

their metal images and their valuable articles of silver and gold and carry them off to Egypt. For some years he will leave the king of the North alone. (9) Then the king of the North will invade the realm of the king of the South but will retreat to his own country.

The first of these sections begins in the time of Antiochus II, grandson of Seleucus I. After many years of hostility between Egypt and the Seleucid realm, the rulers of these two kingdoms desired to make a lasting peace. To seal the alliance Ptolemy II gave his daughter Bernice in marriage to Antiochus II, the third of the Seleucid kings. The marriage was celebrated with great pomp and Bernice came to the Seleucid capital at Antioch in northern Syria. Antiochus put away his first wife, Laodice, whose sons were already approaching manhood. Greatly displeased, Laodice and her sons withdrew into Asia Minor, where many of the citizens felt that she had been wrongly treated by Antiochus. After a son had been born to Bernice, Antiochus grew weary of her and rejoined Laodice in Ephesus. Soon afterward he died and it was commonly believed that he had been poisoned by Laodice in order to insure her children's right to the throne. All through the Seleucid empire the people were divided between those who favored Laodice and her sons, and those who favored Bernice and her infant son. Laodice had Bernice's infant son kidnapped and killed and eventually succeeded in murdering Bernice and most of her leading supporters. Just at this time Ptolemy II, the father of Bernice, died in Egypt. These events are summarized in verse 6.

Verse 7 very naturally refers to Ptolemy III, the brother of Bernice, as "one from her family line." Greatly angered at the fate of his sister, Ptolemy attacked the Seleucid realm by sea and by land. Seleucus II, the son of Laodice, had become established as king but was obliged to flee to the

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