

beasts, though he had realized that each of them had been replaced in power by a succeeding one. Now he tells about something that he had already seen but had not yet mentioned, that though these beasts, one after another, had lost their power, they had continued to live for a period of time!

The characteristics of each kingdom did not disappear when it was conquered but continued to some extent under the next kingdom. In each case the language and culture of the previous kingdom remained for a time as an important factor, and the ungodly features of each kingdom were displayed anew in the activities of the following one. Thus many of the characteristics of Nebuchadnezzar's rule were continued by the Persians. Some of the monuments erected by Cyrus and his successors even included portions written in the Babylonian language and using the Babylonian type of writing. Comparison of these inscriptions with their parallels in Old Persian gave archaeologists the first key for deciphering the Babylonian and Assyrian inscriptions.

When the Persian empire was conquered by Alexander it was his desire to unite the two nations into one people. He followed the Persian system of organization by which the empire was divided into sections called satrapies. Soon after his early death his generals began to fight for supreme control and for forty years their armies marched and countermarched, fighting many great battles against one another. Yet during all this turmoil the general populace remained fairly quiet. In many parts of the Hellenistic kingdoms into which Alexander's empire was divided, Persian culture continued to be a vital factor.

Thus each of the first two beasts could be said to live on for a time after its dominion was taken away. The statement was even more applicable in the case of the third beast. Except for administrative documents the Greek language continued to be generally used throughout the eastern portion of the Roman empire. Eventually Greek culture was widely adopted in Rome and came to have so great an influence on Roman life and thought that the Greeks could almost be said to have conquered their conquerors. The