

easy to take that. Now the objection has just been made that ~~in~~ the 4th kingdom seems to be in two parts, so much so you would almost say it was two kingdoms. And as a matter of fact, the Lord was ~~born~~ born at the very beginning of ~~the~~ Roman empire. And in fifty, at most, after Palestine has been taken over by the Roman empire, it actually only became an empire in about 30 B.C., it had been a republic before that, and of course, it had been conquering more and more, but it had only conquered Palestine in the time of Christ, I mean within fifty years before the time of Christ, and it was about that time that it conquered most of the eastern area, which had been under Nebu. And much of that eastern area/^{it} never did hold. But this is near the beginning of the Roman empire. How do you account that there seems to be two stages in the Roman Empire, after all, there's the division into two, and then down to the toes and all that. It seems a little too early in the R.E. for it, so we'll say that is an objection to the second view. But as against that objection to the second view, we have what seems to be a greater objection to the third view. It seems to be a picture of four kingdoms, and you'd say one of these kingdoms ^{is} might be five times as long as another. But, you say, that the fourth kingdom is three or four times as long as the whole first three put together. That just seems a tremendous foreshortening, and in addition to that, you can think of the empire of Nebu. 70 years as a unified thing. It is conquered by the Persians and here's a unified thing, one to another, 200 years. Same control, same group in control, some headquarters, it may switch a little, but it is a unified thing. Then you have it conquered by Alexander, and immediately it breaks up in his death among his generals, but the generals' descendants go on ruling, it is pretty much the same kingdom with certain changes, certain lands shifting back and forth, but the same thing going on for a period of about ~~100~~ 150 years or so. Nearly 200. Then you have, however, the Roman empire, its a unified thing, you have these rulers ruling, and it comes on for maybe 3 or 400 years, but then your Roman empire is all split up. Who'd say you've got a Roman Empire today? Who would have said 400 years you have a Roman empire. There was what they called the Holy Roman