

"In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream [*he wrote* the dream] and told the sum of the matters. Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven . . ." In verse 6 he said, "After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard." And verse 9, "I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire."

Look at chapter 8: "In the third year of the reign of king Belshazzar a vision appeared unto me, even unto me Daniel, after that which appeared unto me at the first. And I saw in a vision; and it came to pass, when I saw, that I was at Shushan in the palace," and then follows a beautiful report.

Turn over to chapter 9: "In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes, which was made king over the realm of the Chaldeans; in the first year of his reign, I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem. And I set my face unto the Lord." Notice as you read through that it is "I," "I," "I, Daniel."

Turn to chapter 10, "In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia." You see, he dates these things—Persia, Cyrus the king, Belshazzar, Nebuchadnezzar. He dates all these. This is history which can be checked. In chapter 10, verse 2, "I Daniel was mourning three full weeks. I ate no pleasant bread." And then verse 5, "Then I lifted up mine eyes, and looked, and behold a certain man clothed in linen, whose loins were girded with fine gold of Uphaz: his body also was like the beryl." Then he reports that experience he had. Turn to chapter 12, verse 4: "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. Then I Daniel looked, and, behold . . ." Look at Daniel beholding, look at Daniel looking, look at Daniel reporting these things. Finally, down at the very end, in verse 11, we read, "And from the time that the daily sacrifice shall be taken away, and the abomination that maketh desolate set up, there shall be a thousand two hundred and ninety days."

And now to cap the climax, all you need to do is to turn to the 24th chapter of Matthew where the Lord Jesus Christ spoke of the abomination of desolation spoken of by whom? Daniel, the prophet. The events of the Book of Daniel took place from about 604 B.C. down to about 530 B.C., a period of some 70 years in the life of Daniel as he lived and as he wrote. Imagine somebody at 200 B.C., over 300 years after Daniel, manufacturing an account like this, to read as if Daniel was saying it, as if Daniel saw it, as if Daniel spoke