

FOUNDATION STONES, PART 1 - BIBLE

Because the Arctic region of North America between Alaska and Greenland is dominated by vast, level plains of tundra there are few natural landmarks. For this reason, over many years the native peoples in these areas have used stone landmarks for navigation, as a point of reference, or as a marker for food caches. They are called Inukshuk, and many are built in the shape of a man to indicate that "someone has passed this way before."

In the book of Joshua, a similar monument was erected when the children of Israel crossed over the Jordan River into their Promised Land, because God wanted them to remember the heritage their forefathers had given them, and know that "someone has passed this way before."

Joshua 4:21-22 When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean these **stones**? Then ye shall let your children know, saying, Israel came over this Jordan on dry land.

In the New Testament Church, we also have been given a great heritage, passed on to us by faithful men and women who left us a firm foundation. We can never forget where we have come from, or we will never be able to get where God wants us to go! Twenty-first century Christians need to know without doubt that the things we believe are not just man's idea, but are absolute foundational TRUTH from God's Word.

Ephesians 2:20 And are built upon the **foundation** of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.

TONIGHT, WE WILL LOOK AT OUR FIRST FOUNDATION STONE – THE BIBLE ITSELF.

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

Everything eventually loses its power – except for the Word of God!

Psalms 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

But there is a principle that governs the Word of God – it is given to us DAILY as we walk in God's truth. The Bible is like a LAMP that shines ahead of us – when we obey God and walk as far as we can see right now, there will always be MORE LIGHT for us to walk in at that point!

WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WORD OF GOD?

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

DOCTRINE – WHAT TO BELIEVE

REPROOF – WHAT NOT TO BELIEVE

CORRECTION – HOW NOT TO BEHAVE

INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS – HOW TO BEHAVE

In the New Testament, there are two major words that refer to the WORD OF GOD. The Greek words **LOGOS** and **RHEMA** are not merely synonyms for the same idea, but both have precise Biblical meanings, as do all words in Scripture.

LOGOS is a broad term, often used in a technical theological sense (over 300X in the NT). It generally refers to the totality of the Word of God, and to Jesus Christ, who is not only "God in flesh" but the living LOGOS, or "the Word made flesh."

RHEMA, on the other hand, focuses attention on a specific word – a precise direction of Scripture for a particular person or circumstance (70X in the NT). A "Rhema word" is not separate from Scripture, but a part of the whole of God's Word. It is the Holy Spirit that brings specific verses to us, since God is the Author of all Scripture.

The Word of God, whether referred to as Logos or Rhema, is inspired, eternal, dynamic, and miraculous. Whether the Word is written or spoken, general or specific, does not alter its essential character. It is in the Word that we meet God, and our response to the Word is our response to Him! **If we say NO to the Word, we've said NO to God!**

The Word of God is a living and active power. It is both recorded truth (LOGOS) and our moment of truth (RHEMA) – both truth about God and the place where we meet God personally. Some say that LOGOS is the written Word, while RHEMA is the spoken Word – but this can lead to error and extremism. It is better said that LOGOS is the **TOTAL** revelation, while RHEMA is a **SPECIFIC** revelation. **Not only do they work together, in reality they cannot work apart!**

Many churches pride themselves in teaching from the Bible, and in having their theology ("LOGOS") correct ... but often, they ignore the "NOW WORD" ("RHEMA") of God. Churches are indeed supposed to PREACH the Word, but they are also supposed to PRACTICE the Word! It is the responsibility of the fivefold ministry to encourage the release of the Rhema word and firmly ground it in the Logos word so that the congregation is truly Apostolic and the Holy Spirit is in full control.

If there is no “NOW WORD” (RHEMA) from God ... then the Bible is misinterpreted and misrepresented ... churches fall into confusion, legalism and extremism ... ignorance, prejudice and self-righteousness run rampant ... and false doctrine is the ultimate result.

This is why there is so much division in denominational Christianity and why churches have so many different teachings. The devil can quote scripture too! We must believe in the Bible and obviously teach the Bible, but it must be believed and taught in the power of the Holy Spirit!

2 Peter 1:20-21 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

The problem is that the logos word hasn't become a rHEMA word!

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word (LOGOS), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 And the Word (LOGOS) was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

THE WORD WAS “MADE FLESH” IN JESUS – AND IF WE ARE HIS DISCIPLES, THE WORD IS TO BE “MADE FLESH” IN US!

James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word (LOGOS), and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

We need to be a church that PREACHES the Word of God! But that is not enough – we need to be individuals that LIVE the Word of God!

YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD'S WORD CAN'T BE CONFINED TO THE CHURCH BUILDING – IT NEEDS TO HAPPEN DAILY!

Watch the trend in the New Testament – as the WORD (LOGOS) multiplies, the CHURCH multiplies!

Mark 16:20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Acts 12:24 But the word of God grew and multiplied.

Acts 13:49 And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.

Acts 19:20 So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

2 Thessalonians 3:1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:

2 Timothy 2:9 Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

THAT IS POWERFUL! BUT BACK UP A FEW VERSES AND NOTICE THAT THE WORD (LOGOS) CAN BE LIMITED BY UNBELIEF ...

Hebrews 4:2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word (LOGOS) preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

UNLESS THE LOGOS WORD IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE FAITH OF A “NOW WORD” (RHEMA) FROM GOD, IT PROFITS US NOTHING!

Mark 7:13 Making the word (LOGOS) of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

1 Thessalonians 1:5 For our gospel came not unto you in word (LOGOS) only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

Ephesians 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word (RHEMA) of God:

Jesus used the Sword of the Spirit in resisting Satan in the wilderness, responding to each of the temptations by quoting Scripture. The verses he chose revealed and destroyed the lies of each temptation. In the same way, we can use Scripture to destroy the lies that tempt us.

Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word (RHEMA) that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words (RHEMA) that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

John 15:7 If ye abide in me, and my **words** (RHEMA) abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Acts 10:44 While Peter yet spake these **words** (RHEMA), the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

Luke 5:5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy **word** (RHEMA) I will let down the net.

WHAT IS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WORD OF GOD?

GETTING A “NOW WORD” FROM GOD HELPS US OVERCOME THE PARALYZING “LOGIC” OF THE FLESH THAT TRY TO BIND US!

2 Corinthians 1:20 (KJV) For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen

2 Corinthians 1:20 (MSG) Whatever God has promised gets stamped with the Yes of Jesus

2 Corinthians 1:20 (NIV) For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ

2 Corinthians 1:20 (NLT) For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding "Yes!"

2 Corinthians 1:19 (TEV) [Jesus] is God's "Yes"

The Bible says that all of the promises of God are "Yes" in Jesus. Think about that ...

- Joshua 1:5 – when God tells Joshua, “I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee,” THAT IS A PROMISE TO ME!
- Exodus 15:26 – when God tells Moses, “I am the Lord that healeth thee,” THAT IS A PROMISE TO ME!
- Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) – when God tells Jeremiah, “I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future,” THAT IS A PROMISE TO ME!
- Deuteronomy 28:2 – when God tells Israel, “all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee,” THAT IS A PROMISE TO ME!

ALL THE PROMISES OF GOD ARE “YES” TO YOU IN JESUS!

YOU NEED TO KNOW THOSE PROMISES, PRAY THOSE PROMISES, AND CLAIM THOSE PROMISES! AND THAT’S WHY

YOU NEED TO GET INTO THE WORD OF GOD DAILY! THE BIBLE IS A NON-NEGOTIABLE FOUNDATION STONE IN LIVING FOR GOD!