

So the king of the south shall be strong. And one of his princes. All of these prophetic statements are quite clear, when you look back at what happened. But very seldom would you tell in advance from them what exactly was going to happen. It's like many of the prophecies of Christ. It would be very hard to write a life of Christ simply from the OT prophecies.

But when the events occurred, you saw how exactly they fit with ~~some~~ so many of those prophecies and it was an assurance to you that this was indeed what the Lord had predicted. So here the statement that "one of his princes shall be strong, and he shall be strong above ~~it~~ him" obviously does not mean that Ptolemy will be stronger than one of his princes. It must mean that this one of his princes will be stronger than he.

We know historically that Seleucid, after working for Ptolemy for a time, saw his opportunity and went back to Babylon, where he had previously been in charge, and in 312 B.C. he established himself in Babylon. And establishing himself there in 312, his successors continued to rule for a century == for centuries, and the date seemed so important that that is the first time in history that we know of, that people have measured dates right along from-- one, two, three, four, beyond one's king's reign.

In Ancient Egypt we read that in the 25th year of the reign of Ramases II something happened. Then we read that in the 5th year of Merneptah, something happened. But we don't know how many years a date in ~~Merneptah's~~ Merneptah's reign would be after a date in his father's reign unless we know how long his father lived. It seems a very simple thing to us simply to number right along as we do year after year, but this never seems to have occurred to anybody in ancient times, and probably more or less by accident Seleucus figured == measured from the time that he went to Babylon, in 312 B.C., and when his son became king, instead of saying, In such a year of Antiochus, they continued to number right straight along.

That numbering was continued by some as late as 1600 A.D. It is the longest continued system of chronology that the world has ever seen. Some Hebrew MSS of the Bible are dated in the == say in the year 2612 say which would mean 2612 years after Seleucus went to Babylon in 312 B.C. The unfortunate thing is that sometimes they would not bother to give the thousands, they would just say 612 or they might just say the year 12. Just like we sometimes just give the last two figures of the date. So sometimes you know the exact year a Hebrew MS was written, but you don't know which century it was.

But it starts in with 315 (You said 312 above) when Seleucus went to Babylon. So this was very exactly fulfilled. "He shall be strong above him"---stronger than Ptolemy, because he (Ptolemy) had Egypt here, but Seleucus had all the territory reaching way over to India. He had everything on the map there, and further East. So he had a tremendous area that he held. And large as all the rest of Alexander's empire put together was the area which Seleucus held. So this statement "he shall be strong above him" was very remarkably fulfilled.