

Daniel (Part 49)
(Significant Motifs – Part 5)

I. The Stone in Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

A. Its Divine Origin (2:34, 45)

“a stone cut out without hands”

B. Its Crushing Activity (2:34, 35, 44, 45)

“It struck the statue and crushed them.” “It will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms.”

C. Its Unmitigated Expansion (2:35)

“The stone that struck the statue became a great mountain that filled the whole earth.”

D. Its Larger Symbolism

1. The stone-mountain may be identified as a gigantic, expanding, end-time temple (1 Chronicles 21:14-22:6; 2 Chronicles 3:1; Ps. 15:1; 24:3; 43:3; 99:9; Isaiah 2:2, 3; Jeremiah 26:18; 31:23; Ezekiel 28:11-14, 16, 18; 40:2; Micah 4:1; Revelation 21:10).

2. The stone-mountain is Jesus Christ: The stone which the builders of the handmade temple stumbled over and rejected becomes the chief cornerstone in the foundation of Mt. Zion, the temple made without hands.

Psalm 118:22, 23: *“The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief corner stone. This is the Lord's doing; It is marvelous in our eyes.”*

Isaiah 8:14, 15: *“Then He shall become a sanctuary; But to both the houses of Israel, a stone to strike and a rock to stumble over, and a snare and a trap for the inhabitants of Jerusalem. Many will stumble over them, then they will fall and be broken; They will even be snared and caught.”*

Isaiah 28:16: *“Therefore thus says the Lord God, ‘Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, a costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed.’”*

Jesus: Matthew 21:33-44 (Mark 12:1-12; Luke 20:9-19) → Psalm 118:22; allusions to Isaiah 8; Daniel 2

Paul: 1) Romans 9:32, 33 → Isaiah 8/28 combined

2) Ephesians 2:11-22 → allusion to Ps. 118:22

Peter: 1) Acts 4:11 → Psalm 118:22

2) 1 Peter 2:4-8 → Isaiah 8, 28; Psalm 118

Summary/Conclusion

God's intention is to one day fill every part of His creation with His glorious presence. This He cannot presently do in a sin-tainted creation. Neither can He dwell fully in any manmade localized structures. So He's building His own temple. He is redeeming a people through Christ. At the end of the age He will redeem the universe and recreate it. Then, He will take up His abode there, and dwell in it more fully like never before. In this way, the cosmos God created will be His great temple. (Beale 'The Temple and the Church's Mission' p. 311)