

We read in v. 14, "In those days shall many stand up against the King of the South, also the robbers of thy people shall exalt themselves to establish the vision but they shall fail." And that is usually taken to mean that there were Jews in Palestine, who not satisfied with the generally decent way they had been treated by the Ptolemies for 150 yrs., thought they would be much better off under the Seleucids.

Therefore to establish their vision of freedom from the Ptolemies they gave their help to Antiochus III in getting them away from Ptolemy into the Syrians. But they shall fail. Their vision, their idea of how much better off they will be under the Seleucids proved to be utterly false because they were far worse off. At least they were when Antiochus IV became king.

So that was v.14. We have at the end of v.17 that "he shall give him the daughter of women corrupting him, but she shall not stand on her side neither be for him.

Antiochus III thought he would emulate Alexander the Great's conquests. He had reestablished the Seleucid empire over the whole east, but he did not have the territory that Alexander had come from i.e. Macedonia, the section of Europe which belonged to him. So he wanted to make his situation safe over here, and so he made a peace arrangement with Ptolemy V, and he gave Ptolemy V his daughter, Cleopatra in marriage to seal the bond thinking she, as Queen of Egypt, would give her support to him. But she didn't.

It says, But she shall not stand on his side, neither be for him. That was a great disappointment to him when she threw her full loyalty to her husband and to the Egyptians. She was the first Egyptian queen to bear the name Cleopatra.

Verse 18 says, And after this he shall turn his face unto the isles and shall take many. We know that Antiochus III turned westward, north and westward. He already held most of Asia Minor which the Seleucids held for a century and a half. He now marched across the Hellespont into Europe, and began seizing territory in Europe. He was quite successful in seizing Macedonia and the territory to the north and much of Greece.

Then he got a message from Rome, and a Roman representative said to him, We want you to stop trying to make conquests in Europe. And he said, I don't interfere in Italy in your region. What right have you to interfere with what I do back here? So whether they had the right may be questions, but they (the Romans) had the might! They sent an army which defeated him in Thermopylae and drove him back out of Europe and then followed him to Asia Minor and there defeated him at Magnesia.

So v.18 says, After this he shall turn his face unto the isles and shall take many, but a prince on his own behalf shall cause the reproach offered by him to cease. Without his own reproach he shall cause it to turn upon him. Then he shall turn his face toward the fortresses of his own land but he shall stumble and fall and not be found. A very brief summary of what happened when the Romans after driving him out from Greece, ~~after~~ after their