

That God has to gradually convert the world, is purely theoretical! But his view has been widely presented. I don't know if you can say widely, but it has been coming into greater prominence in these last few months than I have known at any ~~xxxx~~ time in my life.

I do not wish at this point to rule it out. I want us to carefully consider the evidence and see whether it fits with it. But we notice the second possibility: that the second advent of Christ is the stone, which we saw seems to fit the picture best but the difficulty is the disappearance of the Roman Empire.

At the end of the hour I mentioned the question: Is an unmentioned interval a possibility? And at the end of the hour I was given a question which I appreciate being given to me. Any of you who have questions or suggestions, I would certainly appreciate your writing them out and giving them to me. We will consider them, and I will either speak to you personally about them, or they will be covered in the course of the lecture at a later time.

This very intelligent question said, Why could not the distinctive characteristic feature of the Roman Empire be seen in the Roman Catholic Church as a continuation of the Roman Empire, and have no ~~xxxxxxxx~~ unmentioned interval? That impressed me as a very interesting suggestion. I'm not sure I would say it exactly that way, but it does seem to me that we can recognize the perspective of prophecy. That as the prophet looks to the future-- you might say it's as if you were up on a high hill and you look out at the distant landscape. As you look you see a range of mountains. Then you see another range behind them. You can't see whether there is a valley between, a valley that is perhaps half a mile wide or perhaps 10 miles wide. Often you cannot tell.

So the possibility of an unmentioned interval is something that must be kept in mind as a possibility. But the other possibility which I appreciate having mentioned to me here is I think also a possibility worthy of consideration. That is when you look at these Kingdoms that Daniel tells us about, you have the Babylonian empire coming to a certain point and then being taken over by the Persian and that would be the end of the Babylonian empire. The Persians took it over and ~~h~~ they held it for 200 years and when they were in a very great strength, Alexander the great came from the west with his very skillful army and within a dozen years he conquered that tremendous empire, and the Persian empire came to an end and what we call the Hellenistic empire succeeded it.

Alexander's successors with their type of government, they were divided into several groups but with a distinctive type of government much different from the Persian, they continued until each of the parts was taken over by the Roman empire and put to an end as the Roman empire took it over and by the time of Christ the Roman empire had taken over all of Alexander's empire and it lasted another four centuries, after the time of Christ.