

a gradual rolling of the stone. And then we read here that the stone smites the image, and the image is all torn up to pieces, and blown away, there's no room for it, and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. Does this sound like a ~~picture~~ picture of something which we say, we have four great empires, and the last one has two phases, and then this thing which happens, of this stone smites, and gradually the image is blown away, and gradually the image grows, and that takes two or three times as long as all four of the empires put together in their history, as gradually it grows until it becomes a great mountain, filling the whole earth, and gradually the wind blows the stone away. I am sure that nobody reading this passage would get that kind of picture, the kind of a picture you get is a sudden thing, it is broken to pieces and blown away, ~~and~~ and the stone becomes a great mountain, and surely this sounds as if the stone grows after the image is destroyed. It would be a very unnatural way to interpret this verse to say that ~~as~~ the stone has made its growth before the image is destroyed. The other is the natural picture. Well, now, what is the interpretation? There are three<sup>d</sup> interpretations of this. One interpretation is the critical interpretation. A.E., the great empire is smitten by the stone and destroyed. We can't believe that. If that is so, Daniel is a myth. Daniel is an imaginary book. Daniel is somebody's ideas without much foundation. You cannot fit these four empires to end with A.E., you can't fit it together with any picture of actuality as it happened. You might say the kingdom of the saints succeeded. The Jews won their freedom from A.E., and set up the realm controlled by the descendents of the Maccabees. But what happened? Within a century or less they had so degenerated that all the pious Jews looked on them, the kings and the rulers as the very worst of the Jews, and it degenerated and it was looked upon with contempt and hatred by all future generations. It didn't grow as a great kingdom of God and fill the whole earth, and within a century or two it was taken over by the Romans and conquered, and then Rome was destroyed. There is no, from A.E. on, no ~~growing~~ growing of the stone to become a mountain and fill the whole earth. There is just nothing there to fit with it. So, from the critical view that the fourth kingdom is the Greek