

But which undoubtedly gives a pretty good general picture of the way that this little hero who is named Antiochus Epiphanes (Epiphanes means the outshining or deity) and Antiochus who claimed to be God, Antiochus a King of this name which belongs to his father and to his son who is Antiochus I -- this Antiochus IV proceeded to carry on such a terrible persecution of the Jewish religion as they had never seen before in the past, and perhaps the world has never seen since. It was a tremendous great multitudes of Jews died and finally gathered them together and organized themselves to fight against Syrian oppression. Now II Macc. describes this persecution, and I Macc. comes after II Macc. I Macc. which is part of the Roman Catholic Bible is justly considered considered by scholars as an excellent historical document. It is quite different from II Macc. which has a great deal of which may be imaginative but which doubtless gives in general a very clear picture of the persecution. I Macc. tells about the resistance and describes the activities of these Jewish leaders called the Maccabees as they won their freedom from Antiochus and eventually asked Rome for protection and became an independent entity and remained so during most of the succeeding years until the time of Christ. So from I and II Macc. we see how tremendously important in Jewish history is the action of this man Antiochus Epiphanes and we see how very reasonable it would be in the providence of God not simply to give Dan. a vision of grt. events in politics that would occur in subsequent years, but the pinpoint is given on the time when those who wanted to be true to God and to stand by the teaching of the Bible would be under terrible persecution and to give these people when that time came -- to give them something that would comfort them and encourage them and to lead them to stand true in the face of the terrible odds until they eventually won their freedom. So this section of Dan. would have a very real purpose in God's economy to pinpoint a situation which would be a situation where people needed strength and help and blessing from God in order to stand true to Him and it was a period in which they stood true and won their freedom. LONGFELLOW has written a little play called Judas Maccabees which shows something of the persecution of the