

# 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)

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## ***THE STONE BECAME A GREAT MOUNTAIN #3***

**“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)

This three-part series is on the Stone Kingdom, which is the Kingdom of Christ that is coming to reign over this earth, and how it will crush all the kingdoms of men as chaff that will be carried away with the wind, never to be seen again. The stone and the great mountain represent Christ and His Kingdom, the chief mountain. The glorious day is coming when the Kingdom of our God under the authority of His Christ (Revelation 12.10) will crush all the kingdoms of this world so that mankind will finally experience true mercy, justice, peace, and love as the glory of the Lord fills the earth over the next 1,000 years (Numbers 14.21; Psalm 72.19; Isaiah 6.3; Habakkuk 2.14).

As a reminder, all of us in the world today are yoked to mystery Babylon, the great city. We are in bondage to a 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, for they are yoked together for a common purpose: to trade goods and to finance these trades. The driving force of this system is the love of money and greed that seeks for ever-increasing wealth.

It is universally accepted and verified in Daniel's prophetic book that the single great statue that Nebuchadnezzar saw in a dream represents a succession of kingdoms that rise to greatness, only to fall, until finally the Kingdom of God crushes the entire statue and *the reign of the heavens* is established on earth with God's Son as the King and His conquerors as His administrators. **The saints of the Highest One will receive the kingdom** (Daniel 7.18 NASB). **The time arrived when the saints took possession of the kingdom** (Daniel 7.22 NASB).

Now, the historical record verifies the existence of the four kingdoms and the nature of these kingdoms as represented by parts of the body made of different metals. The **head of gold** represents **Babylon**, the **breast and arms of silver** represent **Medo-Persia**, the **belly and thighs of bronze** represent **Greece**, and the **legs of iron** represent **Rome**.

Of particular note is the fact that the metals decrease in value for each successive kingdom. Gold is of greater value than silver, silver than bronze, and bronze than iron. Gold is the rarest and most sought after metal on the face of the earth; it makes up only five ten-millionths of earth's outer layer. Iron is the second most common metal on earth.

However, in terms of strength, the metals increase in value with iron being the stronger. Using a measure of hardness (Mohs Scale) with 10 being the hardest (strongest) (e.g., 10 for diamonds), gold is 2.5-3.0, silver is 3.25, bronze, which is a mixture of copper and tin, is 3.5, and iron is 5.5. Thus, the hardness of iron is about twice that of gold.

So, on the one hand, the statue reveals that the kingdoms proceed from a high value to a lower value, and, on the other hand, they proceed from less strength to greater strength. The value goes down as the hardness or strength goes up. To me, this portrays the full spectrum of man's kingdoms, which signifies that there is nothing lasting or of continuing value in what man attempts to build for his name and to his glory.

But there is more to the statue, for the toes of the feet are part iron and part clay. In other words, there is a mixture among the toes.

**As to the toes of the feet, part of them iron, and part of them clay: some part of the kingdom is strong, and some part of it is brittle. Because thou hast seen iron mixed with miry clay, they are mixing themselves with the seed of men: and they are not adhering one with another, even as iron is not mixed with clay. And in the days of these kings raise up doth the God of the heavens a kingdom that is not destroyed—to the age, and its kingdom to another people is not left: it beateth small and endeth all these kingdoms, and it standeth to the age. (Daniel 2.42-44 YLT)**

What does the iron mixed with clay represent? There are many interpretations of its meaning, some historical and some futuristic, as if the world is waiting for it to come into being. Rather than attempt to discuss the various interpretations, I would prefer to look at it in a much broader sense.

In regards to strength and value, iron and clay are like oil and water; mix iron with clay and iron's strength is greatly diminished. In the dream, this mixture, on one level, represents strength and weakness, and, on another level, it represents division, a combination which leads to its downfall. In spite of the different nature of the two materials, there is an attempt to wed these two together in some fashion. Perhaps it is a marriage of convenience to accomplish a certain goal.

When the stone hits the toes of iron and clay, the statue begins to fall; it cannot stand, for it is structurally too weak. The iron cannot support the clay. If one takes the feet out from under a person, he will surely fall, and this is the picture we are given. It is like removing the foundation of a building that allows the building to stand; remove the foundation and the building falls. In addition, as Jesus declared, any kingdom divided against itself is laid waste; it cannot stand (Matthew 12.25).

If we conclude that this kingdom of mixture represents the nature of the last kingdom of man on earth, then it is also safe to conclude that the kingdom of the world at the end of our present wicked eon will be a marriage of convenience, which means that under the surface there is much division. We could say that it is a mixed bag held together for a common purpose. Is this not the exact picture we are given of mystery Babylon, the great city, in Revelation 18?

As stated previously, the world is currently yoked to a Babylonian 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, as they all seek for "the gold," which speaks of great wealth. However, the world is not united by the same form of government, culture, or religion. All these things are merely tolerated in order to trade goods and to finance these trades. Consider the relationship of China and the US; it is very difficult for us in the US to purchase goods that are not made in China, and yet, the two countries are very much different. It is a marriage of convenience. But we are not alone!

What are we to conclude? This system is under judgment and it will fall, for the Stone will strike it and the Kingdom of God will fill the earth. Hallelujah! Praise God!