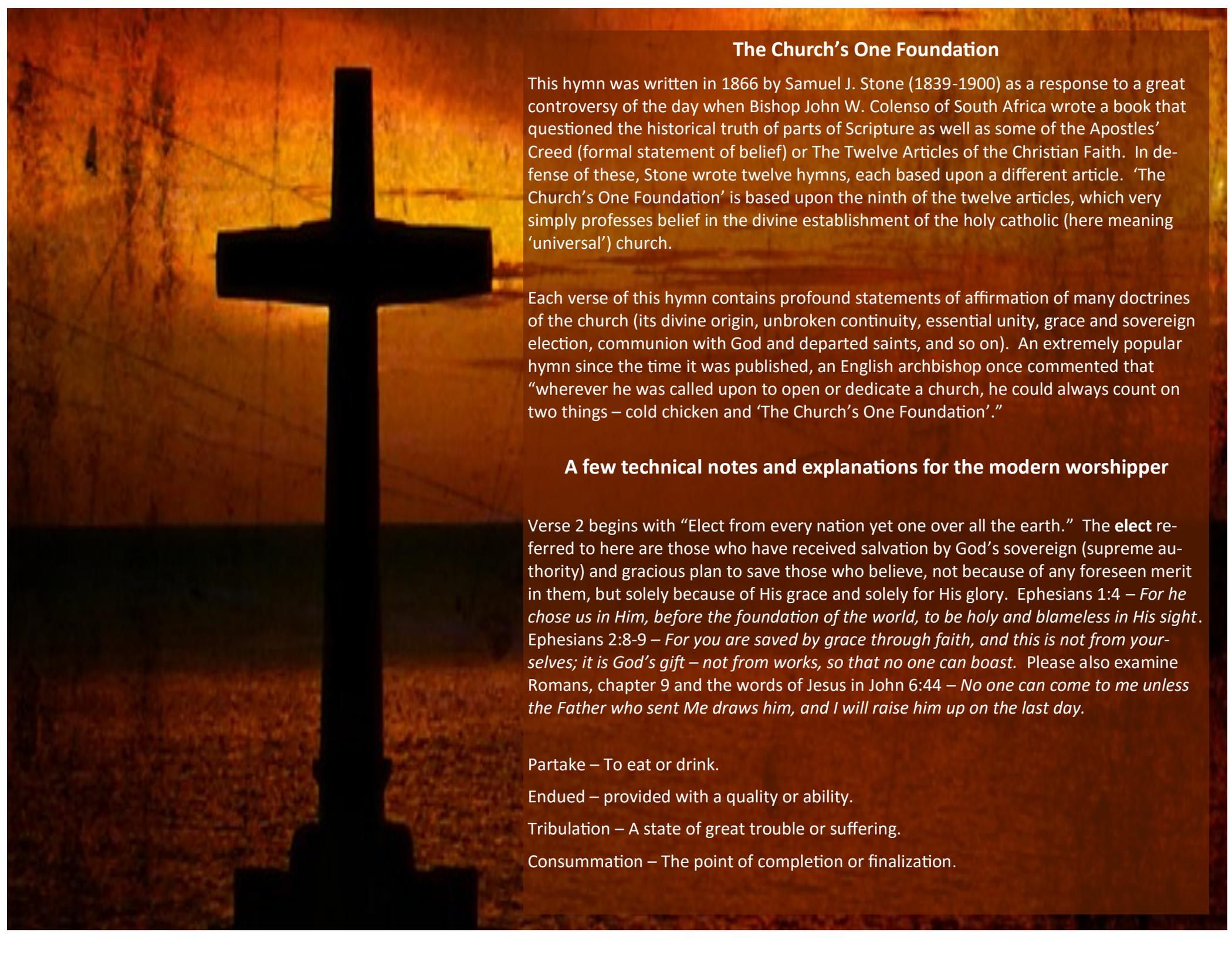


## Hymns 101

*For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building. According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.*

1 Corinthians 3:9-11 (ESV)

**The Church's one foundation  
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
She is his new creation  
By water and the Word.  
From heaven he came and sought her  
To be his holy bride;  
With his own blood he bought her,  
And for her life he died.  
Elect from every nation,  
Yet one over all the earth;  
Her charter of salvation:  
One Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses,  
Partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses  
With every grace endued.  
Through toil and tribulation  
And tumult of her war  
She waits the consummation  
Of peace forevermore  
Till with the vision glorious  
Her longing eyes are blest,  
And the great Church victorious  
Shall be the Church at rest.  
Yet she on earth has union  
With God, the Three in One,  
And mystic sweet communion  
With those whose rest is won.  
O blessed heavenly chorus!  
Lord, save us by your grace  
That we, like saints before us,  
May see you face to face.**



## The Church's One Foundation

This hymn was written in 1866 by Samuel J. Stone (1839-1900) as a response to a great controversy of the day when Bishop John W. Colenso of South Africa wrote a book that questioned the historical truth of parts of Scripture as well as some of the Apostles' Creed (formal statement of belief) or The Twelve Articles of the Christian Faith. In defense of these, Stone wrote twelve hymns, each based upon a different article. 'The Church's One Foundation' is based upon the ninth of the twelve articles, which very simply professes belief in the divine establishment of the holy catholic (here meaning 'universal') church.

Each verse of this hymn contains profound statements of affirmation of many doctrines of the church (its divine origin, unbroken continuity, essential unity, grace and sovereign election, communion with God and departed saints, and so on). An extremely popular hymn since the time it was published, an English archbishop once commented that "wherever he was called upon to open or dedicate a church, he could always count on two things – cold chicken and 'The Church's One Foundation'."

### A few technical notes and explanations for the modern worshipper

Verse 2 begins with "Elect from every nation yet one over all the earth." The **elect** referred to here are those who have received salvation by God's sovereign (supreme authority) and gracious plan to save those who believe, not because of any foreseen merit in them, but solely because of His grace and solely for His glory. Ephesians 1:4 – *For he chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in His sight.* Ephesians 2:8-9 – *For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift – not from works, so that no one can boast.* Please also examine Romans, chapter 9 and the words of Jesus in John 6:44 – *No one can come to me unless the Father who sent Me draws him, and I will raise him up on the last day.*

Partake – To eat or drink.

Endued – provided with a quality or ability.

Tribulation – A state of great trouble or suffering.

Consummation – The point of completion or finalization.