

and he attacks the king of the south.

At this point we need to remind ourselves of the situation there between the Seleucids and the Ptolemies. The Ptolemies held Egypt but they also held Palestine, and southern Syria. They held that for 100 years. The Seleucids had been trying to get possession of that part of Asia, to get it away from the Ptolemies.

Antiochus III succeeded in doing so, and when he did so this is of great interest to the Hebrews, because Palestine was very prosperous under the Ptolemies and was getting along well under them. But there were some who were dissatisfied. There were some Israelites who were unhappy and they tried to get their area free from Ptolemy which would bring them under the Seleucids.

As they did that they thought that would give them more freedom and actually it led to the terrible crisis that is described in this chapter under Antiochus IV. So we read, (v.14) "There shall many in those days stand up against the king of the south." Antiochus III was making a series of campaigns against the Ptolemies. This "many" suggests people helping them. It is generally thought that this refers to the time when the king of Macedonia, for a brief period, joined with him, against the Ptolemies.

I think it could equally well refer to many in Israel, thinking they would be better off under the Seleucids than under the Ptolemies, who joined with them. You cannot say which because it merely says "many." But the next phrase says, "But the robbers of the people shall exalt themselves to establish the vision, but they shall fall." What does that mean? The robbers of thy people? Speaking "thy people" certainly speaking about Israelites. This is considered by all interpreters to mean that there were Jews who revolted against Ptolemy, thinking they would be better off under Seleucus, under Antiochus III.

So they had a vision, they had an idea they would be much better off under the Seleucids. Freedom from the Ptolemies. But they shall fall. Actually they were much worse off as we find out in the latter part of the chapter. "So the king of the north shall come and cast up a siege mound and take the fortified cities, and the arms of the south shall not withstand, neither his chosen people, neither shall there be strength to withstand. But he that cometh against him shall do according to his own will and none shall stand before him, and he shall stand in the glorious land, which by his hand shall be consumed."

So that from this time on, Palestine, Israel, and Southern Syria are joined with the rest of the Seleucid territory and taken away from the Ptolemies.

Verse 17: "He shall also set his face to enter with the strength of his whole kingdom, and upright ones with him. Thus shall he do, and he shall give him the daughter of women corrupting her but she shall not stand on his side neither be for him."

Antiochus III gave his daughter, Cleopatra, in marriage to ^{the} his son Ptolemy IV thinking that that would cement friendship between the two countries