

image with the history of the kingdoms that they represented.

Since the third kingdom was represented by the belly and thighs, it might be suggested that the third kingdom would be a unified structure during a great part of its existence, but would eventually divide into two parts. As a matter of fact the Greek empire existed as a unit for hardly a score of years and was then broken into three great independent kingdoms and a number of smaller ones. The account does not pinpoint the change from bronze to iron. Since the thighs, which were made of bronze, are part of the third kingdom, it is quite evident that the upper part of the legs still represents the third kingdom, and that the part of the image that represents the fourth kingdom is from its very beginning divided into two separate structures. This would be true whether the iron began at the knees or somewhat nearer to the hips. In either case it would not give a detailed picture of the Roman empire which, unlike the Greek empire, was a highly centralized organization, and continued to have all authority centered in Rome for several centuries. The idea of an eastern and a western Roman empire did not even begin until the unified Roman empire had existed for a longer period than the entire history of each of the two preceding kingdoms.¹

Caution is also necessary in the application of a fourth criterion, which involves the carrying of symbolism back and forth between two parallel visions. Although the symbolism of chapter 7 is very different from that of chapter 2, there is so much similarity of general outline that most interpreters consider them to represent the same general course of events. In chapter 7 the fourth beast is represented as having ten horns, a very unusual feature. It is explicitly stated that these ten horns represent ten kings. Many interpreters carry this back into the interpretation of chapter 2 and say that the toes of the image must also represent these ten kings. Inherently there is no reason why the toes should have a specific meaning any more than the fingers. It is not stated that Nebuchadnezzar noticed how many toes were actually depicted on the statue, nor does