

where there was a good deal of money available and there he was taken with a nervous illness and shortly died. His youngest son became king for a brief time after him. The persecution was continued. The group of Maccabees fought and eventually they gained their independence and gave a pledge of mutual support with Rome. They were completely independent for half a century or more before the Romans finally took over what remained of the Seleucid empire.

So Antiochus IV is a very vivid and dramatic character. To him the attack on Judaism was a comparatively small part of his activity, but it was something that would have meant a complete end to the OT and to the teachings given in it had it not been for the Maccabean uprising. When the Maccabees however, began to gain power, then other people began to join with them who were not so interested in the real            of the issue and eventually the descendants of the Maccabees ruled independently but fell very far short of the standards with which they began. So they are not remembered with great favor among the Jews.

It was the great crisis perhaps in the history of the religion of Israel prior to the time of Christ. So Antiochus IV is so important in this regard that it is important to see how in Dan. 11:21-35 we have events of it described. If you read through these verses you'll see how many of the things I've mentioned are suggested there.

The assignment is posted as you go and we'll continue there next time.