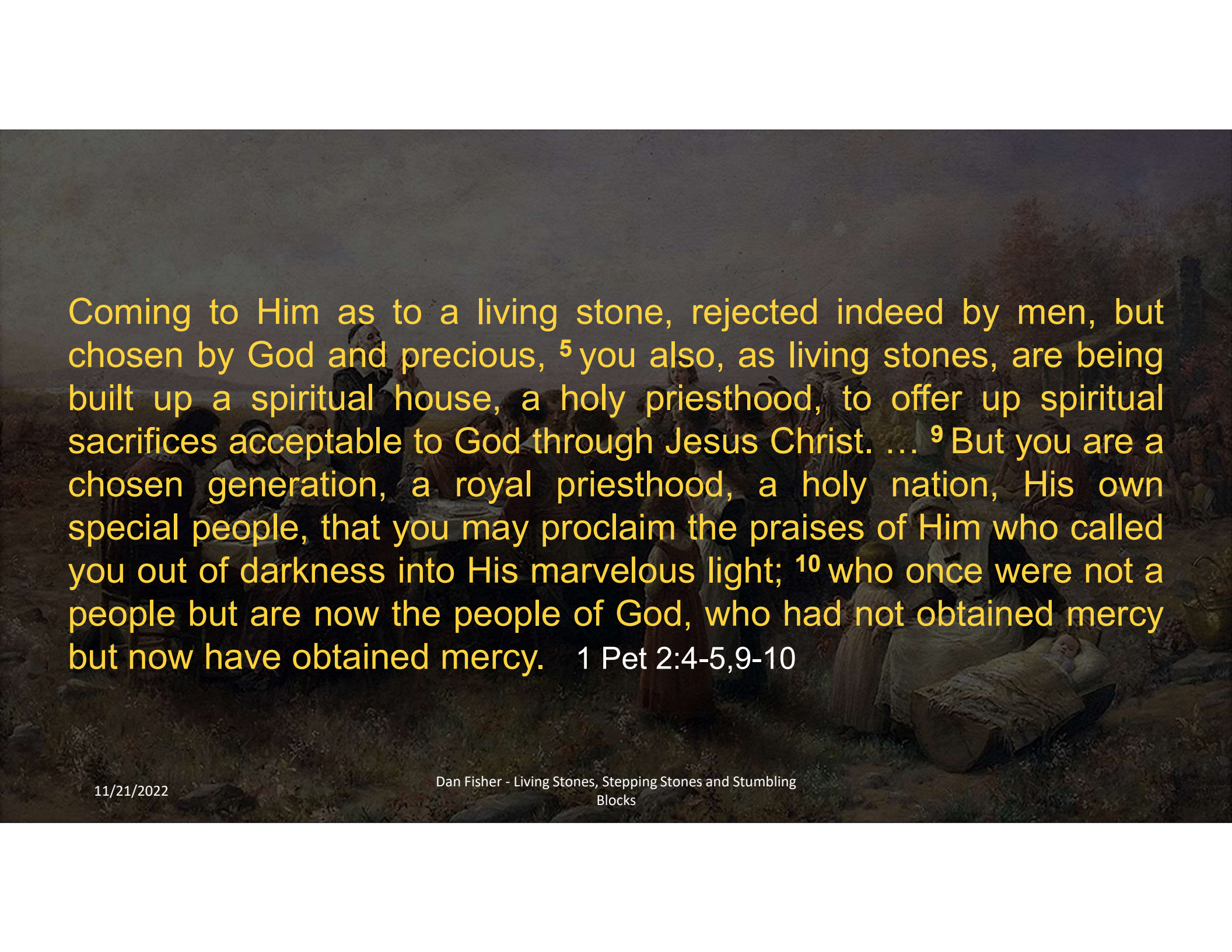


Living stones, stepping stones, and stumbling blocks



11/21/2022

Dan Fisher - Living Stones, Stepping Stones and Stumbling
Blocks


A dark, atmospheric painting of a group of people in a field. In the foreground, a person is lying down, possibly resting or sleeping, covered with a blanket. Other figures are visible in the background, some standing and some sitting, in a dimly lit, possibly outdoor setting. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, ⁵ you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ... ⁹ But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. 1 Pet 2:4-5,9-10



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Mayflower Compact, Nov. 11, 1620

“In the name of God, Amen. ... Having undertaken, for the glory of God, and the advancement of the Christian faith, and honor of our king and country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the Northern parts of Virginia, ...”



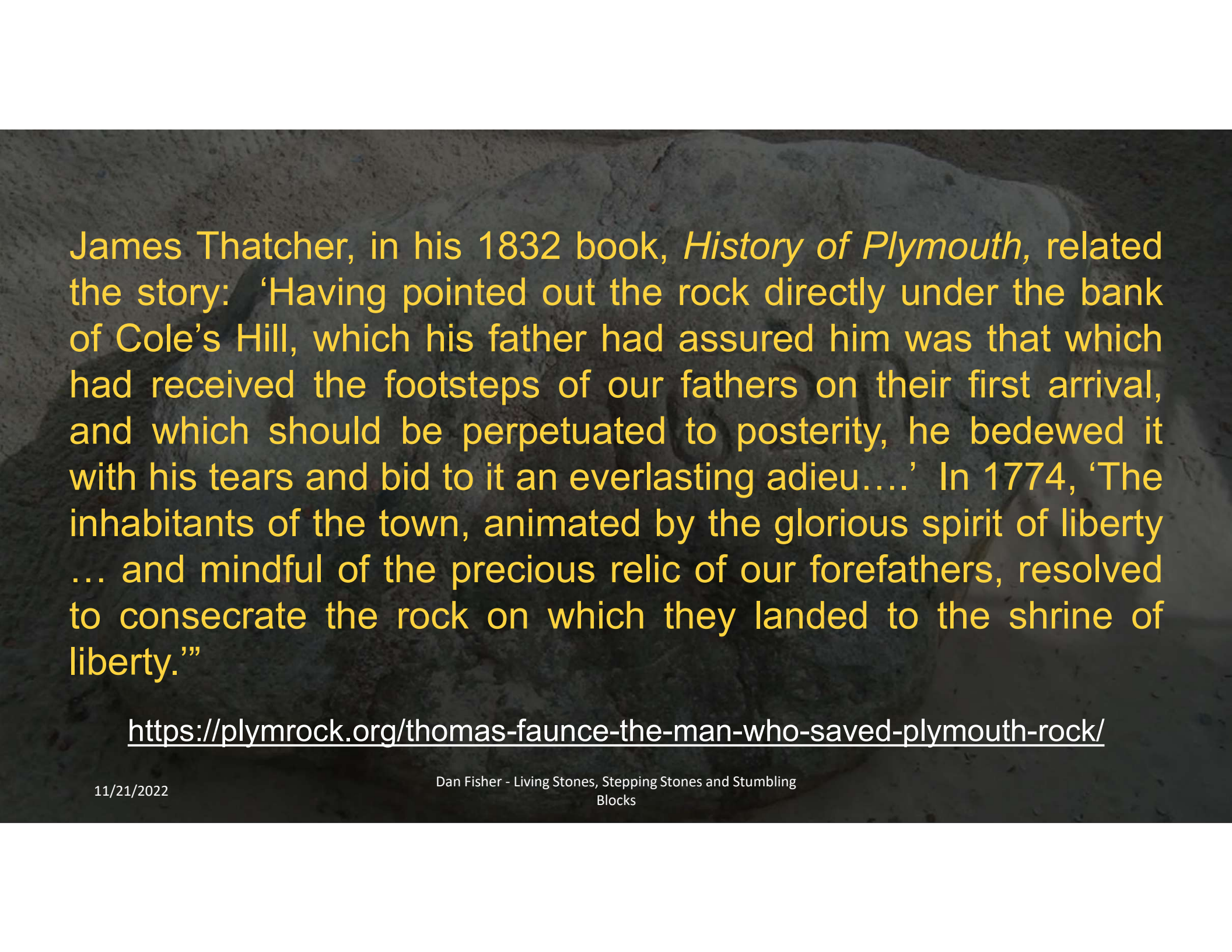
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Plymouth Rock Foundation

“In 1741, when Thomas Faunce, deacon/elder of the First Church of Plymouth, was 95, and heard about a wharf that would be torn down in Plymouth, he was moved to tears since the rock the Pilgrims first stepped on was underneath it. He had himself carried the three miles down to the wharf where a crowd gathered.”



James Thatcher, in his 1832 book, *History of Plymouth*, related the story: ‘Having pointed out the rock directly under the bank of Cole’s Hill, which his father had assured him was that which had received the footsteps of our fathers on their first arrival, and which should be perpetuated to posterity, he bedewed it with his tears and bid to it an everlasting adieu....’ In 1774, ‘The inhabitants of the town, animated by the glorious spirit of liberty ... and mindful of the precious relic of our forefathers, resolved to consecrate the rock on which they landed to the shrine of liberty.’”

<https://plymrock.org/thomas-faunce-the-man-who-saved-plymouth-rock/>

William Bradford, *History of Plymouth Plantation*:

“Lastly, (and which was not least,) a great hope & inward zeal they had of laying some good foundation, or at least to make some way thereunto, for the propagating & advancing the gospel of the kingdom of Christ in those remote parts of the world; yea, though they should be but even as stepping-stones unto others for the performing of so great a work. ...

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Thus out of small beginnings greater things have been produced by His hand that made all things of nothing and gives being to all things that are; and as one small candle may light a thousand, so the light here kindled hath shone unto many, yea in some sort to our whole nation; let the glorious name of Jehovah have all praise.”

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1. A Cornerstone

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1 Pet 2:4,6-8 Coming to Him as to a living stone, rejected indeed by men, but chosen by God and precious, ...
⁶ Therefore it is also contained in the Scripture, “Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious, and he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.”
⁷ Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone,” ⁸ and “A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.” They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

Eph 2:20 having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone,



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2. Living Stones

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1 Pet 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood,

Eph 2:19-22 Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, ²² in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

3. Stepping Stones

1 Pet 2:5,9-10 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ... ⁹ But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ¹⁰ who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

Mt 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

William Bradford:

“... a great hope & inward zeal they had of laying some good foundation, or at least to make some way thereunto, for the propagating & advancing the gospel of the kingdom of Christ ... though they should be but even as stepping-stones unto others for the performing of so great a work.

Bradford describing the Separatists while still meeting as a church in Scrooby Manor, England:

“as the Lord’s free people joined themselves ... to walk in all His ways made known, or to be made known unto them, according to their best endeavors, whatsoever it should cost them.”

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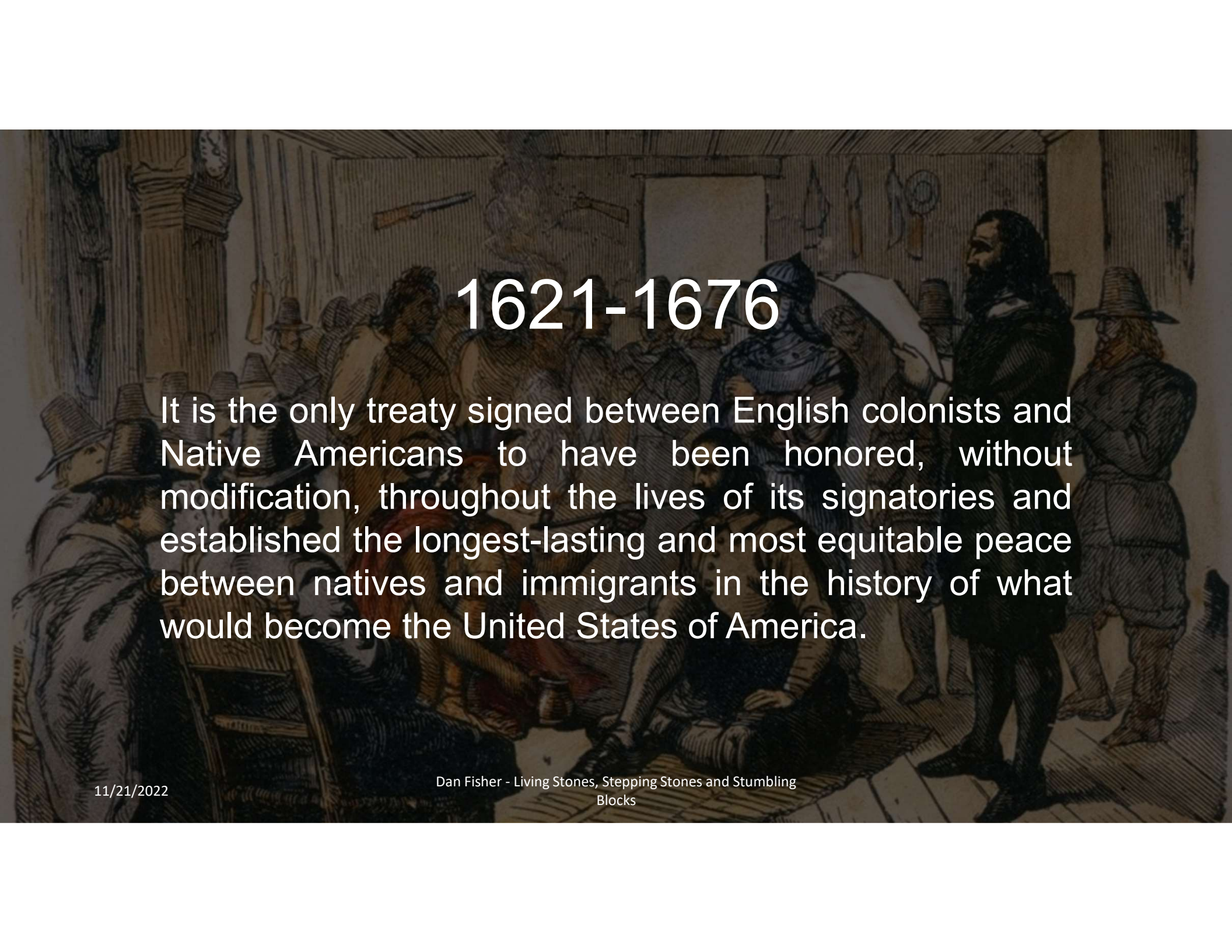


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1621-1676

It is the only treaty signed between English colonists and Native Americans to have been honored, without modification, throughout the lives of its signatories and established the longest-lasting and most equitable peace between natives and immigrants in the history of what would become the United States of America.



Metacom also called Metacomet & King Philip

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4. Stumbling Blocks

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Lev 19:14 You shall not curse the deaf, nor put a stumbling block before the blind, but shall fear your God: I am the Lord.

Rom 14:13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.

1 Cor 8:9 But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.

1 Pet 2:7-8 Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, “The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone,” ⁸ and “A stone of stumbling and a rock of offense.” They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

Mt 21:44 And whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.”



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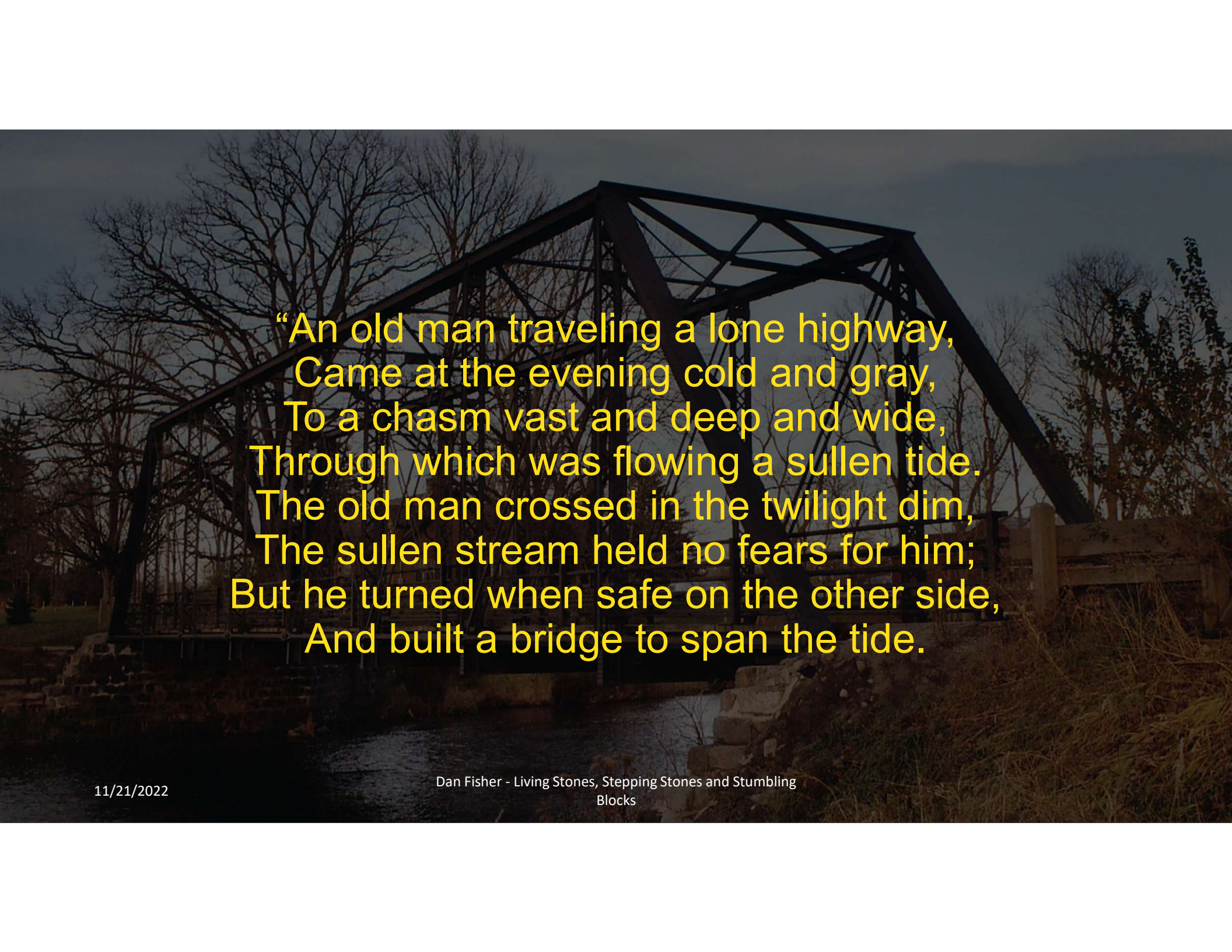
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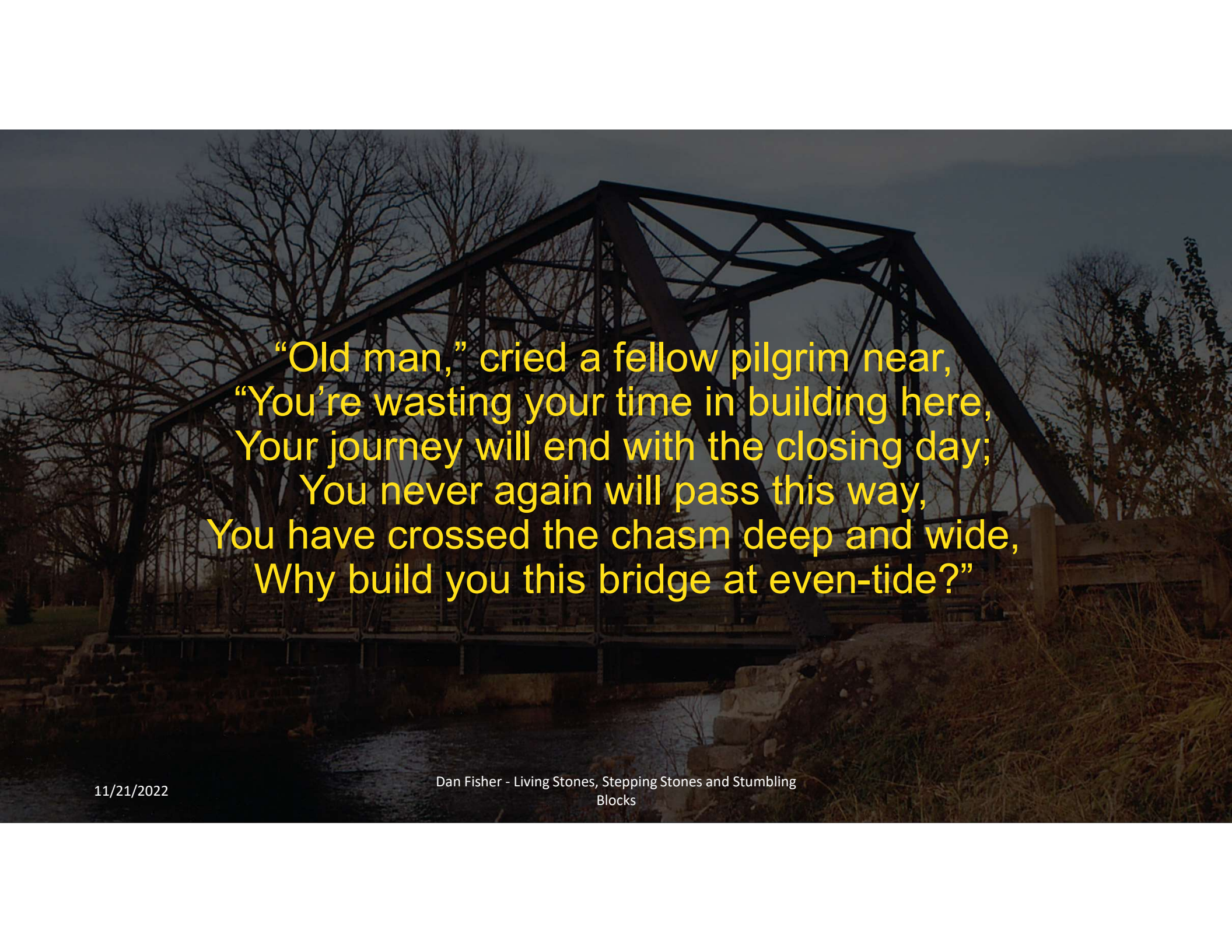
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“An old man traveling a lone highway,
Came at the evening cold and gray,
To a chasm vast and deep and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream held no fears for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.

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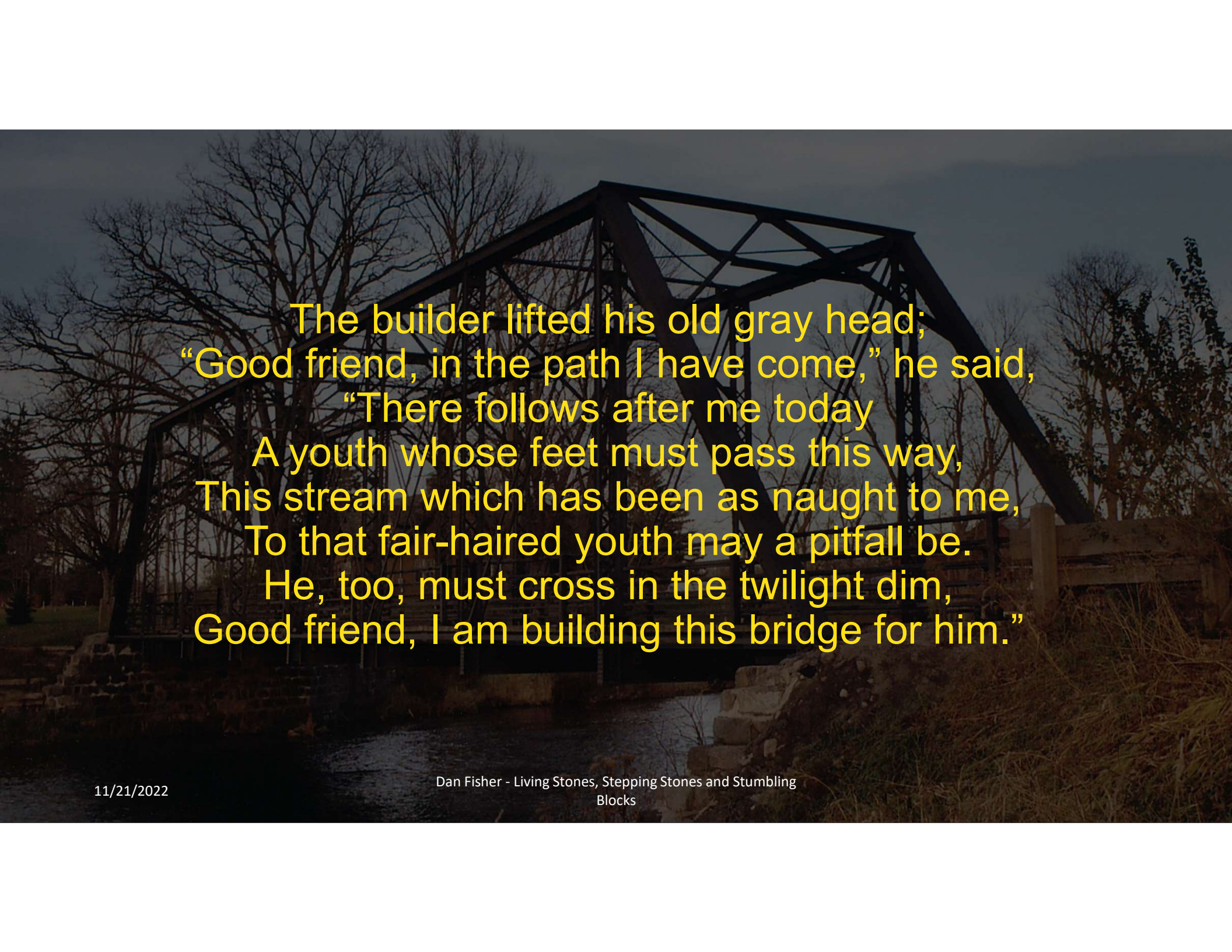
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“Old man,” cried a fellow pilgrim near,
“You’re wasting your time in building here,
Your journey will end with the closing day;
You never again will pass this way,
You have crossed the chasm deep and wide,
Why build you this bridge at even-tide?”

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The builder lifted his old gray head;
“Good friend, in the path I have come,” he said,
“There follows after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way,
This stream which has been as naught to me,
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim,
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him.”