

HANDOUT – “STONE” as used in Scripture

It can be used literally to define a type of rock as in:

Genesis 2:12 (NASB)

¹²The gold of that land is good; the bdellium and the onyx **STONE** are there.

Genesis 11:3 (NASB)

³They said to one another, “Come, let us make bricks and burn them thoroughly.” And they used brick for **STONE**, and they used tar for mortar.

It can be used in a simile:

Exodus 15:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ “Terror and dread fall upon them;

By the greatness of Your arm they are motionless as **STONE**;

It can be used as a verb:

Exodus 17:4 (NASB)

⁴So Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, “What shall I do to this people? A little more and they will **STONE** me.”

All of these are really obvious from the context. It is equally obvious when the word is being used symbolically. Here’s a handout of the passages in the Bible in which the word “**STONE**” is used symbolically...with the exception of the references in Daniel. Every single reference is consistent in its meaning.

Genesis 49:24 (NASB) - Jacob (Israel’s) prophecy concerning his sons – this is from Joseph’s

²⁴ But his bow remained firm, And his arms were agile,

From the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob (From there is the Shepherd, the **STONE** of Israel),

Psalms 118:22 - Psalms 118:23 (NASB)

²² The **STONE** which the builders rejected has become the chief corner **STONE**.

²³ This is the LORD’S doing; It is marvelous in our eyes.

Isaiah 8:13 - Isaiah 8:15 (NASB) (Note the symbolic use is defined)

“It is the LORD of hosts whom you should regard as holy.

And He shall be your fear, and He shall be your dread. ¹⁴ “Then He shall become a sanctuary;

But to both the houses of Israel, a **STONE** to strike and a rock to stumble over,

And a snare and a trap for the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

¹⁵ “Many will stumble over them, Then they will fall and be broken; They will even be snared and caught.”

Isaiah 28:16 (NASB)

¹⁶ Therefore thus says the Lord GOD,

“Behold, I am laying in Zion a **STONE**, a tested **STONE**,

A costly corner**STONE** for the foundation, firmly placed.

He who believes in it will not be disturbed.

Zechariah 3:8 - Zechariah 3:10 (NASB)

⁸Now listen, Joshua the high priest, you and your friends who are sitting in front of you—indeed they are men who are a symbol, for behold, I am going to bring in My servant the Branch. ⁹For behold, the

STONE that I have set before Joshua; on one **STONE** are seven eyes. Behold, I will engrave an inscription on it,’ declares the LORD of hosts, ‘and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day. ¹⁰‘In that day,’ declares the LORD of hosts, ‘every one of you will invite his neighbor to sit under his vine and under his fig tree.’”

Matthew 21:36 - Matthew 21:44 (NASB) and in each gospel

³⁶“Again he sent another group of slaves larger than the first; and they did the same thing to them. ³⁷“But afterward he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ ³⁸“But when the vine-growers saw the son, they said among themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and seize his inheritance.’

³⁹“They took him, and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. ⁴⁰“Therefore when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those vine-growers?” ⁴¹They said* to Him, “He will bring those wretches to a wretched end, and will rent out the vineyard to other vine-growers who will pay him the proceeds at the proper seasons.”

⁴²Jesus said* to them, “Did you never read in the Scriptures,

‘The **STONE** which the builders rejected,

This became the chief corner **STONE**;

This came about from the Lord,

And it is marvelous in our eyes’?

⁴³“Therefore I say to you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people, producing the fruit of it. ⁴⁴“And he who falls on this **STONE** will be broken to pieces; but on whomever it falls, it will scatter him like dust.”

Acts 4:8 - Acts 4:12 (NASB) (Again, the symbol is defined)

⁸Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, “Rulers and elders of the people, ⁹if we are on trial today for a benefit done to a sick man, as to how this man has been made well, ¹⁰let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this name this man stands here before you in good health. ¹¹“He is the **STONE** which was rejected by you, the builders, but which became the chief corner **STONE**. ¹²“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

Romans 9:30 - Romans 9:33 (NASB)

³⁰What shall we say then? That Gentiles, who did not pursue righteousness, attained righteousness, even the righteousness which is by faith; ³¹but Israel, pursuing a law of righteousness, did not arrive at that law.

³²Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as though it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling **STONE**, ³³just as it is written,

“Behold, I lay in Zion a **STONE** of stumbling and a rock of offense,

And he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.”

Ephesians 2:19 - Ephesians 2:22 (NASB) (Defined again)

¹⁹So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God’s household, ²⁰having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner **STONE**, ²¹in whom the whole building, being fitted together, is growing into a holy temple in the Lord, ²²in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

1 Peter 2:4 - 1 Peter 2:8 (NASB) (Defined again)

⁴And coming to Him as to a living **STONE** which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, ⁵you also, as living **STONES**, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. ⁶For this is contained in Scripture:

“Behold, I lay in Zion a choice **STONE**, a precious corner **STONE**,

And he who believes in Him will not be disappointed.”

⁷This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve,

“The **STONE** which the builders rejected,

This became the very corner **STONE**,”

⁸and,

“A **STONE** of stumbling and a rock of offense”;

for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this doom they were also appointed.

When we get to Daniel and see references to a symbolic "**STONE**":

Daniel 2:34 - Daniel 2:35 (NASB)

³⁴“You continued looking until a **STONE** was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and crushed them. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them was found. But the **STONE** that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.

Can we confidently interpret the **STONE** that struck the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream?

Here's Daniel's interpretation of the dream:

Daniel 2:44 - Daniel 2:45 (NASB)

⁴⁴“In the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever. ⁴⁵“Inasmuch as you saw that a **STONE** was cut out of the mountain without hands and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold, the great God has made known to the king what will take place in the future; so the dream is true and its interpretation is trustworthy.”

Examination of other Scripture passages led us to the correct meaning of the stone in the mysterious dream in Daniel. No guesswork required. We will use the same approach throughout our studies.