

The commentary on Daniel in *The Anchor Bible* says, "Just as the mysterious stone that smashed the tile feet of the statue caused the whole statue to tumble down and be reduced to dust, which the wind carried away, while the stone itself grew into a mountain that filled the whole earth, so the God of Israel will annihilate the kingdoms of men and in their place establish his own universal kingdom. "<sup>10</sup>

The picture in Daniel greatly stresses the completeness of the statue's destruction and the universality of the new regime. If this is to be brought about by a continuing gradual growth of the Christian church, or even by a far more rapid growth, the greater part of this growth would have to be considered as still future.

A large portion of the world is today under the control of brutal God-denying tyrannies. In much of the rest the evil practices of the Roman empire pervade the governing system. Even in the most enlightened countries graft and corruption are often found in governmental circles. If the dynamic phase of Nebuchadnezzar's dream is to be taken as a true representation of what must occur, it requires, at the very least, a complete change in most of the governmental systems of the world and the establishment of universal righteousness and peace.

### **The Problem of Perspective**

Whether the third phase is thought of as representing the growth and complete victory of the Christian church or as picturing a great change to be brought about by the return of Christ, in either case the interpreter of Daniel 2 faces a problem. If the latter view is taken these events have not yet occurred. If the former is taken, they have already been in progress for nearly 2000 years but the greater part of what they represent is still ahead, since they involve the complete destruction of all ungodly human government. Yet the rock is said to strike the statue upon its feet, which represent the second phase of the fourth kingdom -- the Roman empire. In view of the many centuries that have elapsed since a Roman emperor could claim effective control over a large