



Lesson 40

The Mountain and the Stone

- **Daniel 2**

- Daniel 2 Overview
- Where are the mountain and the statue?
- How was the stone cut out?
- What does the mountain and stone represent?
- When is the stone separated?

- **Matthew 16**

- Matthew 16 Overview
- Where was the mountain?
- Mountains must be quarried, they are too big
- What does the mountain and stone represent?
- Second Application
- Third Application

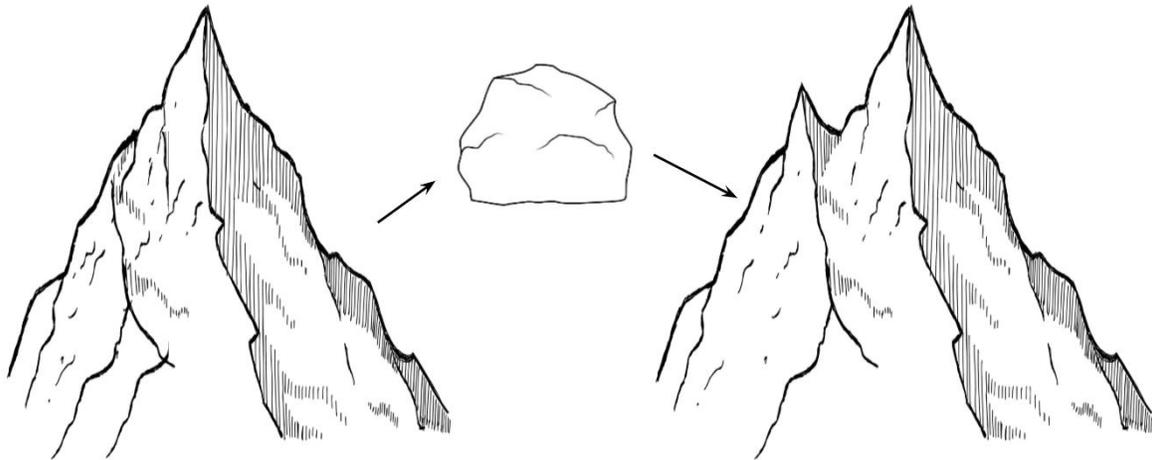
In this lesson we will be looking at the mountain and the stone. We get the mountain and the stone from Daniel 2:34 in connection with Matthew 16:18. We will also be looking at who the mountain and stone represent.

Daniel 2

Daniel 2 Overview

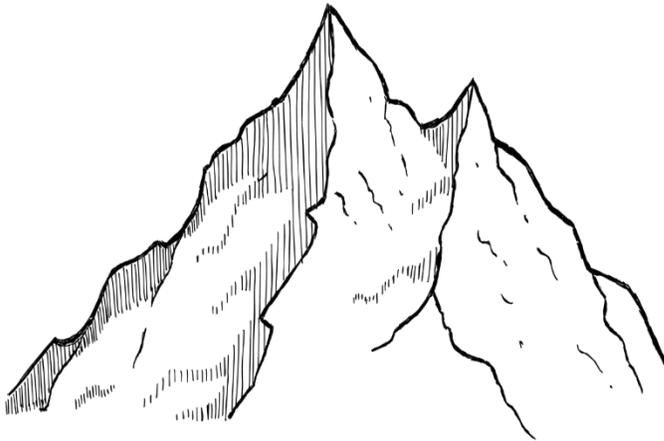
Daniel 2 is about a mountain and a stone. In Daniel 2, Nebuchadnezzar has a dream. He calls his wise men and commands them to tell him his dream, and its interpretation. They can't, but finally Daniel comes in. God had revealed to him the dream and its interpretation; and he recited it to Nebuchadnezzar. In his dream, Nebuchadnezzar saw a statue. The statue had a golden head, silver arms, brass belly and thighs, iron legs, and feet that were a mixture of iron and clay. Next, Nebuchadnezzar saw a stone cut out without hands crash into the statue's feet and the statue crumbled and blew away. Daniel 2 doesn't directly say it at the beginning, but this stone had to have been cut out of a mountain according to verse 45. Afterward, the stone became a mountain that filled the Earth. Daniel then recites the interpretation of the dream. The head of gold was the Babylonian empire, the silver, brass, iron, and iron and clay mixture were the kingdoms that would come after it, and the stone that later became the mountain is God's kingdom that will conquer the world. This is what took place in Daniel 2.

In Daniel 2: A stone comes from a mountain and that stone becomes a mountain

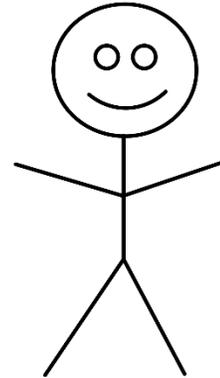


Where are the mountain and the statue?

The first mountain (verse 45) and statue of Daniel 2 can be compared and contrasted. The statue represents the kingdoms from Babylon to Papal Rome: which are the kingdoms of Satan. We know that, because, if we compare the statue to the mountain, it has to be kingdoms, since the mountain represents the kingdom of God (see Daniel 2:44). Another point that we can notice from this story is that the kingdom of Satan is on Earth. Many Adventists believe that the mountain is Heaven. But through comparing, we know that the mountain can't be Heaven. If the statue is on Earth, then the mountain must be on Earth too. The statue is the kingdom of Satan on Earth and the mountain is the kingdom of God on Earth. God's kingdom on Earth is His church so the mountain of Daniel 2 is God's church.



The Kingdom of God, on Earth.



The Kingdom of Satan, on Earth.

How was the stone cut out?

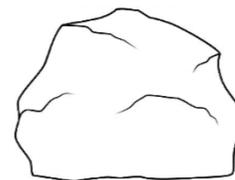
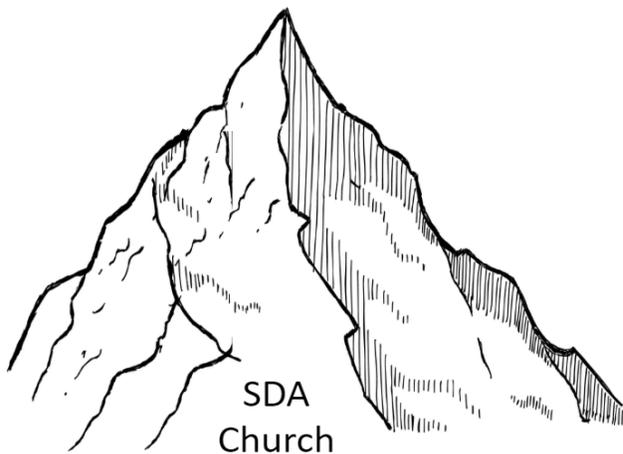
In Daniel 2, King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream. After none of the supposed “wise men” could tell him both the dream and its meaning, he sent out a death decree. This reached Daniel and he went to tell the king the dream and its meaning. In verse 34, Daniel says that Nebuchadnezzar saw a stone was cut out (of the mountain from verse 45) without hands. Obviously, a stone cannot cut itself out of a mountain so “without hands” must have a deeper meaning. “Without hands” means “without human hands”. This means that God had to cut out the stone from the mountain without human help. And how does He cut the stone out? With a shaking. The stone of Daniel 2 was cut out with a shaking.

“I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God’s people.” EW 270.2

What does the mountain and stone represent?

In Daniel 2, there are two mountains and a stone. We saw that stone had to have been cut out of a mountain by God. Since Satan’s kingdom (statue) was on earth, the mountain this rock was cut from had to be on earth. God doesn’t have property on earth to be His kingdom, God’s kingdom has to be His church. God has had His people on earth as long as Satan has had his people on earth, so God had to have a church at the same time as the statue, which is Satan’s kingdom. Therefore, the mountain the stone was cut from had to have been God’s church. What is God’s church? The SDA church. The mountain the stone was cut from represents the SDA church. If that’s true (which it is), who was/will be cut out of the SDA church and then go on to conquer the world? The Priests and Levites. So in Daniel 2, the mountain of verse 45 (the one the stone was cut from) represents the SDA church and the stone represents the Priests and Levites.

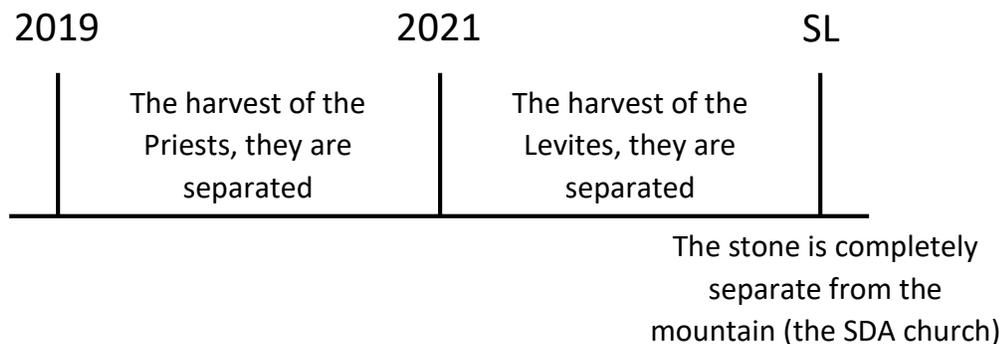
The mountain on Earth is the SDA church and the stone cut out by God are the Priests and Levites



Priests and Levites

When is the stone separated?

When does the stone separate from the mountain? In other words, when do the Priests and Levites separate from the Seventh-day Adventist church? The Priests began to be separated in 1989 when the 1st Angel's message arrived. The messages of our reform line developed the Priests. In the time of the harvest of the Priests, they- the wheat, are separated from the tares (the rest of Adventism). By separation we mean that the Priests are part of a separate church (Ephesus) not Laodicea like the rest of Adventism. But the separation is not that simple thanks to the Levites. The Levites began to be formed at 9/11, but the formation won't be complete until their harvest which is from 2021 to the Sunday Law. In that time, they will leave the Adventist church and join the Priests: they will begin to believe the message. The separation of God's new people (the Priests and Levites): or the stone, from the mountain (the Adventist church) isn't complete yet. At the Sunday Law the harvest of both groups will be over and the stone will be separate from the mountain.



Matthew 16

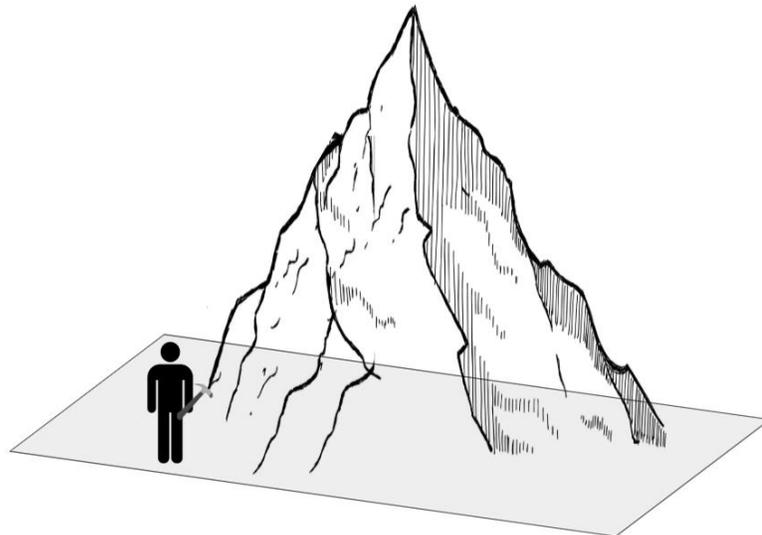
Matthew 16 Overview

In Matthew 16:13, Jesus and the disciples arrived in Caesarea Philippi. He asked them who people thought He was. They said that some people said John the Baptist while others said Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets. He then asked them who they thought He was and Peter said “the Christ”. Jesus blessed Peter and said that “upon this rock I will build my church”. He goes on to talk about the keys of heaven. But verse 18 is the main verse- when Jesus speaks about the rock and the church.

Where was the mountain?

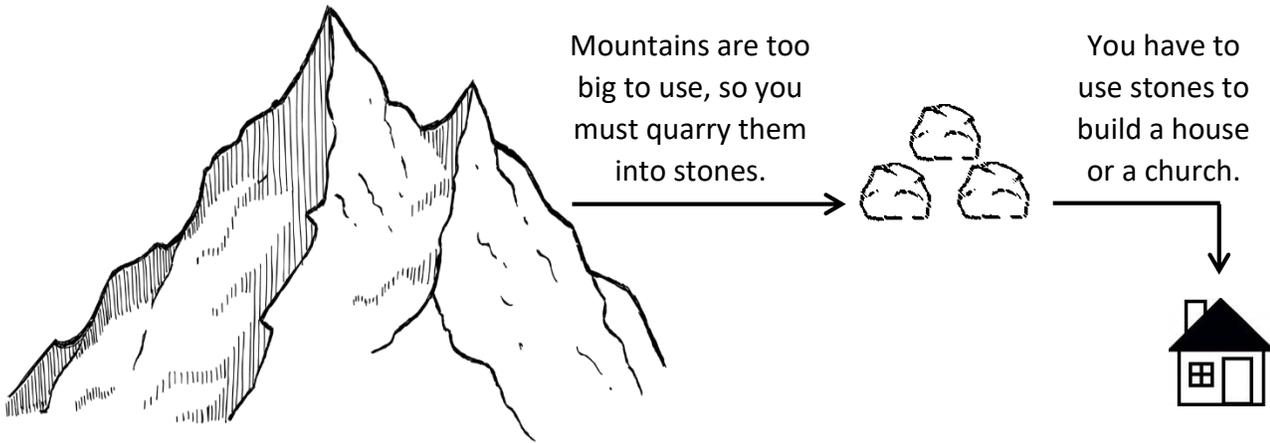
Mount Hermon was in a quarrying area. In Matthew 16, Jesus leads the disciples to Caesarea Philippi. There was a town here, and it was next to a mountain. This mountain was Mount Hermon. Caesarea Philippi was just a town; it was in the process of expanding. In Jesus’ time, using wood for houses wasn’t common; houses were usually made from bricks. The closest resource of rock was Mt. Hermon, so a quarrying area formed around it. Mount Hermon is also on earth, just like the mountain (the one the stone came from) in Daniel 2. So Mt. Hermon, was on earth, in a quarrying area, which supplied resources to build the town.

The mountain was in a quarrying area on Earth



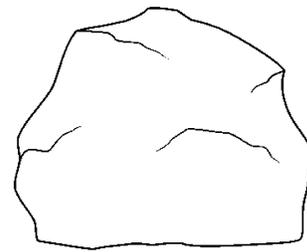
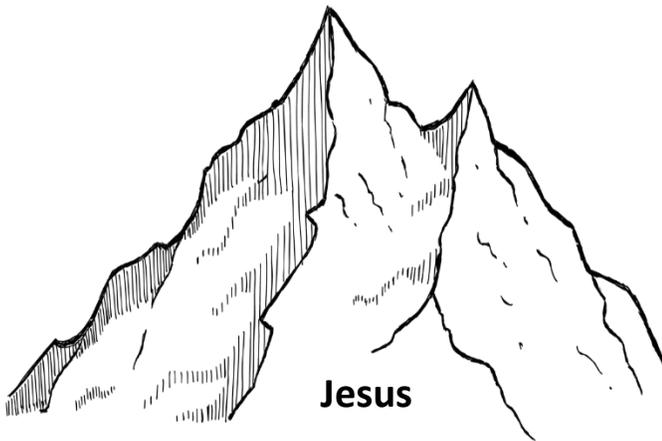
Mountains must be quarried, they are too big

Quarrying is an important process. We saw how the stones from the quarry on Mount Hermon were used to build the city (Caesarea-Philippi). Mount Hermon is not useful on its own: it's too big. In order to use it you must quarry pieces of stone from it. This is also true for all mountains. You cannot build a city or church with a mountain. You must use stones from the mountain. You have to quarry it, then you can use those stones to build.



What does the mountain and stone represent?

From Matthew 16 we saw that Christ said that upon “this” rock He would build His church. What is the “this”? Well, from previous verses, we know that He was asking the disciples who they thought He was, when Peter said that He was the Christ, the Son of God. That is the “this”. Christ, the Son of God is the rock. What else is the rock? We can connect Matthew 16 to Daniel 2. The rock is the mountain because mountains are made up of rocks and they were at Mt. Hermon. The church would be built on the rock, or the mountain. Peter can represent the church because the church is the stone and the stone came from the mountain and Peter’s name means “piece of a rock” (see G4074). Peter can represent the stone from Daniel 2, which is the church. The stone is quarried from the mountain (the aspect from Daniel 2) and then is used to build the church on top of the mountain (the aspect from Matthew 16).



Peter

Second Application

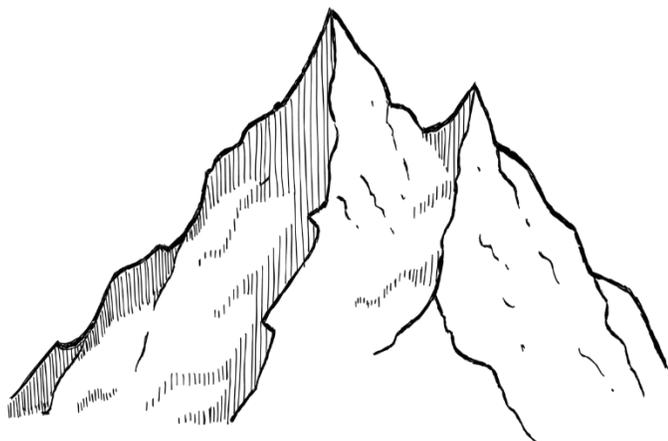
As we have seen, Mount Hermon represents Christ and the stone represents Peter, but that's not the only application. Symbols have more than one meaning, so we can apply the mountain and stone another way. A second application of the mountain is God. We know a mountain is a resource to build a town. What is God interested in building? His church. But we know that stones must be taken from the mountain to build the church. Mountains and stones are the same material- rock. So what is a smaller version of God? Who was made in His image? Man. God is the resource, and humans are the agents in building His church. This is why Jesus had to come to earth and become a human, only humans (stones) can build a church, so Christ had to come to start the production of His church. Christ became a stone, gathered other stones (disciples), so they could begin building His church- the Christian church.

A second application is: God is the mountain and Jesus is the stone,
That is why Jesus became a human (stone), to start the production of the church

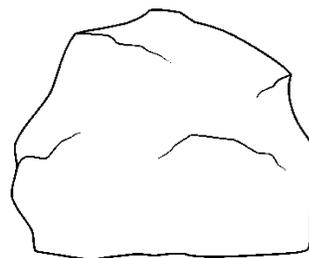


Third Application

There is one more application of quarrying a mountain. Jesus and Peter is one and the Father and Christ is another. In that application Jesus was the first stone. In this application, similar to the previous one, the mountain is God: the Father or Christ. The members of God's church are the stones: they are "quarried" from God and with them the church is built. So, the church or house is built out of stones, which are the members. This is true for our time too: God is building His new church out of Priests, us, and Levites. One important thing we learned is that mountains are too big to use; they must be "quarried" into small pieces or stones. This means that God is too big to build His church. Only stones can build a house. We are the stones God has to use us to build the church. If we apply this principle to Daniel 2 we learn that the Seventh-day Adventist church (the mountain) is too big to finish the work; only the stone (God's new church- this Movement) can do that. God needs us to do the work because He can't. Ellen White says in *Great Controversy* 343.2 that the most clearly presented truth in the Bible is that God uses men to do the work. God, because He is a mountain, has no choice but to use us to do the work, because only stones can build a church.



The Father/Jesus



**Us: the Priests
(and Levites)**

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youthprophecygroup@gmail.com

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