

# Crystallization-Study Outlines

## DANIEL

### Message Three

### **The Vision of the Great Image— the Controlling Vision in the Book of Daniel**

Scripture Reading: Dan. 2

- Dan 2:1 And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams and his spirit was troubled and his sleep left him.
- Dan 2:2 And the king ordered the call for the magicians, conjurers, sorcerers, and the Chaldeans to declare to the king his dreams; and they came in and stood before the king.
- Dan 2:3 And the king said to them, I have dreamed a dream, and my spirit is troubled to know the dream.
- Dan 2:4 Then the Chaldeans spoke to the king in Aramaic, O king, live forever! Tell the dream to your servants, and we will declare the interpretation.
- Dan 2:5 The king answered and said to the Chaldeans, The command from me is published: If you do not make the dream and its interpretation known to me, you shall be cut into pieces and your houses shall be made a dunghill.
- Dan 2:6 But if you declare the dream and its interpretation, you shall receive gifts and a reward and much honor from me. Therefore declare the dream and its interpretation to me.
- Dan 2:7 They answered a second time and said, Let the king tell his servants the dream, and we will declare the interpretation.
- Dan 2:8 The king answered and said, I know for certain that you are trying to buy time because you have seen that the command from me is published.
- Dan 2:9 But if you do not make the dream known to me, there is but one decree for you; for you have agreed together to speak false and corrupt words before me until the time is changed. Therefore tell me the dream, and I will know that you can declare its interpretation to me.
- Dan 2:10 The Chaldeans answered before the king and said, There is not a man upon the earth who can declare the matter for the king, because no great king or ruler has ever asked any magician, conjurer, or Chaldean for something like this.
- Dan 2:11 And the thing that the king asks is rare, and there is no one else who can declare it before the king except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.
- Dan 2:12 Because of this the king was angry and very furious, and he gave orders to destroy all the wise men of Babylon.
- Dan 2:13 And the decree went forth that the wise men should be slain; and they sought Daniel and his companions so that they might be slain.
- Dan 2:14 Then Daniel responded in counsel and with discretion to Arioch, the captain of the king's bodyguard, who had gone forth to slay the wise men of Babylon.
- Dan 2:15 He answered and said to Arioch, the king's commander, Why is the decree from before the king so harsh? Then Arioch made the thing known to Daniel.
- Dan 2:16 Daniel then went in and sought from the king that he would give him a time to declare the interpretation to the king.
- Dan 2:17 Then Daniel went to his house and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions,
- Dan 2:18 That they might request compassions from before the God of the heavens concerning this mystery so that Daniel and his companions would not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.
- Dan 2:19 Then the mystery was revealed to Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of the heavens.
- Dan 2:20 Daniel answered and said, Let the name of God / Be blessed from eternity to eternity, / For wisdom and might are His.
- Dan 2:21 And it is He who changes the times and seasons; / He deposes kings and causes kings to ascend. / He gives wisdom to the wise / And knowledge to those who have understanding.
- Dan 2:22 He reveals the deep things and the hidden things; / He knows what is obscured in the darkness, / And the light dwells with Him.
- Dan 2:23 To You, O God of my fathers, I render thanks and praise, / For You have given me wisdom and might; / And You have now made known to me what we requested of You, / For You have made known the king's matter to us.

- Dan 2:24 Therefore Daniel went in unto Arioch, whom the king had appointed to destroy the wise men of Babylon; he went and said thus to him, Do not destroy the wise men of Babylon; bring me before the king, and I will declare the interpretation to the king.
- Dan 2:25 Then Arioch brought Daniel hurriedly before the king and spoke in this way to him, I have found a man among the captives of Judah who will make the interpretation known to the king.
- Dan 2:26 The king answered and said to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar, Are you able to make known to me the dream that I have seen and its interpretation?
- Dan 2:27 Daniel answered before the king and said, As to the mystery which the king has inquired about, no wise men, no conjurers, magicians, or diviners, are able to declare it to the king.
- Dan 2:28 But there is a God in the heavens who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the last days. This is your dream, even the visions of your head upon your bed.
- Dan 2:29 As for you, O king, your thoughts on your bed came upon what would happen after these times, and He who reveals mysteries has made known to you what will happen.
- Dan 2:30 But as for me, this mystery has not been revealed to me because of some wisdom that is in me more than in any other living person, but so that the interpretation may be made known to the king and that you may understand the thoughts of your heart.
- Dan 2:31 You, O king, were watching, and there was a single great image. This image, large and its brightness surpassing, stood opposite you; and its appearance was frightful.
- Dan 2:32 Concerning this image, its head was of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its abdomen and its thighs of bronze,
- Dan 2:33 Its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.
- Dan 2:34 You were watching until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the image at its feet of iron and clay and crushed them.
- Dan 2:35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.
- Dan 2:36 This is the dream; and we will tell its interpretation before the king.
- Dan 2:37 You, O king, are king of kings, to whom the God of the heavens has given kingship, power, and strength and glory.
- Dan 2:38 And wherever the children of men, the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky dwell, He has given them into your hand and has made you ruler over all of them. You are the head of gold.
- Dan 2:39 And after you another kingdom will arise, inferior to you; and there will be another kingdom, a third one, of bronze, which will rule over all the earth.
- Dan 2:40 And there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters everything; and like iron that smashes all these, it will crush and smash.
- Dan 2:41 And in that you saw the feet and the toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom will be a confused mass; but there will be some of the firmness of iron in it, for you saw the iron mixed with the earthy clay.
- Dan 2:42 And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be fragile.
- Dan 2:43 And in that you saw the iron mixed with the earthy clay, they will be mixed together through the seed of men, but they will not cleave to one another, even as iron does not mix with clay.
- Dan 2:44 And in the days of those kings the God of the heavens will raise up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and its reign will not be left to another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms; and it will stand forever.
- Dan 2:45 Inasmuch as you saw that out of the mountain a stone was cut without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will happen afterward; and the dream is certain, and its interpretation trustworthy.
- Dan 2:46 Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face and worshipped Daniel and commanded that they offer an oblation and incense to him.
- Dan 2:47 The king answered Daniel and said, It is certain that your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a Revealer of mysteries, for you have been able to reveal this mystery.
- Dan 2:48 Then the king made Daniel great and gave many great gifts to him; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief of the prefects over all the wise men of Babylon.
- Dan 2:49 And Daniel requested of the king, and he appointed Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego over the administration of the province of Babylon; but Daniel was at the king's court.

**I. The vision of the great image and its destiny in Daniel 2 is a vision of “what will happen in the last days”—v. 28.**

Dan 2:28     But there is a God in the heavens who reveals mysteries, and He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will happen in the last days. This is your dream, even the visions of your head upon your bed.

**II. The vision of the great image in Daniel 2 is the controlling vision in the book of Daniel:**

A. This great image signifies the aggregate of human government throughout human history, from the beginning of human government at Babel (Babylon) in the land of Shinar (Gen. 10:8-10; 11:1-9), as signified by the head of the image, to the termination of human government in human history in the Roman Empire with the ten kings, as signified by the ten toes (Dan. 2:40-44a; 7:24; Rev. 13:1; 17:12):

- Gen 10:8     And Cush begot Nimrod: He began to be a mighty one on the earth.  
Gen 10:9     He was a mighty hunter before Jehovah; therefore it is said, Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before Jehovah.  
Gen 10:10    And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.  
Gen 11:1     And the whole earth had one language and the same speech.  
Gen 11:2     And as they journeyed east, they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.  
Gen 11:3     And they said to one another, Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly.  
And they had brick for stone, and they had tar for mortar.  
Gen 11:4     And they said, Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower whose top is in the heavens; and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be scattered over the surface of the whole earth.  
Gen 11:5     And Jehovah came down to see the city and the tower which the children of men had built.  
Gen 11:6     And Jehovah said, Behold, they are one people, and they all have one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; and now nothing which they purpose to do will be kept from them.  
Gen 11:7     Come, let Us go down and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.  
Gen 11:8     So Jehovah scattered them from there over the surface of all the earth, and they ceased building the city.  
Gen 11:9     Therefore its name was called Babel, because there Jehovah confounded the language of all the earth, and from there Jehovah scattered them over the surface of all the earth.  
Dan 2:40     And there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters everything; and like iron that smashes all these, it will crush and smash.  
Dan 2:41     And in that you saw the feet and the toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom will be a confused mass; but there will be some of the firmness of iron in it, for you saw the iron mixed with the earthy clay.  
Dan 2:42     And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be fragile.  
Dan 2:43     And in that you saw the iron mixed with the earthy clay, they will be mixed together through the seed of men, but they will not cleave to one another, even as iron does not mix with clay.  
Dan 2:44a    And in the days of those kings the God of the heavens will raise up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and its reign will not be left to another people; ...  
Dan 7:24     And as for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise, and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones; and he will subdue three kings.  
Rev 13:1     And I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns ten diadems, and on his heads names of blasphemy.  
Rev 17:12    And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, who have not yet received a kingdom but receive authority as kings for one hour with the beast.

1. The head of gold (Dan. 2:36-38), corresponding to the first beast in 7:3-4, signifies Nebuchadnezzar, the founder and the king of Babylon.
 

Dan 2:36 This is the dream; and we will tell its interpretation before the king.  
 Dan 2:37 You, O king, are king of kings, to whom the God of the heavens has given kingship, power, and strength and glory.  
 Dan 2:38 And wherever the children of men, the beasts of the field, or the birds of the sky dwell, He has given them into your hand and has made you ruler over all of them. You are the head of gold.  
 Dan 7:3 And four great beasts came up from the sea, each different from the other.  
 Dan 7:4 The first was like a lion and had the wings of an eagle. I watched until its wings were plucked and it was lifted up from the earth and made to stand on two feet like a man; and a man's heart was given to it.
2. The breast and the arms of silver (2:39a), corresponding to the second beast in 7:5, signify Medo-Persia.
 

Dan 2:39a And after you another kingdom will arise, inferior to you; ...  
 Dan 7:5 And there was another beast, a second one, resembling a bear. And it was raised up on one side, and three ribs were in its mouth between its teeth; and they said thus to it, Arise, devour much flesh.
3. The abdomen and thighs of bronze (2:39b), corresponding to the third beast in 7:6, signify Greece, including Macedonia.
 

Dan 2:39 ... and there will be another kingdom, a third one, of bronze, which will rule over all the earth.  
 Dan 7:6 After this I watched and there was another beast, like a leopard; and it had four wings of a bird on its back; and the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it.
4. The legs of iron and the feet partly of iron and partly of clay (2:33), corresponding to the fourth beast in 7:7-8, signify the Roman Empire with its last ten kings (2:40-44a; 7:7-11, 19-26; Rev. 17:7-13).
 

Dan 2:33 Its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay.  
 Dan 2:40 And there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron, inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters everything; and like iron that smashes all these, it will crush and smash.  
 Dan 2:41 And in that you saw the feet and the toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom will be a confused mass; but there will be some of the firmness of iron in it, for you saw the iron mixed with the earthy clay.  
 Dan 2:42 And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be fragile.  
 Dan 2:43 And in that you saw the iron mixed with the earthy clay, they will be mixed together through the seed of men, but they will not cleave to one another, even as iron does not mix with clay.  
 Dan 2:44a And in the days of those kings the God of the heavens will raise up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and its reign will not be left to another people; ...  
 Dan 7:7 After this I watched in the night visions, and there was a fourth beast, dreadful and frightful and exceedingly strong; and it had large iron teeth; it devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.  
 Dan 7:8 I was considering the horns; then there was another horn, a small one, which came up among them; and three of the first horns were uprooted from before it. And there were eyes like the eyes of a man in this horn and a mouth speaking great things.  
 Dan 7:9 I watched / Until thrones were set, / And the Ancient of Days sat down. / His clothing was like white snow, / And the hair of His head was like pure wool; / His throne was flames of fire, / Its wheels, burning fire.  
 Dan 7:10 A stream of fire issued forth / And came out from before Him. / Thousands of thousands ministered to Him, / And ten thousands of ten thousands stood before Him. / The court of judgment sat, / And the books were opened.

- Dan 7:11 I watched then because of the sound of the great things that the horn was speaking; I watched until the beast was slain and its body was destroyed and given to the burning fire.
- Dan 7:19 Then I wished to know the exact meaning of the fourth beast, which was different from all the others, exceedingly dreadful, with its teeth of iron and its claws of bronze, which devoured, crushed, and trampled under the remainder with its feet,
- Dan 7:20 And of the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up, and before which three horns fell, even that horn that had eyes and a mouth speaking great things and whose appearance was greater than that of its companions.
- Dan 7:21 I watched and that horn waged war with the saints and prevailed against them,
- Dan 7:22 Until the Ancient of Days came; and judgment was given to the saints of the Most High; and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.
- Dan 7:23 Thus he said, The fourth beast will be the fourth kingdom upon the earth, which will be different from all the other kingdoms; and it will devour the whole earth and tread it down and crush it.
- Dan 7:24 And as for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise, and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones; and he will subdue three kings.
- Dan 7:25 And he will speak things against the Most High and wear out the saints of the Most High; and his intention will be to change the times and the law; and they will be given into his hand for a time and times and half a time.
- Dan 7:26 But the court of judgment will sit, and they will take away his dominion, so as to annihilate and destroy it unto the end.
- Rev 17:7 And the angel said to me, Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast who bears her, who has the seven heads and the ten horns.
- Rev 17:8 The beast that you saw was and is not and is about to come up out of the abyss and go into perdition. And those who dwell on the earth, those whose names are not written from the foundation of the world in the book of life, will marvel when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will be present.
- Rev 17:9 Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are the seven mountains where the woman sits
- Rev 17:10 And are seven kings: five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain only a short time.
- Rev 17:11 And the beast who was and is not, he himself is also the eighth and is out of the seven and goes into perdition.
- Rev 17:12 And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, who have not yet received a kingdom but receive authority as kings for one hour with the beast.
- Rev 17:13 These have one mind, and they give their power and authority to the beast.
- B. From its beginning to its termination, human government has always done three things: rebel against God, exalt man, and worship idols—Gen. 11:4, footnote 2, Recovery Version.
- Gen 11:4 And they said, Come, let us build ourselves a city and a <sup>2</sup>tower whose top is in the heavens; and let us make a <sup>2</sup>name for ourselves, lest we be scattered over the surface of the whole earth.
- Note 2 The tower was built for the purpose of making a name for the people and for declaring their rebellion and opposition against God. Abraham's building an altar and calling on the name of Jehovah in 12:7-8 are in contrast to what was done here.
- According to historical records and archeological evidence, the city and tower of Babel were full of the names of idols. Thus, at Babel man followed Satan, exalted himself to oppose God, rejected God's name, denied God's right and authority over man, and fell into idolatry. This was man's fourth fall, a fall from human government under God's authority to a collective rebellion of the whole human race against God under Satan's instigation (see note 3<sup>2</sup> in ch. 6).

**III. According to the human image in Daniel 2, in the sight of God all human government is composed of four empires: the Babylonian Empire, the Medo-Persian Empire, the Macedonian-Grecian Empire, and the Roman Empire:**

Dan 2 (be omitted).

- A. The beginning of human government was at Babel (Babylon), which was built by Nimrod (Gen. 10:8-10), and the ending of human government will be the revived Roman Empire under Antichrist.

Gen 10:8 And Cush begot Nimrod: He began to be a mighty one on the earth.

Gen 10:9 He was a mighty hunter before Jehovah; therefore it is said, Like Nimrod, a mighty hunter before Jehovah.

Gen 10:10 And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel and Erech and Accad and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.

- B. Although the form and appearance of the Roman Empire have vanished, the culture, spirit, and essence of the Roman Empire continue to exist today—Dan. 7:12.

Dan 7:12 And as for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but an extension of life was given to them for a season and a time.

- C. At the beginning of the great tribulation (Matt. 24:21) the form and appearance of the Roman Empire will be restored under Antichrist.

Matt 24:21 For at that time there will be great tribulation, such as has not occurred from the beginning of the world until now, nor shall by any means ever occur.

- D. According to the books of Daniel and Revelation, the last Caesar of the Roman Empire will be Antichrist, who will be supported by ten kings—Rev. 17:10-12.

Rev 17:10 And are seven kings: five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain only a short time.

Rev 17:11 And the beast who was and is not, he himself is also the eighth and is out of the seven and goes into perdition.

Rev 17:12 And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, who have not yet received a kingdom but receive authority as kings for one hour with the beast.

- E. Thus, the aggregate of human empires that began with Nimrod at Babel will consummate with Antichrist and the ten kings.

- F. If the head of the great human image is Babylon, the entire image must also be Babylon; in the eyes of God, the entire human government from Nimrod to Antichrist is Babylon:

- Under Antichrist, the last Caesar, the Roman Empire will be both political and religious Babylon—chs. 17—18.

Rev 17-18 (be omitted).

- The empire of Antichrist will be the political and physical Babylon, that is, “Babylon the Great” (18:2), whereas the Roman Catholic Church, called “MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT” (17:5), will be the religious Babylon—footnote on Jer. 50:1, Recovery Version.

Rev 18:2 And He cried with a strong voice, saying, Fallen, fallen is Babylon the Great! And she has become a dwelling place of demons and a hold of every unclean spirit and a hold of every unclean and hateful bird;

Rev 17:5 And on her forehead there was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF THE HARLOTS AND THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.

Jer 50:1 The word which Jehovah spoke concerning <sup>1</sup>Babylon, concerning the land of the Chaldeans, through Jeremiah the prophet:

Note 1 **Babylon** The origin and initiation of Babylon was Babel (Gen. 11:7-9). Babel was built by Nimrod, a descendant of Ham, and was the beginning of human government on earth formed in opposition to God (Gen. 10:6-11; Dan. 2:31-32, 38). It was a land full of idols, where man worshipped idols, exalted man's self, and opposed God (v. 38b; Josh. 24:2; Gen. 11:3-4). Babel had its continuation in Babylon, which, in the sight of God, is the consummation of human government. Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, was even identified with Satan as Satan's embodiment (Isa. 14:4, 11-15). It was this Babylon that

destroyed God's holy city and His holy temple and carried God's holy people and the vessels of God's temple into captivity (2 Chron.36:17-20). The coming restored Roman Empire under Antichrist, and the Roman Church, will both, in the spiritual sense, be called Babylon the Great (Rev. 17:5; 18:2). Hence, Babylon typifies the world, both physically and spiritually, that worships idols, exalts man, and rebels against God to the uttermost, all of which was or will be utterly destroyed by God (51:11; Rev. 14:8; 16:19b; 17:16; 18:8-10).

God will judge Babylon to such an extent that nothing of Babylon will remain in the universe. Both Isaiah and Jeremiah prophesied that once Babylon has been destroyed, it will not be restored (Isa. 14:22-23; Jer. 50:39; 51:62). When God destroys both the religious and the political Babylon at the end of the age, that will be the end of the Judgment on Babylon prophesied in chs. 50-51. After this, there will be no more human government on earth. See Dan. 2:32-34, and notes.

- G. The two legs of iron signify the eastern Roman Empire and the western Roman Empire, and the feet and the toes, partly of iron and partly of clay (Dan. 2:41-43), signify the nations in the period after the fall of Rome and before Christ's second coming:

Dan 2:41 And in that you saw the feet and the toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, the kingdom will be a confused mass; but there will be some of the firmness of iron in it, for you saw the iron mixed with the earthy clay.

Dan 2:42 And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be fragile.

Dan 2:43 And in that you saw the iron mixed with the earthy clay, they will be mixed together through the seed of men, but they will not cleave to one another, even as iron does not mix with clay.

1. These nations are partly autocratic and partly democratic; the ten toes of the image signify the ten kings of the revived and restored Roman Empire under Antichrist—v. 44a; 7:7, 24; Rev. 17:12.

Dan 2:44a And in the days of those kings the God of the heavens will raise up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and its reign will not be left to another people; ...

Dan 7:7 After this I watched in the night visions, and there was a fourth beast, dreadful and frightful and exceedingly strong; and it had large iron teeth; it devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

Dan 7:24 And as for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings will arise, and another will arise after them, and he will be different from the previous ones; and he will subdue three kings.

Rev 17:12 And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, who have not yet received a kingdom but receive authority as kings for one hour with the beast.

2. The periods of history signified by the first three parts of the great human image and the two legs have been fulfilled, but the period signified by the ten toes has not yet been fulfilled; it will be fulfilled at the end of the present age.

#### IV. The destiny of the great human image is to be crushed by a stone cut out without hands— Dan. 2:34-35a, 44b-45:

Dan 2:34 You were watching until a stone was cut out without hands, and it struck the image at its feet of iron and clay and crushed them.

Dan 2:35a Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. ...

Dan 2:44b ... it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms; and it will stand forever.

Dan 2:45 Inasmuch as you saw that out of the mountain a stone was cut without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will happen afterward; and the dream is certain, and its interpretation trustworthy.

- A. This stone is Christ; through His crucifixion Christ was cut by God by being put to death (Zech. 3:9; Acts 2:23), and in His resurrection (v. 24) He was cut out to be a stone in three aspects: the foundation stone and the cornerstone for the building up of the church (Isa. 28:16; Matt. 21:42), the stumbling stone to the unbelieving Jews (Isa. 8:14; Matt. 21:44a; Rom. 9:33), and the crushing stone to destroy the totality of human government (Matt. 21:44b).
- Zech 3:9 For here is the stone that I have set before Joshua-upon one stone are seven eyes. I will engrave its engraving, declares Jehovah of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day.
- Acts 2:23 This man, delivered up by the determined counsel and foreknowledge of God, you, through the hand of lawless men, nailed to a cross and killed;
- Acts 2:24 Whom God has raised up, having loosed the pangs of death, since it was not possible for Him to be held by it.
- Isa 28:16 Therefore thus says / The Lord Jehovah: / Indeed I lay a stone in Zion as a foundation, / A tested stone, / A precious cornerstone as a foundation firmly established; / He who believes will not hasten away.
- Matt 21:42 Jesus said to them, Have you never read in the Scriptures, "The stone which the builders rejected, this has become the head of the corner. This was from the Lord, and it is marvelous in our eyes"?
- Isa 8:14 Then He will become a sanctuary, yet a stone to strike against / And a rock of stumbling / To both houses of Israel, / A trap and a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.
- Matt 21:44a And he who falls on this stone shall be broken to pieces; ...
- Rom 9:33 As it is written, "Behold, I lay in Zion a stone of stumbling, a rock of offense, and he who believes on Him shall not be put to shame."
- Matt 21:44b ... but on whomever it falls, it shall crush him to powder and scatter him like chaff.
- B. When Christ comes as the crushing stone, He will not come alone; rather, He will come with His overcomers, His bride, His increase, as His army—John 3:29-30; Rev. 17:14; 19:7-8, 11, 14.
- John 3:29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices with joy because of the bridegroom's voice. This joy of mine therefore is made full.
- John 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease.
- Rev 17:14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and they who are with Him, the called and chosen and faithful, will also overcome them.
- Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.
- Rev 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.
- Rev 19:14 And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white and clean.
- C. During the church age, the age of mystery, Christ is building up the church to be His bride (Eph. 5:25-29); before He descends to earth, Christ will have a wedding, in which He will marry the overcomers (Rev. 19:7-9), those who have been fighting the battle against God's enemy for years and who have already overcome the evil one (cf. 12:11).
- Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her
- Eph 5:26 That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,
- Eph 5:27 That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.
- Eph 5:28 In the same way the husbands also ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his own wife loves himself.
- Eph 5:29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ also the church,

- Rev 19:7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.
- Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright and clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.
- Rev 19:9 And he said to me, Write, Blessed are they who are called to the marriage dinner of the Lamb. And he said to me, These are the true words of God.
- Rev 12:11 And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they loved not their soul-life even unto death.
- D. After His wedding, Christ as the Husband will come with His newlywed bride to destroy Antichrist, who with his army will fight against God directly—17:14; 19:19.
- Rev 17:14 These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and they who are with Him, the called and chosen and faithful, will also overcome them.
- Rev 19:19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war with Him who sits on the horse and with His army.
- E. At His appearing as the God-cut stone, Christ with His overcomers—the corporate Christ—will strike the ten kings with Antichrist (vv. 11-21), thereby crushing the great image from the toes to the head (Dan. 2:35).
- Rev 19:11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse, and He who sits on it called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.
- Rev 19:12 And His eyes are a flame of fire, and on His head are many diadems, and He has a name written which no one knows but Himself.
- Rev 19:13 And He is clothed with a garment dipped in blood; and His name is called the Word of God.
- Rev 19:14 And the armies which are in heaven followed Him on white horses, dressed in fine linen, white and clean.
- Rev 19:15 And out of His mouth proceeds a sharp sword, that with it He might smite the nations; and He will shepherd them with an iron rod; and He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.
- Rev 19:16 And He has on His garment and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.
- Rev 19:17 And I saw an angel standing in the sun, and he cried out with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in mid-heaven, Come here; gather yourselves to the great dinner of God,
- Rev 19:18 That you may eat the flesh of kings and the flesh of generals and the flesh of mighty men and the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them and the flesh of all men, both free and slave and small and great.
- Rev 19:19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to make war with Him who sits on the horse and with His army.
- Rev 19:20 And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet, who in his presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire, which burns with brimstone.
- Rev 19:21 And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeds out of the mouth of Him who sits on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.
- Dan 2:35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.
- F. This will be Christ's universal judgment on the aggregate of human government from Antichrist back to Nimrod, thus ending the age of man's government on earth in the old creation and initiating the age of God's dominion over the entire earth in the millennium and in the new heaven and new earth for eternity.
- V. **"Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed all at once, and they became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth"—v. 35:**

- A. The great mountain here signifies the eternal kingdom of God, which will fill the whole earth forever—v. 44; 7:13-14.
  - Dan 2:44 And in the days of those kings the God of the heavens will raise up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and its reign will not be left to another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms; and it will stand forever.
  - Dan 7:13 I watched in the night visions, / And there with the clouds of heaven / One like a Son of Man was coming; / And He came to the Ancient of Days, / And they brought Him near before Him.
  - Dan 7:14 And to Him was given dominion, glory, and a kingdom, / That all the peoples, nations, and languages might serve Him. / His dominion is an eternal dominion, which will not pass away; / And His kingdom is one that will not be destroyed.
- B. After coming to crush the aggregate of human government, the corporate Christ—Christ with His overcoming bride—will become a great mountain to fill the whole earth, making the whole earth God's kingdom; thus the great human image will be replaced with the eternal kingdom of God on earth—Rev. 11:15-17.
  - Rev 11:15 And the seventh angel trumpeted; and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He will reign forever and ever.
  - Rev 11:16 And the twenty-four elders who sit before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshipped God,
  - Rev 11:17 Saying, We thank You, Lord God the Almighty, He who is and who was, because You have taken Your great power and have reigned.
- C. The increase of the stone into a great mountain signifies the increase of Christ (cf. John 3:29-30); the church is Christ's increase in life, but the eternal kingdom of God is Christ's increase in administration (Mark 4:26-29); hence, Christ is not only the church but also the kingdom of God (1 Cor. 12:12; Luke 17:21).
  - John 3:29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices with joy because of the bridegroom's voice. This joy of mine therefore is made full.
  - John 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease.
  - Mark 4:26 And He said, So is the kingdom of God: as if a man cast seed on the earth,
  - Mark 4:27 And sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and lengthens—how, he does not know.
  - Mark 4:28 The earth bears fruit by itself: first a blade, then an ear, then full grain in the ear.
  - Mark 4:29 But when the fruit is ripe, immediately he sends forth the sickle, because the harvest has come.
  - 1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
  - Luke 17:21 Nor will they say, Behold, here it is! or, There! For behold, the kingdom of God is in the midst of you.
- D. As the stone, Christ is the centrality of God's move, and as the mountain, He is the universality; hence, He is the all-inclusive One, the One who fills all in all—Eph. 1:23.
  - Eph 1:23 Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

## **VI. We need to see what our attitude should be in the light of the vision of Christ and His overcoming bride coming as a corporate smiting stone to smash the totality of human government and becoming a great mountain, the kingdom of God, to fill the whole earth:**

- A. If, as God's people, we see this controlling vision in Daniel 2, we will be kept from the world and prepared for Christ's coming.
- B. Since we know that the Lord's coming is so precious, we should have a living that loves the Lord's appearing; this will cause us not to be discouraged, not to backslide, not to become weak, but to remain faithful to the end—2 Tim. 4:8; cf. John 14:21.
- 2 Tim 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, with which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will recompense me in that day, and not only me but also all those who have loved His appearing.

- John 14:21 He who has My commandments and keeps them, he is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will manifest Myself to him.
- C. The last prayer in the Bible is “Come, Lord Jesus!” (Rev. 22:20); we should all pray such a prayer and have such a desire; the entire Bible concludes with the desire for the Lord’s coming expressed as a prayer.
- Rev 22:20 He who testifies these things says, Yes, I come quickly. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
- D. Every “today” that we have is truly the Lord’s grace; therefore, as long as we have today, as long as we still have breath, we should love the Lord and His appearing, await the Lord’s coming (Phil. 3:20), and always take His coming as an encouragement.
- Phil 3:20 For our commonwealth exists in the heavens, from which also we eagerly await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,
- E. When the Lord comes, He will come secretly as a thief to those who love Him and will steal them away as His treasures and bring them into His presence in the heavens (Matt. 24:42-43); hence, we need to watch and be ready (25:13; 24:44).
- Matt 24:42 Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord comes.
- Matt 24:43 But know this, that if the householder had known in which watch the thief was coming, he would have watched and would not have allowed his house to be broken into.
- Matt 25:13 Watch therefore, for you do not know the day nor the hour.
- Matt 24:44 For this reason you also be ready, because at an hour when you do not expect it, the Son of Man is coming.
- F. To attain maturity is not an overnight matter; therefore, for His coming to set up His kingdom we must prepare ourselves, love Him, and grow in Him, that at His appearing we may be mature to be raptured and receive the reward—Heb. 6:1a; Luke 21:34-36; cf. Rev. 12:5-6, 14.
- Heb 6:1a Therefore leaving the word of the beginning of Christ, let us be brought on to maturity,...
- Luke 21:34 But take heed to yourselves lest perhaps your hearts be weighed down with debauchery and drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day come upon you suddenly as a snare.
- Luke 21:35 For it will come in upon all those dwelling on the face of all the earth.
- Luke 21:36 But be watchful at every time, beseeching that you would prevail to escape all these things which are about to happen and stand before the Son of Man.
- Rev 12:5 And she brought forth a son, a man-child, who is to shepherd all the nations with an iron rod; and her child was caught up to God and to His throne.
- Rev 12:6 And the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place there prepared by God so that they might nourish her there a thousand two hundred and sixty days.
- Rev 12:14 And to the woman there were given the two wings of the great eagle that she might fly into the wilderness into her place, where she is nourished for a time and times and half a time from the face of the serpent.