

There is a different nation, a different language, a different culture, but that which is symbolized by Nebuchadnezzar's control and the activities of his government, is found in the Persian government also, and is found in the Hellenistic government and the Roman government. Different forms, varying amounts of freedom on the part of individuals, varying at different times within these governments but there is always that big government autocracy control over the lives of people mixed with graft and corruption and violence and clever human organizations and clever human plans which is characteristic of these empires. And we are told that is all completely demolished, completely destroyed by the Stone.

So the completeness of the destruction is one thing that is very greatly stressed here.

4. The Growth of the Stone.

It is made definite that the stone which demolished the image completely, grows until it fills the whole earth. The picture seems to be the picture of a rapid change. But it does not say the stone grows at lightening speed until it fills the whole earth. It does not say even that the stone cut out of the mountain comes with lightening speed to hit the statue. Neither of those statements is made. So while it is absolutely clear that it fills all the earth and that the statue and all it stands for is completely demolished we have a question: Is the growth gradual or rapid? A question which we cannot say is dogmatically answered in the picture.

Then there is another question. When does the growth of the stone begin? Does the stone begin to enlarge and to fill the whole earth only after the entire statue is demolished? Or is the growth of the stone a thing that begins at an earlier time? That we cannot be dogmatic about either from the picture or from the interpretation.

→ G. Various Attempts at relating these dynamic events to history. I have said that relate these dynamic events to history. I have not said relating the whole prophecy to history, because the four kingdoms are pretty clear. We have a long history about which we know many facts. We have many remarkable points fitting together between the picture as shown here and the events during a thousand years after the time of Daniel.

So we are particularly interested now in attempts to relate dynamic events with history. First we notice the view of the critics ~~Christians~~. This is the view which was published in the 2nd or 3rd cent. A.D. by Porphyry. A view which was attacked by Christian writers in the next few centuries and which in the last two or three centuries has been adopted by most of the so-called higher critics and by men who would not wish to be called higher critics. There are many commentaries on Daniel which adopt this view of the critics.

According to this view the book of Daniel was not written at the time of Nebuchadnezzar. It was written about 400 yrs. later.