

statement that they "were allowed to live for a period of time" can well be taken as showing that many of the features of each kingdom would continue for quite a time after its dominion had been lost.

In the case of the fourth beast Daniel saw an entirely different situation. When it lost its authority, it ceased to live. The statement in verse 11 that its body was destroyed and given to the blazing fire indicates that all its characteristics would come to a final end, including those qualities inherited from the previous three kingdoms. Not only the iron and clay, but also the bronze, the silver and the gold would disappear.

3. The Son of Man

(13) "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached^a the Ancient of Days and was led^b into his presence. (14) He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations, and men of every language worshiped him.^c His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."

^aBetter, "he had approached." The perfect tense may properly be translated as an English pluperfect, as the NIV has rendered this same tense in v. 12 and elsewhere.

^bBetter, "and been led."

^cBetter, "that all...should worship him." This is a more accurate rendering of the Aramaic imperfect (cf. KJV "should serve him").⁹

Verse 13 introduces a new character, "one like a son of man." In ordinary usage this phrase could be used simply to mean an individual man. In Daniel 8:17 Gabriel addresses Daniel as "son of man." In Ezekiel God uses the same term dozens of times in addressing the prophet. In the verse now