

3 Daniel (session 2)

from vs. 15 - 19 you have an account of Antiochus III. And Antiochus III is called Antiochus the Great because he reestablished the whole area that the Seleucids had held. And he is called Antiochus the Great. He was a very strong ruler. He united with the King of Macedonia to defeat the King of the north -- of the south that is, Ptolemy. And get himself well established. But he received into his quarters a man who had fought against Rome for 20 years, a man named Hannibal who had led an army from N. Africa across Europe and down across the Alps and for 20 years had destroyed Roman army after Roman army and it looked as though he would destroy but finally the Romans by guerrilla tactics -- by attacking quickly and running away gradually cutting off his forces had destroyed and Hannibal had escaped with his life and he went to the home of Antiochus in Seleucia and stirred him up against the Romans. And of course Antiochus fought Ptolemy and defeated him. Then the Romans were fighting with Macedonia and they conquered and annexed it. Then the Romans fought with Antiochus and all of his efforts came to nothing because of the Roman efforts. And the Romans defeated him and forced him to pay a tremendous indemnity, a large tribute year by year. And took 20 of his leading people including his son who became Antiochus IV later to surrender them to the Romans (??) and they took them to Rome as hostages.

So we read in vs. 19 about Antiochus the Great! "Then he shall turn his face toward the fortresses of his own land but he shall stumble and fall and not be found." After all his great victories and his tremendous activities, Antiochus III finally in order to get money to carry on his wars further, he went into a little temple in the backwoods over in Persia to try to loot it, and the local people attacked him and he was killed. So that it says, "he shall stumble and fall and not be found." Well, when Antiochus III died his son Seleucus IV became king. He was his oldest son and he became king but but the kingdom was in such a situation that there was nothing he could do but try to get things reestablished. So he organized a fiscal situation and the kingdom was now much smaller. He tried to organize it. He is described in vs. 20: "Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes in the glory of the kingdom, but within a few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle." Seleucus died and his young son, Demetrius, should have become king. But when Seleucus became king the Romans had