

And also control over here down to the ^{edge} end of the southern kingdom of Judah. And ^{then} ~~thus~~ eventually they conquered the southern kingdom also and took the rest of the Jews into captivity. The Assyrians had already taken these from the northern part of Israel. off into other areas into captivity.

And so this Babylonian Empire was a great Empire, but it began about 604 and only lasted until 539, so it was a great empire but only lasted about 60 yrs. Now the Assyrian empire had lasted several hundred years. But this lasted only about 60 years. And its last king was Nabonidus, but his son Belshazzar reigned with him. So you can speak of part of it as the reign of Belshazzar as well as the reign of Nabonidus. And so we find here that it is in the reign of Belshazzar, the last king of this Babylonian realm here that Daniel has this vision. And that is important of to get the bearing on what follows. That is why I took time to read this part of

part of the history. Now we read then in vs. 3 "Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and beheld, there stood before the river" -- that of course is the Euphrates River, that great river that flows past Babylon -- "there stood before the river a ram which had two horns; and the two horns were high, but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last." Now we will go on and see how this ram undoubtedly represents the power of Medo-Persia which ^{ed} destroys the Babylonian Empire. I'm going to pause here on this verse and see how exactly this fits it. It says that this ram had two horns, and the Empire of Media and Persia which had been two separate realms for a long time, and then one of the kings of Persia which was a son ^{subject to Media for a time.} of succeeded in gaining the supremacy over Persia. Then he ^{welded} welded the whole into an empire with which he proceeded to conquer other areas and then he conquered Babylon itself. So the ram has two horns, and the ~~two~~ two horns are high but one is higher than the other, Persia then Media, and the higher came up last, which as you see Persia came into prominence after Media had been rather prominent for quite a time. Then he says "I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward," -- Now that is interesting, these directions. He saw it pushing westward. and about 559 Cyrus became king of Persia and Media here -- held this area - and he pushed westward, north here of the realm of