

But here we are. This is the fact as it happened in the time of Daniel, and there is no evidence anybody knew anything about it 400 years later in the time of the Maccabees. So what are we going to believe, - that Daniel was written in the time of Nebuchadnezzar and of Belshazar, or in the time of the Maccabees? Well, you can believe whichever you want, you can take your choice. If you want to, you can believe that it was written by Daniel and at that time; or if you want to, you can believe that it was not written until the Maccabees. But if you believe the latter, let's see what it involves. It involves this: here is the little group of Jews, fighting for their lives against the Assyrian oppressor, and one of these men says, "I am going to write a book to encourage these people to fight valiantly, but", he says, "I must get my facts straight". And so he leaves the army where every arm counted, every arm was needed to keep them from being completely wiped out. He smuggled his way through the Assyrian lines, he makes his way up to the north of Palestine, he goes clear across the desert and gets over there to Mesopotamia, he gets down to Babylon. There in some way he makes friends with one of the priests in the temple and persuades him to teach him the cuneiform writing, then largely forgotten. To teach him the cuneiform writing, to teach him the Babylonian language, he goes into the temple, he studies the archives, he does the work that P_____ and Dougherty did in modern times. And in that study he discovers the fact of the dual rulership in the time of the destruction of Babylon, the name of Belshazar, and that he was killed. Now he has his facts, he gets busy and writes his book to encourage the people. Then he makes his way north in Mesopotamia again, across the edge of the desert, over to Palestine, smuggles his way through the Assyrian army, back to the little band of Jews and publishes his book to encourage them to fight valiantly to win the battle.