

a priest out in a little town opposed him, and he lost his life early in the thing. But his sons ran into the wilderness and gathered a group around them and attacked Antiochus' forces one by one. But they did not kill him. He left the work in Palestine in the hands of his generals and went on to the east to try to reconquer more of the kingdom back there. There he had his nervous affliction come upon him and he died. But his successor carried on the ~~oppositiion~~ opposition to the Jews, but now the Jews had been so aroused that they refused even when offered religious toleration, and they refused to give in. Judas Maccabeas was killed in battle. His brother Jonathan was killed by treachery. His third brother Simon eventually became the leader and from him descended men who led the Jews for over 100 years.

Then the Jews made a treaty with Rome in which the Romans promised to protect them and thus they gained their independence. So that period of terrible crisis is here described. We read in vs. 30 "He shall return and have intelligence with those who forsake the holy covenant. And forces shall stand on his part . . . (reading through vs. 31-35). Here we have read the description of how he returned to Palestine; how he tried there to destroy the opposition to his ideas, and how they fought against him and they succeeded in maintaining themselves against him and then in vs. 36 we have a very strange change. We read: And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself and magnify himself against every god . . ." Now Antiochus never magnified himself against every god. He claimed to be a god. His name Epiphanes means god. But he put up great temples, many great buildings for the worship of Zeus, the god of Greece. He honored the gods of his fathers. But here we read "he shall magnify himself above every god and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods . . . (vs. 37). Neither shall he regard the gods of his fathers . . ." That's not true. Antiochus did regard the god of his fathers and put up great temples. "Nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall magnify himself above all. But in his estate shall he honor the god of forces." Now that's — that sounds more like someone today who says, I'm not worshipping any god. I'm not interested in the gods of my fathers. I'm honoring material force, strength. Like you remember when they suggested to Stalin during the war that they should invite the Pope to join in the discussion of what should be done after the war. And Stalin said, "How many