

Epiphanes. Holders of the Maccabean view consider these verses to be history, pretending to be prediction. Those who believe that the prophet Daniel was the author, consider them to be a remarkable prediction, revealed to Daniel more than three hundred years in advance.

Accession and Character of Antiochus

(21) He will be succeeded by a contemptible person who has not been given the honor of royalty. He will invade the kingdom when its people feel secure, and he will seize it through intrigue. (22) Then an overwhelming army will be swept away before him; both it and a prince of the covenant* will be destroyed. (23) After coming to an agreement with him, he will act deceitfully, and with only a few people he will rise to power. (24) When the richest provinces feel secure, he will invade them and will achieve what neither his fathers nor his forefathers did. He will distribute plunder, loot and wealth among his followers. He will plot the overthrow of fortresses -- but only for a time.

The character of Antiochus is summarized in the statements in verse 21 that he will be a "contemptible person," who will "invade the kingdom" and "seize it through intrigue" and by the statement in verse 23 that he will "act deceitfully."

The statement that Antiochus was contemptible was true in a general sense and also in a very specific one.

In the general sense it can be pointed out that Antiochus' contemporaries considered him an erratic type of individual. Although he gloried in his title of Epiphanes, "the manifest god," many preferred to call him Epimanes, which means "a

**Better than "the prince of the covenant" (KJV), as there is no article in the original Hebrew.*