

Daniel

II (γ) – Nebuchadnezzar’s Dream of Things to Come, II

- We left Nebuchadnezzar in rapt attention as D. interpreted his dream; so far we learn it
 - 1) Pertains to the future;
 - 2) There are four main elements to the dream: a) the statue; b) the Rock; c) the Wind; d) the Mountain;
 - 3) It is symbolic; and as D. gives the interpretation of the statue we learn
 - 4) That it pertains to those nations which will follow Babylon;
- That is where we left off; but before we turn to the next part of the dream, a final comment on the statue;
A. The Statue = the *Times of the Gentiles*, Luke 21:24
- We noticed that the statue represented a succession of nations which arise to rule the earth – i.e. the then known world of the Mediterranean basin and Mesopotamia;
- Furthermore, this parade of nations is selective – 1) they are Gentile nations; 2) other significant Biblical empires are ignored, e.g. neither Egypt nor Assyria are included;
- **Q.** WHAT is the pattern? **A.** W/ the failure Davidic kingdom and the expulsion of Israel from the land, only those nations which subsequently exercised political sovereignty over Jerusalem are in view;
- Further, these kingdoms will abide until a kingdom of a completely different type appears in world history to replace them;
- The statue represents an era of Gentile rule of Jerusalem and the promised land; this era or epoch of time Jesus terms “*the times of the Gentiles*,” Luke 21:24, READ;
- Though Jesus speaks these words in Luke during the time of the 4th kingdom (iron); and the event He immediately foresees is the Roman conquest of Judea/Jerusalem by Titus (70 AD), He’s not saying “*the times of the Gentiles*” will begin at that time, but that Jerusalem’s state of being trampled will continue until this era is complete;
- Many debate whether this trampling of Jerusalem and thus the era of the Gentiles is over because in 1967 the Jews gained political control of Jerusalem; others object because the Muslims still control the Temple Mount, etc.

- B. The Meaning of the Rock/Mountain, vv.44-45a:**
- We pick up D.’s interp as he shifts his focus from the statue to the Rock/Mountain, vv.44-45, READ;
 1. **The Time of Its Appearing, v.44:**
- **Q.** First, D. indicates the time of appearing of the rock, WHEN? **A.** “*In the times/days of those kings...*”;
- NOTE each of the Gentile kingdoms have been portrayed as appearing in strict succession of one another; one appears and the previous one disappears;
- This is explicit in v.39a where D. says “*After you...*” (*μετά σε...*); the transition word leading to the 3rd and 4th kingdoms is the generic *vav* which takes its meaning from the context, in each case following the more explicit word “*After*” of v.39a;
- BUT here, D. says the rock appears not after the 4th kingdom, but “*In the time/days of...*” the 4th kingdom; its appearance is in some way concurrent w/ or overlaps the existence of this final kingdom;
- This idea strengthened by the fact that the dream portrayed the rock in stages: 1) as being “*cut out...*” **then** 2) as completely destroying the statue; As if 1) It’s appearance; 2) It’s effect

 2. **The Nature of the Rock:**

- **Q.** We’ve noticed that there is something very special about this rock, WHAT? **A.** It is “*cut out but not by human hands...*”; IOW, it is of divine origin;
- D. confirms this in v.44, “*In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom...*”

- From which statement we also learn that this rock too is a kingdom;
- Moreover, it is an everlasting kingdom, v.44 “[it] will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people.”

- The statue = the kingdoms of man; the Rock = the Kingdom of God;

3. The Action and Effect of the Rock, vv.34-35, :

- Regarding the action and effect of the rock D. says, vv.34-35, “It struck the statue on its feet...summer,” READ; which by this time doesn’t require explanation, but D. says...
- In v.44, “It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end”
- Lastly, (though not interpreted) the rock “became a huge mountain and filled the whole earth,” v.35;

4. The True Meaning of the Rock/Mountain:

- Just as D. left the interpretation of the metals of the statue in generic terms of successive kingdoms, and the specific identities of those kingdoms were left for us to determine from the perspective of past history – so too the identity of the rock is left for us to determine;
- **Q. WHAT/WHO is the rock? A. Jesus** – the King of kings; and it is the Kingdom of God in view;
- This imagery of Jesus as the rock is taught throughout the NT and it’s that NT teaching that shows us how it has in fact run throughout the OT as well –
 - 1 Cor.10:4, “[they] drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ.”
 - Rom.9:32-33 ³²...They stumbled over the “stumbling stone.” ³³ As it is written [Isa.28:16]: “See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.”
 - Matt.21:42-44 ⁴² Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures [Psa.118:19]: “The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes’? ⁴³ “Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. ⁴⁴ He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed.”
 - 1 Peter 2:4-8 ⁴ As you come to him, the living Stone-- rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him-- ⁵ you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶ For in Scripture it says [Isa.28:16]: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” ⁷ Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, [Psa.118:19] “The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone,” ⁸ and, [Isa.8:14] “A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message-- which is also what they were destined for.
- Peter’s stmt. Brings together several allusions: Jesus is the Rock; that Stone is the cornerstone of the Temple; the Mountain (= not only an allusion to kingdoms but also an allusion to the Temple)
 - This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem: ² In the last days the mountain of the LORD’s temple will be established as chief among the mountains; it will be raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it. ³ Many peoples will come and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.” The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. Isaiah 2:1
 - And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD to serve him, to love the name of the LORD, and to worship him, all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it and who hold fast to my covenant- ⁷ these I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.” Isaiah 56:6-7;

- Peter also ties in the Church, 1 Peter 2:4-5 ⁴ *As you come to him, the living Stone-- rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him--* ⁵ *you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*
- Rock = the appearance, the growth and triumph of the Kingdom of God under the Lordship of Jesus the King of kings as it exists in the Church; the vision of the Rock = co-extensive w/ the Church age;

C. The Wind:

- An integral part of the rock's action and effect is the wind;
- Wind = *ruach*, the Heb. word for wind/spirit;
- This the force present in Gen.1:1 – the first creation; in Gen.8:1 – at the second creation; Ezek.37:9 – the dead live; John 3 – the new birth; Acts 2 – at Pentecost;
- The wind/Spirit is part and parcel to reign of Christ in the world and the growth and ultimate triumph of God's Kingdom;

D. The Exaltation of Daniel, vv.46-49:

- The chapter ends w/ king Nebuchadnezzar in awe, and
- D. exalted over the kingdom;

NOTES from The Temple..., G.K. Beale,

- 2:34, 35, "The rock cut out, but not by human hands...a huge mountain [that] filled the earth." God's Kingdom filling the earth, alluding to Gen.1, 144;
- See Beale, 226 for a summary stmt. of many OT/NT allusions to Dan.2
- NOTE the comment at bottom of 226 re. the gold, silver, bronze... an allusion to Babylon's idols in Dan.5:4, 23!