

6 Daniel (session 2)

This was 166 B.C. so you see already how great the power of Rome had been even though it did not yet hold any of this land.

We are told "For the ships of Kittim shall come against him; therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant." He returned then to Palestine, to the area of Palestine and Syria and to the area east of there as far as he could go, and there he now took out his anger which he did not dare show toward the Romans, he took it out against the Jews. And he had already been trying to introduce what he considered a Greek civilization into the land of Palestine. He had been trying to persuade the people to adopt Greek civilization, and to give up their obedience to their law and change and the Jews were gradually giving in. He had made great progress in just a few years. And ~~little~~ individual after individual finally offered opportunities of progress in his favor and (been turning against there ????) he had been worshipping -- been going through the forms of worshipping Greek gods. Antiochus built a great temple to Zeus the chief god of the Roman Pantheon, and they were going through the forms of worshipping them. They were abandoning their Jewish law. They were not circumcising their children. They had a High Priest who was completely loyal to Antiochus and his desires to gradually change and if it had not been for the Romans doing this, humanly speaking he might have taken over almost the whole country. There was a little group of Hassidim (or Pious People) who were -- wore long hair and beards and went around telling the people how they must be true to the law of their God and how they must not follow these new ideas of Antiochus and the people as a whole considered them as old mossbacks and Antiochus was gradually winning out. But now Antiochus was so indignant and angry at the way the Romans treated him, but he did not dare show it to them, that he determined to move forward rapidly with his treatment of any who opposed him, and who would not accept what he considered the high civilization of Judaism (?????). So he ordered that the temple be interfered with. That they do away with sacrifices. That they introduce heathen worship right in the temple. He sent his people into every town so as to destroy their centers of worship and the result was that he turned the people against him and the great mass of them joined with the Hassidim and many of them suffered terrible persecution under him as described in II Maccabees, but the sons of the priests --