

but they had definite rights. The power of the king, though very great was not absolute. In these various kingdoms there was sometimes more autocracy, sometimes less. You cannot show a progression in that regard.

So I was puzzled by that statement "after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee", so I asked the question, Is this "inferior" a correct translation? I went to the Aramaic and I found there the word was arcah (?) which is Aramaic corresponding to Hebrew eretz meaning earth. It has an ending which means "toward." The word occurs only in this place in the Aramaic Bible. Literally it means "toward the earth." I was told 30 years ago, by the man who was then professor of Aramaic studies in Chicago, that he was making up a complete list of all the words in all the Aramaic inscriptions that have been found, and in all the Aramaic literature that has been preserved.

present

So I wrote to the Professor of Aramaic there and I asked him, Could you tell me from this list whether there is any other case you could call my attention to where this word means "inferior" and he said, I know of no case where in context the word means "inferior". He said as far as a list of all the Aramaic words is concerned, I don't know of any such thing here. So it may be the former professor took it with him when he retired, I don't know. However, he said, it is perfectly obvious here in Daniel that it means "inferior."

I don't think we can decide what a word means by saying it is perfectly obvious! The word means "toward the earth." The Persian empire was not inferior to the Babylonian kingdom; it was superior in many regards. If this means "toward the earth", I think he is simply speaking of the place on the statue. "You are the head of gold; and after you will be another kingdom which is lower down on the statue." And after it will be another kingdom of bronze. The third kingdom wasn't specifically of bronze. In fact, they were using mostly iron weapons at that time, but it was represented by bronze on the statue.

So to take it that there is a progression or they are getting weaker in some regards, is reading into Scripture on the basis of the translation of one word, and the translation is not warranted. It means lower down on the statue. There are four kingdoms which actually increase in strength and in size, rather than decrease.

4. The Second, Third and Fourth Kingdoms.

I have already mentioned the fact of what they would seem to be, because in the sheet I gave you out, it explains Cyrus the Persian conquered the Medes. When he became king over the Persians they were subject to some extent to this loose confederation of Medes, and he married the daughter of the Median king, and eventually he declared his independence of them. He then fought them; overcame them and put them under his control and led them to conquer other nations around and they came to the west-north of Babylon and went up and conquered the whole of Asia Minor. After they had conquered all that territory, a territory much larger than the area Nebuchadnezzar had, then he turned southward and went against Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom, and in 539, twenty-three years