

THE MIGHTY STONE AND THE GREAT IMAGE DANIEL 2

(Outline # 1)

MEDITATION : *CW 35 ; CSW 28, 29* (or choose another).

INTRODUCTION:

The study concerning The Great Image of Daniel 2 is a common and generally understood portion of Scripture. It reveals to us through symbols and figures the world's history from the days of king Nebuchadnezzar 'till the close of time. Nevertheless, our focus will be centered on that portion of the king's vision, which is not normally discussed.

REVIEW : *Verses 1-27* (verbally). Refresh the memory.

1. Read : Verse 28

Emphasize that the vision reaches its complete fulfillment in our time, and that the message is mainly for those living in the last days, i.e. *Dan. 12:4; PK 547, 548* --- for the latter days.

2. Read : Verses 31-35. The actual vision.

- a** Explain briefly the meaning of the various parts of the Image.
- b** Point out that we are living in the days of the ten toes. *IT 361.*
- c** Especially point out the work of the stone.

3. Where Did The Stone Come From ? ---- The Mountain

Read : *Daniel 2:45.*

- a** The stone came from a mountain.
- b** If the image (gold, silver, brass, stone, etc.) is symbolical then the mountain must also be symbolical.

4. What Does A Mountain Symbolize In Scripture ? ---- People

Read : *Dan. 9:16,20.*

- a** Daniel in his prayer likens the church (Jerusalem) to a mountain.
- b** It could not be a literal mountain, because a literal mountain cannot sin.

Read: Isaiah 2:2,3.

- a** God here shows that in the last days He will exalt His church above all other churches and kingdoms.
- b** Also, many people will be invited by the saints to join the true church. *Rev. 18:4* -- The finishing of the Gospel.

Further proof: Isa. 56:7, 2:2; Mic. 4:1-4; Rev. 17:9; Zech. 8:3; Matt. 5:14; Jer. 51:25; Isa. 51:16

5. Exactly What Church Does The Mountain Symbolize? ---SDA

- a It must be the church in the *latter days* (v. 28). *I T 361*.
- b The church of Laodicea (*Rev. 3:14 -17*).

6. Could Not The Mountain Include The Churches Of The World? ---NO

- a God has had only one church in each era. That is the Israelites.
- b According to **Rev. 14:8**, Babylon (The churches of the world) has fallen, indicating that God's Spirit has been withdrawn from them. God does however have faithful people in these churches, but they will be brought into the S.D.A. church. See *EW 33; John10:16*.

7. What Or Whom Does The Stone Symbolize?

- a A remnant of the remnant church
- b If the mountain is people, then the stone must symbolize people as well, for the stone was cut out from the mountain.

8. Cannot The Stone Symbolize Christ At His Second Coming?

- a The Stone came from the church (mountain), not heaven or the sky. *Dan. 2:45*
- b If the mountain is people the stone must be people too.
- c The stone grows and becomes a Great Mountain -- great church. This is done through His people. *Dan. 2: 45*
- d The growth of the stone reveals the rapid growth of the purified church (the stone). It indicates that many, many, new converts will join the ranks of the true people of God. This cannot happen at the second visible return of Christ, for the gospel would have already been completed, probation closed, and the plagues fallen.

9. Where Else In Scripture Is The Church Represented As A Stone?

Read: *Zech. 12:3*.

- a Here the church (Jerusalem) is likened to a burdensome stone.

For further proof: *I Peter 2:3-5 ; 8 T , 173*

10. Who Are The People Symbolized By The Stone? --- 144,000

- a The people represented as the stone must be S.D.A.s because they came from the mountain (the church).
- b They (the stone) are used as God's 'servants' to proclaim the gospel (in power) to the world. This is shown in the stone's rapid growth.
- c The 144,000 are the only ones that embody these characteristics.

Read: *Rev. 7:1-4*

- a They are said to be from Israel --- S.D.A. church, (*verse 4*). See *9T 164 or 5T 75,94,456*.
- b They are called by John, ‘servants’, indicating that they have a special work of proclaiming the gospel. They are, in other words, messengers of God.

Read: *Rev. 14:1,4*.

- a Here they are recorded to be ‘not defiled with women’ (other churches-doctrinally) for they are ‘virgins’ (profess a pure faith). See *Jer.6:2 ; COL 406*
- b They are called the ‘firstfruits’. This indicates that there are second fruits. One cannot have a first without a second, one necessitates the other. Therefore, the 144,000 are the first ones sealed, they in turn go out and gather in the second fruits- the Great Multitude of *Rev.7:9* ; those from other churches of Babylon and the world.

For Further Study Read: *EW 14,15 and TM 422*.

NOTE: It is not recommended that one become too involved with all the details concerning the 144,000 and the Great Multitude. Such details are covered in the outline entitled ‘The 144,000’ and ‘The Great Multitude Who Are They?’ (Based on Revelation chapter 7).

11. How Is The Stone Cut Out Of The Mountain? --- Without Hands

Read: *TM 46,47*

- a These references reveal that the wheat and tares are in the church and how they are brought in.
- b Page 47:2, reveals that angels will accomplish the separation--**not men**.

Read: *3 T 266, 267*

- a That the true people of God are those who recognize sin in the church, stay aloof from it, but speak out against the sins.
- b The closing work for the church is the sealing of the 144,000. *TM 445*.
- c This work of the sealing of the 144,000 is “forcibly set forth” by the prophet (Ezekiel), when in vision he saw five men (angels) with slaughter weapons and the sixth with a “writer’s inkhorn.”
- d Only those who sigh and cry for the wrongs in the church receive the seal.
- e Inspiration itself tells us to read Ezekiel chapter nine.

An objection: It is often stated that the slaughter of Ezekiel nine transpires during the plagues and /or at the second coming of Christ, based upon this statement found in *3 T 267:0*:
 “They will fall in the **general destruction of the wicked. . .**” This however, could not be so because:

1. The plagues are very different from the slaughter of Ezekiel nine. See # 14.
2. When the sentence is quoted in full it would read as follows: “They will fall in the general destruction of the wicked represented by the work of the five men bearing slaughter weapons.” This tells us that this “general destruction” is that

which destroys
down by the five

the “wicked” in the church (Jerusalem) **not the world**--They are cut
men (angels) not by the “vials” of the seven angels in Revelation 16.

3. The words “general destruction” is used in other portions of Sister E.G. White’s writings and does not refer to the plagues. See GC 26:0 (last sentence of the paragraph).

12. Read: Ezekiel 9

- a “The higher gate which lieth toward the north” symbolically represents heaven--where God’s throne is located. (See Ps. 48:1, 2, Isa. 14:13).
- b Even though Ezekiel calls them “men” they are in fact angels because they are seen coming from the “north” (heaven). See also Daniel 9:21.
- c Only those who “sigh and cry” for the wrongs in the church receive the seal.
- d The other five angels are sent by the Lord to slay (physically) those in the church who did not receive the seal.
- e The Lord brings this slaughter because the sins in the church are “exceedingly great.”

13. Is This A Literal Slaughter? ---Yes

- a No such thing as a spiritual slaughter is recorded anywhere in Scripture. Nobody knows what is a spiritual slaughter.
- b Verse 7, says “fill the courts with the slain.”

Read: 5 T 211:2

- a The stroke of the wrath of God has always been literal
- b The leaders (ancient men) could not believe that it is literal, for they say, “times have changed. He is too merciful to visit His people in judgment.”
- c “Men, maidens, and little children all perish together.”

Further proof: See 5 T 505--Ezekiel 9 is the anti-type of the Passover in Egypt. 1 T 190, 198; 5 T 80.

14. Is The Slaughter of Ezekiel 9 To Take Place During the Seven Last Plagues? --NO

- a The plagues fall on Babylon (the world). The slaughter in Jerusalem--the church.
- b The plagues are poured out from vials by seven angels. The slaughter is accomplished through weapons (not vials) by five angels, not seven.
- c Judgment always begins with those who are most enlightened--the church. See 1 Peter 4:17

15. What Causes the Stone to Grow? --A Great Gathering

Read: Verse 35

- a The gathering of the great multitude--the finishing of the gospel. See Isa. 2:2,3; Matt. 24:14

Read: Isaiah 66: 15-20

verse 15

- a Verse 15 shows the Lord coming , but it could not be the second coming of Christ because there is no pleading when Jesus comes in the clouds.
- b No one will escape the second coming to go and preach the gospel. (Verse 19)
- c There will be no gathering of the nations after Jesus comes. (Verse 19)
- d The coming of verse 15 must therefore be the Lord's judgment in the church, after which a great multitude is gathered into the church. (verse 19).

16. How will the 144,000 (the Stone) Destroy the Nations?

- a By completing the preaching of the gospel in "every nation, kindred, tongue and people" which brings the end of earth's governments.
- b See Jer. 51: 19, 20--This unconditional prophesy has never been fulfilled.

CONCLUSION:

This study has taught us how God is going to finish his work . First He will purify his church (the mountain) by separating the unfaithful from the faithful. This separation process will leave only a 144,000 living saints (stone) who in turn will be filled with the power of God and go out to finish the gospel. and call out all of God's true people from Babylon.