

soon he began to show both his sternness and his bent toward intrigue.

In section 4 of the interpretation it was pointed out that he would not become great by his own power. When his brother was assassinated he immediately entered into negotiations with Eumenes, king of Pergamum, who had previously been hostile to the Seleucids. Evidently he was able to convince Eumenes that if he became king he would reverse the former policy. The king of Pergamum lent him considerable money and sent an army to escort him to the area that still belonged to the Seleucids. By intrigue, scheming and deceit he persuaded the people to receive him as king and to ignore the rights of his nephew, who was still in Italy.

Section 5 suggests his military campaigns against Egypt and against eastern regions that were trying to gain freedom from Seleucid control. It is noticeable that the section does not mention north or west. Antiochus IV did not conduct any campaigns in those directions and made no attempt to reconquer any of the areas in Asia Minor or Europe that his ancestors had held.

This section ends with the words "toward the Beautiful Land." All agree that this is a reference to Palestine, which had been acquired by Antiochus' father a few years earlier. Neither the Ptolemies nor the Seleucids had interfered with the religious life of Palestine until this time, but Antiochus determined to introduce Greek customs among the Israelites and to wean them away from the law of their God. At first he made considerable headway, but when he found that many were determined to cling to the religion and customs of their fathers he began to show the fierce character described in section 3.

The vivid picture in section 6 of the horn casting some of the stars to the ground and trampling on them is a good representation of the way Antiochus' later activities would appear to godly Jews, when he began actually to persecute them and to slaughter many of those who opposed his desires. The fact that he was successful for a considerable time is indicated by the statements in sections 7 and 17.