

Daniel 1- 10 (session 3)

killed he took a great number of additional ^{people} off to Babylon to exile. So we have the period from the first yr. of Neb. -- you have a period in which Judah was subject to Neb. but there was not real exile, and there was ^{very little} ~~no/real~~ desolation as far as we knew in the land for another 20 yrs. ~~What~~ - But they were subject to Neb. and he says that "when 70 yrs. are accomplished, I will punish the king of Babylon for their iniquity". And approximately 70 yrs. after this time Cyrus in 539 conquered Babylon. Of course Nebuchadnezzar was conquered and four other kings after him (????) but Babylon was conquered and a part of the Persian empire 70 yrs after Jeremiah made this prediction. So Daniel says: I understood from Jeremiah that he would accomplish 70 yrs. in the desolation of Jerusalem." Well there were 70 yrs. when Jerusalem was subject to Nebuchadnezzar but actually about 50 yrs. in which it was in desolation, because it was approximately 50 yrs. after Jerusalem was destroyed and most of the land was made desolate until the time when Babylon was conquered by Cyrus and the people were taken back.

Further in this verse in Jer. 25:12 he says "And I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the Lord for their iniquity and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations." Well now that phrase did not occur when the Persians ^{would happen} conquered the land. He saw what was ~~happening~~ after 70 yrs when the Persians would conquer the land and punish the king of Babylon, but it was hundreds of years later before Babylon became perpetual desolations. The Persians had Babylon as a great center for 200 years -- a great center of their government. Then Seleucus made it his great headquarters and it was his coming to Babylon in 312 when it became through the Middle ^{which} Ages a date that competed with the birth of Christ for the date from which to date it. And you take Hebrew MSS written as late as 1000 A.D and it ^{they} will be dated so many years meaning so many years after 312 when Seleucus went to Babylon. So Babylon was still a great city 200 years after that and Seleucus built a new city to the north of it which he called Seleucia which gradually replaced Babylon and gradually the people moved to Seleucia ^{so} that ~~to~~ several centuries went by before Babylon became a perpetual desolation. Jeremiah was absolutely correct in his prediction that it would become perpetual desolation, but there is a gap of several centuries ~~of~~ between the statement that after 70 years