

THE UPWARD CALL

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet;
but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,
I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God*

IN CHRIST JESUS.

(Philippians 3.13-14 NASB)

#02-0885

MAY 13, 2008

THE STONE BECAME A GREAT MOUNTAIN #2

The day will come when the Stone Kingdom, the Kingdom of our God under the authority of His Christ (Revelation 12.10), will crush all the kingdoms of this world and the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness (Isaiah 26.9). During the oncoming eon, the nations will know the ways of the Lord as the law goes forth from Zion. The nations will experience mercy, justice, peace, and love in ways never imagined as the Kingdom of God begins to fill the whole earth until finally the glory of the Lord fills it (Numbers 14.21; Psalm 72.19; Isaiah 6.3; Habakkuk 2.14).

It is rather unfortunate that so many teach that the Lord's people will have nothing to do with this earth once the Kingdom of God or *the reign of the heavens* overtakes this earth. This is a major topic in itself that I will address in other writings, but for now, I must make the statement: The ones counted worthy to attain to the age to come, the Kingdom or Tabernacles Age, will be Christ's complement, both among the celestials and on the earth, as He heads up all in the heavens and on the earth. The conquerors will be the administrators of the Kingdom of Christ on earth. **They will reign upon the earth** (Revelation 5.10 NASB).

I have previously stated that I believe the Stone Kingdom is beginning to crush the kingdom of this world, which is the Babylonian system to which the nations have been yoked. All who live in the world are in bondage to this system of commerce that drives the world economy and that has united the nations, the leaders of the nations, and the merchants of the earth. It matters not that the nations have different forms of government, culture, religion, or other distinguishing traits. All these things are accepted (perhaps, merely tolerated) and yoked together in order to trade goods and to finance these trades. The driving force of this system is greed seeking for ever-increasing wealth. **The love of money is a root of all sorts of evil** (1 Timothy 6.10 NASB).

Daniel sought the Lord to know the dream given to Nebuchadnezzar and to interpret it for him. It is in Daniel's interpretation that we learn of the stone that becomes a great mountain and fills the whole earth. The great mountain is the Kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ (Revelation 11.15), and the stone represents Christ Himself, for Peter calls Christ the living stone (1 Peter 2.4) and throughout the Old Testament the Lord is called the Rock. Thus, the stone and the great mountain signify Christ the King and His coming kingdom. They signify God's King and the Kingdom of God that will fill the whole earth.

“You, O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome. The head of that statue was made of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. You continued looking until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.” (Daniel 2.31-35 NASB)

It is vital to our understanding to note that King Nebuchadnezzar beheld a single great statue, large and of extraordinary splendor. The statue was one image of a body from head to toe. According to Daniel's prophecy, the great statue of gold, silver, bronze, and iron represents a succession of mighty kingdoms, which is easily verified by the historical record and extensively written about by Christian commentators.

But the essential point of Daniel's interpretation is that this single statue and all that it represents is crushed **all at the same time** and becomes like chaff blown away by the wind so that there is no trace of it (them), presumably, cast to the wind forever, never to be seen again. In other words, the single stone that strikes the single statue completely obliterates or annihilates all that the great statue represents. Consequently, when the Kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ, that is, the Stone Kingdom, comes, it destroys all the kingdoms represented by the single great statue. Daniel very clearly tells us so: **It will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever** (Daniel 2.44 NASB).

To me, the single great statue represents far more than a succession of kingdoms; it represents all the kingdoms of men that have existed on earth since the flood. It has to be a very similar, if not the same, picture the devil gave Jesus as He was led about in the wilderness for forty days.

And he led Him up and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, "I will give You all this domain and its glory; for it has been handed over to me, and I give it to whomever I wish." (Luke 4.5-6 NASB)

All the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time are crushed at the same time! When this occurs, the loud voices in heaven proclaim: **"The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever"** (Revelation 11.15 NASB). The single great statue speaks of the kingdom of the world, as if all the kingdoms of men down through history make up one kingdom. Consequently, all that is represented by the entire statue represents all the kingdoms of men combined.

We receive a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and all the kingdoms of men will be shaken until they are but dust and chaff for the wind to blow away forever (Hebrews 12.26-28). Just consider the history of the nations and how many kingdoms have been raised up and torn down! Where are the many kingdoms of men that have arisen since the fall of man? They are but a blip on the timeline of history; chaff blown away by the wind, never to be seen or heard of again. This is the Lord's doing!

However, we cannot ignore the significance of the head of gold representative of Babylon. Naturally speaking, the head directs the body. Spiritually speaking, Christ is the Head of His body. As the head of the statue, Babylon must speak of the overall character of all the kingdoms. The Babylonian kingdom first made its appearance in the days of Nimrod (Genesis 10.10), and as our present wicked eon is brought to its rightful, God-ordained conclusion, mystery Babylon, the great city, is in command of the commerce of the world and has seduced all the nations, the kings or leaders of the earth, and the merchants of the earth (Revelation 18) with her sorcery, sensuality, and great wealth. This great harlot city sits upon the waters, which speaks of peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues (Revelation 17.15) who are seduced by her gold, silver, and other precious commodities. I refer you to my article, #9 - *A Mystery, The Great City Babylon*, for further understanding of its meaning. It is a mystery that is discerned *in spirit* and revealed in these last days.

So, according to Scripture, the first kingdom of men after the flood was Babel or Babylon, and the last kingdom of men in Scripture is also called Babylon. Babylon represents the kingdom of men in its entire splendor and glory, and all its evil. Mankind sees it as precious as gold and as strong as iron, never to cease, but God sees it as mere dust in the sight of the Kingdom of His Son.

The day is coming when **the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever** (Daniel 2.44 NASB).