

consideration of chapter 8, the word "end" is often used in Scripture to indicate the conclusion of a large or small period of time, or simply to designate its latter part. In this particular context it can point to the activities of "the man of lawlessness" during the latter part of his career, after he would become well established. The English word "eventually" might give a rather good idea of what the phrase means in the context.

Verses 40-45 depict specific activities of a king. Holders of the Maccabean view say that these verses present the fact of Antiochus' death, yet have to admit that many of its statements do not fit with what is known of the latter part of the reign of Antiochus.

Some who hold the Maccabean view have said that verses 40-44 describe another attack against Egypt by Antiochus. Most of them, however, reject this idea. They give two reasons: (1) There is no historical evidence of another such expedition by Antiochus. (2) Antiochus had been vigorously ordered by the Romans to give up all that he had gained in Egypt and had recognized the potential force behind their demands so strongly that he submitted completely and returned to Syria empty-handed. If he had made another such attack later on we can be sure that the Romans would have reacted so vigorously that the ensuing events would have left definite evidence in the historical record.

Some have suggested that this account of another expedition against Egypt is really a summary of the earlier portions of the account of the life of Antiochus. This is quite contrary to the impression made by the statements and would seem to be ruled out by the phrase, "at the time of the end," which introduces them. In addition, the details in these verses are quite different from those of his earlier expeditions. The events predicted in verses 40-45 do not correspond to the known facts about any part of Antiochus' life. Thus there is no evidence of his being disturbed by reports "from the east and the north" (v. 44), though there is abundant historical evidence for the effects of the tidings from the west mentioned earlier, as we saw in our