

THE STONE KINGDOM

1. Definition:

The “**stone kingdom**” is the final earthly kingdom, which God Himself will establish under the rule of Jesus Christ and which will begin with 1000 years but will endure forever. (Dan. 2:34, 35, 44, 45; Rev. 20:4-6)

2. Vocabulary:

- a. אֶבֶן - EVEN - (Heb. and Aramaic noun) - “stone” (Dan. 2:34, 35, 45, cf. Gen. 28:11, 18, 22; 1 Sam. 4:1; 7:12; Psa. 118:22)
- b. זָהָב - TZUR - (Heb. noun) - “rock” (Psa. 27:5; 71:3)
- c. טוּר - TUR - (Aramaic noun) - “mountain,” “rock” (Dan. 2:35, 45)
- d. הָר - HAR - (Heb. noun) - “mountain,” used specifically for Jerusalem, the capitol city of the “Stone Kingdom” (Isa. 2:2, 3; Micah 4:1, 2, 7)
- e. מַלְכוּת - MALeKU - (Aramaic noun) - “kingdom,” “dominion” (Dan. 2:44)
- f. מַלְכוּתָא - MALIKUTH - (Heb. n.) - “kingdom” (1 Chron. 17:11,14; Psa. 145:11-13)
- g. λίθος - lithos - (Greek noun) - “stone” (Matt. 21:42-44)
- h. πέτρα - petra - (Greek noun) - “rock” (Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 10:4)
- j. ὄρος - oros - (Greek noun) - “mountain,” “hill” (Heb. 12:22, 23; Rev. 21:10)
- k. βασιλεία - (Greek noun) - “kingdom,” royal power, royal reign, rule (Matt. 6:10; Luke 11:2; 21:31; Rev. 11:15; 12:10)
- l. χίλιοι - chilioi - (Greek adjective) - “thousand,” 10 times in N.T. (Rev. 20:2-7)

3. The “**mountain**” from which the “**stone**” was cut (Dan. 2:44, 45) represents the “eternal kingdom of God” and the presence of God. (Ezek. 28:14, 16).

4. The “**stone cut out** (or cut off)” represents:

- a. The revealed member of the Trinity, the Lord Jesus Christ. (Dan. 2:44, 45, with Dan. 7:13, 14 and Psa. 118:22; Isa. 28:16; 1 Peter 2:6-8)
- b. The Lord Jesus Christ in His first advent. (1 Pet. 2:7, 8 with Matt. 16:16, 17)
- c. The saving work of Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary. (Ex. 17:6; Deut. 32:15-18; Psa. 118:22; Dan. 2:34a, 45; 1 Pet. 2:7, 8)

5. The “**stone crushing the feet of iron and clay**” represents the resurrected and glorified Lord Jesus Christ at His second coming and His victory over the earthly kingdoms for all times. (Dan. 2:34, 44, 45; Psa. 2:9; Isa. 28:16; 30:26-33; 33:16, 17; 1 Pet. 2:6, 7)

6. The “**stone**” which “**became a great mountain and filled the whole earth**” represents:

- a. The Lord Jesus Christ receiving His literal physical kingdom on earth from God the Father. (Dan. 2:35, 44, 45, 7:13, 14, 27; Psa. 2:6-9; 1 Cor. 15:24-27; Rev. 1:6)

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- b. The kingdom which will rule over the entire earth. (Psa. 48:1-3; Isa. 2:1-3; 4:1-3; Isa. 27:12, 13; Micah 4:1, 2, 7, 8; Zech 9:10; 14:16ff)
 - c. The city of Jerusalem itself will be called by God, “*My holy mountain Jerusalem.*” (Isa. 66:20; Zech. 8:3), also called “*the City of Truth*” (Zech. 8:3) and “*the City of Righteousness.*” (Isa. 1:26) The **name of the city** shall be called, “*The Lord is There.*” (Ezek. 48:35)
 - d. The area of Jerusalem, up to and including the millennial temple site which is called “*the holy mountain.*” (Isa. 2:2, 3; 11:1-12; Ezek. 20:37-44; Micah 4:1, 2, 7; Zech. 8:3)
7. The “*stone kingdom*” is part of the covenant of promise God made with Abraham, the so-called “Abrahamic Covenant,” which includes a future “**royal land grant**” for Abraham and his descendants:
- a. Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3, 7-9, 13:14-17; 15:1-7, 18-21; 17:1-8; Deut. 11:24)
 - b. Isaac (Gen. 17:19, 21; 26:2-5)
 - c. Jacob (Gen. 28:12-15; 35:9-12) - “Jacob’s ladder”
8. The “**royal land grant**” portion of the “Abrahamic Covenant” is spelled out in detail in Ezekiel 36-48 and in Zechariah 8; 9; and 14. There are **eleven major features** of this “royal grant:”
- a. Ezekiel is told by God to **prophecy to the mountains** of Israel. (Ezek. 36:1-12)
 - b. The **land** promised to Abraham, the “**royal grant,**” extends from the Great Sea on the West to the Euphrates River on the East and from Hamath in the North to the brook of Egypt. (Ezek 47:15-20 with Gen. 15:18; Deut. 11:24; Psalm 105:8-11)
 - c. The **future restoration of the nation of Israel** is taught in Ezekiel’s vision of the “valley of the dry bones” (Ezek. 37:1-14) and his vision of the “two sticks,” the “*stick of Joseph*” and the “*stick of Judah.*” (Ezek. 37:15-23; cf. Jer. 23:8; 31:31ff)
 - d. **King David**, apparently in a resurrection body, will reign over the nation Israel, as **Prince** during that future kingdom age, under the Lord Jesus Christ who is the “**King of Kings.**” (Ezek. 34:23, 24; 37:24, 25; 45:22; Jer. 30:9; Hosea 3:5; with Rev. 19:15, 16; 20:4)
 - e. King David, “*the prince,*” will have a special portion of land called the “**prince’s portion,**” part of the “holy allotment.” (Ezek. 45:7; 46:16ff; 48:21-22)

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- f. The **Lord Jesus Christ**, as “*King of Kings and Lord of Lords*,” will **also** make His dwelling place with His people Israel forever. (Ezek. 37:26-28; 43:7, 9; Zech. 14:9; Rev.17:14; 19:15, 16)
- g. There will be literal “**topographical**” changes in the land promised to Abraham, “the royal grant,” in that future day:
- (1) A “**Highway of Holiness**.” (Isa. 35:8; 40:3) There is a possible connection with Jacob’s vision of a “*ladder*” into heaven, this highway, and the millennial sanctuary south of Shechem and west of Shiloh. (Gen. 28:10-22; Judges 18:31)
 - (2) **Valleys will be raised and mountains and hills will be lowered.** (Isa. 40:4; Luke 3:4, 5; cf. Ezek. 38:20; Micah 4:1, 2; Zech. 14:4, 5, 8-11; Rev. 16:18-20)
 - (3) There will be a “**new river**” originating from the millennial sanctuary. (Ezek. 47:1-12; Zech. 14:8)
 - (4) The “Dead Sea” will become a **living sea without salt** and **with** fresh water fish; and the trees along the rivers in Israel and along the banks of the sea will bear fruit every month and have leaves for healing. (Ezek. 47:8-12)
- h. **Land boundaries for Israel** will be changed. (Ezek. 47:13-23, with Gen. 15:18)
- i. Israel will have specific **tribal land portions**. (Ezek. 48:1-7, 23-29)
- j. The **city of Jerusalem** will be completely renovated and changed. (Ezek. 48:30-35; Zech. 8:3)
- k. There is a portion of the “royal grant” designated as the “**allotment of the holy portion**” (Ezek. 45:1-6; 48:8-20, 30-35) includes the following:
- (1) The **Levite’s portion**, north of the sanctuary. (Ezek. 45:5; 48:13, 14)
 - (2) The **priest’s portion**, which includes the sanctuary. (Ezek. 45:1-4; 48:9-11)
 - (3) The **city of Jerusalem** and the portion which will be for the “**common use for the city**,” south of the sanctuary. (Ezek. 45:6; 48:15-20)
 - (4) The “**sanctuary**,” “**the temple to the house of Israel**,” in the midst of the “holy allotment.” (Ezek. 37:26-28; 40:1-43:17, (**especially** - 42:15-20 and 43:10-12); 45:2, 3; Zech. 8:3 (“**the Holy Mountain**”); Micah 4:1, 2)
 - (5) The **Shekinah Glory** returns. (Ezek. 43:1-9 with Isa. 30:26; 60:19, 20)

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9. **Worship of God** in the “stone kingdom,” beginning with the millennial age, described as 1000 years in Revelation 20:2-7, will include the following:
 - a. All of the **Levitical offerings** will be made for instruction and as memorials. (Ezek. 43:18-27; 44:24-31; 45:10-25; 46:1-20)
 - b. **Levitical Feasts** including: (1) **Passover**, a seven day feast during which unleavened bread shall be eaten, and (3) **The Feast of Tabernacles**, a seven day feast. (Ezek. 45:21, 25; Zech.14:16-21)
 - c. Israel will keep **Sabbath days, new moons**, and. the **year of jubilee (liberty)**. (Ezek. 46:3; 16-20)
10. The **priesthood** during the “stone kingdom:’
 - a. The **Levitical Priesthood** will be “ministers in the sanctuary” and “keep charge the house of all its services,” but they shall not minister to God in the things that are most holy things. (Ezek. 44:10-14, 21-31)
 - b. The sons of Zadok, a **Zadokite priesthood** (possibly from the line of Phinehas of Num. 25:7-13) from the sons of Levi, will minister to God in the things that are most holy. (Ezek. 40:45, 46; 43:19; 44:15-20)
11. This kingdom will be a **monarchy**. (Psa. 2:1-9; Isa. 11:4; 1 Cor. 15:24-28; Rev. 12:5, 10; 19:15, 16)
 - a. Jesus Christ is the **judge**. (Deut. 32:4; Isa. 2:4; 33:22; James 4:12; with John 5:22)
 - b. Jesus Christ is the **lawgiver**. (Ex. 20:1-17; 24:12; James 4:12)
 - c. Jesus Christ is the **king**. (Isa. 33:17; Zech. 9:9, 10)
12. This kingdom will be a **Christocracy**. (Eph. 5:5; Rev. 20:6)
13. This kingdom will be a **Bibliocracy**. (Isa. 2:2, 3)
14. Jesus Christ in His glorified resurrected body will fulfill the original **destiny of mankind**; namely, that man should “*...be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.*” (Gen. 1:27, 28; 1 Cor. 15:24-28)
15. A **literal interpretation** of the **stone kingdom** of Daniel 2 is best understood by a **futuristic pre-millennial approach** to the Scriptures.
 - a. The stone that “*struck the image on its feet of iron and clay and crushed*” the image “*as one*” **became** a great mountain **suddenly**, not gradually (perfect tense of Hebrew verbs, קָרַץ - DeQAQ - “to crush,” Dan. 2:35; 45 and הָוָה - HAVAH – “to become,” Dan. 2:35); but **it did not fill the whole earth** at the time of the first advent of Jesus Christ.

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- b. Although Jesus Christ's first advent was during the time of the **Roman Empire**, **He did not destroy it.** (Christ died and was resurrected around A.D. 30; while the Roman Empire fell in the west in A.D. 476, and finally fell to the barbarians in the east in A.D. 1453. Such a sudden destruction of this revised kingdom is yet future.
- c. During the incarnation of Christ at His first advent, the Roman Empire did not have 10 kings at one time. However, Dan. 2:40, 42, 44 states the following:
- (1) *"it will be a fourth kingdom,"*
 - (2) *"it will be a divided kingdom,"*
 - (3) "there will be **"ten toes"** in **that kingdom**, (cf. Rev. 17:12; **"ten horns** (Dan. 7:7, 8) **are ten kings...**" and they will receive **"a kingdom"**),
 - (4) *"and in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed..."*
- d. In Eph. 2:20 and 1 Pet. 2:6, 7 Jesus Christ is called the **"chief cornerstone,"** in 1 Pet. 2:8, He is **"a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense"** to those who are unbelievers; but He is yet to be the **smiting stone** of Dan. 2:34, 35 and Rev. 19:15.
- e. The stone **"will crush and put to an end to all these kingdoms"** forever (Dan. 2:44), but the church of Jesus Christ has not nor will not conquer the kingdoms of this world and usher in a **millennium of world peace.** Only God Himself will do this through the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. (Dan. 2:44; Dan. 7:13, 14; with Matt. 11:27; 28:18; I Cor. 15:23-28; Eph. 1:20-23; Col. 2:10; 1 Pet. 3:22)
- f. The millennial kingdom is the **future literal fulfillment** of the **"new covenant"** promised by God to Israel. (Jer. 31:31; Ezek. 34:25ff; 16:60, 62; 37:26; with 1 Cor. 11:25)
- g. The "church" is not a political kingdom; but in Dan. 2:44; 7:27, Luke 22:18, Matt. 6:10, and 1 Cor. 15:24, 25; Rev. 20:4 the "kingdom" of God seems to refer to a **literal political kingdom** on earth.
- h. The **first four kingdoms** mentioned prophetically in Daniel 2:31-44; 7:1-8, 17, 23-24; 8:1-26 were all political kingdoms:
- (1) the **Babylonian kingdom**,
 - (2) the **Medo-Persian kingdom**,
 - (3) the **Graeco-Macedonian kingdom**,
 - (4) the **Roman kingdom**.
 - (5) Therefore, it is only logical that the final **stone kingdom** will also be a literal political kingdom on the earth.

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