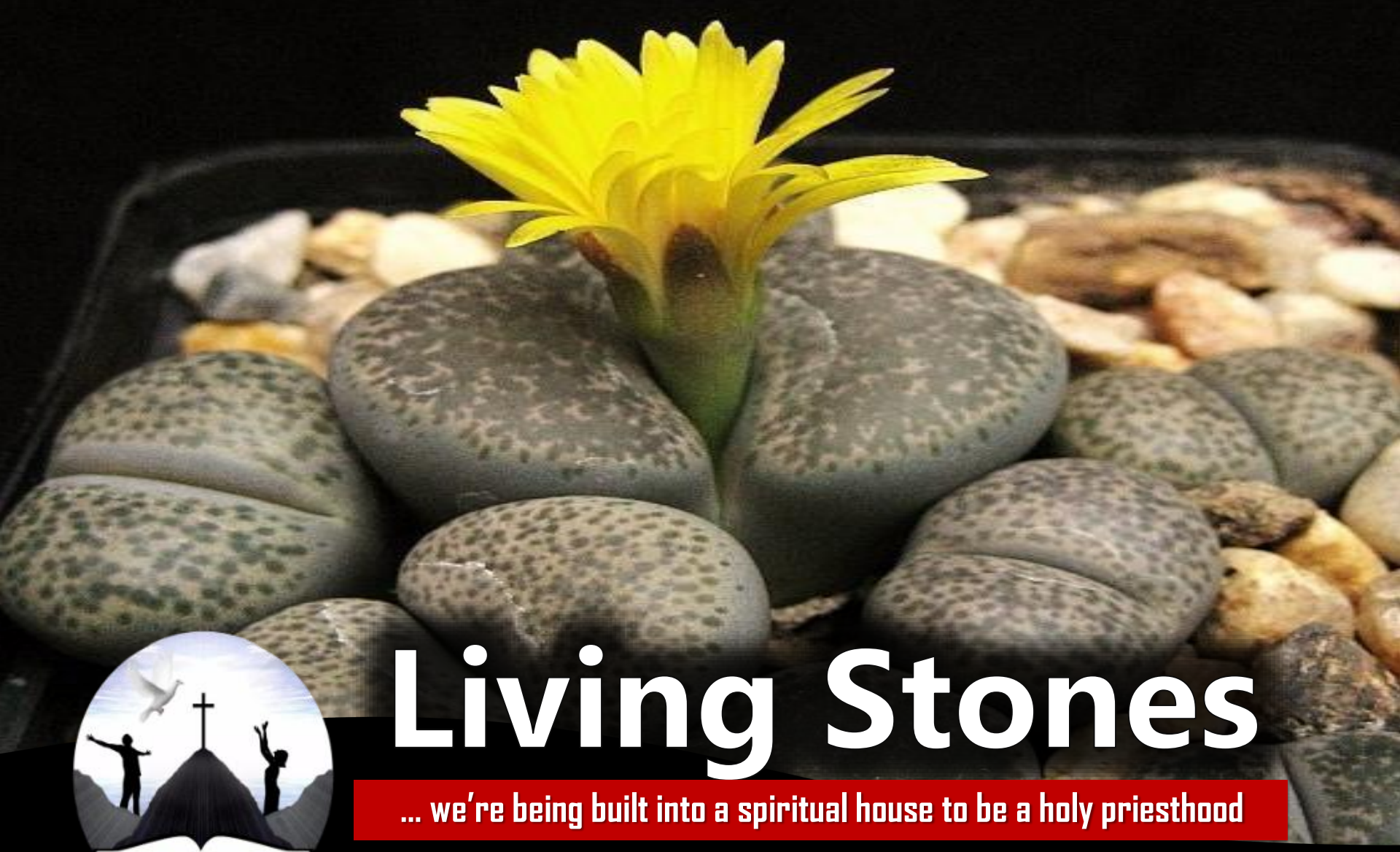


Living Stones

... we're being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood

A WhatsApp group outreach of Christ's Invading Force

DATE: 20TH NOVEMBER, 2018

SERMON TOPIC:

WE ARE LIVING STONES



Ministering
Rev. Temilolu A. Aliu

Teaching holds every Tuesday at 8.30pm (Nig. Time)

YOU CAN JOIN THE WHATSAPP GROUP VIA THIS LINK - bit.ly/join-living-stones

OUR TEXT IS 1 PETER 2:5

‘’YE ALSO, AS LIVING STONES, ARE BUILT UP A SPIRITUAL HOUSE, A HOLY PRIESTHOOD, TO OFFER UP SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES, ACCEPTABLE TO GOD BY JESUS CHRIST.’’

WHEN GOD PUT ADAM AND EVEN IN EDEN, HE WOULD COME IN THE COOL OF THE NIGHT TO FELLOWSHIP WITH MAN.

BUT WHEN MAN FELL HE WAS CUT OFF FROM FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD.

I BELIEVE WE ALL KNOW THIS TOO WELL

WICKEDNESS GREW, AND GOD WAS AGGRIEVED TO THE POINT THAT BIBLE SAYS IN GENESIS 6:6-7

“AND IT REPENTED THE LORD THAT HE HAD MADE MAN ON THE EARTH, AND IT GRIEVED HIM AT HIS HEART.

AND THE LORD SAID, I WILL DESTROY MAN WHOM I HAVE CREATED FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH; BOTH MAN, AND BEAST, AND THE CREEPING THING, AND THE FOWLS OF THE AIR; FOR IT REPENTETH ME THAT I HAVE MADE THEM.”

BUT IN VERSE 8 OF THAT CHAPTER, THERE WAS A CLAUSE.

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“BUT NOAH FOUND GRACE IN THE EYES OF THE LORD.”

FOLLOW ME CLOSELY AS I TAKE YOU ON THIS JOURNEY

SO GOD WAS TIRED OF THE EVIL OF MANKIND, AND DECIDED TO WIPE THEM OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH

BUT A MAN CALLED NOAH FOUND GRACE

WE ALL KNOW THE STORY OF HOW NOAH BUILT THE ARK AND ALL

GOD CARRIED OUT HIS PLAN, AND HERE WAS NOAH ON THE EARTH, ALONE WITH HIS WIFE AND CHILDREN... HOW WOULD HE FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD?

NOAH, IN TRYING TO REACH GOD, DID SOMETHING INTERESTING AFTER THE FLOOD!

GENESIS 8:20

“AND NOAH BUILDED AN ALTAR UNTO THE LORD; AND TOOK OF EVERY CLEAN BEAST, AND OF EVERY CLEAN FOWL, AND OFFERED BURNT OFFERINGS ON THE ALTAR.”

REMEMBER THAT GOD CURSED THE EARTH FOR MAN'S SAKE WHEN ADAM SINNED AGAINST HIM IN GENESIS 3

GENESIS 3:17

“AND UNTO ADAM HE SAID, BECAUSE THOU HAST HEARKENED UNTO THE VOICE OF THY WIFE, AND HAST EATEN OF THE TREE, OF WHICH I COMMANDED THEE, SAYING, THOU SHALT NOT EAT OF IT: CURSED IS THE GROUND FOR THY SAKE; IN SORROW SHALT THOU EAT OF IT ALL THE DAYS OF THY LIFE;”

REMEMBER THAT ALTARS ARE MADE WITH STONES, WHICH ARE FROM THE GROUND

YOU WILL UNDERSTAND BETTER WHEN YOU EXAMINE WHAT HAPPENED IN GENESIS 4:3-5



AND IN PROCESS OF TIME IT CAME TO PASS, THAT CAIN BROUGHT OF THE FRUIT OF THE GROUND AN OFFERING UNTO THE LORD.

AND ABEL, HE ALSO BROUGHT OF THE FIRSTLINGS OF HIS FLOCK AND OF THE FAT THEREOF. AND THE LORD HAD RESPECT UNTO ABEL AND TO HIS OFFERING:

BUT UNTO CAIN AND TO HIS OFFERING HE HAD NOT RESPECT. AND CAIN WAS VERY WROTH, AND HIS COUNTENANCE FELL.

WE WERE TAUGHT IN SUNDAY SCHOOL THAT CAIN BROUGHT BAD CROPS TO GOD, THAT WAS WHY GOD DID NOT ACCEPT HIS OFFERING.

BUT BIBLE DID NOT SAY SO

THE REASON WHY GOD DID NOT ACCEPT CAIN'S OFFERING WAS BECAUSE HE BROUGHT WHAT WAS ACCURSED.

HE BROUGHT SOMETHING FROM THE GROUND THAT GOD HAD PLACED A CURSE ON.

NOW, WHEN GOD HAD DESTROYED MAN FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH, SAVING ONLY NOAH AND HIS FAMILY. NOAH WANTED TO CONNECT WITH GOD. YOU KNOW WHAT HE DID?

HE WENT TO THE SAME GROUND, AND BUILT AN ALTAR UNTO GOD!

GENESIS 8:20

“AND NOAH BUILDED AN ALTAR UNTO THE LORD; AND TOOK OF EVERY CLEAN BEAST, AND OF EVERY CLEAN FOWL, AND OFFERED BURNT OFFERINGS ON THE ALTAR.”

HE BUILT AN ALTAR FROM THE GROUND... THE GROUND THAT THE LORD HAD CURSED! (CAIN STYLE)

HE THEN OFFERED ON THE ALTAR, ANIMALS AS SACRIFICE TO GOD (ABEL STYLE)

SO IN GEN 8:21, WHEN GOD SMELLED THE SWEET SAVOUR OF THE ANIMAL SACRIFICE, HE ALSO PERCEIVED THE REPUGNANCE OF THE CURSED EARTH, FROM WHICH THE ALTAR WAS MADE.

GENESIS 8:21

“... AND THE LORD SAID IN HIS HEART, I WILL NOT AGAIN CURSE THE GROUND ANY MORE FOR MAN'S SAKE; FOR THE IMAGINATION OF MAN'S HEART IS EVIL FROM HIS YOUTH; NEITHER WILL I AGAIN SMITE ANY MORE EVERY THING LIVING, AS I HAVE DONE.”

GOD KNEW TOO WELL THAT THE NOAH WAS AS HUMAN AS EVERY OTHER WICKED PERSON THAT WAS KILLED, AND THAT THE IMAGINATION OF MAN'S HEART, IN THIS CASE EVEN NOAH'S HEART, WAS EVIL FROM HIS YOUTH.

NOAH AND HIS FAMILY WERE THE ONLY HUMANS ON EARTH WHEN GOD SAID THIS... AND THIS WAS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE FLOOD.

HE SAW THE SAME THING HE SAW BEFORE THE FLOOD!

GENESIS 6:5



“AND GOD SAW THAT THE WICKEDNESS OF MAN WAS GREAT IN THE EARTH, AND THAT EVERY IMAGINATION OF THE THOUGHTS OF HIS HEART WAS ONLY EVIL CONTINUALLY.”

IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE FLOOD, WHAT DID HE SAY?

GENESIS 8:21

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AND THE LORD SMELLED A SWEET SAVOUR; AND THE LORD SAID IN HIS HEART, I WILL NOT AGAIN CURSE THE GROUND ANY MORE FOR MAN'S SAKE; FOR THE IMAGINATION OF MAN'S HEART IS EVIL FROM HIS YOUTH; NEITHER WILL I AGAIN SMITE ANY MORE EVERY THING LIVING, AS I HAVE DONE.

DID YOU SEE THAT?

NOTHING CHANGED!

SO GOD SAID, IT'S NOT WORTH IT TO CURSE THE GROUND FOR MAN'S SAKE BECAUSE TRUTH IS MAN'S EARTH IMAGINES EVIL THINGS EVEN FROM HIS YOUTH. EVEN NOAH IS NO DIFFERENT!

THAT WAS WHEN THE CURSE OF THE EARTH WAS REPEALED... GOD IN FACT MADE A COVENANT WITH THE EARTH

GEN 8:22

“WHILE THE EARTH REMAINETH, SEEDTIME AND HARVEST, AND COLD AND HEAT, AND SUMMER AND WINTER, AND DAY AND NIGHT SHALL NOT CEASE.”

AND BECAUSE GOD REPEALED THE CURSE, HE BEGAN TO ACCEPT ALTARS AS MONUMENTS OF WORSHIP AND SACRIFICE

AS ALTARS WERE BUILT THROUGH THE YEARS, GOD NOW GAVE A PIVOTAL INSTRUCTION TO MOSES, TO SERVE AS A STANDARD FOR THE ALTARS BUILT TO HIM

EXODUS 20:24-25

“AN ALTAR OF EARTH THOU SHALT MAKE UNTO ME, AND SHALT SACRIFICE THEREON THY BURNT OFFERINGS, AND THY PEACE OFFERINGS, THY SHEEP, AND THINE OXEN: IN ALL PLACES WHERE I RECORD MY NAME I WILL COME UNTO THEE, AND I WILL BLESS THEE.

AND IF THOU WILT MAKE ME AN ALTAR OF STONE, THOU SHALT NOT BUILD IT OF HEWN STONE: FOR IF THOU LIFT UP THY TOOL UPON IT, THOU HAST POLLUTED IT”

THAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A LIVING STONE AND A NON-LIVING STONE.

THE LIVING STONE IS FASHIONED AND SHAPED BY GOD.

THE OTHER IS HEWNED BY MEN, AND CHISELLED BY TOOLS

JESUS BEING THE CHIEF LIVING STONE (CORNERSTONE) TOOK THE LEAD BY BREAKING THE SCIENCE OF CONCEPTION... THERE WAS NO MALE INVOLVEMENT IN HIS CONCEPTION

HE WAS THE FIRST ALTAR THAT WAS NOT HEWN WITH HUMAN HANDS!

JESUS BEING THE CHIEF LIVING STONE (CORNERSTONE) TOOK THE LEAD BY BREAKING THE SCIENCE OF CONCEPTION... THERE WAS NO MALE INVOLVEMENT IN HIS CONCEPTION

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“YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THIS BETTER WHEN YOU CONSIDER ISAIAH 51:1-2

“HEARKEN TO ME, YE THAT FOLLOW AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS, YE THAT SEEK THE LORD: LOOK UNTO THE ROCK WHENCE YE ARE HEWN, AND TO THE HOLE OF THE PIT WHENCE YE ARE DIGGED.

LOOK UNTO ABRAHAM YOUR FATHER, AND UNTO SARAH THAT BARE YOU: FOR I CALLED HIM ALONE, AND BLESSED HIM, AND INCREASED HIM.”

THE ROCK FROM WHENCE YOU ARE HEWN IS YOUR ABBA (YOUR FATHER; YOUR SOURCE)

JESUS' FATHER IS GOD HIMSELF... HE CAME FROM ABOVE. HE IS NOT A ROCK HEWN WITH HUMAN HANDS

DID YOU GET THAT, BELOVED?

SO WHEN JESUS WAS CONCEIVED AND BORN BY A VIRGIN, HE BECAME THE FIRST LIVING STONE. HE LAID THE FOUNDATION FOR US

THAT'S WHY JESUS CHRIST IS CALLED THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE.

THE FOUNDATION OF GOD'S BUILDING IS HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST, WHO IS THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE

THE "LIVING STONES," ARE THOSE OF US, BELIEVERS WHO COME TO JESUS AND PLACE OUR LIVES UPON HIS FOUNDATION

BIBLE SAYS CONCERNING ABRAHAM IN HEBREWS 11:10

"FOR HE LOOKED FOR A CITY WHICH HATH FOUNDATIONS, WHOSE BUILDER AND MAKER IS GOD."

ABRAHAM LOOKED FOR THAT CITY (SPIRITUAL HOUSE) MADE WITH LIVING STONES; STONES NOT HEWN WITH HUMAN HANDS... LIVING STONES MADE, CRAFTED, AND POLISHED BY GOD HIMSELF.

BIBLE SAID IN HEBREWS 11:39 THAT ABRAHAM, AND ALL OTHER HEROES OF FAITH, HAVING OBTAINED A GOOD REPORT THROUGH FAITH, RECEIVED NOT THE PROMISE OF THAT SPIRITUAL HOUSE.

VERSE 40 TELLS US WHY

GOD HAVING PROVIDED SOME BETTER THING FOR US (THE LIVING STONES) , THAT THEY WITHOUT US SHOULD NOT BE MADE PERFECT

BELOVED, ARE YOU ONE OF US?

ARE YOU A LIVING STONE?

WHO IS THE ROCK FROM WHENCE YOU ARE HEWN?

ARE YOU HEWN WITH HUMAN HANDS OR CRAFTED BY GOD?

ARE YOU REJECTING THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE IN ORDER TO BUILD YOUR LIFE YOUR OWN WAY?

ARE YOU POLLUTED BY HUMAN HANDS ALREADY? BY SOCIETAL STANDARD, CURRENT TRENDS, OLD FABLES, SCIENTIFIC THEORIES, NEW AGE PHILOSOPHIES ETC.

GOD SAID IN EXODUS 20:25

“AND IF THOU WILT MAKE ME AN ALTAR OF STONE, THOU SHALT NOT BUILD IT OF HEWN STONE: FOR IF THOU LIFT UP THY TOOL UPON IT, THOU HAST POLLUTED IT.”

WHAT TOOLS HAVE BEEN LIFTED UPON YOU? WHAT THINGS ARE SHAPING YOU? THE WORLD OR THE WORD

LET ME EXPLAIN THIS QUICKLY AS I ROUND OFF TONIGHT

WHEN YOU SHAPE A STONE BY A TOOL, YOU HAVE AN INTENTION OF WHAT IMAGE YOU WANT IT TO LOOK LIKE.

IS THAT TRUE?

NOW, WHEN HAVE SHAPED AND SCULPTURED THE STONE AND YOU HAVE MADE THAT IMAGE, WHAT YOU HAVE IS CALLED A GRAVEN IMAGE, AND THAT IS AN IDOL.

YOU CANNOT BUILD A SPIRITUAL HOUSE WITH GRAVEN IMAGES.

YOU CANNOT BE AN HOLY PRIESTHOOD, AND OFFER UP SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES, ACCEPTABLE TO GOD BY AN IDOL.

THAT IS CALLED POLLUTION!

THAT'S WHY GOD SAID THE STONES MUST BE NATURAL ROCKS NOT HEWN WITH HUMAN HANDS, BUT FASHIONED BY GOD HIMSELF. IT MUST BE PURELY THE HANDIWORK OF GOD.

IN OTHER WORDS, IF INDEED WE ARE LIVING STONES, WE MUST BE SHAPED, FASHIONED AND POLISHED BY GOD HIMSELF

ANY OTHER THING ASIDES THAT WILL PRODUCE AN IDOL… POP CULTURE, HOLLYWOOD TRENDS, FAMILY TRADITIONS, ETC.

IF YOU DESIRE TO BE PART OF THE HAPPENING BABES, OR ONE OF THE TRENDING GUYS, FORGET ABOUT BEING A LIVING STONE

YOU ALLOW GOD TO WORK ON YOU, AS THE POTTER WORKS THE CLAY… THEN AND ONLY THEN WILL YOU BE A TRUE AND TRUE LIVING STONE, WITH NO POLLUTION WHATSOEVER.

LET ME CONCLUDE WITH PAUL'S ADMONITION IN ROMANS 12:1-2

“I BESEECH YOU THEREFORE, BRETHREN, BY THE MERCIES OF GOD, THAT YE PRESENT YOUR BODIES A LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY, ACCEPTABLE UNTO GOD, WHICH IS YOUR REASONABLE SERVICE.

AND BE NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD: BUT BE YE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, THAT YE MAY PROVE WHAT IS THAT GOOD, AND ACCEPTABLE, AND PERFECT, WILL OF GOD.”

THAT'S HOW TO BE A LIVING STONE INDEED

CHRIST'S INVADING FORCE

Living Stones

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