

So the Roman empire lasted nearly as long as the three previous ones put together. Thus we are looking at the picture and seeing in the distance, we see the fourth kingdom. But the Roman empire was not taken over by another empire. Instead of that the Roman empire divided into parts and was taken over by various groups, all of whom claimed to be successors to the Roman emperor.

Even in the Middle Ages the title of the Roman emperor was taken by the German emperors who would get the pope to crown them. Thus the great historian said of this, the Holy Roman Empire was neither holy, nor Roman, nor an empire! That's a fact, and yet the name was kept right up until 1814 when the name was abandon. But the general culture and features of the Roman empire did not come to an end like the other three being conquered by another, but there has been gradual change and there has been revived interest in Rome and ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ revival of features, and all through it the RC church has retained quite a bit of machinery of the Roman empire.

The word "diocese" was a province of the Roman empire. The RC church took it over for a region a bishop controls. The Roman emperor as the man who built the bridges around Rome was called the Pontifex Maximus, the chief bridge builder and when he came to be head of the pagan religions he'd always use that title. Julius ~~Caesar~~ Caesar though he probably never built a bridge called himself the Chief Bridge Builder, the Pontifex Maximus. The Popes use that exact title to this very day! They call themselves Pontifex Maximus, Chief Bridge Builder and you refer to the Pope as a Pontif.

So it's possible as we look at the future that in the perspective there is a long interval in between, and then something else that may look to us like a second phase of the Roman empire or it is possible that what the prophet saw as this empire expresses a long period coming to the second coming of Christ. If we go on we may find evidence that presupposes us to one or the other of these interpretations. But at this point I believe we should consider them both as life options. I did not mention that in my outline and I appreciate greatly the question that was handed in which I think makes a valuable improvement in our understanding at this point.

III The Prophecy of Daniel 7

There are many incidental features of great interest in Dan. 7 but I question how much time I should spend on them because I have a great deal of great importance in the book of Daniel we want to look at in the time we have in this semester.

So I'll run over some of these a bit rapidly.

A. The setting of the prophecy.

It is important to remember that it was 45 yrs. after Dan. 2. So with a 45 yr. span between, I think we are justified