

destroyed, it is not the first kingdom, the head of gold, Nebuchadnezzar, it is not the second kingdom, the Medo-Persian empire. It is not the Grecian empire, it is the fourth kingdom, the second phase of the fourth kingdom, and is the others in so far as their characteristics are included in it, and consequently there is a unit/. Now, as you read this picture here, in this second chapter I am sure that anyone would agree that the picture that is seen here is a picture of an image which would seem to represent a long period of time, four great empires, and then the last one in two great phases, but then we see that "Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet, and brake into ~~pieces~~ pieces, and then was the iron and clay, the silver and brass and gold broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors, and the wind carried them away that no place was found for them, and the stone that ~~smote~~ smote the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth." Does 35 give an evolutionary picture? A picture of a gradual change, a gradual change in which the kingdom of God gradually increases, and the kingdom of man gradually decreases, until the kingdom of God is everything, and the kingdom of man is nothing. That is a possible concept, certainly, but is this a natural way to present that kind of a concept? v.35 here. A stone was cut out without hands. Well, conceivably there could be a stone just comes out of the mountain/, it is cut out without hands, it could happen in an instant, or conceivably the rain could wash away and cut and cut and cut through millions of years until finally the stone is cut without hands, and off it comes. Conceivably, tho the impression is certainly one more of a sudden cutting, than of an extremely gradual and slow cutting, but then the stone is cut without hands and smites/ the image. Is the natural thing that this stone is cut out of the mountain, and then it starts to roll, and it rolls, and it rolls for several thousand years until finally it gets to the image and hits the foot of it, and knocks it over. That is certainly not what the man dreamt. Now that's a perfectly good concept, but if that is the concept, some other kind of a picture would be a much more natural picture to represent it than this picture. This picture of the stone smiting, rather than