

Sections 10 and 12 state that he considered himself superior and took his stand against the Prince of princes. The phrases "Prince of the host" and "Prince of princes" undoubtedly refer to the true God, against whom Antiochus stood up. He declared himself to be a god, adopting the name Epiphanes, which means "the manifest god." Previous kings had taken similar titles, but Antiochus, by using this name on his coins, greatly stressed his claim to be divine.

Section 11 says that he will destroy many "when they feel secure." This may well be a definite prediction of an event described in the first chapter of 1 Maccabees (vv. 29-32). Antiochus sent a contingent of soldiers to Jerusalem with orders to pretend to be making a friendly visit, but suddenly to fall upon the people, killing many and seizing control.

When the pious Israelites resisted Antiochus' innovations, he instituted severe persecutions. Eventually, as pointed out in sections 13-16, he put a stop to the regular services of the temple, desecrated it by placing a statue of Jupiter in front of the sacred altar, and ordered that the people offer swine as a sacrifice to this heathen god, so polluting the temple that no faithful Jew could worship there.

In Hebrew the word translated "daily sacrifice" (sections 13, 16 and 20) simply means "the continual." The KJV interpreted it as pointing only to the daily sacrifices, and it was frequently used in this sense in the Talmud, which was written in the early centuries of the Christian era. However, many modern interpreters take it as including all the regular ceremonies of the temple.

The words in section 18, "truth was thrown to the ground," could be understood as a general statement of Antiochus' opposition to God's law. It is more likely, however, that they refer to the fact, stated in I Maccabees 1:56-57, that he seized and destroyed many copies of the Scriptures.

Soon Antiochus gave orders that everyone in the land of Israel should be compelled to sacrifice to heathen gods and to abandon God's law. The penalty for disobedience was death. After many pious Israelites had been killed by the king's representatives, others began to flee into the