

said to Nebuchadnezzar, Thou art this head of gold, we are left with the question, Is Nebuchadnezzar that head of gold, or is the neo-Babylonian empire the head of gold, or is it the whole period of Assyro-Babylonian spuremacy? Which latter I think is most likely, but I would not be dogmatic about it.

We have these ten new kings, and immediately you ask: We are simply told there are 10 horns. This beast had 10 horns. Do these 10w horns represent 10 kings who reign at the same time? Or do they represent 10 kings who came one after the other? We have no way to prove from the statement in ch. 7. Either is a possibility of interpretation, whether they are simultaneous or whether they are successive. We find that a little horn came up and before it three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. That seems to suggest that this represents 10 kings who reigned at one time in different areas and that a new one came up and got control of three of them. It suggests that.

On the other hand those who hold the critical theory say that before Antiochus Epiphanes his father had died and his brother who had ruled just before him had been murdered, and the brother's son who should logically have succeeded him, he got in ahead of him and seized the power. So they say the three kings disappeared before him. Well, I do not think the critical interpretation is correct, but I ~~can~~ can't say on this particular idea it might be three successive kings, rather than three simultaseous kings - that they are necessarily wrong in that particular teaching. We cannot draw a great deal more from this passage. We have two possibilities.

3. The Rise of the Little Horn. vv.8,11,20

You of course have looked at these in the course of your study of the chapter and you have noticed that vv.8 and 24 tell about the growing power of this little horn. This little horn came up and became bigger than the others, stronger than the others. Three disappeared before it.

We find it arrogant in v. 25. He shall speak great words against the Most High. This is part of the interpretation. In the picture it said he had eyes like the eyes of a man and a mouth speaking great things. He shall speak great words against the Most High and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and think to change the times and the seasons.

It wasn't so many years ago when some were suggesting that this was Franklin Delano Roosevelt who tried to change the date of Thanksgiving! But he did not succeed. Since that time we have had Congress change the dates of a number of our holidays but I don't think it applies to Congress here! But it describes the arrogance of this one, his attempts to make great changes. Some have thought this was fulfilled in Julius Caesar because Julius Caesar changed times and seasons when he introduced a new calendar which we have used ever since except for a slight modification made 200 years ago. But I certainly don't think it is speaking about Julius Caesar.