

But he certainly did it a few years before the conquest by Cyrus in 539. So the first year of Belshazzar is either ~~888~~ 556 or later. Forty-five years at least after ch. 2 we have Daniel's vision which not merely shows the four kingdoms shown in ch. 2, and not merely tells about the complete destruction of human government as predicted, but in addition shows something of the latter days before that destruction. It tells about the little horn that fights against the saints and prevails against them until the Ancient of Days comes and gives the victory to the saints and destroys the -- destroys entirely and completely the beast which was represented by the little horn.

Then in the third year of Belshazzar two years later we have this eighth chapter. The ninth ch. says in the first year of Darius the Mede who was made ~~king~~ king over the realm of Babylon and the statement "was made king" should make it rather obvious that Darius the Mede ~~a~~ was not the great emperor, but was Cyrus' representative.

Prof. Weisman thinks this was another name for Cyrus. It seems more likely that it is one spoken of in his inscriptions as Gobyrus. At any rate he was a man who was made king over the Babylonian province under the great emperor Cyrus. He evidently did not hold ~~xxx~~ that position many years. In fact, it says he was quite elderly when he received the kingdom because ch. 10 begins "in the third year of Cyrus the Persian." Which would be about 537.

And so ch. 8 is in the 3rd year of Belshazzar. And No. 2 I said, Shushan. It says in KJV that in his vision he was at Shushan the palace. NIV says, "In my vision I saw myself in the citadel of Susa." Now Shushan is what the Hebrew says. Susa is what the way the NIV takes it. The fact is that both are true because the ancient Babylonians wrote the word as Shushan. But we have pretty good evidence that they did not pronounce it as sh; they pronounced it s. So one is what's actually written in the Hebrew--Shushan. Susa is probably actually the way they pronounced it.

Susa was a great capitol of a regime that had fought the Assyrians for many years though was finally conquered by them. It was probably part of the area that was held by Cyrus at this time when Daniel had this vision. So the fact that Daniel saw himself in this ~~way~~ place to which he had probably gone in the past as a diplomatic representative, but now he sees himself over there is a suggestion of great changes to come.

3. The Order of Presentation. This ~~is~~ we need not linger over because it was an assignment I ~~was~~ gave you some time ago, to look at ch. 8 and not how much was vision and how much was interpretation. vv. 2-12 was vision; then while he was still in the vision he hears a saint ask another a question that the other saint answers. That you might say is still part of the vision but I've simply listed it separately here, vv. 13-14. Then we have 5 vv given where God sends the angel Gabriel to explain the vision to Daniel. He says he will explain it to him, so vv. 20-26 are interpretation. Then the final vv. is Daniel's reaction. He was tremendously upset, as we read in this last verse, by this ~~xxxxx~~ vision, which he had then.