

two powerful kingdoms. The strong Macedonian kingdom is referred to but once, and then only obliquely, while the minor kingdoms that came out of Alexander's empire are not mentioned at all. In this section each king descended from Seleucus is called "the king of the North," and each descendant of Ptolemy is called "the king of the South."

The purpose of these verses is to give a running idea of some of the events during this period and thus to lead up to one of the greatest crises in the history of Judaism, which is described in verses 21ff.

This section contains a summary of events that would occur during a period of more than a century. The passage is without parallel in the Bible. Those who hold that the book of Daniel was written during the Maccabean period and that its alleged predictions are really based on events that had already occurred, consider it to be a good summary of a long period of history. Those who consider chapter 11 as a prediction actually given to Daniel in the time of Cyrus see in it a most remarkable and detailed presentation of future events that no human being could possibly have guessed, but that occurred as predicted.

The passage naturally divides into three sections: (1) The sordid events revolving around Laodice and Bernice (vv. 6-9); (2) The career of Antiochus III (vv. 10-19); (3) The reign of Seleucus IV (v. 20).

### **Laodice and Bernice**

(6) After some years, they will become allies. The daughter of the king of the South will go to the king of the North to make an alliance, but she will not retain her power, and he and his power will not last. In those days she will be handed over,\* together with her royal escort and her father and the one who supported her. (7) One from her family line will arise to take her place. He will attack the forces of the king of the North and enter his fortress; he will fight against them and be victorious. (8) He will also seize their gods,

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\*Heb. 'be given", here a euphemism for death.