

# Daniel 2:34

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

## Analysis

The "stone cut out without hands" represents divine intervention in human history. The phrase "without hands" (דַּי לֹא בִּידָּה, *di la bidayin*) emphasizes supernatural origin—no human agency produced this stone. This contrasts sharply with the statue's materials, all products of human achievement: gold, silver, bronze, iron, and clay representing successive empires built through conquest and human effort. God's kingdom originates from heaven, not earth.

The stone striking "the image upon his feet" targets the weakest point—the iron-and-clay mixture lacking cohesion. This symbolizes the final form of human government before God establishes His eternal kingdom. The phrase "brake them to pieces" uses violent imagery, indicating God's kingdom doesn't coexist with earthly powers but completely displaces them. Human kingdoms don't gradually evolve into God's kingdom; divine intervention catastrophically terminates human rule.

This prophecy finds fulfillment in Christ's first and second comings. Jesus proclaimed "the kingdom of God is at hand" (Mark 1:15), inaugurating divine rule through His incarnation, death, and resurrection. Though not yet consummated, God's kingdom advances irresistibly throughout history (Matthew 13:31-33). At Christ's return, He will visibly and completely establish His reign, destroying all opposition. The "stone cut without hands" represents Christ's supernatural origin

through virgin birth and His kingdom's divine origin, requiring no human contribution for its establishment.

## Historical Context

---

Nebuchadnezzar's dream (circa 603 BC) depicted history from the Babylonian perspective—a magnificent statue representing successive empires. Daniel's interpretation revealed God's perspective: all human kingdoms, despite their grandeur, are temporary and ultimately displaced by divine rule. The statue's materials decrease in value (gold to silver to bronze to iron) though increasing in strength, suggesting each successive empire would be militarily stronger but culturally inferior.

History confirmed this prophecy: Babylon fell to Medo-Persia (539 BC), which fell to Greece under Alexander (331 BC), which gave way to Rome (63 BC onward). Jesus appeared during Roman occupation, establishing God's kingdom not through military conquest but redemptive sacrifice. Early Christians understood themselves as citizens of this prophesied kingdom, expanding throughout the Roman Empire and outlasting it despite severe persecution.

## Related Passages

---

**Revelation 20:12** — Judgment according to deeds

**Matthew 25:31** — Final judgment

## Study Questions

---

1. How does understanding Christ's kingdom as divinely originated ("cut without hands") protect against false gospels emphasizing human achievement?
2. In what ways is God's kingdom currently advancing like a stone becoming a mountain, and how does this inform your participation in His mission?

## Interlinear Text

ל א בְּנֵי הָעֵדָה הַתְּבִזָּה רְתָתְּלָה תְּבִזָּה רְתָתְּלָה תְּבִזָּה	דֵּי אָבִן דֵּי אָבִן דֵּי אָבִן	קָרְבָּן יְתִיבָּה קָרְבָּן יְתִיבָּה קָרְבָּן יְתִיבָּה	תְּבִזָּה רְתָתְּלָה תְּבִזָּה רְתָתְּלָה תְּבִזָּה רְתָתְּלָה תְּבִזָּה			
<b>Thou sawest</b>	H1934	<b>till</b>	H1768	<b>was cut out</b>	<b>that a stone</b>	H1768
H2370		H5705		H1505	H69	H3809
<b>hands</b>	<b>which smote</b>	<b>the image</b>	<b>upon</b>	<b>his feet</b>	H1768	<b>that were of iron</b>
H3028	H4223	H6755	H5922	H7271		H6523
<b>and clay</b>	<b>and brake</b>	<b>them</b>				
H2635	H1855	H1994				

## Additional Cross-References

**Daniel 8:25** (Parallel theme): And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.

**Isaiah 60:12** (Parallel theme): For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish; yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted.

**Zechariah 12:3** (Parallel theme): And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it.

**Zechariah 4:6** (Parallel theme): Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

**Isaiah 28:16** (Parallel theme): Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

**Matthew 16:18** (Parallel theme): And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

**2 Corinthians 5:1** (Parallel theme): For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

**Daniel 7:27** (Parallel theme): And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.

**Revelation 17:14** (Parallel theme): These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.

**Revelation 11:15** (Parallel theme): And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.