

The Earth: Living Stones

Read Habakkuk 2:11, Luke 3:8, Luke 19:39-40 and 1 Peter 2:5.

What are we to make of stones in this age of human beings who seem to live so distant from the Earth? It was clear that the early people of the Old Testament were familiar with the images of stones and even talked about their power. And then, in the New Testament, we find even more powerful statements about stones spoken by people who lived hundreds of years later. And even Jesus, it is clear, had a working understanding of stones. I don't think we are talking about magic stones or special stones. We are just talking about everyday stones found everywhere.

The First Things of Creation

Some of us have learned from our parents or grandparents or our traditions about stones and rocks. In some of our traditions, we know that they are recognized as the first things of creation. They are the first forms fashioned by the Creator. Some of our traditions even attribute these stones as having been alive, creatures of the new creation.

It's difficult to grasp these teachings because of our modern lifestyles distracting us from the original teachings as we get caught up in consumerism and computers and scientific technology and making money to live. And some would even question us if we seem to have an unusual interest in stones as symbols of meaning or representing stories and truth that could not be learned in any other way.

The Scriptures seem to be telling us that ancient wisdom about stones is not unusual and doesn't seem to change from generation to generation. After all, "God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham" (Matthew 3:9, NRSV). Even Jesus knew about them when he was met with resistance to his disciples' teaching and said, "I tell you, if they were silent, the stones would shout out" (Luke 19:40b, NRSV). And in the 1 Peter reference, Jesus was considered a living stone and we – through the Scripture – re challenged to become living stones, allowing ourselves to be built into spiritual houses, a holy priesthood.

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