

The term "stumbling stone" appears in both the Old and New Testament. The dictionary describes it as something that makes someone trip and fall, but the Bible nearly always uses it in a figurative sense.

Jesus used stumbling stone to describe something that causes another to lose faith in Him. He also used it in reference to Himself, as did the Apostles, Peter and Paul. They quote from the Book of Isaiah, which speaks of Jesus' Person being so contrary to the expectations of the Jews, that they rejected Him and so lost their salvation!

I have written much on the history of Jesus' rejection by His own people, but thought it would be worth reviewing, since it sheds some light on a question many an earnest enquirer has been puzzled by.

If Jesus really knew the deceitful and treacherous nature of Judas Iscariot, and his criminal confidences with the priests behind His back, then why did He choose him as an Apostle? And more, why did Jesus give him a greater responsibility, intrusting him with Church finances?

The answer is clearly stated in the Gospel of John. Speaking of His betrayal at the hands of Judas, Jesus told the Disciples it was to happen so that "the scripture might be fulfilled."