

Empire, which included only Italy, and Switzerland, and Germany. It didn't include anything, except in a very nominal way, anything either side of them. Charles V in Luther's time was the emperor of the holy R. E., and king of Spain. Spain wasn't part of the Holy R.E. France was entirely ~~distinct~~ distinct from it. The king of Spain, and the king of France both tried to become emperors of the Holy R.E. It was Roman only in name. It had little direct connection with the old R.E. Today there is nothing ~~that~~ that has any connection with the old R.E. So that, from the viewpoint of this third view there is a very long long stretch, with many many changes in it. And to say, all this is one kingdom, and each of these is a kingdom, seems like a most tremendous foreshortening. And in view of that tremendous foreshortening, there are those who would say, this fourth kingdom is not something that runs for 2000 years. But, they would say, the ~~prophecy~~ prophecy has ~~an~~ gap in it. They would say, there is a period of the Roman empire and then they would say, the empire gets divided up, and the prophecy jumps ~~forward~~ forward to a time when remnants out of this land, which was the Roman empire, would be like the toes, ten different kingdoms coming out of this period, and all this is passed over, there is a gap in the history. Now that may seem to you like a very artificial and unnatural way of looking at things. But we will say this that it least compensates if it is a ...7... that can possibly be accepted. It compensates, to some extent for this thing being so long, and with so many changes in it, as compared with these short ones, and so at this moment we do not wish to make a decision among these different methods of interpretation. But what we want to do at this moment is to see the ~~situation~~ situation regarding these things, and to see that from the viewpoint of the first view there is a ~~difficulty~~ difficulty involved. And from the viewpoint of the second there is a ~~difficulty~~ difficulty here that seems to be near the beginning of ~~this~~, and it is hard to account for the length that seems to be there, and from the viewpoint of the third there is the difficulty that it seems to be much too long, and much too many changes to be all in one kingdom, and some suggest getting around ~~it~~ it by putting in a gap between. Now, I don't want to ~~decided~~ decide between these here, because our decision should be made, not on the basis of what looks reasonable, to us, or what seems to us to make sense