

after Nebuchadnezzar's death, he conquered Babylon. So we have this second kingdom--Cyrus, the Persian. In 559 he became king. In 546 he conquered Asia Minor. In 539 he conquered Babylon. In 529 he died.

There's quite a bit on this chart that relates to later chs., not just to this ch. After him came the Hellenistic (or Greek) empire, and then the Roman Republic or empire.

The critical theory. I've referred to it before. We are not in this course trying to prove the authenticity of Daniel. We accept it as part of the Bible, as part of that upon which our Lord Jesus put His seal as being authentic and genuine. But, as I mentioned last time, Porphyry in the 3rd century A.D. advanced the theory that the book of Daniel was not written in the time of Nebuchadnezzar but written in the time of the Hellenistic empire, at a time of great crisis, of the Jews. We'll look at this later on.

At that time somebody wrote this and described past history as if it were predicted. You notice the difficulty immediately they have. The Hellenistic empire is the third of these empires. So the critics all say, The man who wrote the book of Daniel thought there was first the Babylonian empire, then the Median empire, then the Persian, and now the Greek empire in his own day. Actually, as we mentioned, Cyrus had the Medes entirely under his control and they formed part of his army before he destroyed the Babylonian empire. So the critics say the writer was mistaken in his idea of the history but on most things it is so accurate that it must be it was written later! rather than earlier.

Incidentally you remember the phrase occurs in the book of Esther: "the law of the Medes and Persians." It combines the two as one power. In Daniel 5 where it tells of the conquest of Babylon it says, it shall be given to the Medes and Persians. So to say Daniel believed in a separate Median empire is contrary to the facts.

(Question: I misunderstood something. You said the man who wrote Daniel had a wrong view of history, and he saw the kingdoms differently?)

That was the view of the critics . . . Babylon, then the kingdom of the Medes, then the Persians, and then the Greeks. But the Medes and the Persians are historically one empire.

E. The Fifth part of the Statue. ~~XXXXXXXX~~

1. Are there four kingdoms or five? I don't think you could tell from the book of Daniel. He says the fourth kingdom will be strong as iron. Whereas thou sawest the feet and toes part of potter's clay and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided." Does he mean by that the next kingdom, or the same kingdom? I don't think you could prove it from this chapter, but I think you find conclusive evidence about it when you get on a little further, in the book of Daniel.

2. The symbolic meaning of the Potter's Clay (which, of course means, weak or brittle). We think of clay as being