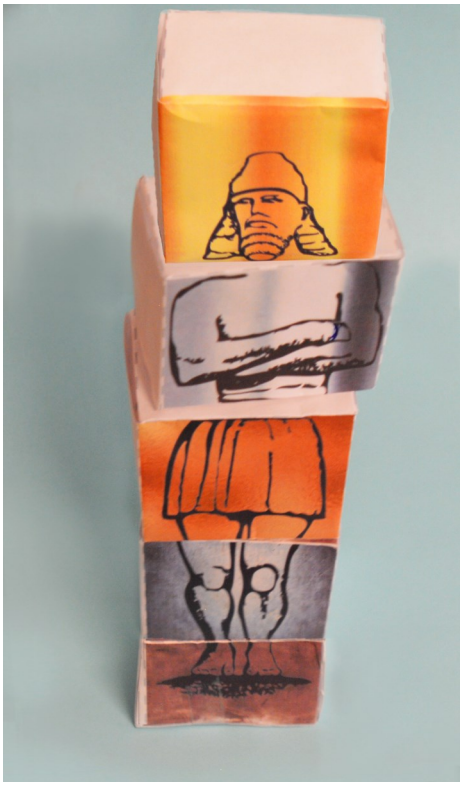
Knock Down the Statue



In this activity students will make a model of Nebuchadnezzar's statue (representing his selfishness) and use a ball of rock patterned paper (representing the rock of truth) to knock it down.

1. Nebuchadnezzar was a great, powerful, glorious king. He thought himself better than everyone else. He dreamed of a great statue.
2. The Lord told Daniel its gold head represented Nebuchadnezzar. Generally, gold corresponds to love to the Lord, but correspondences sometimes have an opposite meaning. Since Nebuchadnezzar was selfish, the gold pictures his self-love, which is the opposite of love to the Lord.
3. Like Nebuchadnezzar, we may think we are better than others at times. Only true ideas from the Word can help rid us of this false idea.
4. The rock cut without human hands corresponds to true ideas from the Word that crush false ideas; it is the truth that sets us free.
5. Give each child a copy of *Nebuchadnezzar's Dream Statue* (pp. 2-5), scissors, and tape or glue.
6. Cut out and assemble the five illustrated boxes needed to complete a statue. Fold and tape together neatly so they will stack securely.
7. Stack the boxes in the order of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream.
8. Crumple *Nebuchadnezzar's Dream Rock* (p. 6) into a ball or wrap it around a small ball, such as a tennis ball. Tape to secure.
9. Throw or bowl the ball at the base of the statue to make it fall.
10. Remind the children that the rock is like the true ideas in the Word that can blow away selfishness and prepare us for heaven.

Materials Needed for Each Student

copy of *Nebuchadnezzar's Dream Statue* pp. 2-5, copy of *Nebuchadnezzar's Dream Rock* p.6, scissors, tape or glue
optional: ball, e.g. tennis ball

Prepare in Advance

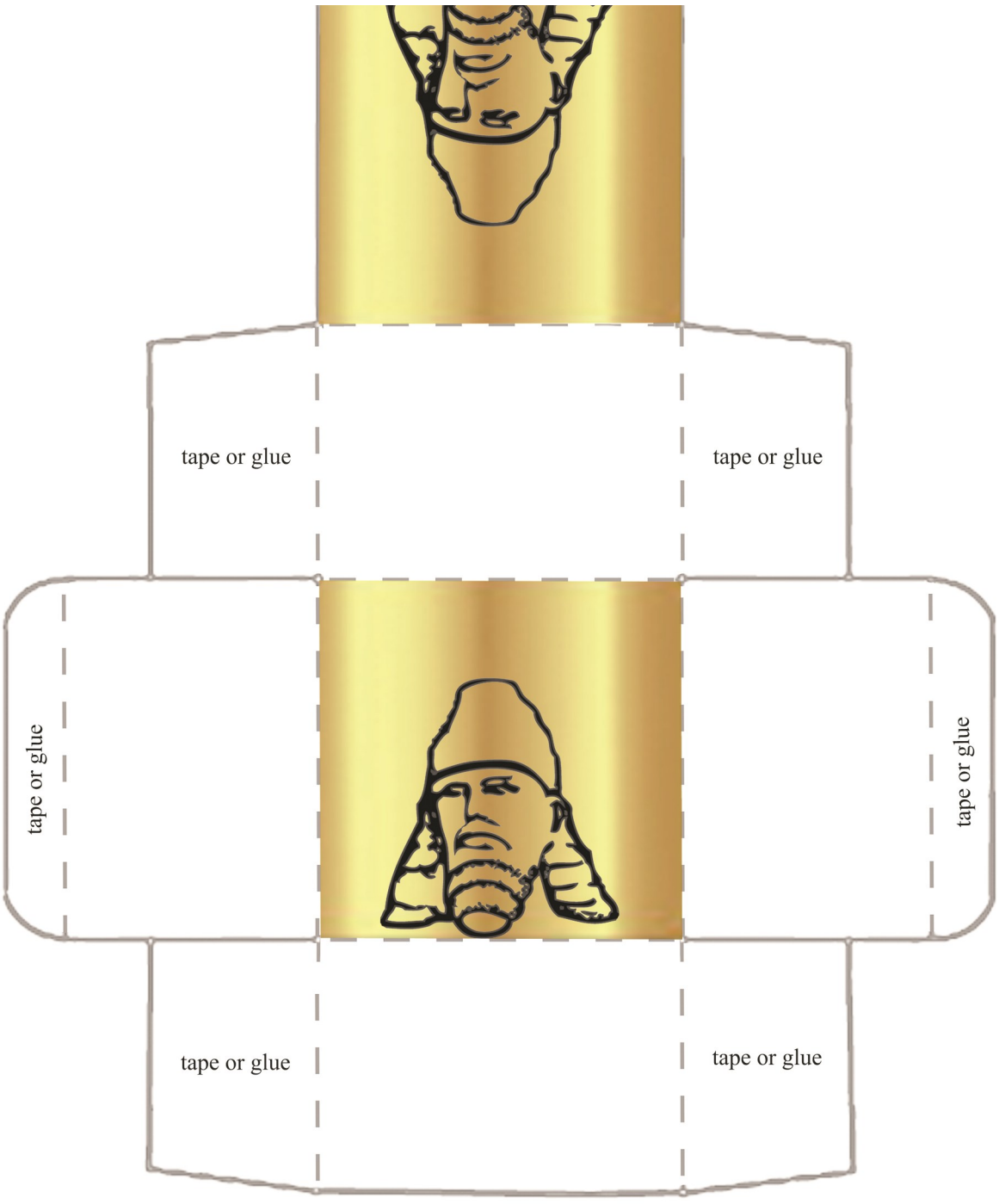
Print pages. Gather supplies.

New Church Concept The Stone

A stone struck the statue and smashed it to pieces. It became like chaff which the wind carried away. But the stone that struck the statue became a great rock and filled the whole earth.
The subject here is the Lord and His kingdom, "a stone" being used to mean faith, and "a rock" the Lord in respect of faith. "A stone" also means in the Word the truth that composes faith because "a rock" also means a fortress that withstands falsities. The actual fortress is the truth of faith, for this is what the battle against both falsities and evils is waged from. See *Arcana Coelestia* 8581

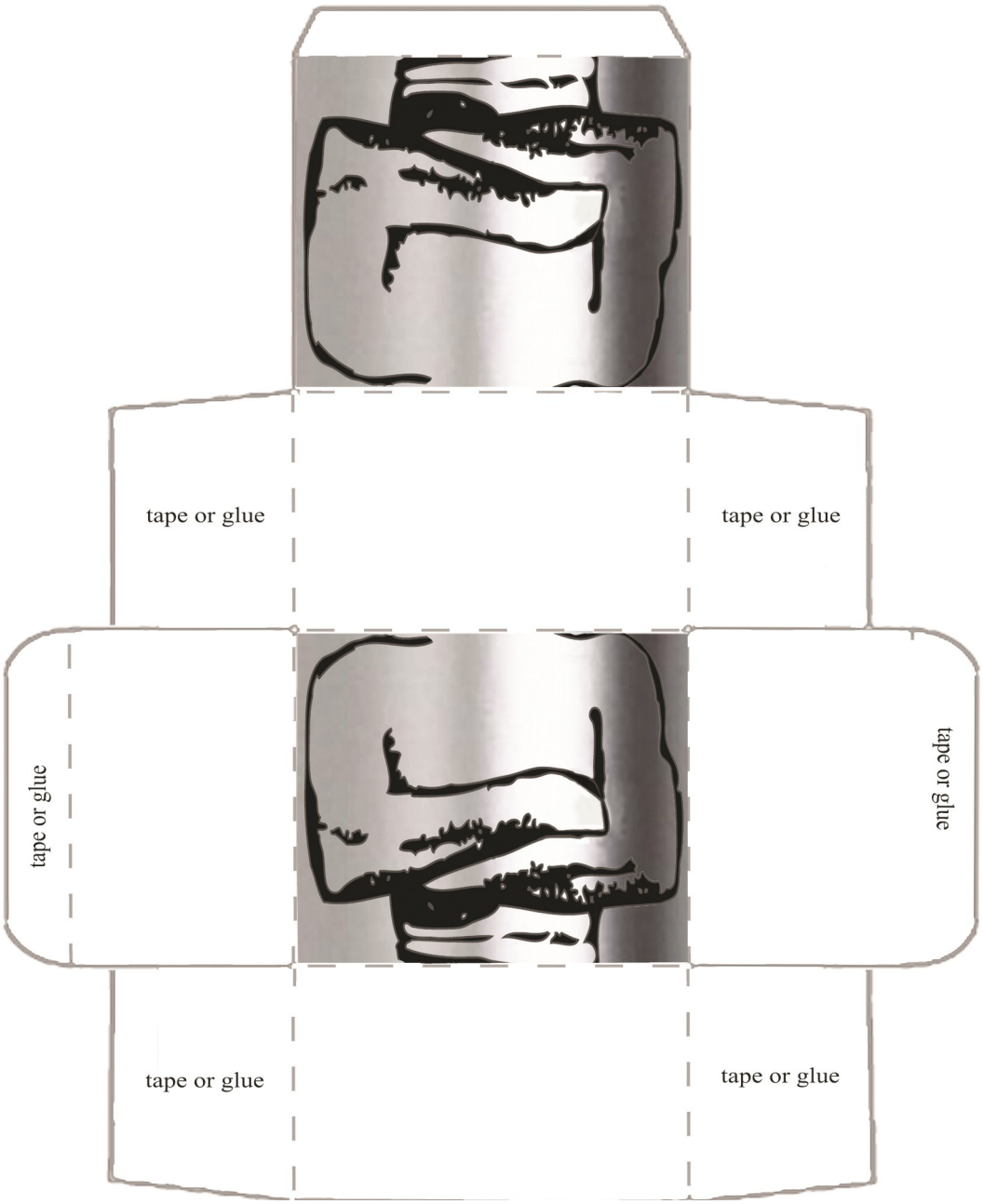
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Nebuchadnezzar's Dream Statue

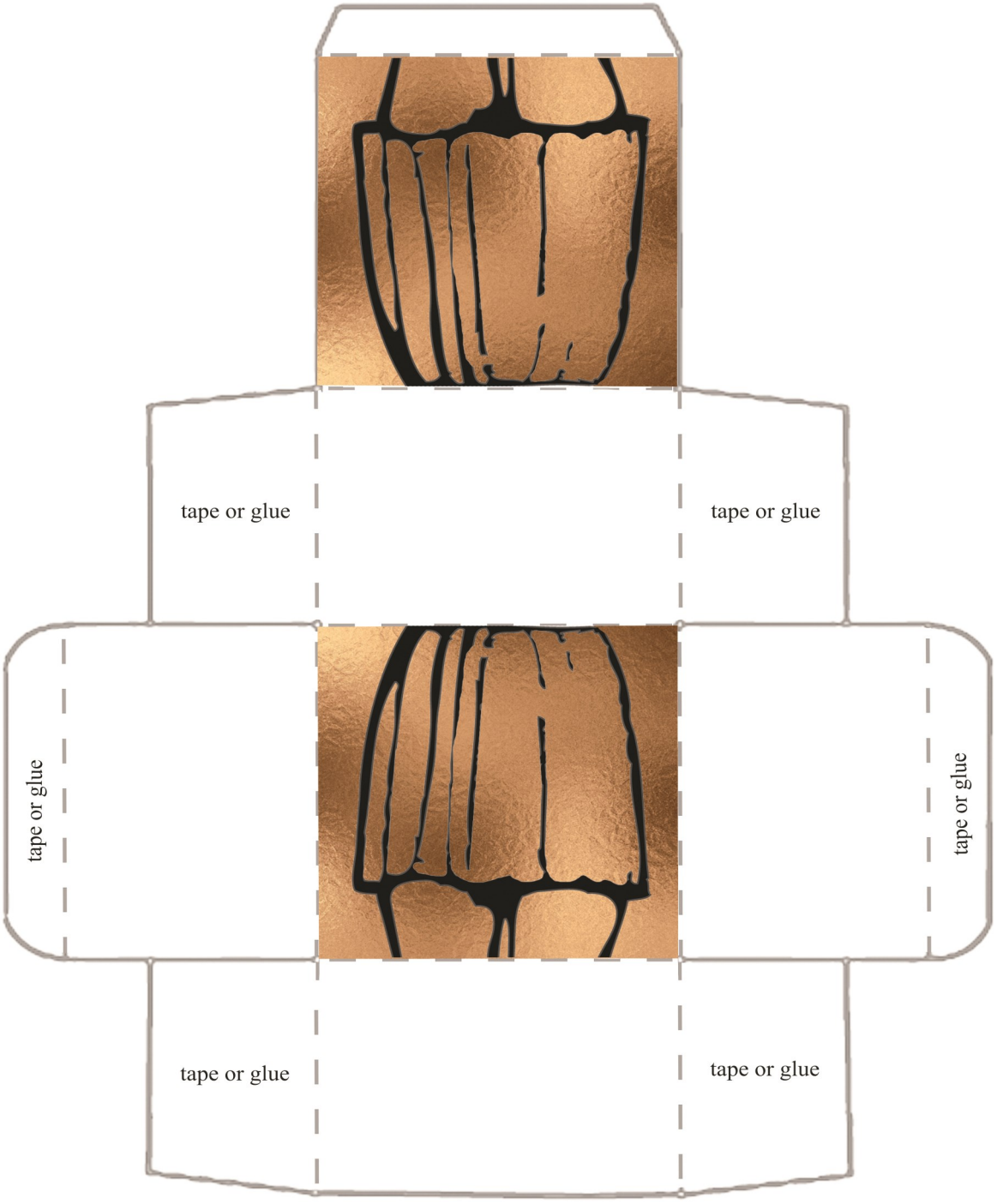


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Nebuchadnezzar's Dream Statue

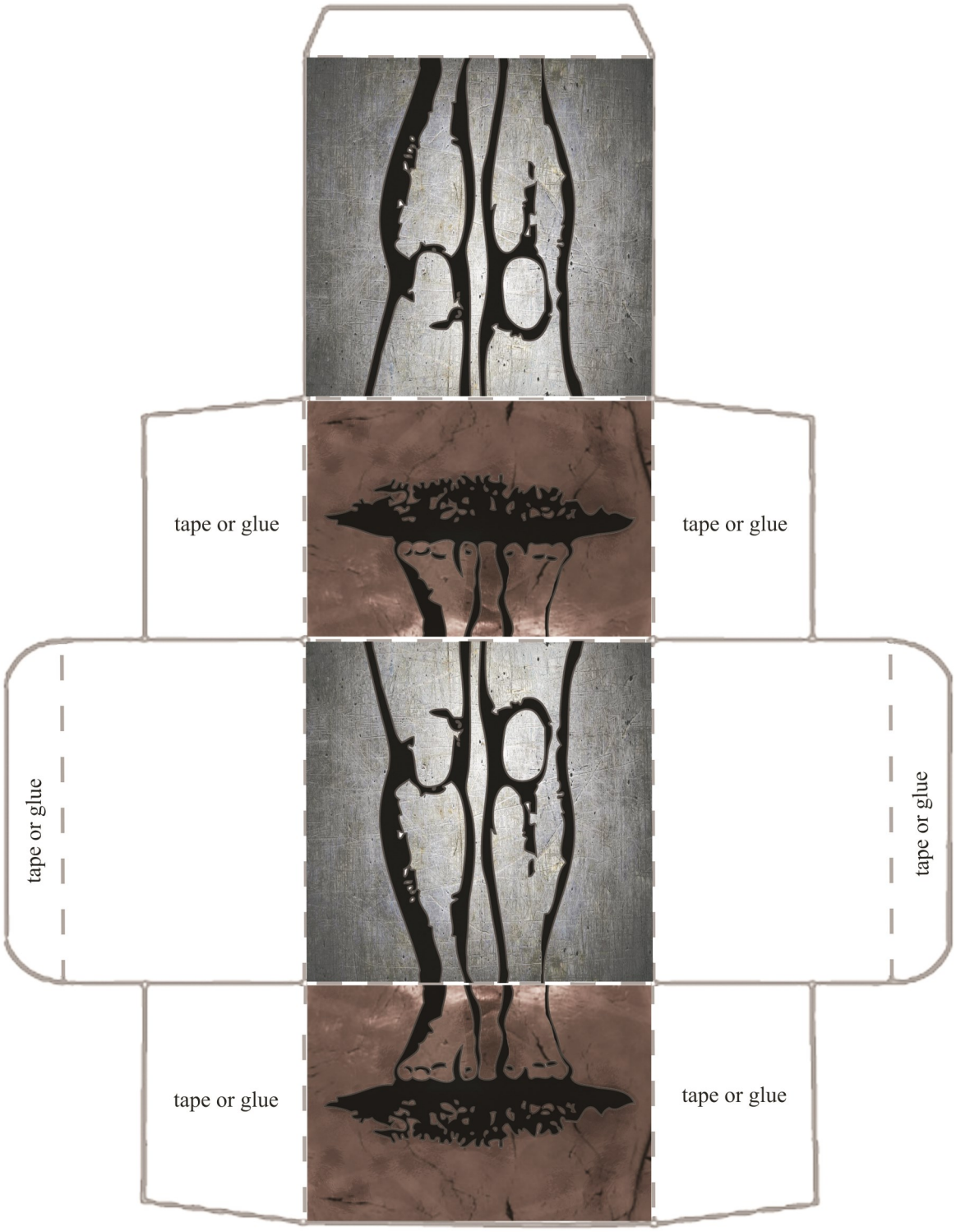


Nebuchadnezzar's Dream Statue



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Nebuchadnezzar's Dream Statue

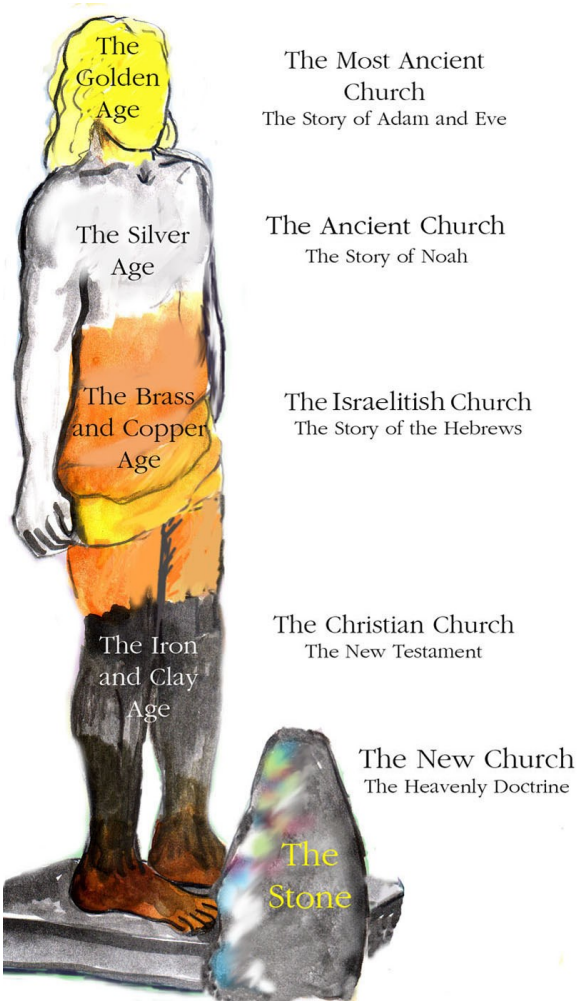


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Nebuchadnezzar's Dream Rock



For Teachers: The Meaning of the Statue



Many people have interpreted the meaning of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's Dream as having to do with the history of civilizations. Although we have not focused on this aspect in the materials for students, the New Church has been given a variation of this understanding. Instead of earthly civilizations, we are taught that the different parts of the statue represent different churches, or religions, that the Lord has established on the earth.

The way the Lord established these religions or churches was through revelations. The Lord helps people find the way to heaven by revealing Himself to them. Over time, as the human race developed, the Lord provided new revelations, so that all people might know Him.

Historically, the Lord has established five churches on earth where He is known, each with a distinctive revelation. These churches are the Most Ancient Church, the Ancient Church, the Israelitish Church, the Christian Church, and the New Church. The statue and the rock in Nebuchadnezzar's dream represents these churches.

The revelation for **The Most Ancient Church** was not written. Instead the Lord gave the Most Ancients dreams and visions as well as the ability to communicate with angels. He also filled their minds with heavenly ideas, for they perceived spiritual meanings in everything they saw in nature. The golden head of the statue represented the Most Ancient Church.

The **Ancient Church** was given a revelation called the Ancient Word, written as stories with spiritual meanings. Most of this Word was lost, but a portion is found at the beginning of the book of Genesis. The silver chest of the statue represented the Ancient Church.

The Lord gave the **Israelitish Church** the Old Testament by means of Moses and other prophets. The Old Testament tells about the history of the Israelites while also teaching us about the Lord and His laws of order. The belly and thighs of the statue represented the Israelitish Church.

The New Testament was the new revelation given as the **Christian Church** was established. This part of the Word tells us what the Lord did on earth, describing His miracles and what He taught people. It also prophesies how the Lord would establish the New Church. The legs and feet of the statue represented the Christian Church.

The revelation given to the **New Church** is called the "Heavenly Doctrine of the New Jerusalem" or "The Writings". It tells the inner meaning of stories in the Old and New Testaments and provides us with new teachings about the Lord, heaven, and marriage which people are now ready to receive. The stone that broke the statue and grew to fill the earth represents the New Church.

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