



FOREIGNERS & EXILES

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A PUBLIC WITNESS

1 PETER 2:4-10

As you come to him, the living Stone —rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,  
a chosen and precious cornerstone,  
and the one who trusts in him  
will never be put to shame.

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,  
a chosen and precious cornerstone,  
and the one who trusts in him  
will never be put to shame.”

Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to  
those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone,”

and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message—which  
is also what they were destined for.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

1 Peter 2:4-10

HISTORICAL MOMENT

# GOD'S BUILDING PROJECT

(with stones)

The Stone is a Person (living stone)

The Stone is Chosen

The Stone is Rejected

The Stone is Precious

We (Christ followers) are living stones (plural)

We are a part of God's building project

We are chosen

We are rejected (by society?)

We are precious (to God)

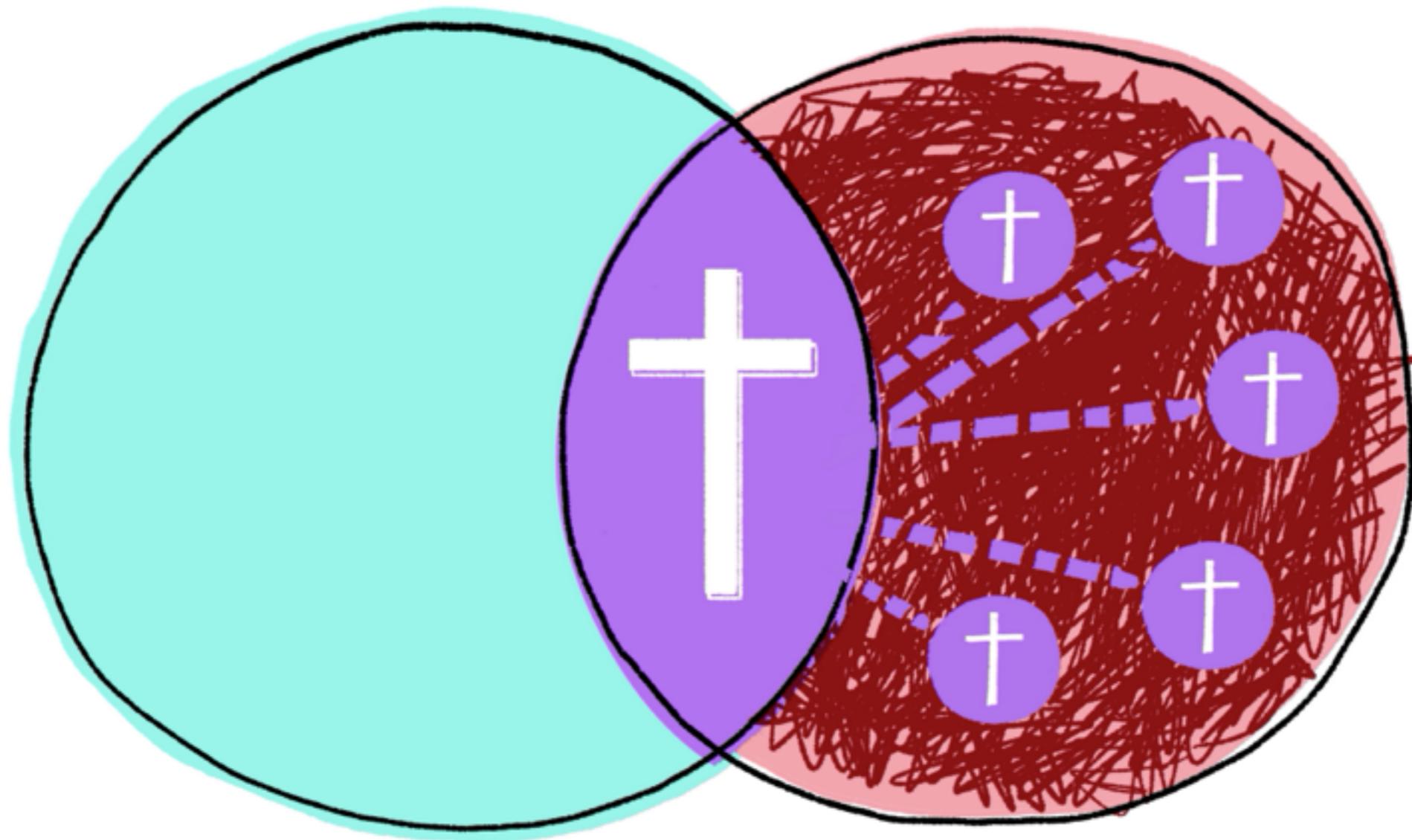
Question:

What is God building?

A TEMPLE

you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house (“temples of the spirit”) to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:5



that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of  
darkness into his wonderful light

We get no sense from 1 Peter that the church should strive to regulate all domains of social life and reshape society in the image of the heavenly Jerusalem. ...

... [Peter's community] did not wish to impose itself or the kingdom of God on the world, but to live in faithfulness to God and to the values of God's kingdom, inviting others to do the same. It had no desire to do for others what they did not want done for them. They had no covert totalitarian agenda. Rather, the community was to live an alternative way of life in the present social setting, transforming it, as it could, from within. In any case, the community did not seek to exert social or political pressure, but to give *public witness to a new way of life.*

-Volf

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

1 Peter 2:9