

THE MIGHTY STONE AND THE GREAT IMAGE DANIEL 2

Introduction: The subject of Daniel chapter 2 is commonly understood. It reveals to us through symbols and figures the world's history from the days of king Nebuchadnezzar 'till the close of time'. This study will focus on an aspect of the king's vision that is not normally discussed.

Prayer Thought: 5T 574, 575

"It is not necessary that anyone should yield to the temptations of Satan and thus violate his conscience and grieve the Holy Spirit. Every provision has been made in the word of God whereby all may have divine help in their endeavors to overcome. If they keep Jesus before them they will become changed into His image. All who by faith have Christ abiding in them carry a power into their labor which makes them successful. They will be constantly growing more and more efficient in their work, and the blessing of God, shown in the prosperity of the work, will testify that they are indeed laborers together with Christ. *But however much one may advance in spiritual life, he will never come to a point where he will not need diligently to search the Scriptures; for therein are found the evidences of our faith. All points of doctrine, even though they have been accepted as truth, should be brought to the law and to the testimony; if they cannot stand this test, there is no light in them.*" {5T 574.2}

1. *Review* **Dan. 2: 1-27**

Read verse 28

But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be in the latter days. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

Point out the "latter days" to show that the dream was for the future, for those of us living in the last days. If needed see **Dan. 12: 4**;

PK 484, 485 "The Lord regarded with approval the firmness and self-denial of the Hebrew youth, and their purity of motive; and His blessing attended them. He "gave them knowledge and skill in all learning and wisdom: and Daniel had understanding in all visions and dreams." The promise was fulfilled, "Them that honor Me I will honor." 1 Samuel 2:30. As Daniel clung to God with unwavering trust, the spirit of prophetic power came upon him. While receiving instruction from man in the duties of court life, *he was being taught by God to read the mysteries of the future and to record for coming generations, through figures and symbols, events covering the history of this world till the close of time.*" {PK 484.3}

PK 505 "The symbolic representation by which God had revealed to king and people His purpose for the nations of earth, was now to be made to serve for the glorification of

human power. Daniel's interpretation was to be rejected and forgotten; truth was to be misinterpreted and misapplied. The symbol designed of Heaven to unfold to the minds of men important events of the future, was to be used to hinder the spread of the knowledge that God desired the world to receive. Thus through the devisings of ambitious men, Satan was seeking to thwart the divine purpose for the human race. *The enemy of mankind knew that truth unmixed with error is a power mighty to save; but that when used to exalt self and to further the projects of men, it becomes a power for evil.*" {PK 505.1}

2. Read Dan. 2: 31-35, the actual vision

2:31 Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness [was] excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof [was] terrible.

2:32 This image's head [was] of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,

2:33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

2:34 Thou sawest till that **a stone was cut out without hands**, which smote the image upon his feet [that were] of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

2:35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

Briefly explain the meaning of the various parts of the image interpreted by Daniel in verses 38-43 and point out that we are living in the toes. See

1T 361 "...Earthly powers are shaken. We need not, and cannot, expect union among the nations of the earth. **Our position in the image of Nebuchadnezzar is represented by the toes, in a divided state, and of a crumbling material, that will not hold together.** Prophecy shows us that the great day of God is right upon us. It hasteth greatly." {1T 360.3}

Thus the work of the stone in verses 34 and 35 in smiting the feet of the image is to take place in our time.

3. Where did the stone come from?

Dan. 2: 45 – "Forasmuch as thou sawest that **the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands**, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream [is] certain, and the interpretation thereof sure."

The mountain

Since the various metals comprising the image are all symbolic, then the mountain must be symbolic.

What does the mountain symbolize?

Dan. 9: 16, 20

9:16 O Lord, according to all thy righteousness, I beseech thee, let thine anger and thy fury be turned away from **thy city Jerusalem, thy holy mountain**: because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and thy people [are become] a reproach to all [that are] about us.

9:20 And whiles I [was] speaking, and praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, **and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God**;

Isa. 2: 2, 3

2:2 And it shall come to pass in the last days, [that] **the mountain of the LORD's house** shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

2:3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to **the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob**; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

The church.

Which church? – the “latter days” church, Laodicea, SDA

4. *What or whom does the stone symbolize?*

Since the stone came from the mountain, it symbolizes church or people like the mountain.

1Pet. 2: 3-5;

2:3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord [is] gracious.

2:4 To whom coming, [as unto] **a living stone**, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, [and] precious,

2:5 **Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house**, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

Zech. 12: 3

And in that day **will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone** for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.

8T: 173 “...His church on earth is to assume divine proportions before the world as a temple built of living stones, each one reflecting light. It is to be the light of the world as a city set on a hill, which cannot be hid. It is built of stones laid close together, stone

fitting to stone, making a firm, solid building. Not all the stones are of the same form or shape. Some are large, some are small; but each has its own place to fill. And the value of each stone is determined by the light that it reflects. This is God's plan. He desires all His workers to fill their appointed places in the work for this time.” {8T 173.2}

Being a part of the mountain, the SDA church, it symbolizes a remnant out of the remnant church. See

TM 422 “Who are the subjects of the kingdom of God?--all those who do His will. They have righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. The members of Christ's kingdom are the sons of God, partners in His great firm. The elect of God are a chosen generation, a peculiar people, a holy nation, to show forth the praises of Him who hath called them out of darkness into His marvelous light. They are the salt of the earth, the light of the world. *They are living stones, a royal priesthood. They are in copartnership with Jesus Christ. These are they that follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. . . .*” {TM 422.1}

Thus the stone symbolize “they that follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth,” the 144,000 of **Rev. 14: 1, 4, 5; 7: 1-4**. See

1T 608, 609 “In concluding this narrative, I would say that we are living in a most solemn time. In the last vision given me, *I was shown the startling fact that but a small portion of those who now profess the truth will be sanctified by it and be saved*. Many will get above the simplicity of the work. They will conform to the world, cherish idols, and become spiritually dead. The humble, self-sacrificing followers of Jesus will pass on to perfection, leaving behind the indifferent and lovers of the world.” {1T 608.3}

2T 445, 446 “I have tried in the fear of God to set before His people their danger and their sins, and have endeavored, to the best of my feeble powers, to arouse them. I have stated startling things, which, if they had believed, would have caused them distress and terror, and led them to zeal in repenting of their sins and iniquities. *I have stated before them that, from what was shown me, but a small number of those now professing to believe the truth would eventually be saved--not because they could not be saved, but because they would not be saved in God's own appointed way*. The way marked out by our divine Lord is too narrow and the gate too strait to admit them while grasping the world or while cherishing selfishness or sin of any kind. There is no room for these things; and yet there are but few who will consent to part with them, that they may pass the narrow way and enter the strait gate.” {2T 445.2}

Note: The stone cannot symbolize the second coming of Christ.

- It came from the church (mountain), not heaven or the sky.
- It develops into a great mountain (great church), indicating that many new converts will join the ranks of the purified church. This must take place before, rather than at the second visible return of Christ.

5. *What causes the stone to be separated from the mountain without hands?*

Divine intervention, “without hands,” symbolizing the purification of the church by the angels of God. See **Nah. 1: 15; Isa. 52: 1**

TM 47 “Finite man is likely to misjudge character, but God does not leave the work of judgment and pronouncing upon character to those who are not fitted for it. We are not to say what constitutes the wheat, and what the tares. The time of the harvest will fully determine the character of the two classes specified under the figure of the tares and the wheat. **The work of separation is given to the angels of God, and not committed into the hands of any man.**” {TM 47.2}

EW 118.1 “I then saw the third angel. Said my accompanying angel, "Fearful is his work. Awful is his mission. **He is the angel that is to select the wheat from the tares, and seal, or bind, the wheat for the heavenly garner.** These things should engross the whole mind, the whole attention.” {EW 118.1}

1T 198 “...Angels keep a faithful record of every man's work, and as judgment passes upon the house of God, the sentence of each is recorded by his name, and **the angel is commissioned to spare not the unfaithful servants, but to cut them down at the time of slaughter...**” {1T 197.1}

5T 505 “When God was about to smite the first-born of Egypt, He commanded the Israelites to gather their children from among the Egyptians into their own dwellings and strike their door posts with blood, that the destroying angel might see it and pass over their homes. It was the work of parents to gather in their children. This is your work, this is my work, and the work of every mother who believes the truth. **The angel is to place a mark upon the forehead of all who are separated from sin and sinners, and the destroying angel will follow, to slay utterly both old and young.**” {5T 505.2}

After the separation of the stone the 144,000, Daniel mentioned nothing more about the mountain, the remainder of the SDA church, showing the destruction of those who are not a part of the stone, those without the seal or mark of God.

Note: The following points are optional if they were shared in a previous study with those participating in this study – Read **3T 266, 267; Ez. 9; 5T 211** and emphasize the points emerging from these references in study no. 2.

6. *What causes the stone to become a great mountain, filling the whole earth?*

- The preaching of the Gospel of the Kingdom (Matt. 24: 14) with a Loud cry (Rev.18: 4) which will gather a great multitude of saints – **Isaiah 2: 2, 3; Rev. 7; 9**
- The stone (144,000) will destroy the image (the nations) by completing the work of preaching the gospel unto all nations, which brings the end to earth’s governments. See

Jer. 51: 19, 20.

51:19 The portion of Jacob [is] not like them; for he [is] the former of all things: and [Israel is] the rod of his inheritance: the LORD of hosts [is] his name.

51:20 Thou [art] my battle ax [and] weapons of war: for **with thee will I break in pieces the nations**, and with thee will I destroy kingdoms;

GC 611, 612 “The great work of the gospel is not to close with less manifestation of the power of God than marked its opening. The prophecies which were fulfilled in the outpouring of the former rain at the opening of the gospel are again to be fulfilled in the latter rain at its close. Here are "the times of refreshing" to which the apostle Peter looked forward when he said: "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and He shall send Jesus." Acts 3:19, 20. {GC 611.3}

Servants of God, with their faces lighted up and shining with holy consecration, will hasten from place to place to proclaim the message from heaven. **By thousands of voices, all over the earth, the warning will be given. Miracles will be wrought, the sick will be healed, and signs and wonders will follow the believers.** Satan also works, with lying wonders, even bringing down fire from heaven in the sight of men. Revelation 13:13. Thus the inhabitants of the earth will be brought to take their stand. {GC 612.1}

The message will be carried not so much by argument as by the deep conviction of the Spirit of God. The arguments have been presented. The seed has been sown, and now it will spring up and bear fruit. The publications distributed by missionary workers have exerted their influence, yet many whose minds were impressed have been prevented from fully comprehending the truth or from yielding obedience. Now the rays of light penetrate everywhere, the truth is seen in its clearness, and the honest children of God sever the bands which have held them. Family connections, church relations, are powerless to stay them now. Truth is more precious than all besides. **Notwithstanding the agencies combined against the truth, a large number take their stand upon the Lord's side.** {GC 612.2}

Summary: From this study we see that God will finish His work by first purifying His church (the mountain), by separating the unfaithful from the faithful. This separation will leave only 144,000 living saints (stone) who in turn will be filled with the Holy Spirit's power to go out and finish the preaching of the gospel by calling all of God's true people out of Babylon.