

The Stone Cut Out Without Hands

Daniel 2, Nebuchadnezzar's dream

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Dan 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.

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 *stone* in the verses in Daniel have been interpreted as representing Christ. While Christ is capable of ending all earthly kingdoms, the controversy between Christ and satan is no longer about the Son of God, since that controversy has been clearly resolved in His favor. The key to the correct interpretation in Daniel, is first determining what the *mountain* that the stone was cut out of represents. We'll let scripture tell us what the mountain is...

Zechariah 8:3 - Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain.

Daniel 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.

Daniel 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;

Isaiah 2:1-3 -

1 The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

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.

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.

So, we can see that the *mountain* represents God's people, His church, both in their apostasy, and in their faithfulness, the called out ones, depending on the particular passage that is read. This is where the controversy between Christ and satan is now focused. If we're honest, thus far, the controversy, as a whole, seems to be in satan's favor. Let's now examine what the stone that was cut out represents.

1Peter 2:2-5 -

2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord *is* gracious.

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

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.

Zechariah 12:3 -

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.

God is preparing these “stones” for a special work in the last days...

Revelation 7:1-4 -

1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree.

2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a

loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea,

3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: *and there were* sealed an hundred *and* forty *and* four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

The 144,000 have been thought to be a symbolic number, but it's not obvious that the number is symbolic...that is, according to William Miller's Rules for Biblical Interpretation, no. 11, the 144,000 can certainly be a literal number.

Revelation 14:1,4 -

1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty *and* four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, *being* the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

(Virgins refers to their spiritual purity, not that they never had relations with women. Also, note that they are the *firstfruits*.)

The 144,000 are the *stone* cut out of the *mountain* without hands, by God himself, as He prepares them to carry out His final evangelistic campaign. The 144,000 are willing to be molded by the hand of God, and cooperate with Him in His work. They themselves became a “great mountain,” showing they were successful in preaching the gospel to the whole world, Daniel 2:35. They are *cut* out of the last day church, indicating that they have undergone something strenuous.

1 He cried also in mine ears with a loud voice, saying, Cause them that have charge over the city to draw near, even every man *with* his destroying weapon in his hand.

2 And, behold, six men came from the way of the higher gate, which lieth toward the north, and every man a slaughter weapon in his hand; and one man among them *was* clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side: and they went in, and stood beside the brasen altar.

3 And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, whereupon he was, to the threshold of the house. And he called to the man clothed with linen, which *had* the writer's inkhorn by his side;

4 And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

5 And to the others he said in mine hearing, Go ye after him through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity:

6 Slay utterly old *and* young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom *is* the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which *were* before the house.

7 And he said unto them, Defile the house, and fill the courts with the slain: go ye forth. And they went forth, and slew in the city.

8 And it came to pass, while they were slaying them, and I was left, that I fell upon my face, and cried, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou destroy all the residue of Israel in thy pouring out of thy fury upon Jerusalem?

9 Then said he unto me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah *is* exceeding great, and the land is full of blood, and the city full of perverseness: for they say, The LORD hath forsaken the earth, and the LORD seeth not.

10 And as for me also, mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity, *but* I will recompense their way upon their head.

11 And, behold, the man clothed with linen, which *had* the inkhorn by his side, reported the matter, saying, I have done as thou hast commanded me.

-Ezekiel 9:1-11

The 144,000 come out of God's last day church, Laodicea, which is full of tares, and cannot finish the gospel commission. As a whole, Laodicea has become one of the partially fallen churches described in Isaiah 4:1 – seven is the number of completion. God's message to the angel of Laodicea – the leadership – is a stern rebuke. Jesus literally has nothing good to say about them. When their cup is full, Ezekiel 9 will be fulfilled. After Ezekiel 9 is fulfilled, the ones that are left, the 144,000, and those with them, will be able to finish the gospel commission, thus ending the selfish kingdoms of this earth, and God's everlasting kingdom will remain forever. (Please note, however, that God does not do the slaying, as this is contrary to His nature. The tares have destroyed themselves, by choosing to withdraw themselves from God's protection. Five of the 'six men,' verse 2, were held back by God until Laodicea's cup was full, but the man with the writer's inkhorn, verse 2-4, was sent by God to “mark” His faithful ones, and ensure they are not harmed.) The 144,000 will be a 'kingdom of priests,' Exodus 19:6, which is what God promised the Israelites, but they were unwilling.¹ Jeremiah 31:31-33

15 For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire.

16 For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.

17 They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one *tree* in the midst, eating swine's flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the LORD.

18 For I *know* their works and their thoughts: it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory.

19 And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, *to* Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, *to* Tubal, and Javan, *to* the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles.

20 And they shall bring all your brethren *for* an offering unto the LORD out of all nations upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon swift beasts, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the LORD, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD.

-Isaiah 66:15-20

The 144,000 have the spirit of the Father and the Son in them, thus they are able to do this. They are the forerunners in exhibiting 'Christ in you, the hope of glory:' Colossians 1:27; Revelation 14:1-12

1. See the booklet The Two Covenants.

This is a condensed summary of the good news of the Bible. For an in depth look, please refer to the original. For further reading, see *The Desire of Ages*, and *The Great Controversy*, by E.G. White.

