

represents the Christian church also recognize that the process it describes will not be complete until the very end of all wicked human government. Since this is a point of considerable importance, we shall quote the statements of several writers, including a number who consider the rock to represent the growth of the Christian church.

Thus O. T. Allis says, "This kingdom was set up 1900 years ago in the days of the Caesars by Jesus and His apostles, and has been growing and spreading ever since Its task is to subdue and overthrow all other kingdoms and it shall itself endure for ever. Thus interpreted, we have here a prophecy of the kingdom of Christ with primary reference to its establishment and growth."⁴

E. J. Young says, "The kingdom of God will completely triumph, and the kingdom of men (as represented by the image) will be completely destroyed."⁵

Patrick Fairbairn says of the prophecy in Daniel 2 that it "points also to the future; inasmuch as it declares the absolute universality of Messiah's authority and rule among men, His unlimited and everlasting sway. This is yet far from having been established: while the stone has broken in pieces the image, which sought to pre-occupy the entire ground, it has not yet itself grown so as to fill the whole earth. "⁶

H. C. Leupold says: "There shall never be a time when the kingdom of God has to bow to the authority of another. It shall, in fact, be a force that will be operative in the overthrow of all the kingdoms that the world produces. "⁷

Lange's Commentary says, "This closing scene of the vision is in the course of being steadily and increasingly fulfilled, inasmuch as, on the one hand, the destruction and dissolution of the world-powers, and on the other, the growth of the stone into a mighty mountain that fills the whole earth, are yet far from their Divinely appointed goal."⁸

Ellicott's Commentary says, "The stone is now rolling, as the kingdom of God spreads further and further day by day. The image is still standing, the stone has not yet fallen upon it..."⁹