

control and reigned from 176 to 164 and he was a man with very peculiar characteristics. He called himself Epiphanes.

Epiphanes means--- now there is a feast in many denominations called the Feast of the Epiphany, or the Feast of the Appearance of the Lord. So when he called himself Epiphanes, he was claiming to be a god on earth. He was the outshining god; he called himself Antiochus Epiphanes, but he began when he first came to Antioch going around among the people soliciting votes acting as if it was a democratic organization like Rome and Athens and looking for votes which he had gotten in Athens.

He went from one extreme to the other in his reign. He would be a tyrant who would kill people at the slightest provocation, and he would turn around and do all kinds of things for people and act as if he was == act in a way as if he was just one of the commonest of people. He was very unpredictable. One thing he wanted was, he wanted a unity in his kingdom. He wanted everyone to worship him as a god and to worship the gods he worshipped.

His brother had gathered considerable funds by this time. He set out to build a new temple to Zeus in Athens. He built a tremendous temple, one of the greatest temples in Athens. He was unable to complete it in his life and it remained that way 200 years and then a Roman emperor completed this great temple, one of the largest temples in Athens.

After a time -- he saw -- his sister was a queen in Egypt, and when her husband and there were two small boys, the oldest of which was nominally the king though his ministers were actually ruling. Antiochus decided he would try to take over control of Egypt. So he led an army down into Egypt. There in Egypt he made up with his nephew who was nominally the king-- he was in his teens still and the two of them ate together and he thought he would rule Egypt through his nephew being a nominal king so he talked to him as though he was going to do everything for him while the nephew was actually planning to throw off his control just as soon as he could.

So we read here how they told lies at one table. They sat there eating and telling lies to one another. The city of Alexandria, one of the great centers of Egypt, he was unable to get control of. He thought he had established his nephew and that his nephew would get control of Alexandria. He went back to his own land, and on the way he stopped in Jerusalem in order to rob the temple. This brought him into sharp contact of course with the Jews and gave him an idea of how opposed they were to his desire to make them all pagans. Then he got to Antioch and held a tremendous celebration at which he invited people from all over the known world and spent tremendous sums on a tremendous celebration in which he himself put on a great dance and he did all kinds of things mixing with the crowd in many different ways.

Then he found that his nephew in Egypt had thrown out all relationship with him, declared himself entirely independent and so he marched to Egypt again with a large force and he came