions, all their animals. But they were so hungry because they hadn't eaten all day and because they were fighting, that they began to eat the flesh with its own blood. Saul was warned, and he made his decisions with the help of a rock.

“Then they told Saul, saying, Behold, the people sin against the Lord, in that they eat with the blood. And he said, Ye have transgressed: roll a great stone unto me this day. And Saul said, Disperse yourselves among the people, and say unto them, Bring me hither every man his ox, and every man his sheep, and slay them here, and eat; and sin not against the Lord in eating with the blood. And all the people brought every man his ox with him that night, and slew them there. (1 Samuel 14:33-34)”.

In the same field that Joshua had asked for as an inheritance we found another stone. By this time Saul was king, and there were problems with the Philistines. They were very afraid to fight them but, in the end, thanks to Jonathan, there was a great victory.



This useful stone allied with a few others to be useful. We find it in 1 Kings 18. Elijah gathered the people together and set them a challenge: the real God will be the one who spews fire from heaven and consummates the sacrifice. Thus, the priests of Baal tried again and again to ask him to descend fire, while Elijah himself mocked them.

8

Useful Stones

1 Kings 18:31-39

When the time came for him, Elijah took twelve stones and built an altar with them in the name of the Lord; then he made a trench around the altar, in which two measures of grain could fit. Then he prepared the wood, and cut the ox into pieces, and laid it on the wood. And he said, "Fill four jars with water, and pour it over the burnt offering and over the wood." And he said, Do it again; and again, they did. He said, "Do it the third time; and they did it the third time, so that the water ran around the altar, and the ditch had also been filled with water. When the time came for the burnt offering to be offered, the prophet Elijah came and prayed. Then the fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt offering, the wood, the stones, and the dust, and even licked up the water that was in the ditch. When all the people saw it, they fell down and said, "The Lord is the God, the Lord is the God!"

This time it was not a single stone but several together they made an altar so that everyone would understand that the Lord is the only God.



9

Prophetic Stones

Jeremiah 43:8-10

Another type of stones are prophetic stones, stones that announced something, which were a prophecy in themselves.

Jeremiah in his last years of life, after the destruction of Jerusalem, was forcibly taken to Egypt by the dissidents. In Egypt, they hoped to be safe, and free from the attacks of King Nebuchadnezzar.

And so, God asked Jeremiah to make a prophecy using stones. We find it in Jeremiah 43:8-10.

“Then came the word of the Lord unto Jeremiah in Tahpanhes, saying, Take great stones in thine hand, and hide them in the clay in the brickkiln, which is at the entry of Pharaoh's house in Tahpanhes, in the sight of the men of Judah; And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will send and take Nebuchadrezzar the king of Babylon, my servant, and will set his throne upon these stones that I have hid; and he shall spread his royal pavilion over them (Jeremiah 43:8-10)”.

That is what happened. Nebuchadnezzar put his throne on those stones.



Other stones we found in the Bible bore witness to something. The stones we're going to look at are the ones found in Joshua 4:5-7.

10

Testimonial Stones

Joshua 4:5-7

After God's people crossed the Jordan dry, Joshua gave them God's command: "And Joshua said unto them, Pass over before the ark of the Lord your God into the midst of Jordan, and take you up every man of you a stone upon his shoulder, according unto the number of the tribes of the children of Israel: That this may be a sign among you, that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean ye by these stones? Then ye shall answer them, That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever. (Joshua 4:5-7)".

These were stones of testimony, stones that spoke. In fact, they were there so that anyone who saw them would ask: What are those stones doing there? And then to be able to answer: "Well, those stones are there because the ark of the Lord stood in the Jordan, and God's people were able to pass dry to this side of the Jordan".



11

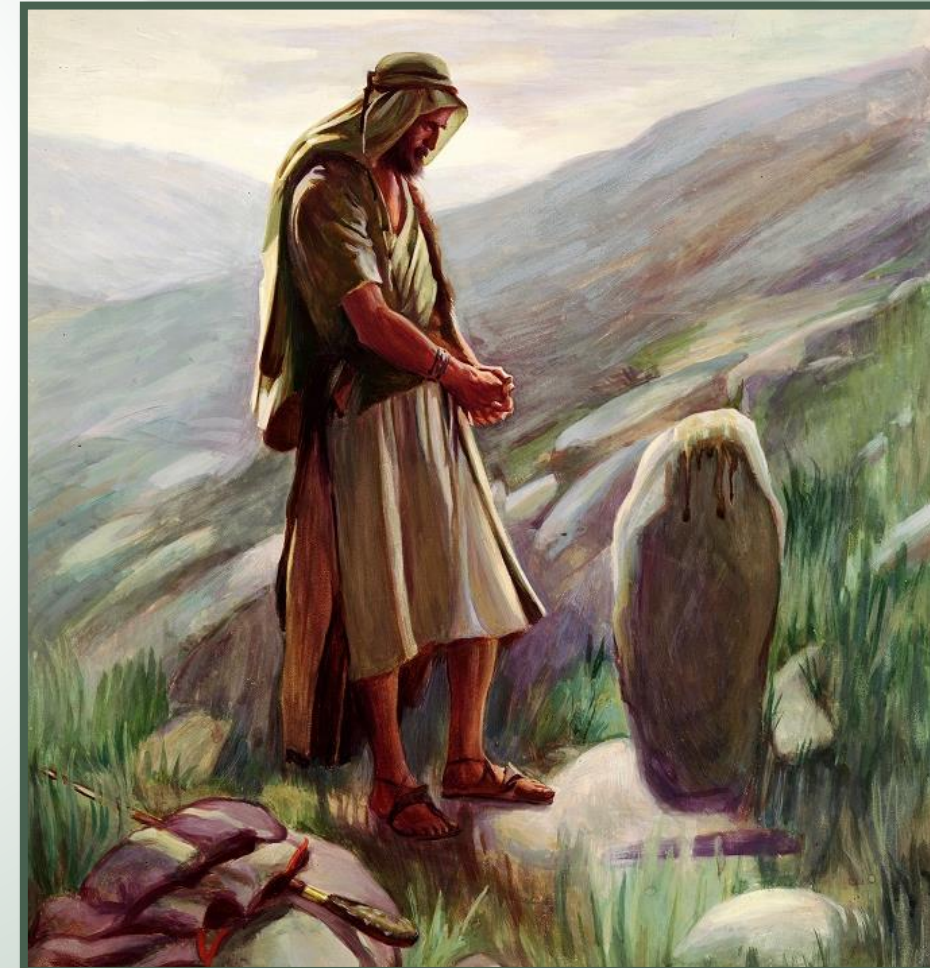
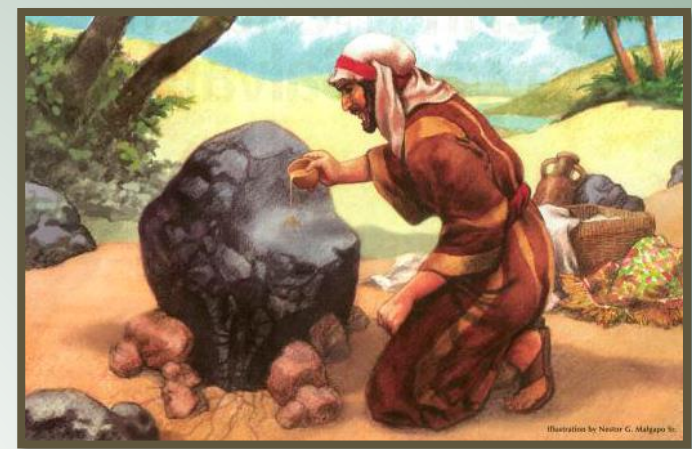
Testimonial Stones

Genesis 28:18

This stone had multiple uses, had served Jacob as a pillow and now served him for another purpose. While he slept leaning on that stone, he dreamed of a ladder where God's angels went up and down, and God on high. And God spoke to him, "...I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou liest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed; And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed. And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of." (Genesis 28:13-15)

"And Jacob rose up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it." (Genesis 28:18).

Jacob set that stone for a testimony. This is Bethel, the house of God



12

Testimonial Stones

Exodus 31:18

And as far testimonial stones, we have to go to these stones; the stone tablets that are called the Ten Commandments.

These were written by God Himself: “And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.” (Exodus 31:18).

Every time we think of the tablets of testimony, let us ask ourselves: What are they testimony of?

They are a testimony of God's own character. They are a testimony of who God is.



Now, we are going to ask four stones to tell us about their experience. We will see how Jesus is the Living Stone and we are lively stones.



The Stone That Flew

Now let's look at a small stone that flew away. The stone that flew was used by the young David to achieve victory over the giant Goliath. It says in 1 Samuel 17:40 "And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine (1 Samuel 17:40)".



I was born on a mountain, and erosion let me fall from a large rock, and I fell until I reached a stream.

Once in the river, with other pebbles, I went down little by little with the water, and I became a boulder. It was rolling and, suddenly, the water stopped. The stream dried up, and I stood still. You know that when it rains a lot there is water, and when it rains little, it doesn't.

We asked ourselves: Where does this lead? We believe that it carries the sea. But it did not lead to the sea, it led to the Jordan River, and from the Jordan River it died in the Dead Sea. In other words, it did not even reach the sea. But our dream was to reach the sea.

After a while, the water came back again, and again to travel. And so I spent many months and years traveling. I would move a little, then stop. My only intention in this world was that, in the end, perhaps, the sea would arrive; and the rest, I didn't care. I had no interest in anything.

Then a young man grabbed me with other stones that I had next to me, and put me in a bag where everything was dark, it seemed like night. As used as I was to seeing the sunlight, I'm in total darkness. Well, this happened quickly.





Suddenly, light again. The hand began to stir between the five of us, and it chose me. He placed me in a weird leather place and I thought: "Well, what is going to happen now?" And at that moment I realized that I was not going to reach the sea, that I was not going to return to the stream. And then, why my life? It didn't make sense anymore. If the only thing I wanted was to reach the sea... and now, he could no longer arrive. Then came the worst. That began to spin. What a dizziness. Twists and turns. And suddenly, without even realizing it, I was flying! What is a stone doing flying, if I am one of those who are dragged along the ground? I'm not made to fly. But there I was, flying until I stopped on a giant's forehead. And the giant fell to the ground, and then I realized that a hopeless stone, made to crawl on the ground, could have a huge victory.

I don't know if it has ever happened to you, that you have felt that you are worthless, or that your usefulness is very limited. You have few aspirations. But remember: God does have aspirations for each of us. God does want us to be something great, to have victories. He wants what He asks us to do, to do, even though we believe we can't. Even if we think we can't fly, if God tells you, "fly," fly! He will give you victory. We can also be stones that have victories, placed in the hands of God who gives us victory.

The Stone That Fell



This stone was the stone that fell to the ground when it was in a person's hand, and decided to stay there, on the ground.

The story is found in John 8:7: “So when they continued asking Him, he lifted up Himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her (John 8:7)”.

I am a stone that was taken to Jerusalem to do an important work: to build the temple.

And of all the stones they used, they left me with others there as rubble.

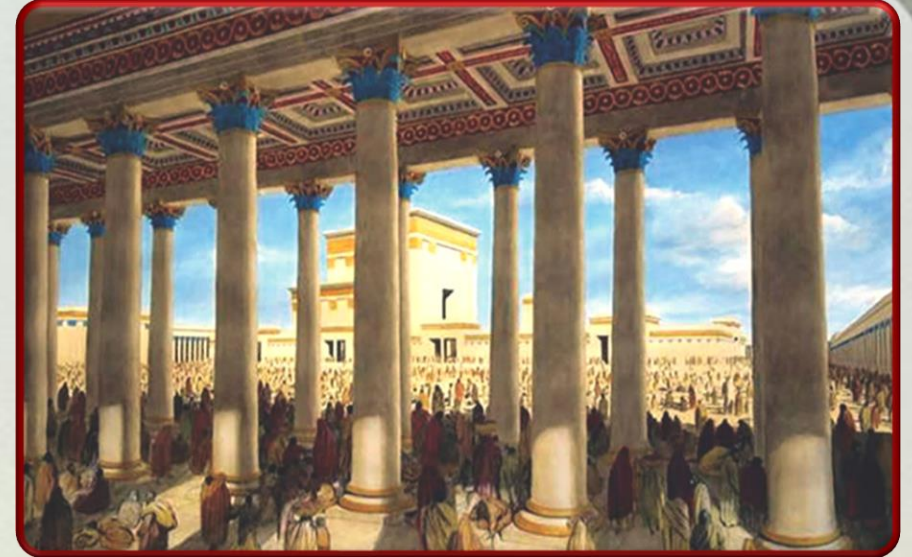
Then a young man grabbed me and lifted me up from the ground. And I noticed that other people were also doing the same. In the end, a lot of people gathered with stones in their hands.

I asked myself: What are we doing here?

Then I realized that there was a woman in front of me, a sinful woman who was being accused of a terrible sin.

I thought, "Now I know what I'm doing here, it's clear, I'm here to do justice, and I'm going to do justice."

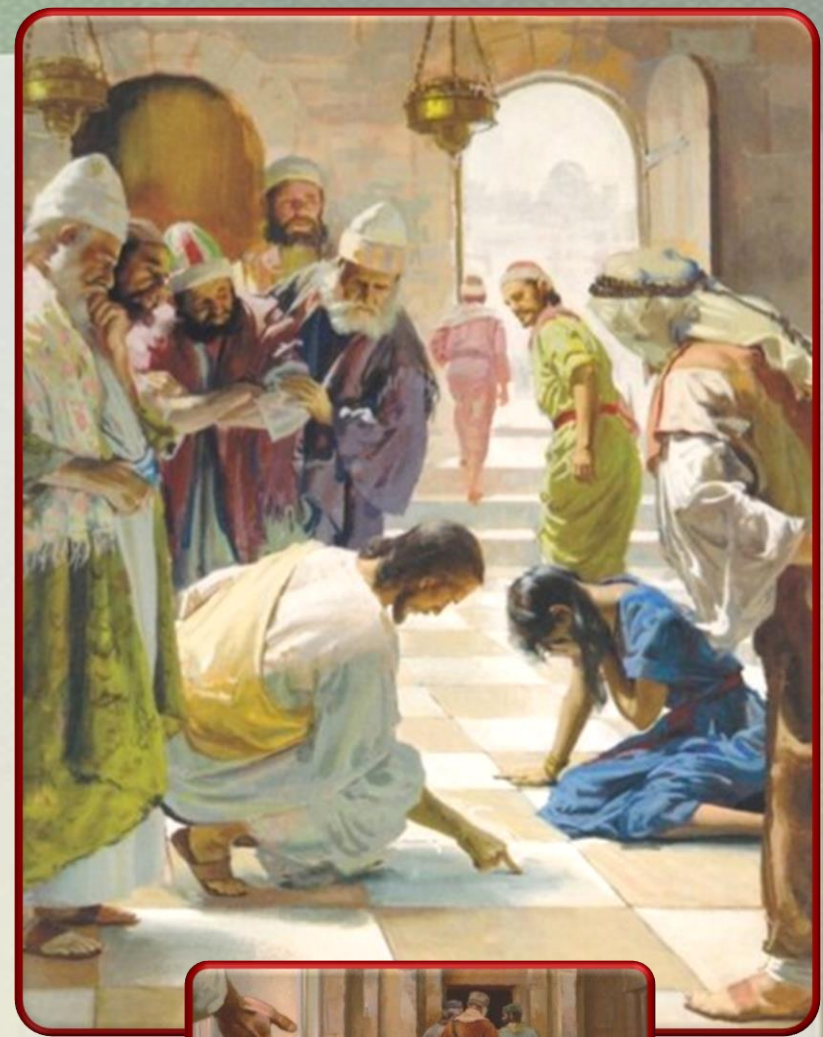
What does the law say about women who act as this person, this woman, has acted? that she must be stoned. And what better way to stone a person than a stone? So, at last, I'm going to be useful: I'm a stone that's going to do justice.



They were asking a man – I later learned it was Jesus – what do we do with this woman? But Jesus did not answer, He simply wrote on the floor. From my position I saw what he wrote. What was he writing? He wrote sins! Sins! Some seemed very soft, others were more serious, but all sinful. What for, why does this man write this? I asked myself. And people came to watch. And then the unexpected happened: "So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her." (John 8:7).

I thought: "this is my perfect opportunity, I am the first, I am the first, because I am here very close". But the young man did not move his hand. There was no way I could do it like that. Then I realized that other older people began to drop stones on the ground. I don't want to fall to the ground, I want to do justice! So, I waited, and I realized then what was happening to the young man. The young man realized that some of those sins Jesus was writing about had been committed by him, and it was no longer he who was sinless. And then I changed my mind, and I no longer wanted to throw myself at the woman. I preferred to fall to the ground, I preferred to humble myself and accept the forgiveness of the sinful person. I learned the lesson: that it is better to forgive than to be a vigilante.

We too, when we see the person who sins, think of this stone. Which is better to beat the sinner or help him, forgive him, love him, and bring him to repentance? Let us be stones that fall to the ground and forgive.



The Stone That Did Not Want to Become Bread

This stone did not want to become bread. Both Matthew and Luke speak of this stone. It is the stone that intervened in the temptation of Jesus. “And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread.” (Luke 4:3).



This stone was a stone that did not want to become bread.

This stone that had the opportunity to become bread did not want to, and I asked him, "Hey, how come you didn't want to become bread? What happened?"

When I heard "If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread" (Luke 4:3), imagine my joy. I am stone and I am not bread, but if I were bread... Like a stone, what am I good for? For the lair of some scorpion, so that some snake passes over me. But like bread I can feed Jesus! Jesus is here, and I know that He is the only one who can turn me into bread. The only one who can turn someone into what they are not, is Jesus.

So I thought: "come on, turn me into bread". But He stood still, He didn't. What's going wrong?

But if it is ideal: Jesus is hungry, I can be bread; it eats me and it's all fixed.

But Jesus still doubted. He couldn't bring himself to say the words. I thought, "Say the words, I want to be bread! What's wrong?"



And suddenly, I realized what was going wrong. I was in the wrong hand. The hand that held me was not Jesus's, it was the enemy's. What's going on here? And if you are the Son of God... Now I fall. This is a temptation; they are testing Jesus.

If he turns me into bread, He admits that there is some doubt that He could be the Son of God, but Jesus is very clear about it and does not need to turn me into bread.

No, I'm not going to be a temptation, I don't want to become bread, and I refuse to become bread.

This stone did not want to be temptation, it wanted, on the contrary, to overcome temptation, to overcome it with Jesus.

He wanted to be firm, a firm stone – let me say – like a rock.



In the face of temptation, firmness; in the face of temptation, do not give in; nor, of course, be a temptation to others. When we see temptation, let's ask God to stand firm.





The Stone With an Impossible Mission

This is a stone with an impossible mission. This stone was assigned a mission that was impossible to fulfill. Let's see why: “And laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre and departed” (Matthew 27:60).

At first, I thought my mission was clear: My mission was, as if it were a door, to close a tomb, and open it when someone came to see the tomb and close it again. That is, it was going to be a door, a stone door that closed and opened.

The one who assigned me this task is called Joseph, he was known as Joseph of Arimathea. He was a rich man, a man of good manners, spiritual, who, when he was older, was carving out his new tomb. And I was an important piece in that tomb.

Through the construction, she saw Joseph of Arimathea several times and already knew him. It was his boss, the one who had assigned him his mission.

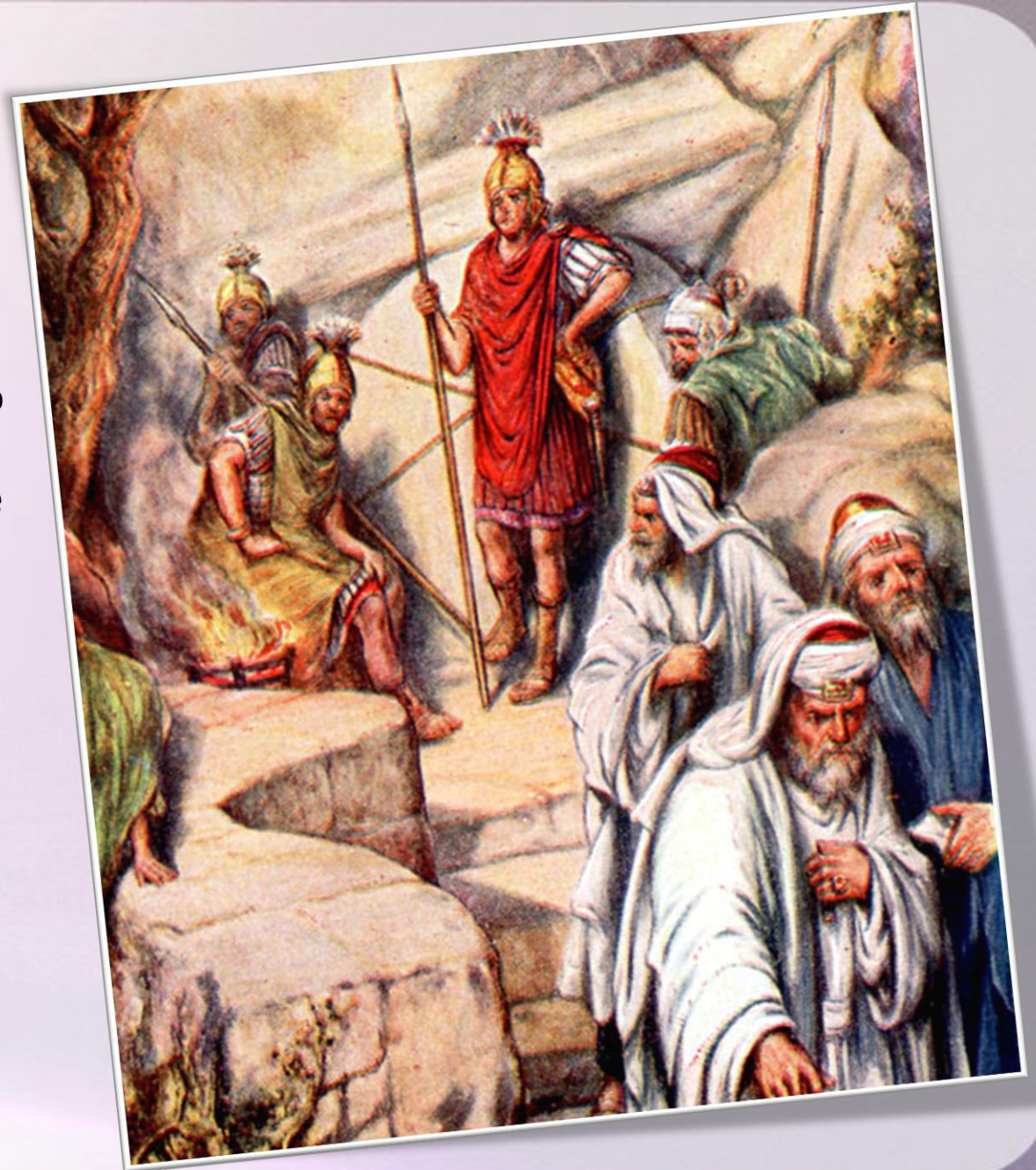
A short time later, he saw the funeral procession coming and thought: "I'm going to start working, they bring Joseph here to bury."

But what was my surprise to see that Joseph came with the cortege. Then I found out that they were carrying another person, named Jesus. It was Jesus who was going to be buried, and Joseph was the one who gave the order for the stone, for me, to start rolling and the door to be closed. I said to myself, "I've just changed bosses, now I don't work for Joseph anymore, I work for Jesus now. This is very easy!"



As soon as the day began to dawn, the situation became complicated because a few Roman soldiers, a few Pharisees, a few priests, came before me and began to put a seal on me.

Now I couldn't move anymore, because if I opened it the seal would break. So now my mission was to stay put. And they left a few guards there. I thought: "Maybe they want to know if I do it right or wrong. Well, here, quiet, I don't move so as not to break the seal." Then I realized that the problem was not moving, the problem was that now I did not have to let anyone in, and I had to prevent the one who was inside from leaving.

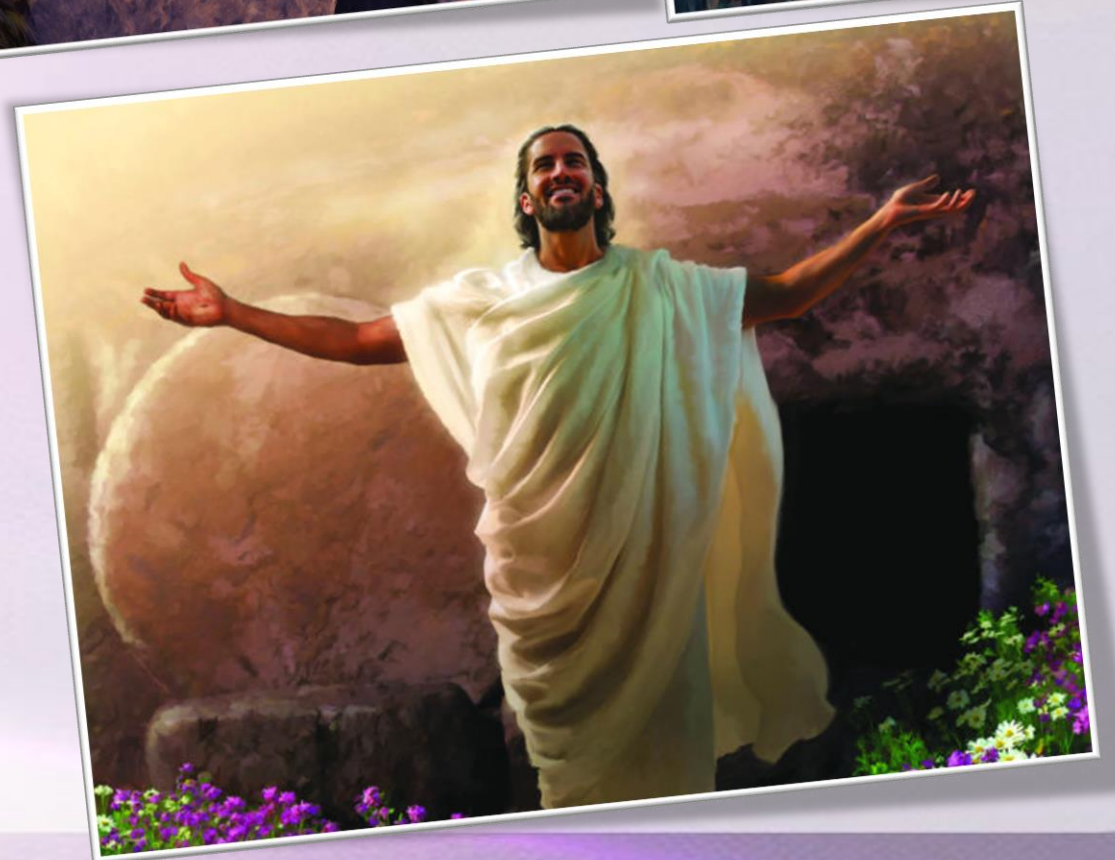


And that was indeed an impossible mission, because, suddenly, an angel appeared; there was an earthquake; The seal was broken. The angel just put his hand down, and I shot out, and he sat on it. No, no, but my mission is to be still. Impossible, I couldn't sit still, an angel had told me to move and I had to move. I couldn't do anything else.

And now... stop Jesus from going out! Jesus went out. Let's see who would stop Jesus from coming out, I couldn't.

The stone could not stop Jesus from coming out. We too are stones with impossible missions. But if Jesus is within us, who is going to stop Him from coming out? What is going to prevent Jesus from coming out in our actions, in our words, in our way of thinking?

Jesus is within us, we cannot silence Him. Even if they try to ridicule us. They can try to stop us from talking. They've tried it with many people, but they can't stop Jesus from coming out. And if we see any impediment, let's remove it. There is no impediment that can cause Jesus to come out in our lives.



We can be living stones, useful stones, stones that like these have what is necessary to stand firm, to be victorious, to forgive, to bear witness... Peter tells us in 1 Peter 2:4: “To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious”. We are going to become useful stones, approaching the Living Stone that is Jesus. The apostle Peter goes on to say in verse 5, "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”





Peter does not limit himself to telling us to draw near to Jesus, the Living Stone, but invites us to be lively stones that, together, form a body: the church.

We are not alone, we are united. We are different stones, some have one size, others another; some are more useful, others apparently less; each one has its place and its mission.

All together they form a unit. But we do not form a unity just to be the church here, there is something more.

In the book “Child Guidance” Ellen White says: “We are now in God's workshop. Many of us are rough stones from the quarry. But as the truth of God is brought to bear upon us, every imperfection is removed and we are prepared to shine as lively stones in the heavenly temple, where we shall be brought into association, not only with the holy angels, but with the King of heaven Himself.” (CG 73)

If we become living stones here, we will be part of the Temple of heaven, we will stand before our heavenly King.

A text from “Testimony Treasures” summarizes the message of this presentation.

“This warning God presents to me as especially necessary for your welfare. He loves you with a love that is immeasurable. He loves your brethren in the faith, and He works with them to the same end as that to which He works with you. His church on earth is to assume divine proportions before the world, as a temple built of living stones, each one reflecting light. It is to be the light of the world as a city set on a hill, which cannot be hid. It is built of stones laid close together, stone fitting to stone, making a firm, solid building. Not all the stones are of the same form or shape. Some are large, some are small, but each has its own place to fill. And the value of each stone is determined by the light that it reflects. This is God's plan. He desires all His workers to fill their appointed places in the work for this time.” (2TT 90)

If you don't know your appointed place yet, ask the Lord to show you. Maybe you think you're in a stream and that's what you're all about. But the Lord has a work for you there. If you haven't figured it out yet, look it up! for you are a living stone that shines in the church, and will shine in God's people for all eternity.

