

Then he tells about the next kingdom which was the Persian empire which lasted for 200 yrs. He describes--he doesn't tell much about it. You just see there was a kingdom following Nebuchadnezzar. The Persian Empire. Then he tells about the next part which was of bronze. That's the Greek empire of Alexander the Great, and his successors. Then he tells about the iron kingdom. Like iron it crushes and breaks everything. It shows the tremendous strength of the Roman empire. Then he shows the latter part of it being broken up into small parts that did not hold together the way they did, but still it has some of the strength of the iron.

I believe that as he looked forward into the future the Roman empire extended on. Because the Roman civilization has been very very important in Europe and in America ever since the Romans began.

Student: I see the progress from gold to bronze.

AAM: Gold to silver

Student: Gold to silver, bronze to iron and clay. What is the significance. . . It seems like gold is the best. It seems like it's a regression. Each kingdom was ?

AAM: Actually I don't believe there is anything characteristic of the first three kingdoms. It just says that three different metals. They are different. As to there being a decrease, it was not so historically. They are just different. But when you come to the fourth one it says, This is of iron, and like iron it crushes and breaks. Iron is the strongest of the four by far. Gold is actually a very soft metal. It has to be strengthened with something else. While we consider gold worth more money than silver or bronze, why for practical purposes they are of far more use than gold.

So of the first three I would say there is no distinction between them except that they are different. It doesn't say anything about it having meaning. But the fourth one, it says it is like iron that crushes. There the iron has a definite meaning. Then it says, the feet are partly of iron and partly of clay. That is showing the strength of the iron mixed with ~~the~~ something else. I think that shows the Roman civilization as it just continued ever since, as the descendants of it have been mixed up into different sections, and all inheriting that same Roman civilization and many of the Roman characteristics of government, etc. which we still have to a very large extent.

Student: Do Christian interpreters make a lot of the development?

AAM: There are some who try to show a decreasing value of the metals. But I don't think that works out. I think that they simply are different. Because when it comes to size, the Persian empire was much bigger than the Babylonian empire. The Greek empire was much bigger than the Persian. Then the Roman empire had the whole half of the Persian empire plus a lot of new things. So it would probably be about the same size as the Persian empire. But there's no decrease in size or in population. There are some who have said the mixture of the iron and clay represents the