

portion of the known world, it is necessary to consider how this long period can fit with the predictions of Nebuchadnezzar's dream. Three possible solutions should be mentioned.

The first is to think of the second phase as beginning about A.D. 400 and continuing to the end of the time pictured by the statue. This would require a tremendous foreshortening. Even if the dynamic events were to end in the very near future, what is represented by the feet would be several times as long as all the other parts of the statue put together. While it is possible for a prophet, as he looks forward into the future, to see long periods so telescoped that they appear short, this solution would seem to require an extreme disproportion in the parts of the statue.

A second possibility would be to consider the legs of the statue as reaching from the foundation of the Roman empire to the present time, with the period represented by the feet either now in progress or still future. In this case the required foreshortening would be proportionately far less than if the first suggestion were taken. This suggestion is not as unlikely as it might seem at first sight. Some of the barbarian tribes that overran the Roman Empire claimed to be representing the Roman emperor in Constantinople, and in their forms and practices they took over much that was characteristic of ancient Rome. Roman culture and terminology have continued to exert great influence in most of Europe and even in North and South America. Even within the present century Latin terms and expressions have played a large part in the practices of our law courts and in the usages of many churches.

A third possibility is to consider that there is a long unmentioned interval<sup>11</sup> between the period represented by the legs and that represented by the feet. Since there are many such unmentioned intervals in the various prophecies contained in the Book of Daniel this must be regarded as a definite possibility.

Nebuchadnezzar's vision provided a general summary of vital features of God's plan. It particularly stressed the eventual destruction of all wicked human government and