

# Two Builders

## Երկու Շինարարներ

Isaiah 28:14-20

Luke 6:46-49

<sup>46</sup>“Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you? <sup>47</sup>Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: <sup>48</sup>he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. <sup>49</sup>But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.” (Luke 6:46-49 ESV)

This is the very simple yet popular story, which we often heard and enjoyed as children at the Sunday school. In fact, I sang the song,

“Antsrevner hosetsan, yev keder hortetsan...”

Imasdoun martoun donune

Անձրեւներ հոսեցան եւ գետեր հորդեցան

Իմաստուն մարդուն տունը չբլաւ

The wise man built his house upon the rock

And the rains came tumbling down

The rains came down and the floods came up

And the house on the rock stood firm.

and so on.

Jesus is retelling this story bringing forth a famous passage from the book of Isaiah.

Here is the Old Testament background of that famous parable. I will be using Dr K. Bailey’s interpretation of the parable.

**Isaiah** prophesied to King **Hezekiah** that the **Assyrians** were coming to destroy them. This was happening in **705 BC**. Here is the prophecy,

Therefore hear the word of the LORD, you scoffers,  
who rule this people in Jerusalem!

<sup>15</sup> Because you have said, “We have made a covenant with death,  
and with Sheol we have an agreement,  
when the overwhelming whip passes through  
it will not come to us,  
for we have made lies our refuge,  
and in falsehood we have taken shelter”;

<sup>16</sup> **therefore thus says the Lord GOD,**  
“Behold, I am the one who has laid as a foundation in Zion,  
a stone, a tested stone,  
a precious cornerstone, of a sure foundation:  
‘Whoever believes will not be in haste.’ (14-16)

**Watch out: Judah is making a covenant with death.**

-Verse 15: Judah is making an agreement with Sheol, death

-Verse 18: Same theme, but opposite ideas. Their covenant with death will destroy them eventually.

**The next two ideas are finding shelter, refuge.**

-Verse 15: They made lies their shelter. How reliable is this foundation?

-Verse 17: Hail and waters will sweep away this refuge.

This storm represents the Assyrians, King Sennacherib coming with his mighty army to destroy them.

**The next two ideas are the foundation, the stone, and the tools that have been used to lay this foundation:**

-Verse 16: The Lord is laying a stone, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone, and a sure foundation.

-Verse 17: The tools used for this building (the plumb line), are justice and righteousness.

**The climax of this passage is the last line of verse 16:**

“He who believes in it (LXX), will not be disturbed” (NAS). Other translations: “will not be shaken” (Bailey), “will not panic” (NRSV), “will not make haste” (KJV, ESV), “will never be dismayed” (NIV).

-God is teaching his people, the foundation that you build is false and will not endure. **It looks fine on the outside**, yet it will be destroyed, because it is **based on lies** and “death”. Assyria will destroy it.

**-The good news** is that God is giving them a **new foundation that will not be destroyed**. It is a precious stone, it is a corner stone, and the instruments that were used are **righteousness and justice**.

Let us move on to the New Testament, to the story Jesus told, the Parable of the Two Builders.

Two individuals :

**-First Person:** He/she hears the Word and obeys it.

He/she lays a good foundation on the Rock.

Storms will come but nothing will shake it.

**-Second person:** He/she hears the Word, but nothing happens, no obedience.

He/she builds a house without a foundation

Storms will come and destroy it.

The same parable is told in Matthew, though a little differently. There the house is built on **sand and rock**. Here in Luke the house is built on **clay and rock**.

Please notice that in the Middle East people usually build houses during the summer, not the rainy season. The house that is built on the ground was most likely built with clay. When it is not raining, the clay becomes very hard, really hard, similar to stone, but it's deceiving. It looks fine on the outside, yet it was built fast, without the foundation it needed to stand all kinds of storms.

-Have you seen buildings collapsing because of wrong foundation?

In SF there is a new building came up called Millennium Tower.(58 floors) 2019 it has sunk 18 inches and tilted 14 inches. Every year it is sinking (. Something went wrong in building this tower.) (luxurious tower.)

-I have witnessed also economic collapses when it is built on lie. Remember 2008? (Banks and loans to buy homes?)

-Could it be our lives need examination to see if we are building our lives on wrong foundation?

-This pandemic brought forth important questions about our lives.

Suddenly all our activities stopped. Sport, entertainment, going to school, attending live services, attending live concert, singing in choir, simple stuff like hair cut... we took for granted all these things. Suddenly all stopped, as if the word stopped. People facing new challenges...

Covid-19 is kind of storm. This is a good test to see where is our foundation? Where is your foundation?

**Jesus is retelling this story by making an emphasis on being obedient to God's Word.**

**What is God's Word?**

The center message of Isaiah's vision is verse 16 is:

**"He who believes *in it*, will not be shaken."** Believe in what?

Let me go back to the story of the Israelites. They all went to exile, both the Northern Kingdom and Southern Kingdom. However, after years of exile, they came back and they rebuilt the temple in Jerusalem. In the middle of the temple, in the place called Holy of Holies, where only the priest could enter and can do prayers for atonement of sins; they put a stone called the **foundation stone**.

For the Jews this was the foundation. The priest came **during the atonement ceremony** and put a dish of burning coals on the foundation stone. Then he added **incense** and the place was filled with smell and smoke. The idea is that God was right there and He was pleased by those ceremonies.

Jesus is retelling the story and is telling **them HE IS the CORNERSTONE.**

**Anyone who believes in Him will not be shaken.**

No wonder they crucified Jesus.

Jesus challenged their "foundation."

He told them it was built on the wrong grounds of rituals and lips service to God.

We can fall in the same trap.

**We can create our false foundations**, which look good on the outside, yet can collapse anytime.

**-Today in Europe**, one can visit churches which became museums. We too can turn into museum churches, if we worship the “establishment,” the rituals and not God through Jesus Christ. The new foundation that Isaiah envisioned was not an institution; it was life, **new life in believing in the Living God**. It is not religion; **it is a daily life-transforming experience with God to become closer to Him.**

**Paul writes to the Ephesians: (2:19-21)**

“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household,<sup>20</sup>built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. <sup>21</sup>In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.”

My sermon application is very simple

We are living in tough times and the challenge is to examine ourselves and see how God wants us to continue with our walk with him.

Foundation is essential

It is never late to turn to His Word with application and obedience.

Otherwise His word is entering from one ear and comes out with no effect in your life.

They Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light to my path.

Ask yourself, am I hearing his word? Meditating on it? Then applying it.

Those are good foundation for your faith

Amen

Let us pray

**“As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him— <sup>5</sup>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.”**