

through an error in judgment, striking against the *στηλή* round which the chariots were to turn. Israel's pride, seeking to win the favor of God by works of merit, stumbled at the way of justification which God provided, through the dark mystery of the crucifixion of the Messiah.

τῷ λίθῳ τοῦ προσκόμματος "the stone of stumbling"-- a phrase taken from the LXX of Is.8:14. From the earliest times

the word *λίθος* was applied to Christ, especially with reference to

Ps.118:22-- *λίθον ὃν ἀπεδοκίμασαν οἱ οἰκοδομοῦντες, οὗτος ἔγενηθη εἰς κεφαλὴν γωνίας. Cf Acts 4:11, et al.*

v.33. καθὼς γέγραπται Again Paul quotes from the O.T., to show that the erection of this stumbling stone had been predicted centuries before. The quotation is a combination of two texts from the O.T.

Both these texts were regarded by the Rabbis as Messianic. The thought of them is very similar, though the wording is different.

Isaiah 8:14, reads, (A.R.V.) And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel..." Isaiah 28:16 (translating from the LXX) "...Behold

I lay for the foundations of Sion a costly stone, a chosen stone, a chief corner stone, for her foundations; and he that believeth shall not be ashamed!" Paul here combines these two texts, quoting the LXX of the latter, and following the Hebrew of the former. The latter verse is in a passage promising safety from the Assyrians to those who would trust in Jehovah. Isaiah 8:14 describes Jehovah as a source of protection to those who trust in Him, but a stone of stumbling to those who would forsake His way. Simeon, inspired by the Holy Spirit, quoted the context of this passage, and applied it to the infant Jesus (Luke 2:34)(cf.Alford in loc.) The same passages from Isaiah are combined and applied to Christ by Peter