

since the time when the historic Roman empire is often said to have come to an end (A.D. 400-600). In chapter 2 the stone hits the statue on its feet, which represent the second phase of the fourth kingdom. Similarly in chapter 7 the little horn and the ten horns among which it appears come out of the fourth kingdom. These events can hardly be said to have occurred as yet. Today an even larger part of the world is under the control of brutal dictatorial governments than in the time of the historic Roman empire. Even in those sections of the world that boast a large measure of freedom, corruption and wickedness are often found in high places.

As we saw, there are three possible ways of explaining the long period of time since A.D. 400: (1) the possibility that the phase represented by the feet and toes can be thought of as starting at about A.D. 400-600 and continuing through all the intervening time until the actual destruction of the fourth beast; (2) the possibility that the fourth beast is to be thought of as continuing through all the centuries since A.D. 400-600, so that there is a continued though foreshortened view of the fourth beast which will include a final period when the condition indicated by the feet and toes will exist and the little horn will appear; (3) the possibility that the first phase of the fourth kingdom ended at about A.D. 400-600, and that there is a long unmentioned interval in the prophetic picture between its first and second phase. It is probably impossible, as yet, to know with certainty which of these three models best fits the relation of the prophecy to its fulfillment. As of now, the present writer inclines toward the second. There is a remarkable parallel between the latter part of these chapters and the picture in Revelation 19:11-20:6.

There a supernatural force, headed by One who is designated as King of kings and Lord of lords (19:16) defeats the ungodly hosts of wickedness and establishes a universal kingdom (20:4). After one thousand years a great attempt is made to overthrow this kingdom (Rev. 20:7-9), but this attempt is a complete failure, paralleling the statements in chapters 2 and 7 that the new divine kingdom will never be destroyed or taken over by another people.