

most of the next 1500 years. For many centuries the Latin language continued to be the medium of scholarly intercourse, and the administrative terms characteristic of the Roman empire were preserved in the Roman Catholic church. Even today the pope is often called a "pontiff," and the letters P.M. (Pontifex Maximus) that were proudly used after the names of Roman emperors are affixed to those of Roman Catholic popes. Roman tradition continues in varying extent in much of Europe and America.

In the area that had belonged to the Babylonian and Persian empires the situation has been different. Shortly after A.D. 600 a new force came out of the desert, bringing a different language and culture to dominance in most of this area. For more than a thousand years the followers of Mohammed controlled most of the region formerly held by the Babylonian and Persian empires, including most of the areas directly involved in biblical history.

Knowledge of these basic facts is vital to an understanding of the general structure of the book of Daniel. It will be necessary to touch upon further details at various points in our discussion of the relevant passages in Daniel's predictions.

We should be very careful not to look briefly at a prophecy of Daniel and then try to twist ancient history into conformity with our understanding of the prophecy. Where historical facts are known they should be carefully examined in order to determine fairly and objectively their relation to Daniel's predictions.

2. The Need of Special Attention to Problems of Translation

The men who made the King James Version (KJV) were outstanding scholars, thoroughly trained in the original languages. Their translation was an excellent one for their day. Like all human beings they were fallible and occasionally made mistakes, but it can safely be asserted that rarely if ever has a more accurate translation been made of any book into any language. Yet this version is now more than