

I believe we had finished our general discussion of what is given about the new kingdom in that ch. Then we were ready to look at

H. Conclusions regarding chs. 2 and 7.

We have four kingdoms described in both of them.

Now as a matter of methodology === when we had ch. 2 I said from this ch. you can't tell whether there are four kingdoms or five. I think that is vital we recognize that. We do not get from ch. 2 the assurance there are four kingdoms. Ch. 2 has either 4 sections or 5, and you can't tell which. But when you come to ch. 7 this question is answered.

So 45 years later God reveals that there were four, not five. But there is a second phase of the fourth animal which is represented by the fifth part of the statue. So there is a very important part of the teaching of these two chapters.

The four kingdoms there described can be seen in history. We believe that Daniel wrote this book in the time of Nebuchadnezzar and have no trouble fitting them with history. The Babylonian kingdom, the Persian empire, the Hellenistic empire and the Roman empire. Those who hold the critical view that it was not written until the time of Antiochus Epiphanes, and that it goes up to that period only, they have a history of three kingdoms, and predictions of four and they have to imagine a separate Median kingdom which did not exist.

So as far as the history is concerned, those who accept it as a genuine book by Daniel have no problem. Now as to the relation of the second part of the fourth kingdom to the first, it is quite evident that that second part has not yet occurred. The nearest to it would be from 400 to 600 A.D. which would come very near to fitting it, but there is a phrase in there about mingling with the seed of men which is pretty hard to understand. It's hard to know what it means. Personally I think that what it means will become clear when that period comes.

If you say that fits with the period 400 - 600 A.D. that could fit with almost of all history before that, so it's not much of a distinctive feature. More important is the fact the stone hits the statue on the feet and toes, and at the end of the Roman empire there was no establishment of a new kingdom which completely destroyed every vestige of the four kingdoms. That is to say of the qualities that enter into the human governments as shown in those four kingdoms.

So it seems to me that this second part must be something that is still future. There we have two possibilities. One is that there is an unmentioned interval. You have the first part and then you have a long space that is not seen, and then you have the second part.

The other possibility is that the === that you have the four great kingdoms as they would seem looking forward from Daniel's time, the first three being taken over by the succeeding ones; the fourth one not being taken over but having many different changes as they were overrun by new peoples and gradual changes taking place so that as the prophet looked forward he would see that