

Elam; in the vision I was beside the Ulai Canal.	meaning of the vision." (17) As he came near the place where I was standing, I was terrified and fell prostrate. "Son of man," he said to me, "understand that the vision concerns the time of the end.* (18) While he was speaking to me, I was in a deep sleep, with my face to the ground. Then he touched me and raised me to my feet. (19) He said: "I am going to tell you what will happen later in the time of wrath,* because the vision concerns the appointed time of the end.*
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Verse 1 indicates that Daniel received this vision two years after the one described in chapter 7. He seemed in this vision to be "in the citadel of Susa in the province of Elam." Susa¹ was the ancient capital of Elam, which had been an independent country until its conquest by the Assyrians at about 640 B.C. After the destruction of the Assyrian empire Elam belonged to the Medes. Later Susa became one of the royal cities of the Persian empire and most of the important events described in the book of Esther occurred in or near its palace. The fact that Daniel would seem in his vision to be at this foreign location, which he had probably visited on diplomatic trips, is already a suggestion of great changes ahead.

After Daniel received the vision he wondered what it meant. Verses 15-19 tell us that the Lord sent Gabriel to explain it. Gabriel addressed Daniel as "son of man," using

*See discussion of these terms on p. 152-153