

Daniel 2 and 7: Are They Equal or Not? (Part 2)

It is an assumption that Daniel 2 and Daniel 7 detail the history of the same four empires. In this scenario both chapters supposedly conclude with God coming to earth to rule the universe. However, to make this scenario work, it requires Daniel 2 to end with the beginning of the Roman empire and Daniel 7 to conclude a revival of the Roman empire in the form of 10 kings. Such a position has lead to much wild speculation.

The proof that chapters 2 and 7 of the book of Daniel detail the same history of Babylon, Medo-Persia, Greece, and Rome is left to the imagination of those who support this conclusion. This is necessary because there is no explicit basis for this claim. Nothing in Daniel 2 or 7 can be used to prove this position. Rather, it is our contention that the opposite is true. Daniel 2 proves that it is not concerned with the same four kingdoms that lie at the heart of Daniel 7.

The primary support for this conclusion is the little phrase Daniel used in chapter 2 and verses 34 and 45: *By no human hand*. *By no human hand* explains the origin of the stone cut out of the mountain. The phrase “by no human hand” is critical for understanding who or what the “stone cut out of the mountain” is. About the origin of the stone, S. R. Millers writes, “Its origin was supernatural, for it was cut out of the mountain without human hands.”¹ Similarly, Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown add, “So “not made with hands,” that is, *heavenly*, 2 Co 5:1; *spiritual*, Col 2:11...“not of this world” (Jn 18:36).² Another states, “By no human hand - the writer suggests the intervention of God without actually stating it.”³ Keil and Delitzsch adds, “*Without hands*, without human help, is a litotes for: *by a higher, a divine providence*.”⁴

At once, it should be clear to the reader that this special stone did not have a human origin. In fact, the point that the text is making is this: the origin of the stone had no human effort connected with it whatsoever. That the phrase “without human hands” means free from human influence finds support in Daniel 8:25 where the destruction of Antiochus Epiphanies involves no human effort: “by no human hand.” To state the case simply: the special stone was neither

¹ Miller, S. R. (2001). *Vol. 18: Daniel* (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; The New American Commentary (92). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

² Jamieson, R., Fausset, A. R., Fausset, A. R., Brown, D., & Brown, D. (1997). *A commentary, critical and explanatory, on the Old and New Testaments*. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.

³ Pŕer-Contesse, R., & Ellington, J. (1993). *A handbook on the Book of Daniel*. UBS handbook series; Helps for translators (57). New York: United Bible Societies.

⁴ Keil, C. F., & Delitzsch, F. (2002). *Commentary on the Old Testament*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson.

created by man, cut out from the mountain by man, nor thrown at the statue by man. Mankind had nothing to do with the stone.

This clearly means that the stone cannot be Jesus Christ. Scripture explicitly reports that Jesus Christ was born of a woman (Gal 4:4). The Lord Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of a woman. He is the seed of the Woman (Gen 3:15, Gal 3:16). In the gospel of Mark, our Lord explicitly states that his earthly body was made by human hands. Mark writes, "I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands." John instructs us that the meaning of the Lord's statement is this: "He was speaking of his body," (John 2:21). The Lord Jesus is fully God, but he is also fully man. Therefore, the person of Jesus Christ cannot be the stone of Daniel 2:34 and 45. Such an interpretation is a contradiction.

Now I can hear your minds turning. The Bible explicitly says that Jesus is the stone. Matthew 21:42 states, "Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the Scriptures: The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.'" In this verse, the Lord is quoting Psalms 118:22-23. That this is true is without doubt. However, the context is clear that the "stone" of Psalm 118 is not the same stone of Daniel 2:34. This stone was first rejected by men before finding its place of significance. That men could first reject this stone argues against the possibility that "stone" as used in Psalm 118 is used in the same sense as Daniel 2:34. More importantly, context is critical for understanding how a term is used in a passage. Simply because the term "stone" is used does not give the student of Scripture the right to automatically conclude that it means the same thing every time it appears. This method of Bible study will lead to serious error. The stone of Psalm 118 is a rejected stone that becomes the capstone. This Matthew states to be the perfect will of God. However, the stone of Daniel 2:34 and 45 is victorious at every turn.

Daniel 2:44-45 gives the interpretation of Daniel 2:34-35. Daniel explicitly identified "the stone cut out of the mountain" to be "a kingdom" setup by God. Just in case you missed it, let me say it again: *Daniel explicitly identified "the stone cut of the mountain" to be "a kingdom" setup by God.* Secular history and The New Testaments confirms that God did inaugurate His kingdom during the early days of the Roman empire. It was inaugurated during the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ, it began small and insignificantly, but time has allowed it to grow overtaking all other kingdoms and it will find its culmination during the millennial kingdom.

Luke 13:18 teaches that the Kingdom of God would begin small, but grow to become great. The Lord Jesus also taught in Luke 17:20 that "The kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed." Luke 10:9 confirms that the kingdom of God has come." The Kingdom of God is intimately connected with the person of Jesus Christ. That this is the case is confirmed in Matthew 12:28. The Lord Jesus stated in John 18:36, "My kingdom is not from this world." The

details gleaned from the New Testament meet the demands of Daniel 2:34 and 45 and there are no contradictions.

Therefore, it is only necessary that God setup or inaugurate his kingdom during the fourth kingdom of Daniel 2 for Scripture to be fulfilled. The phase between the “stone” cut from the mountain and it becoming a mountain itself requires a significant length of time to pass. The New Testament confirms this conclusion. We will have to look elsewhere to find the fulfillment of Daniel 7. We begin that study in Part 3 which follows in a few days.