

## Historical Paraphrase of Daniel 11:1-35

Daniel 11:1-35	Historical Paraphrase	Notes
<p><sup>1</sup> "In the first year of Darius the Mede, I arose to be an encouragement and a protection for him.</p>	<p><sup>1</sup> "In the first year (539 BC) of Darius the Mede (a.k.a. Gubaru, governor of Babylon under Persian emperor Cyrus the Great), I, God's angel sent to Daniel, arose to be an encouragement and a protection for Darius.</p>	<p>This verse follows the last verse of Chapter 10 where the speaker is a heavenly being. He is the same one speaking here. Notice that Daniel received this vision in the third year of Cyrus. Now notice in this verse that the angel is talking about something that happened in the first year of Darius. In other words, the angel is looking back and telling Daniel that he supported and protected Darius a few years earlier.</p>
<p><sup>2</sup> "And now I will tell you the truth. Behold, three more kings are going to arise in Persia. Then a fourth will gain far more riches than all of them; as soon as he becomes strong through his riches, he will arouse the whole empire against the realm of Greece.</p>	<p><sup>2</sup> "And now, in the third year of Cyrus (10:1) 536/5 BC, I, God's angel, will tell you Daniel the truth. Behold, after Cyrus three more kings are going to arise in Persia: Cambyses II (530-522 BC), Smerdis the False (522 BC), and Darius I the Great (522-486 BC). Then a fourth, Xerxes I (486-465 BC), will gain far more riches than all of them; as soon as he becomes strong through his riches, he will arouse the whole empire against the realm of Greece.</p>	<p>In the book of Esther, Xerxes I is mentioned by the name of Ahasuerus. Xerxes used his great wealth to gain power, build a great army, and stir up his people against the Greeks. Xerxes attacked the Greeks, had some initial success, took some slaves, and did a lot of damage, but he eventually suffered a terrible defeat. In one of the largest assaults of ancient history, he sent a vast force of hundreds of ships and a million troops against the Greeks—only to be defeated.</p>
<p><sup>3</sup> "And a mighty king will arise, and he will rule with great authority and do as he pleases.</p>	<p><sup>3</sup> "And a mighty king, Alexander the Great, will arise 129 years later, and he will rule with great authority and do as he pleases.</p>	<p>Alexander the Great (336-323 BC). He was the next ruler in history with greater domination than Xerxes. He had an insatiable desire for war and no one could stop him.</p>
<p><sup>4</sup> "But as soon as he has arisen, his kingdom will be broken up and parceled out toward the four points of the compass, though not to his own descendants, nor according to his authority which he wielded, for his sovereignty will be uprooted and given to others besides them.</p>	<p><sup>4</sup> "But as soon as Alexander has arisen, his kingdom will be broken up and parceled out to his four generals. Lysimachus will take the North (Thrace, Bithynia, and Asia Minor). Cassander will take the West (Macedonia and Greece). Seleucus I Nicator will take the East (Syria and Babylonia). Ptolemy I Soter will take the South (Egypt, Palestine, and Arabia). Alexander's kingdom will not be given to his own descendants, nor according to his authority which he wielded, for his sovereignty will be uprooted and given to others besides his sons, Alexander IV of Macedon and Heracles.</p>	<p>History records that Alexander the Great died as a young man. He was about 33 years old, an alcoholic, suffering from malaria, and fighting depression because there were no more kingdoms to conquer. Historians say that he was asked who he wanted to take over the kingdom and he replied, "Give it to the strong." The result of that was a power struggle, the murder of his entire family, and the eventual division of the empire into four parts. An initial attempt to hold his empire together by a joint regency in the name of his nephew and his unborn son failed, and one of his generals, Antigonus, made a bid for power; but in the end, the empire was split between four of Alexander's other generals.</p>
<p><sup>5</sup> "Then the king of the South will grow strong, along with one of his princes who will gain ascendancy over him and obtain dominion; his domain will be a great dominion indeed.</p>	<p><sup>5</sup> "Then Ptolemy I Soter will grow strong, along with Seleucus I Nicator who will gain ascendancy over him and obtain dominion; his domain will be a great dominion indeed.</p>	<p>Seleucus I Nicator (311-281 BC) acquired Syria but he had problems ruling and once had to flee for his life. He went to Egypt where his old friend Ptolemy I (323-285 BC) ruled. Ptolemy took him in, gave him a high position in Egypt and provided money and assistance so that Seleucus was soon able to go back and retake the Syrian kingdom. This time he was so successful that he soon became stronger than Ptolemy. His dominion extended over most of what had earlier been the Persian Empire, stretching from Syria to India, the largest part of Alexander's empire.</p>
<p><sup>6</sup> "After some years they will form an alliance, and the daughter of the king of the South will come to the king of the North to carry out a peaceful arrangement. But she will not retain her position of power, nor will he remain with his power, but she will be given up, along with those who brought her in and the one who sired her as well as he who supported her in those times.</p>	<p><sup>6</sup> "In 252 BC, 28 years after Seleucus I's death, the new ruler of Egypt, Ptolemy II Philadelphus, and the new ruler of Syria, Antiochus II Theos, will form an alliance. Bernice, the daughter of Ptolemy II will come to Antiochus II to carry out a peaceful arrangement of marriage. But she will not retain her position of power, nor will Antiochus II remain with his power, but Bernice will die, along with her attendants and Ptolemy II, as well as her husband Antiochus II who had supported her. They will all be removed from power by death in 246 BC.</p>	<p>By this time Egypt and Syria were having trouble getting along. The two kings thought it would be wise to forge an alliance, so Ptolemy II (285-246 BC) offered to let his daughter, Bernice, marry Antiochus II (261-246 BC). There was just one problem—Antiochus II was already married. So Antiochus II divorced his wife, Laodice, and disowned their children. He quickly married Bernice, and the alliance was sealed. But it wasn't long until Ptolemy II died. Antiochus then changed the status of Bernice to concubine and remarried Laodice. Although Laodice remarried him, she wanted revenge, so she poisoned Antiochus II, had Bernice murdered, and named one of her sons, Seleucus II Callinicus, king (246-225 BC).</p>

<p><sup>7</sup> "But one of the descendants of her line will arise in his place, and he will come against <i>their</i> army and enter the fortress of the king of the North, and he will deal with them and display <i>great</i> strength.</p>	<p><sup>7</sup> "But <a href="#">Bernice's brother, Ptolemy III Euergetes I</a>, will arise in <a href="#">Ptolemy II's</a> place, and he will come against <a href="#">Syria's</a> army and enter the fortress <a href="#">Seleucia (the port of Syria's capital Antioch)</a> of <a href="#">Seleucus II Callinicus</a>, and he will deal with them and display <i>great</i> strength.</p>	<p>When Ptolemy II Philadelphus died, his son Ptolemy III Euergetes I (246-221 BC) assumed the throne of Egypt. He was the brother of Bernice and was angry over what happened to his sister. Revenge was one of his first acts. He gathered a large army and attacked the fortress of Seleucia where Laodice was. He won the battle, captured Laodice, and put her to death.</p>
<p><sup>8</sup> "Also their gods with their metal images <i>and</i> their precious vessels of silver and gold he will take into captivity to Egypt, and he on his part will refrain from <i>attacking</i> the king of the North for <i>some</i> years.</p>	<p><sup>8</sup> "Also their gods with their metal images <i>and</i> their precious vessels of silver and gold <a href="#">Ptolemy III Euergetes I</a> will take into captivity to Egypt, and he on his part will refrain from <i>attacking</i> <a href="#">Seleucus II Callinicus</a> for <i>some</i> years.</p>	<p>Historians say Ptolemy III was on the verge of capturing all of Syria when he received word of an insurrection back home in Egypt. He quickly grabbed all the valuables he could find and returned to Egypt. According to Jerome he took 4,000 talents of gold, 40,000 talents of silver, and 2,500 Syrian idols. It would be many years before the two kingdoms fought each other again.</p>
<p><sup>9</sup> "Then the latter will enter the realm of the king of the South, but will return to his <i>own</i> land.</p>	<p><sup>9</sup> "Then, <a href="#">about 11 years later, Seleucus II Callinicus</a> will <a href="#">attack Egypt</a>, but will return to <a href="#">Syria after failing to accomplish his purpose</a>.</p>	<p>The Syrian king Seleucus II Callinicus directed an attack on Egypt but lost the battle at Ancyra and had to return home empty-handed.</p>
<p><sup>10</sup> "His sons will mobilize and assemble a multitude of great forces; and one of them will keep on coming and overflow and pass through, that he may again wage war up to his <i>very</i> fortress.</p>	<p><sup>10</sup> "His sons, <a href="#">Seleucus III Ceraunus and Antiochus III the Great</a>, will mobilize and assemble a multitude of great forces; and one of them, <a href="#">Antiochus III the Great</a>, will keep on coming and overflow and pass through, that he may again wage war <a href="#">against Egypt all the way to the fortress of Gaza</a>.</p>	<p>Seleucus II Callinicus had two sons. History reveals that the oldest became king first (225-223 BC). He prepared to attack Egypt but was a poor and unpopular leader, so two of his generals poisoned him. Then the youngest son, Antiochus III the Great (223-187 BC), assumed the throne. He continued the war preparations, was a better leader, and launched an attack. He won a big victory against the Egyptians at Gaza and considered trying to conquer the entire nation.</p>
<p><sup>11</sup> "The king of the South will be enraged and go forth and fight with the king of the North. Then the latter will raise a great multitude, but <i>that</i> multitude will be given into the hand of the <i>former</i>.</p>	<p><sup>11</sup> "<a href="#">The Egyptian king Ptolemy IV Philopater</a> will be enraged and go forth <a href="#">in 217 BC</a> and fight with <a href="#">Antiochus III the Great</a>. Then <a href="#">Antiochus III the Great</a> will raise a great <i>army</i>, but <i>that army</i> will be given into the hand of <a href="#">Ptolemy IV Philopater</a>.</p>	<p>Ptolemy IV Philopater (221-203 BC) replaced his father, Euergetes, as king of Egypt. He had a terrible temper and was greatly angered by Syria's victory at Gaza. Fortunately, the Egyptian fortress at Gaza delayed the Syrian army long enough for Philopater to marshal his entire army. The two forces met at Raphia near Gaza. The surprise effect which Syria hoped for was gone, and the Egyptian army, being fresher and better supplied, soundly defeated the invaders.</p>
<p><sup>12</sup> "When the multitude is carried away, his heart will be lifted up, and he will cause tens of thousands to fall; yet he will not prevail.</p>	<p><sup>12</sup> "When the <a href="#">Syrian army is defeated in 217 B.C.</a>, <a href="#">Ptolemy IV Philopater's</a> heart will be lifted up, and he will <a href="#">kill</a> tens of thousands of <a href="#">Syrian soldiers</a>; yet he will not prevail.</p>	<p>When Philopater defeated Antiochus the Great at Raphia, he killed 10,000 Syrians and took several thousand prisoners. But he was overcome with pride and did not follow up on his great victory. Instead of continuing on into Syria to capture the whole kingdom, he signed a foolish peace treaty with Antiochus the Great and returned home to receive glory and have a good time.</p>
<p><sup>13</sup> "For the king of the North will again raise a greater multitude than the former, and after an interval of some years he will press on with a great army and much equipment.</p>	<p><sup>13</sup> "For <a href="#">Antiochus III the Great</a> will again raise <a href="#">another army, larger than the first</a>; and after <a href="#">about 15</a> years he will press on with a great army and much equipment.</p>	<p>The peace treaty that Ptolemy IV Philopater signed with Antiochus III the Great let the Syrian king take his army and return home. Upon his return, Antiochus started a program to rebuild his military.</p>
<p><sup>14</sup> "Now in those times many will rise up against the king of the South; the violent ones among your people will also lift themselves up in order to fulfill the vision, but they will fall down.</p>	<p><sup>14</sup> "Now in those times <a href="#">Philip V of Macedonia and others</a> will rise up against <a href="#">Ptolemy IV Philopater</a>; <a href="#">many violent Jews trying to help Antiochus III</a> will also lift themselves up in order to fulfill the vision of <a href="#">Daniel 8:9-14</a>, but they will fall down.</p>	<p>Many Jews also joined Antiochus III against Egypt. Perhaps the Jews hoped to gain their independence from both Egypt and Syria by joining the conflict, but their hopes were not realized.</p>
<p><sup>15</sup> "Then the king of the North will come, cast up a siege ramp and capture a well-fortified city; and the forces of the South will not stand <i>their ground</i>, not even their choicest troops, for there will be no strength to make a stand.</p>	<p><sup>15</sup> "Then, <a href="#">in 203 B.C.</a>, <a href="#">Antiochus III the Great</a> will come, cast up a siege ramp and capture <a href="#">the city of Sidon</a>; and the forces of <a href="#">Egypt under Eropas, Menacles, and Damoyenus attempting to rescue General Scopas from Sidon</a> will not stand <i>their ground</i>, not even their choicest troops, for there will be no strength to make a stand.</p>	<p>When Antiochus III attacked, the famous Egyptian general Scopas quickly organized an army and went out to meet him. But Scopas wasn't strong enough, and Antiochus III defeated him at Paneas. After the defeat, Scopas and a few of his troops fled to the fortress city of Sidon. Antiochus III pursued them and laid siege to the city. Egypt got word and sent troops to help, but they were not strong enough to defeat Antiochus</p>

		III either. He defeated them, starved out the besieged Egyptians, captured Sidon, and sent the surviving troops away stark naked.
<sup>16</sup> "But he who comes against him will do as he pleases, and no one will <i>be able to</i> withstand him; he will also stay <i>for a time</i> in the Beautiful Land, with destruction in his hand.	<sup>16</sup> "But <b>Antiochus III</b> who comes against <b>Ptolemy V</b> will do as he pleases, and no one will <i>be able to</i> withstand him; he will also stay <i>for a time</i> in <b>Israel</b> , with destruction in his hand.	Every time Syria or Egypt attacked each other, the invading army had to pass through Israel. It didn't happen every time, but the Jews often took a beating. At this time the Egyptians were weak and knew it. They had signed a mutual aid treaty with Rome, so they asked Rome for help. The Romans were rapidly becoming a great power, and they warned Antiochus III the Great not to invade Egypt. So he held back and settled down in Israel while he pondered his options. He had the power to destroy Israel, but did not because of the Jews who had rebelled and supported him in Egypt. (Israel was under Egyptian protection at that time; Antiochus was successful in overrunning the Egyptian garrison stationed in Israel and he could then do as he pleased.)
<sup>17</sup> "He will set his face to come with the power of his whole kingdom, bringing with him a proposal of peace which he will put into effect; he will also give him the daughter of women to ruin it. But she will not take a stand <i>for him</i> or be on his side.	<sup>17</sup> " <b>Antiochus III</b> will be determined to use his power to <b>bring Egypt and its new child king, Ptolemy V Epiphanes, under his control. He will offer</b> a proposal of peace which he will put into effect; <b>Antiochus III</b> will also give <b>Ptolemy V Epiphanes his daughter Cleopatra I to seal the alliance and bring about Egypt's downfall. But Cleopatra I will not cooperate; she will be loyal to her husband and will side with the Egyptians against her father.</b>	By this time Ptolemy Epiphanes, the child king of Egypt, was about 7 years old and Antiochus the Great had a daughter who was a little older, perhaps as much as 5 or 6 years older. Her name was Cleopatra (there were 7 Egyptian queens named Cleopatra). Antiochus the Great suggested that Syria and Egypt stop fighting and sign a peace treaty. Antiochus the Great thought his daughter would be loyal to him, dominate the young Egyptian king, and help bring about Syria's acquisition of Egypt; but Cleopatra did not cooperate. She was loyal to her husband and sided with the Egyptians against her own father. The false treaty did not work.
<sup>18</sup> "Then he will turn his face to the coastlands and capture many. But a commander will put a stop to his scorn against him; moreover, he will repay him for his scorn.	<sup>18</sup> "Then <b>Antiochus III</b> will turn his face to the coastlands <b>of Turkey and islands of the Aegean</b> and capture many. But a <b>young naval commander named Scipio</b> will put a stop to <b>Antiochus III's</b> scorn against <b>Rome</b> ; moreover, <b>Scipio</b> will repay <b>Antiochus III</b> for his scorn.	Antiochus the Great was furious over Rome's protection of Egypt and his daughter's betrayal. He assembled a 300 ship navy and started seizing the cities and islands along the coasts of the Mediterranean Sea. However, most of these coastal cities were under Roman control and Rome was not about to let Antiochus the Great take their territory. To prevent this, the Romans commissioned a young naval commander named Scipio to take a fleet of Roman warships and go after the Syrian vessels. Scipio found and sank most of the Syrian navy, turning Antiochus' insolence back upon himself.
<sup>19</sup> "So he will turn his face toward the fortresses of his own land, but he will stumble and fall and be found no more.	<sup>19</sup> "So <b>Antiochus III</b> will turn his face toward the fortresses of <b>Syria</b> , but he will <b>be defeated by local forces and killed while trying to plunder the Temple of Belus in Elymais.</b>	Antiochus III the Great returned home with one eye over his shoulder. He expected the Roman army to be right on his heels. As soon as he got home he sent messengers to Rome seeking peace. The Romans had the upper hand and were in no mood to be generous. They offered peace, but at a very high price. Antiochus had to give them all the territory he controlled in Europe, a big chunk of what he controlled in Western Turkey, all but 10 of his warships, an enormous tribute, and heavy taxes every year for the next 12 years. He agreed to their terms, but had trouble coming up with the money and was killed while trying to plunder the Temple of Belus in Elymais a few months later.
<sup>20</sup> "Then in his place one will arise who will send an oppressor through the Jewel of <i>his</i> kingdom; yet within a few days he will be shattered, though not in anger nor in battle.	<sup>20</sup> "Then in his place <b>Seleucus IV Philopater</b> will arise who will send <b>the tax collector Heliodorus</b> through <b>Judea</b> ; yet within a few days <b>Seleucus IV Philopater</b> will <b>die</b> , though not in anger nor in battle.	Seleucus IV Philopater inherited the large debt his father agreed to pay in order to obtain peace with Rome. He raised taxes to meet the agreement, but his nation was so impoverished he had trouble collecting them. By the time he neared the last year of the 12 year taxation clause he was in a financial crisis. He desperately instructed his treasurer to go to Jerusalem and confiscate the gold and silver vessels that were being used in the Temple. A short time later he was poisoned by Heliodorus, who took control with the backing of other Syrian officials tired of the excesses of the Seleucid rulers.

<p><sup>21</sup> "In his place a despicable person will arise, on whom the honor of kingship has not been conferred, but he will come in a time of tranquility and seize the kingdom by intrigue.</p>	<p><sup>21</sup> "In his place a despicable person, <b>Antiochus IV Epiphanes</b>, will arise, on whom the honor of kingship has not been conferred, but he will come in a time of tranquility and seize the kingdom by intrigue.</p>	<p>Seleucus IV Philopater had two sons-Demetrius, the oldest, was in position to be crowned king. But Seleucus had a younger brother, Antiochus IV (175-164 BC), who was an extraordinarily good manipulator. Like his father Antiochus III the Great, Antiochus IV was wicked and cunning, and like his sister Cleopatra, who was married off to Ptolemy Epiphanes of Egypt, he was deceitful and treacherous. By a show of "Roman manners" and a great deal of flattery, he was able to enlist the aid of neighboring King Eumenes II of Pergamum and officials at home in forcing out Heliodorus and obtaining the throne.</p>
<p><sup>22</sup> "The overflowing forces will be flooded away before him and shattered, and also the prince of the covenant.</p>	<p><sup>22</sup> "The overflowing forces of <b>Egypt</b> will be <b>swept away by Antiochus IV Epiphanes</b> and shattered, and also the prince of <b>Israel</b>, <b>Jewish High Priest Onias III, who will be murdered</b>.</p>	<p>Antiochus IV picked up where his father left off. He deceived Egypt into thinking that he was in the process of moving a small number of troops to the Egyptian border. He actually moved a large army, but he had to move it into Israel before getting to the border. When he attacked Egypt, they struck back with a large army. The casualties on both sides were high, but Antiochus IV Epiphanes won the battle and captured the Egyptian king Ptolemy Philometer, the son of Cleopatra. Meanwhile, Antiochus IV had the Jewish High Priest Onias III deposed and murdered. Then he appointed the brother of Onias III, a man named Jason, to be the High Priest of Israel. With the approval of Antiochus IV Epiphanes, Jason persuaded many Jews to abandon their faith.</p>
<p><sup>23</sup> "After an alliance is made with him he will practice deception, and he will go up and gain power with a small <i>force of</i> people.</p>	<p><sup>23</sup> "After an alliance is made with <b>Ptolemy Philometer, Antiochus IV Epiphanes</b> will practice deception, and he will go up and gain power with a small <i>force of</i> people.</p>	<p>After Antiochus Epiphanes defeated Egypt's army and captured Ptolemy Philometer, the Egyptians quickly crowned Philometer's brother, Ptolemy Euergetes, king. Antiochus Epiphanes wanted to march against him, but he had lost too many troops in his victory over Ptolemy Philometer. He saw the crowning of Ptolemy Euergetes as an opportunity to divide the remaining Egyptians forces, to take more spoils, and perhaps to have himself crowned king of Egypt. He made an agreement to help his captured nephew Ptolemy Philometer regain the throne in exchange for Philometer's help and support against Euergetes. It worked. But what Philometer didn't know was that Antiochus was just tricking him. It was a deceitful tactic on the part of Antiochus Epiphanes to make himself more powerful.</p>
<p><sup>24</sup> "In a time of tranquility he will enter the richest <i>parts</i> of the realm, and he will accomplish what his fathers never did, nor his ancestors; he will distribute plunder, booty and possessions among them, and he will devise his schemes against strongholds, but <i>only</i> for a time.</p>	<p><sup>24</sup> "In a time of tranquility <b>Antiochus IV Epiphanes</b> will enter the richest <b>provinces of Egypt</b>, and he will accomplish what his fathers never did, nor his ancestors; he will <b>take the wealth and territory and distribute the loot among his followers</b>, and he will devise his schemes against strongholds, but <i>only</i> for a time.</p>	<p>The covenant Antiochus Epiphanes made with Ptolemy Philometer put many of the Egyptians at ease. It did not occur to them that they were dealing with a liar and a thief. At a time when they felt secure, Antiochus raided some of the richest provinces of Egypt. He took wealth and territory that none of his ancestors were able to take. Then, like the head of a gang of thieves, he distributed the loot among his followers. That bought the loyalty of even more men, so he planned to attack more places. But things eventually changed.</p>
<p><sup>25</sup> "He will stir up his strength and courage against the king of the South with a large army; so the king of the South will mobilize an extremely large and mighty army for war; but he will not stand, for schemes will be devised against him.</p>	<p><sup>25</sup> "<b>Antiochus IV Epiphanes</b> will stir up his strength and courage against <b>Ptolemy VIII Physcon</b> with a large army; so <b>Ptolemy VIII Physcon</b> will mobilize an extremely large and mighty army for war; but he will not stand, for <b>some of his men will commit treason</b>.</p>	<p>Antiochus Epiphanes attacked Egypt. This time the king of the south was another brother of Ptolemy Philometer named Ptolemy Physcon. He pulled together a large army and fought back, but some of his men committed treason, deserted him, and joined Antiochus Epiphanes. Their unfaithfulness caused Egypt's defeat.</p>
<p><sup>26</sup> "Those who eat his choice food will destroy him, and his army will overflow, but many will fall down slain.</p>	<p><sup>26</sup> "<b>Members of Ptolemy VIII Physcon's own court</b> will destroy him, and his army will <b>be swept away, and</b> many will fall down slain.</p>	<p>Information is scarce, but it seems that most of the members of the court were related to both Ptolemy Physcon (the reigning king) and Ptolemy Philometer (the captured king). Some were more loyal to Philometer and believed Antiochus Epiphanes was just helping him recover his throne; so they betrayed Physcon, Egypt was defeated, and many Egyptians were killed.</p>

<p><sup>27</sup> "As for both kings, their hearts will be <i>intent</i> on evil, and they will speak lies <i>to each other</i> at the same table; but it will not succeed, for the end is still <i>to come</i> at the appointed time.</p>	<p><sup>27</sup> "As for both kings (<a href="#">Antiochus Epiphanes and Ptolemy Philometer</a>), their hearts will be <i>intent</i> on evil, and they will speak lies <i>to each other</i> at the same table; but it will not succeed, for the end is still <i>to come</i> at the appointed time.</p>	<p>Antiochus Epiphanes and Ptolemy Philometer sat down at a banquet to discuss the current political situation. They were supposedly going to settle their differences, but all they did was lie to one another.</p>
<p><sup>28</sup> "Then he will return to his land with much plunder; but his heart will be <i>set</i> against the holy covenant, and he will take action and <i>then</i> return to his <i>own</i> land.</p>	<p><sup>28</sup> "Then <a href="#">Antiochus Epiphanes</a> will return to <a href="#">Syria</a> with much plunder; but his heart will be <i>set</i> against <a href="#">Israel</a>, and he will take action <a href="#">against it</a> and <i>then</i> return to <a href="#">Syria</a>.</p>	<p>A large amount of Egypt's wealth was handed over to Antiochus, and he headed back to Syria with his army. The route home took him through Israel. He found things had changed: a rumor had circulated that Antiochus was dead which caused many Jews to rejoice. Some of them had revolted and driven the Syrians out of Jerusalem. Antiochus learned of this as he neared Jerusalem and decided to make the Jews pay. He attacked and plundered the city, killed about 40,000 Jews, sold thousands more into slavery, looted the Temple, and let his troops rape the women.</p>
<p><sup>29</sup> "At the appointed time he will return and come into the South, but this last time it will not turn out the way it did before.</p>	<p><sup>29</sup> "At the appointed time <a href="#">Antiochus Epiphanes</a> will return and come into <a href="#">Egypt</a>, but this last time it will not turn out the way it did before.</p>	<p>Antiochus Epiphanes was still determined to conquer Egypt, so he tried again. His two nephews, Ptolemy Philometer and Ptolemy Physcon, had settled their differences and were sharing the throne. They opposed Antiochus and appealed to Rome for help.</p>
<p><sup>30</sup> "For ships of Kittim will come against him; therefore he will be disheartened and will return and become enraged at the holy covenant and take action; so he will come back and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant.</p>	<p><sup>30</sup> "For <a href="#">the Roman navy</a> will come against him; therefore he will be disheartened and will return and become enraged at <a href="#">Israel</a> and take action; so he will come back and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant.</p>	<p>Rome responded by sending their navy. Rome's naval commander met Antiochus Epiphanes at Alexandria and told him to get out of Egypt and never come back. The order was by decree of the Roman Senate and if Antiochus did not obey he would be attacked by Rome. Antiochus said he would think about it; the commander drew a circle on the ground and demanded he not step out of it until he stated his intentions. Antiochus left Egypt in a fury. As he passed through Israel once again on his way home, he vented his frustration and anger on the Jews. He plundered Jerusalem again, killed thousands of Jews, and sold thousands more into slavery. He outlawed the Jewish religion and replaced it with Greek worship. He outlawed circumcision, the reading of the Scriptures, and the observance of the Sabbath. Those who abandoned the Jewish faith were spared; those who did not were killed.</p>
<p><sup>31</sup> "Forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation.</p>	<p><sup>31</sup> "<a href="#">Antiochus Epiphanes' forces</a> will arise, desecrate the <a href="#">Temple</a>, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up <a href="#">a Greek idol in the holy place</a>.</p>	<p>Antiochus Epiphanes posted some of his troops to guard the Temple with reserve troops nearby. The Sabbath came and thousands of Jews gathered at the Temple to offer sacrifices and worship God. They were ignoring Antiochus Epiphanes, so he had his army kill them all. Then he built an altar to one of his Greek gods, brought in Jews, and compelled them to sacrifice pigs on it to his heathen gods. Those who refused were killed.</p>
<p><sup>32</sup> "By smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the people who know their God will display strength and take action.</p>	<p><sup>32</sup> "By smooth words <a href="#">Antiochus Epiphanes</a> will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant, but the <a href="#">Maccabees</a> will display strength and take action.</p>	<p>The Jews had their share of traitors and lukewarm believers. Some, such as the new High Priest Alcimus, were even leaders in the Jewish religion. Antiochus Epiphanes courted them with flattering words in order to corrupt them to his false religion and use them against the faithful. Many who questioned the Word of God were deceived, but a group of strong believers revolted.</p>
<p><sup>33</sup> "Those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder for <i>many</i> days.</p>	<p><sup>33</sup> "Those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder for <i>many</i> days.</p>	<p>A large number of Jews recognized the corruption and false teachings of Antiochus Epiphanes. They wisely tried to remain faithful to God and teach others to do the same. Some, who were called the Hassideans, revolted and fled into the mountains. They joined the Maccabees family and fought against Antiochus Epiphanes and the rulers who followed him. They carried on their struggle for independence for more than 100 years. Many died in war, some were tortured and burned, while others</p>

		were captured. Most had their villages and camps plundered and destroyed.
<sup>34</sup> "Now when they fall they will be granted a little help, and many will join with them in hypocrisy.	<sup>34</sup> "Now when <a href="#">the Maccabees</a> fall they will be granted a little help, and many will join with them in hypocrisy.	The courageous struggle of the Maccabees cost the family and their followers many lives. They eventually lost the struggle, but not before they won several major battles. Some of their victories were so impressive that many Jews thought the Maccabees might win. That caused a dilemma for the fence-sitting Jews. They feared the wrath of Antiochus Epiphanes if he won, but they also feared the wrath of their countrymen if the Maccabees won. They wanted to be on the winning side, so every Maccabean victory was accompanied by more Jews joining the cause. However, many of them were not true believers; they just did not want to be accused of treason if their people won.
<sup>35</sup> "Some of those who have insight will fall, in order to refine, purge and make them pure until the end time; because <i>it is still to come</i> at the appointed time.	<sup>35</sup> "Some of <a href="#">the Maccabees</a> will fall, in order to refine, purge and make them pure until the end time; because <i>it is still to come</i> at the appointed time.	Beginning with the next verse, verse 36, a sharp break in the prophecy may be observed, introduced by the expression in this verse <i>the end time</i> . Up to this point, the prophecy dealing with the Seleucids and Ptolemys has been fulfilled minutely and with amazing precision. Beginning with verse 36, however, an entirely different situation arises. No commentator claims to find precise fulfillment in the remainder of this chapter. In contrast to the preceding section, there is no specific correspondence in history. Accordingly, scholars who regard this as genuine Scripture, usually regard this section as future and unfulfilled.