



# LIFE AS EXILES

STRANGERS IN OUR OWN LAND



Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good. As you come to him, the living Stone rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to Him.

1 Peter 2:1-10



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.” 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,”

1 Peter 2:1-10

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 2:1-10



Peter reminds the exiles...


1) Clean up and Grow up (Holy living)

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Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind.


1 Peter 2:1



Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent?  
Who may live on your holy mountain? The one  
whose walk is blameless, who does what is  
righteous, who speaks the truth from their heart,  
whose tongue utters no slander, who does no  
wrong to a neighbor, and casts no slur on others,  
who despises a vile person but honors those  
who fear the Lord, who keeps an oath even when  
it hurts, and does not change their mind, who  
lends money to the poor without interest,  
who does not accept a bribe against the innocent.  
Whoever does these things will never be shaken.

Psalm 15





Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk,  
so that by it you may grow up in your salvation,  
now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

1 Peter 2:2-3



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." 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.**

1 Peter 2:4-8



Jesus is either a **cornerstone** or a *stumbling* stone.  
There is no claiming to be neutral.



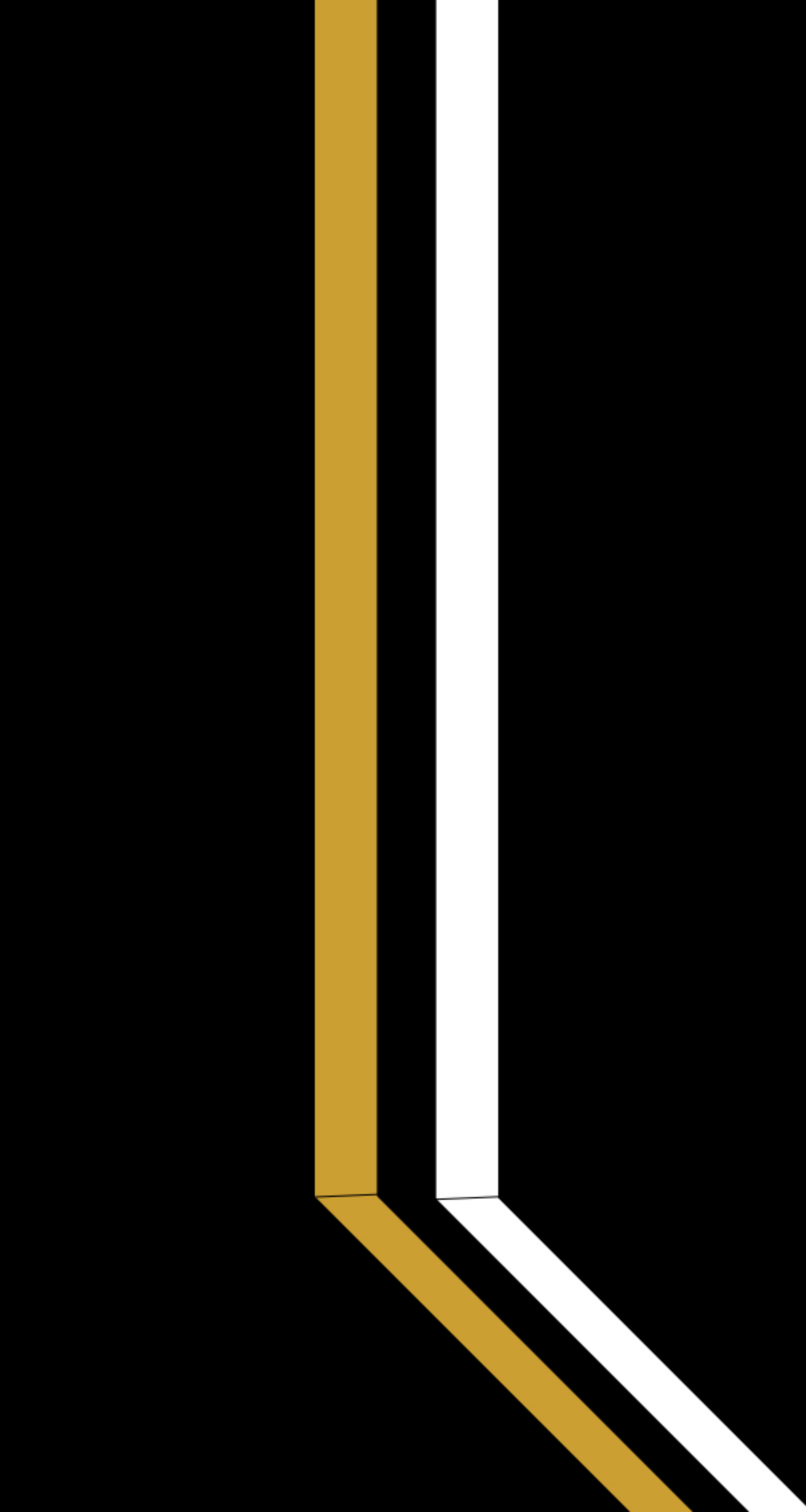
Peter reminds the exiles...

1) Clean up and Grow up (Holy living)

2) You are a holy priesthood,  
created to offer sacrifices to God.

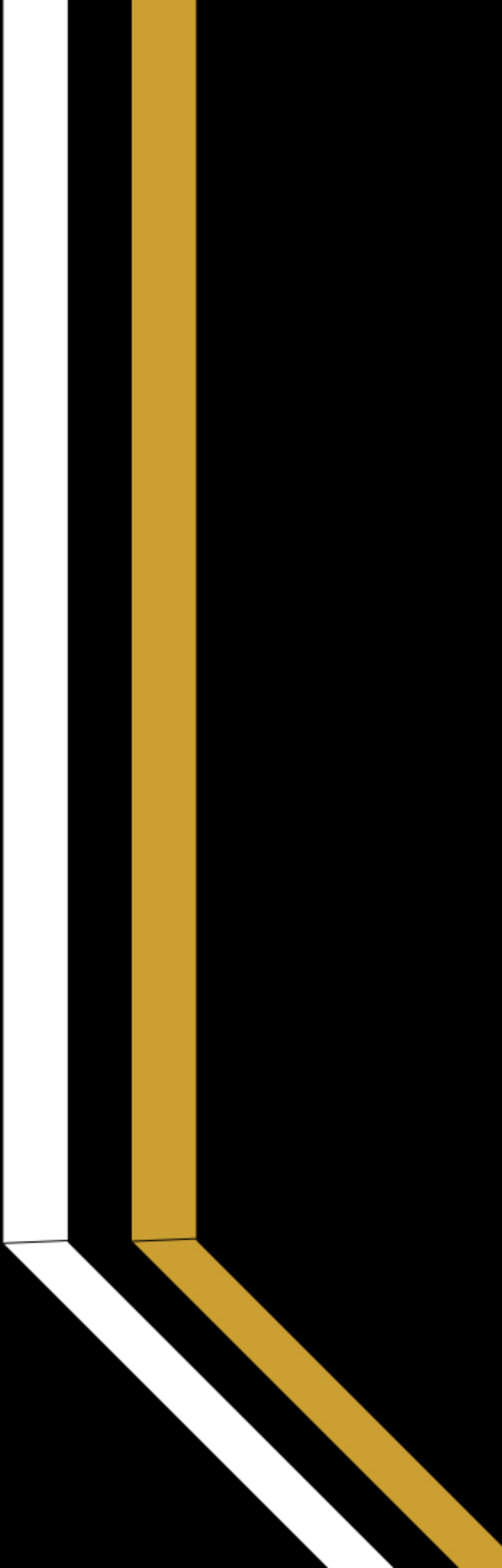
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1 Peter 2:4-8



What are **spiritual** sacrifices?

- 1) Prayers (Psalm 141:2)
- 2) Praise (Hebrews 13:15)
- 3) Ourselves (Romans 12:1-2)



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 2:9-10



Peter reminds the exiles...

1) Clean up and Grow up (Holy living)

2) You are a holy priesthood,  
created to offer sacrifices to God.

3) You are a holy nation,  
built up to declare the glory of God.



The people who say, "Preach the gospel, and use words if necessary," seem to forget that the very essence of the gospel is words. They might as well say, "Feed the poor, and use food if necessary," or, "Pay the bills, and use money if necessary." The gospel is primarily a message which must be communicated with words. It is good news which must be believed. **The good news is that God sent Jesus to live and die in the place of sinners.** People cannot embrace the good news if they don't first hear the good news. Feeding the poor is a good thing, but it isn't the same thing as proclaiming the message of the gospel. Caring for the homeless is a noble thing to do, but it isn't preaching the gospel. **Preach the gospel, and use words, always.** — Stephen Altrogge