July 31th, 2026: KINGDOM OF GOD INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP, INC

We are The LIVING STONES

“WE ARE THE LIVING STONES”. 1 PETER 2:4-6

The phrase **"living stone" translates to ‘even chai (אֶבֶן חַי) in Hebrew,** combining the word for stone or **rock (‘even) with the word for living or alive (chai)** He uses living "stones" (eben) that are carefully put into place by the Master-builder,

The primary Hebrew word for **stone** is **even (אֶבֶן), pronounced EH-ven.** "the strong leader of the house brings life." It refers to a literal physical stone, **word "banah,"** which is the Hebrew word for **"build!"** the House of God.

The Hebrew word for a church building is **כְּנֶסִיָּה (knesiyah)**, which shares a root meaning "gathering" with the word for a synagogue **(בֵּית כְּנֶסֶת, beit knesset)** and the ancient equivalent for an assembly or congregation is **קָהָל (qahal)**

What is the difference between hewn stones and living stones? Hewn stones have been cut, chiseled, and formed by man to fit the way a man wants them to fit for building purposes. They all look the same and the final appearance is the stones themselves, fitting tightly together to accomplish a single purpose. But building something with living, unhewn stones is far more difficult. Instead of taking perfectly square stones and stacking them to form a wall, imagine

taking round stones of every shape and size and trying to form a wall with them. This is the way altars were made by the ancient Hebrews (crossed over ones).

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.

Church today is not truly the Biblical Church:

In biblical times, church attendance meant gathering in homes, public spaces, or Jewish temples and synagogues rather than specialized church buildings. Early Christians met daily or weekly to share meals, pray, and hear scripture

- Breaking Bread: Shared communal meals and the Lord's Supper (communion).
- Listen to Apostles' Teaching: Listened to scripture readings, teachings, and letters from leaders.
- Prayer and Praise: Offered communal prayers, recited creeds, and sang psalms or hymns together

Living Stones:

Genesis 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

1 Peter 2:4-5 As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 2:20 Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone

Isaiah 28:16 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:

Matthew 16:18 And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Ephesians 2:19-22 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:9 For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

1 Corinthians 3:11- For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 17- If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Revelation 21:3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

Revelation 2:17 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers I will give some of the hidden manna, and I will give him a white stone, with a new name written on the stone that no one knows except the one who receives it.’

The True Church:

Acts 20:28 Pay careful attention to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.

Romans 12:5 So we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another.

Matthew 18:20 For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

Colossians 1:18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

Ephesians 1:22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church,

Ephesians 2:21 In whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.

Acts 2:42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

1 Corinthians 14:26 What then, brothers? When you come together, each one has a hymn, a lesson, a revelation, a tongue, or an interpretation. Let all things be done for building up.

Ephesians 4:12 To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,

1 Corinthians 3:16 Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

John 10:16 And I have other sheep that are not of this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

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