

Zechariah 10:4 “*Out of them shall come the cornerstone, out of them the tent peg, out of them the battle bow, out of them every commander.*”

I was listening to radio preacher J Vernon McGee talk about Jesus being the tent peg in Zechariah 4. Jesus is a tent peg? I guess in ancient times tents were popular. If you read the first three verses of Zechariah 4 you will get a picture of rain, false lies, and crooked leaders. Then we have verse 4. Out of Judah will come a cornerstone, tent peg, and commander. It’s traditional in the Bible to describe the scene as it truly is, but then the writers will sometimes add this statement *one will come to set it right*. God will bring us a tent peg!

Ok, I’m playing with you just a little. Jesus is not literally a tent peg. Yet, he is considered our solid rock. Psalm 18:2 “*The Lord is my solid rock, my fortress, my rescuer. My God is my rock—I take refuge in him!*” I want to add one more just for fun 1 Corinthians “10:4 “*and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.*” The idea surrounding Jesus is a metaphor describing him as solid, secure, tough, and (in stone). It’s a familiar picture of God as our rock just as He made his laws in stone. Jesus is also called the rock. It’s not that removed from the cornerstone or tent peg.

1 Peter 2:6 “*For this is contained in Scripture: “Behold, I lay in Zion a choice stone, a precious corner stone, and he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.”*”

Psalm 118:22 “*The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner stone.*”

Jesus quotes Psalm 118 before the religious rulers in Matthew 21. Then he closed the book, dropped the mike, and like Elvis, left the building. 2 Thessalonians 3:3 “*But the Lord is*

*faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.*” Jesus is the best sacrifice for our sins. He is the sinless human. The Holy Christ. We can trust that through Jesus we are covered. We can be strong in him. When we need hope, we pray to the Lord. We rely on Jesus to hear, teach, and act through the Spirit. That is a rock that cannot be moved. A tent peg that can’t be pulled up or a cornerstone of a building that’s strong. Today I want to focus on the peg. I just find this metaphor fascinating.

One day I was involved in an outside event. It had been planned for months. The weeks leading up to it saw some pretty good weather. However, on the day of the event (murphy’s law) it was a different story. A great storm came upon us in the morning of the set up. As it was, we were using tents. Lots of tents. I’m sure you have seen those little tiny steel pegs you get with a tarp or tent. A baby could possibly pull them up out of the ground. They are symbolic but useless in a storm. Our tents were being rearranged by God all over the field. What to do? We needed bigger pegs. Ones that would hold up in a storm.

That is how the ancient people looked at their leaders. They were the anchors or the pegs of their kingdom. When armies advanced or disaster came, the peg (leader) would hold. I’m betting it was very common for this ancient community to name their pegs. Here are a few observations. First you must raise a peg. He or she must learn to hold strong. In the beginning a child is a little steel peg. They are not that good in a fight. Yet, as they grow and become strong in size and in the Lord, they become that solid rock. The cornerstone of the community. Our ten-foot tent peg. It’s funny that one guy’s tent during our storm did not budge. We laughed at his three-foot pegs that were an inch thick. After the storm who do you think laughed?

We need to have solid pegs. It must be a priority. You would not want to be scrambling around during the storm looking for better pegs. In the end you will be looking for your tents too.

This is where Jesus steps in. He embodies the word of God. I'm betting he could recite it all upside down and backwards. He knew it and lived it. John 14:9 "Jesus answered: "*Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"* If we think God is strong then check out the same stock: his Son. I believe that the New Testament words reflect the old testament words. It's by no mistake that Jesus is referenced as the cornerstone. In essence he called himself the cornerstone, tent peg, and strong commander like in Zechariah 10.

Finally, we need to have God like strength in our lives. Through this 2020 pandemic I have been calm. My church has shown no fear. My church has been my tent peg. However, the world has lost its mind in fear. They had no tent peg in the storm. Jesus is not just called a tent peg. No, he is keeping us grounded because he is grounded. If you read John 14-15 you will see that Jesus time and time again referred of himself by statements like *He is in the Father and the Father is in him*. Jesus also goes on to say that he is in us too. We are the human tent and he is our solid ten-foot peg. The one that protects us in the storm and keeps us grounded just as God did for the ancient Israelites.

John 14:20 "*On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.*"