

or what fits in with our preconceived ideas, but what fits with the rest of the book. What do we find the rest of the book to prove? And so before making any final decisions about chapter 2, we must study chapter 7. Don't study them together, ~~xxx~~ study each by itself, but as you study it by itself, this is very important for methodology, say, this is certain it shows this. This is certainly not there. It does not show this. There are ~~xxxx~~ these possibilities, get~~x~~ them in mind as possibilities, and don't try to decide between them. That is, if you don't have sufficient evidence to make a reasonable decision~~s~~. Don't jump to a conclusion~~s~~. Say, here's the evidence this way, here's the evidence this way. Now let's compare with another passage. See what that proves by it~~e~~self, and let's see how they fit together, and what light each th~~ro~~ws on the other. We want to be very careful that we don't take a passage, and push it <sup>in line</sup> ~~away~~ with a preconceived idea, and ~~xxx~~ take another and push it in line, and you ~~xxx~~ could six ~~xxxx~~ passages in line with a preconceived idea, where if you would study each of them objectively you might come up with a different idea. That's the thing we want to avoid. Well, now, I want to say a word though about this first viewpoint. It is very very vital that we understand what people do who take the ~~f~~irst viewpoint. Now there is one scholar who says the answer is that this was written before the time of Daniel, this 2nd chapter, or at least, that it takes his mind to things before the time. He says there was something written during the Assyrian empire, and there was a great empire, the Assyrian empire, that's the first, the second is the Babylonian, and the th~~ir~~d is the Medo-Persian, and the fourth is the Greek, and then they sa~~y~~d, This writing which was written in that time has been put into a writing which was connect up with Nebuchadnezzar. Now, that's not a very satisfactory interpretation. But three German scholars advanced that view a century ago, but it is not held. I don't think anybody holds that view today. Now, a second thing that some~~x~~ people did was that they said that the first king was Nebu., the second is the Persian empire, the thrid is Alex. the Great, and the fourth is his successor. And his successors are all divid~~d~~ed up, iron and all this, so that seems to work out. But most say there is very great difficulty in getting any real division of kingdoms