

except to restore his nephew to the throne to which he was entitled. Envoys were sent to other Countries to assure them that this was Antiochus' only purpose in Egypt.

Verse 27 tells how the two kings would pretend friendship toward each other, though neither would mean what he said. The youthful Egyptian king would try to persuade his uncle that if the invaders would leave Egypt its people would rally around the legitimate king and he would then rule Egypt in friendly fashion, and would give Antiochus whatever he might desire. The uncle would falsely declare that his only purpose was to secure the legitimate rights of his nephew. Thus these two kings would "sit at the same table and lie to each other."

The verse continues: "But to no avail, because an end will still come at the appointed time." As predicted, the schemes of both men failed. Antiochus, thinking himself a master of strategy, put trust in the lying promises of his nephew and withdrew his forces from Egypt. As soon as he had done so, the nephew made peace with his brother, leaving Antiochus without any power in Egypt except for the one border town of Pelusium in which he had left a strong garrison. Yet the plans of Ptolemy VI also failed, for the supporters of Ptolemy VII did not give their full support to Ptolemy VI but insisted that the two brothers reign as joint kings, thus leaving Egypt in a state of weakness, because of lack of unified leadership.

In this context it is obvious that the statement in verse 27, "an end will still come at the appointed time" does not refer to something that would happen thousands of years later, but is simply a declaration that within a limited period of time the plans of both kings would fail.

Verse 28 tells of Antiochus' return to Asia, carrying a great amount of plunder. On the way he passed through Palestine and made vigorous efforts to stop all Jewish practices that were out of line with his Hellenistic beliefs. As verse 28 says, "his heart will be set against the holy covenant." The verse goes on to say that after taking action in the land of Israel against the holy covenant he will continue his return to his own land.