

And here it speaks of the feet and toes. And of course if it was at all a normal creature it would have ten toes as a statue. So there is this number 10 mentioned but I don't know anything in the history of the actual time then that fits with the ten. So we have the Babylonian empire over here that went for about 50 yrs. We had the Persian here that went for c. 200 yrs. We have the period of Hellenistic power which the kingdom of Macedonia lasted a little over 100 yrs. The kingdom of Seleucus lasted c. 200 - 250 yrs. The kingdom of the Ptolemies lasted for a full 300 yrs. But the Greek civilization, the Greek ideas, the Greek attitude permeated that area and continued to do so. In fact, even in Rome the cultured people spoke Greek. Even at the time of Christ the early Christian writings in Rome were all in Greek. You had to go to N. Africa to find Christian writings that had come down to us that are Latin rather than Greek. The Romans at that time were looked at as the conquerors, as a ruler, as a political force. But there was this political culture of Greek which permeated the whole of the Roman empire. So you can't say really when the empire that began with Alexander the Great's tremendous conquests, is replaced by the Roman empire. But the Roman power seemed so very great as illustrated by Antiochus Epiphanes attitude when the Senator came to him from Rome, it seemed like such a tremendous power that he pictured the iron, the strength of the iron.

And it pictured the beast great and terrible there that was different from all the beasts before it is a good picture. And the Roman Empire covered all the area that the Babylonian had covered. It did not cover all the area that the next two had covered because the Roman power never went much beyond Babylon. In Persia the Parthian force began c. 200 B.C. and developed into a pretty strong force, so much so that Roman writers at c. 100 A.D. said Rome was the great area of wealth but Parthia was the place to train for power. I think actually that was an exaggeration but Parthia was a great force and one Parthian king even met a Roman emperor and defeated him in battle and made this Roman emperor sort of kicked around the rest of his life. He made him bend over for him to step on his back whenever he wanted to get on his horse the rest of his life. So Parthia of which we know practically nothing was a great force, and took over perhaps a third or maybe half of the area of the Persian empire had held or that the Greek empire had held. So that