

been fulfilled, but you would not in advance be able to predict how it would be fulfilled. So these predictions, while none of them are figurative, they are practically all in plain language, yet the language is a bit vague in these predictions of the future. It is not given to satisfy curiosity about the future.

It is given in order that people can see that he really spoke from God. And see how these things were fulfilled. So we notice how the statements about Seleucus Nicator were fulfilled in v.5. Seleucus the Conquerer, literally, he was called that in his lifetime and later on they called him Seleucus I.

We read in v. 5 how he was a prince of Ptolemy, the king of the south, but he became stronger than Ptolemy and had a great dominion. So we have that ~~sohu~~ about Seleucus predicted 200 years in advance! You could not tell what was going to happen, but if you see it happen you know that if the words had been stated differently it would not have been fulfilled.

Then we noticed No. 2. Antiochus II and Bernice. That was a very striking event, an event which everyone in Syria and in Egypt was aware of what happened. I don't think you could have told later exactly what was going to happen. You notice v. 6 says "In the end of years, they will join themselves together." In other words there is a space of time in between here and it skips over Antiochus I completely, and goes to Antiochus II.

Antiochus II and Ptolemy II, your sheet shows you, were reigning at the same time. When Antiochus II was reigning, Ptolemy II was becoming an old man, because you notice he began to reign in 283, and Antiochus II only in 261.

There had been considerable strife between the two kingdoms. Now they tried to make a treaty of alliance. In those days they usually tried to seal such treaties by having an inter-marriage. So as we mentioned last time, Seleucus, who was already married to Laodice who had grown sons, now discarded her and married Bernice, the daughter of Ptolemy II.

As the verse says, The kings' daughter of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement. But she shall not retain the power of the arm, neither shall he stand nor his armies.

You remember he lived with her a brief time and then he left her and went up to Asia Minor where his first wife was living. His first wife was afraid he would make the children of Bernice his successors, the infant child of Bernice, so it is usually thought she poisoned him.

"But she shall be given up, and they that brought her and he that begot her and he that strengthened her in these times."

After he died, the people who favored his son to succeed him managed to get hold of Bernice and of her child and kill them. This phrase "he that begot her" is usually taken to mean that her father died at just about this time. Thought I noticed the NIV changes it to