

He will establish himself in the Beautiful Land and will have the power to destroy it. (17) He will determine to come with the might of his entire kingdom and will make an alliance with the king of the South. And he will give him a daughter in marriage in order to overthrow the kingdom, but his plans will not succeed or help him. (18) Then he will turn his attention to the coastlands and will take many of them, but a commander will put an end to his insolence and will turn his insolence back upon him. (19) After this, he will turn back toward the fortresses of his own country but will stumble and fall, to be seen no more.

(20) His successor will send out a tax collector to maintain the royal splendor. In a few years, however, he will be destroyed, yet not in anger or in battle.

Except for verse 20 this passage deals mainly with the career of Antiochus III, one of the greatest figures in the history of the Seleucid empire.

Seleucus II had two sons. The older, Seleucus III, began to assemble forces for an attack against Egypt, but was killed in a revolt four years after becoming king. He was succeeded by his younger brother, Antiochus III, who defeated Egypt during 36 years of almost constant fighting and reestablished the control of the Seleucids over most of the land they had formerly held.

Since most interpreters agree that these ten verses give a correct summary of the events of this reign we shall not examine them in full detail but only note a few points of special interest. Thus it is generally believed that the statement in verse 14, "many shall rise up against the king of the south," includes a reference to Macedonia, the third of the great kingdoms that came out of Alexander's empire, since at one time its king, Philip V, joined with Antiochus III in a plan to seize and divide between them all the possessions of the Ptolemies.