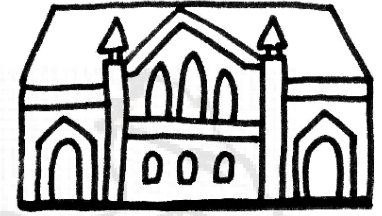


Welcome to Calvary Church, Brighton



- Phones on silent & airplane mode please -

Today 20th January 2019 speaker Philip Wells, Full-time Elder.
This morning - Isaiah and the gospel

www.calvary-brighton.org.uk

calvary-brighton.sermon.net

What's your foundation for life?

"everything will turn out all right in the end"

"you can be anything you choose if you want it badly enough"

"I am the greatest"

"I am rubbish and useless"

.... or

"I've never really thought about it, I just get on from day to day ..."

All these answers leave Jesus out!

What's your foundation for life?

Bible says - we were never built to live without a foundation

Bible says - we were never built to make up our own foundation

BUT:

To have our feet firmly on a Rock

- Psalm 40:2 "He lifted me out of the mud and the mire ...he set my feet upon a rock"*
- Deuteronomy 32:2 "O praise the greatness of our God! He is the Rock, his works are perfect ..."*

N.B. Jesus is the fulfilment of many things

1. He is the promised King

– *The child who is born*

2. He is the servant

– *I.e Lamb servant*

3. He is the branch

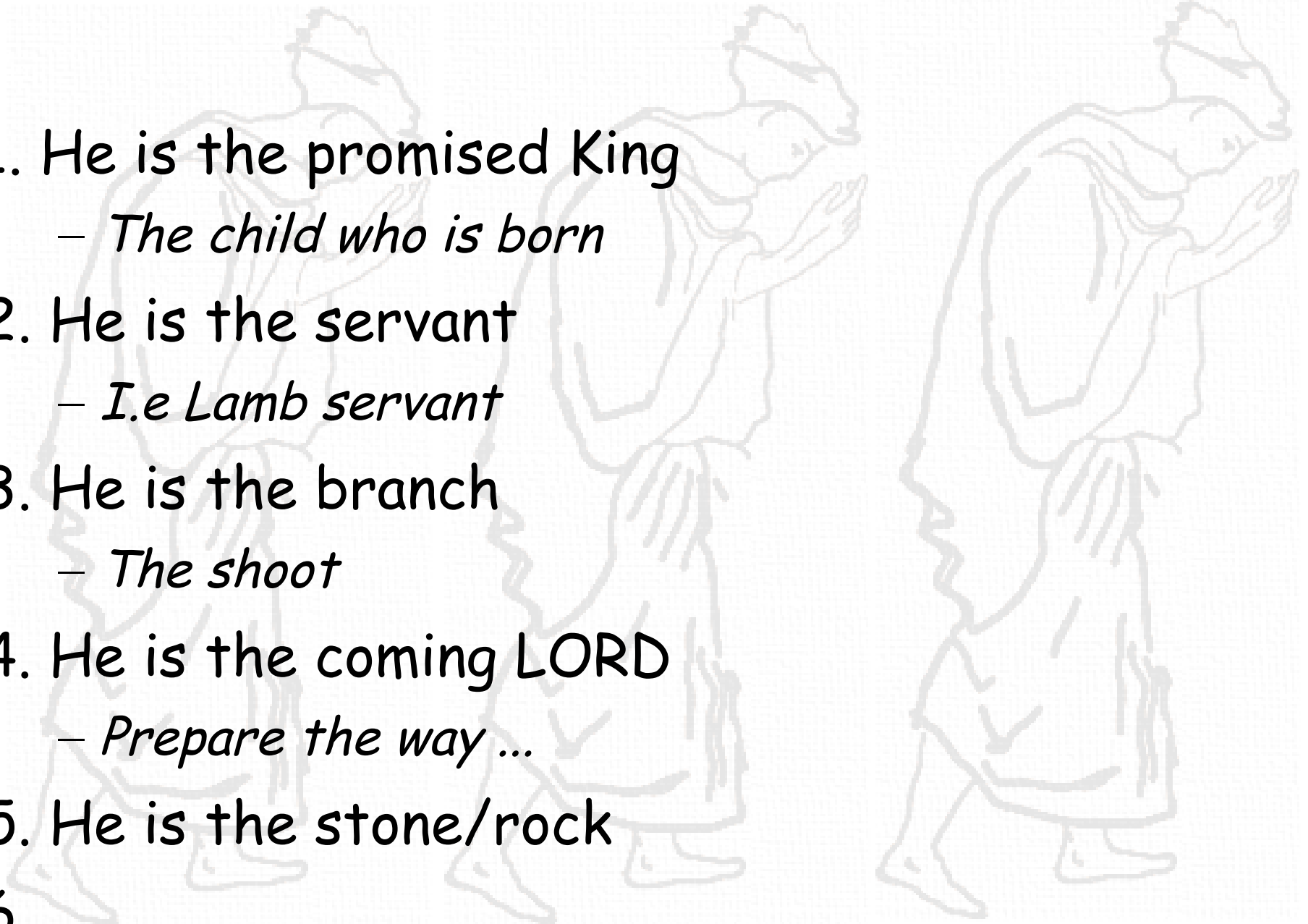
– *The shoot*

4. He is the coming LORD

– *Prepare the way ...*

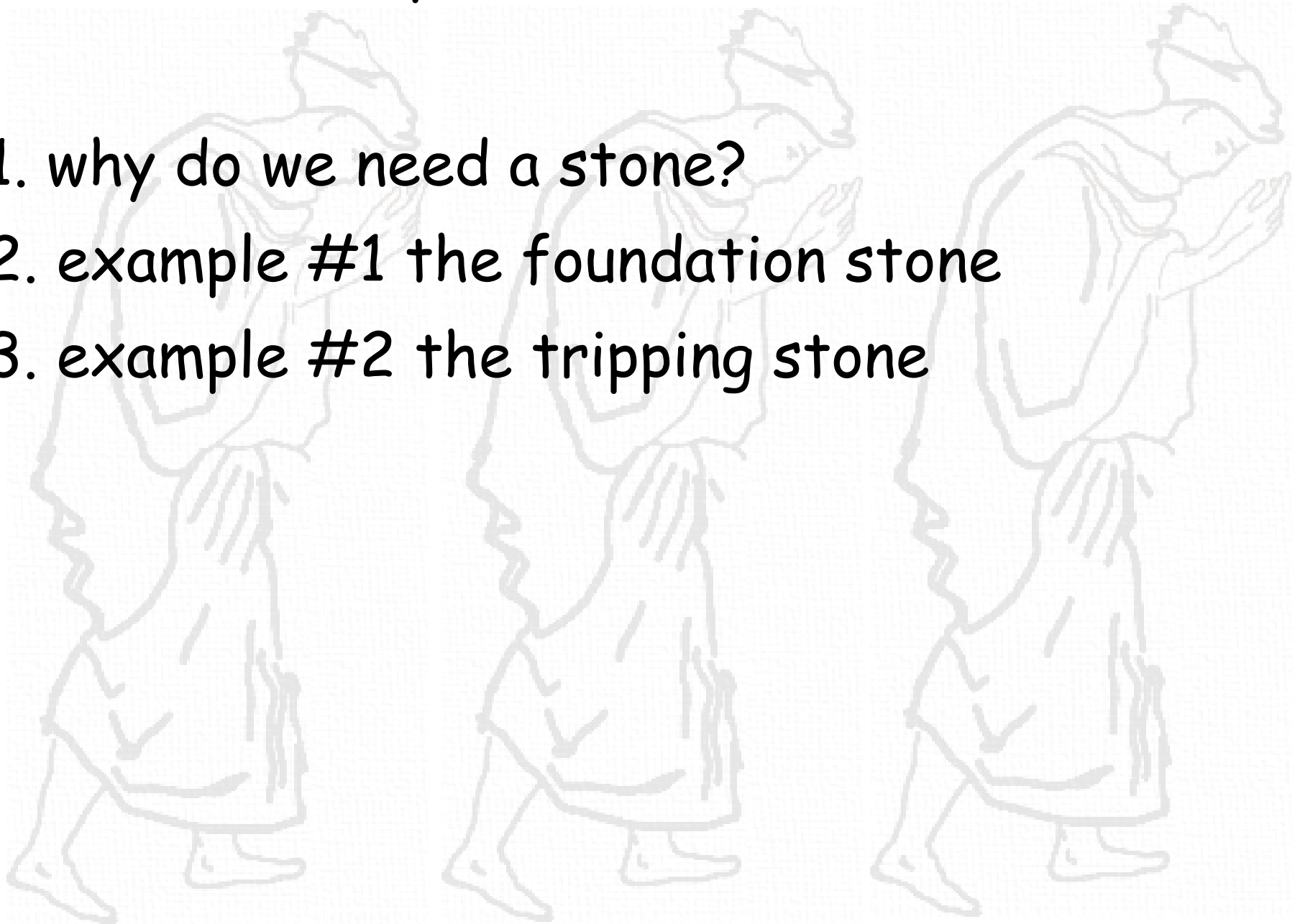
5. He is the stone/rock

6..



What's your foundation for life?

1. why do we need a stone?
2. example #1 the foundation stone
3. example #2 the tripping stone



What's your foundation for life?

1. Why do we need a foundation?

Answer #1 - to cope with the quakes and storms of life

- Loss, sickness, bereavement, disappointment
- At least we have something faithful and dependable

Answer #2 - to cope with the quake and storm of final judgment

- When God tests and shakes everything
- What is passing, pointless, unworthy falls away
- Lives are secure if founded on the rock

Answer #3

- To cope with ease, plenty, and comfort
- ??? these things are NOT the foundation we need
- Build life on the rock

What's your foundation for life?

2. Example #1 Isaiah 28:16 - a wrong foundation

– The foolish nation (Ephraim)

- The storm will come v.2,15,17,18,19
- No foundation in beauty and plenty (v.1,4)
- No foundation in substances (drink) (v.1,7,8)

– Security in reliance on human power

- =? Egypt ? Assyria
- = covenant with death (v.15)
- = refuge in a lie/falsehood (v.15)

=> our society has nothing to rely on apart from lies!

- "THERE IS NO GOD" ... what is left?
- Economists, culture gurus, ...
- Human power: politicians, "scientific" pride
- = wrong foundation!

What's your foundation for life?

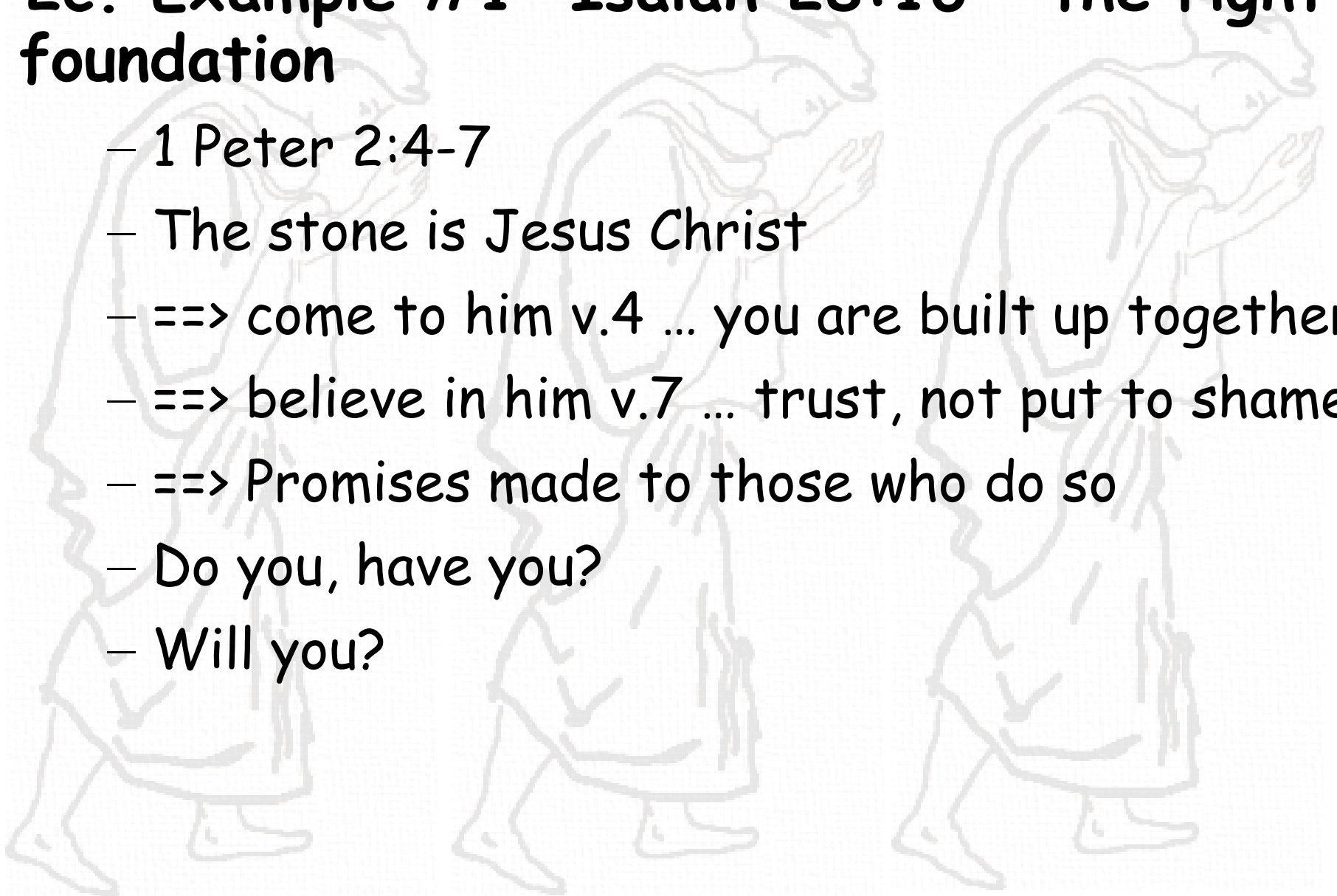
2b. Example #1 Isaiah 28:16 - the right foundation

- "I lay a stone in Zion" v.16
 - N.B. stone as foundation for city or temple or both combined
 - Tested (x1/1) ~ tower, solid ??
 - Precious = ~ rare, special, specially made
 - Cornerstone = corner, key, locks into place
 - Sure foundation = doubled
 - Justice (= mishpat) the measuring line
 - Righteousness (=sedeqah) the plumb line
 - ==> this foundation is to be depended upon
- "the one who trusts ("amen")
- will not be dismayed / be in haste
 - ??? haste off into exile
 - ??? run away to find better shelter
 - ??? skidding around and losing their footing
 - ==> good foundation

What's your foundation for life?

2c. Example #1 Isaiah 28:16 - the right foundation

- 1 Peter 2:4-7
- The stone is Jesus Christ
- ==> come to him v.4 ... you are built up together
- ==> believe in him v.7 ... trust, not put to shame
- ==> Promises made to those who do so
- Do you, have you?
- Will you?



What's your foundation for life?

3. Example #2 Isaiah 8 - the trip-hazard stone

- Isaiah 8:11-17
- The King and people are frightened (7:2b)
- They fear the schemes of small northern nations (7:2)
- BUT they refuse to trust the word of the LORD (7:9)

The LORD insists on a different way

- v.12 do not go the way of treason and scheming
- v.12 do not be intimidated as they are
- BUT honour and revere the LORD of hosts

What's your foundation for life?

3. Example #2 Isaiah 8 - the trip-hazard stone

Isaiah 8:11-17

N.B. trip hazard

- Loose wire *powering the lights*
- Broom left on the floor *to sweep up*
- Pile of bricks *handy for use*
- it's not useless, it's in your way, and if you disregard it you will sustain an injury

The LORD is a trip-hazard

- He is the key to security
- But if you ignore/disregard him he is the cause of injury (v.14 stone of injury ... snare ...)
- ==> but people do disregard him!

What's your foundation for life?

3. Example #2 Isaiah 8 - the trip-hazard stone

- Isaiah 8:11-17, 1 Peter 2:8
- The same stone that is a **sure foundation** is a stone that people **stumble over**
- it's still Jesus Christ

N.B. Jesus Christ is spoken of as the LORD Almighty is spoken of

- *His mighty divinity, his high name!*

Jesus Christ is a trip hazard

- e.g. by his ordinariness
 - He came as one of us ... he is mistaken as only one of us (with sin, error, insignificance)
- e.g. by his kindness
 - "he would never condemn anyone ...??" But anyone who rejects him is already condemned
- e.g. by his gift of righteousness
 - "Israel pursued righteousness by works ..." Romans 9:32

What's your foundation for life?

What's your relationship to Jesus Christ

- he's there, you can't avoid him
- he's there for a purpose - to be a strong foundation
- but if you ignore him you will be injured
 - ==> don't trip on this stone!

==> hearing his word, trusting, and doing what he says

- The storm stand firm

==> forgetting he's there, walking through life
ignoring him, misunderstanding him, trying to live as
though he had never said what he said or did what he
did

- To your own hurt ...
- Without a refuge in the storm ...

What's your foundation for life?
What's your relationship to Jesus Christ

Foot note:

Stones don't bleed and die.
Jesus did.

