

might have said, Now our time has come. Our conqueror Neb., his kingdom is destroyed, we have this new kingdom. But then they could see what God had revealed to Dan. in the days of Neb. and say, No let's go slow about this. This new kgdm. has conquered Neb.'s kingdom, it is strong than his was, it covers a wider territory, just as the arms reach out farther than the head, it's larger --the kgdm. of Persia covered a much larger territory than was covered by the territory of Neb. But Dan's vision showed that this kingdom was also to be destroyed and succeeded by a third kingdom.

So as they read this vision, it would give them patience. They would say, This is a wonderful improvement, but it is not the end. The vision that Neb. saw and Dan. repeated to him showed that this second kgdm. was to be succeeded by a third kingdom. As you look at these lōsts of the account of this sātue, you can see certain features in common between each of these kingdoms and these descriptions. For instance, the second of these is the kingdom of Medo-Persia. As we read the Bible dealing with that time, we read that the law of the Medes and Persians cannot be broken. You might say that is a dual kgdm. It is a kgdm. with two parts, and it represented here by the part of the image that has two arms. That does not mean that the fingers mean anything particularly about this kgdm. That is something we must watch about all symbolism, about all picturization that way. There will be features that have meaning but there are other features that are quite incidental. So we note similarities but we don't try to say that it is a full and complete picture by any means.

This second kgdm. -- of the Medes and Persians -- lasted much longer than Neb.'s kingdom lasted. It covered a much wider territory. It was a much stronger kingdom. I think it was the tack of the Holy Spirit that in giving this vision to Neb. he said, Thou, O king are this head of gold! Neb. was happy to think he was the head of gold, that he was the most valuable one of all. He did not stop to think perhaps that there was more strength in the bronze and in the iron, in these other things, than is actually in the gold. It was given in such a way so as not to arouse hatred against (Daniel's) people, not to make it hard for them to continue, yet to convey the message to them of patience. God has a purpose beyond these kingdoms. Here is a picture of a long future, and God's purpose is in this. We can trust God and know He will work out these things in accordance with His holy will.

So we have this second kgdm. --Medes and Persians. Then I should have said the second kgdm. was silver. Then the third kgdm. is one of bronze, which is stronger, much stronger probably than either of the first two. The third kgdm. which was the belly and thighs of bronze, represents the kgdm. of Alexander the Great. This kgdm. also has a division into parts. It is described in other chs. of Daniel which show the great speed with which Alexander conquered the great empire of the Persians. Then after this, he says, there is a fourth one which first is he says of iron, then of iron mingled with clay. Now