

the exploits of Alexander the Great, and therefore tried to conquer the European area from which Alexander had originally come. This brought him, into conflict with the rising power of Rome.

Only a short time had passed since the Roman republic had begun to take an interest in the eastern Mediterranean regions. Therefore Antiochus was quite amazed when its representatives told him that he must withdraw from Europe. He declared that he had never interfered in Italian affairs and that Rome had no right to interfere in the east. Each side felt that the other had shown inexcusable insolence. After Antiochus entered Greece with a large army and navy the Romans sent their legions to drive him back. Verse 18 continues: "but a commander will put an end to his insolence and will turn his insolence back upon him."

The Roman armies defeated Antiochus at Thermopylae, followed him as he retreated into Asia Minor, and completely overcame him at Magnesia. He was compelled to surrender his navy, to give up most of Asia Minor, to promise to pay a huge indemnity immediately and a large additional sum in each of the following twelve years, and to surrender as hostages 20 men whom the Romans would select. One of these was his younger son, Antiochus, who was later to be known as Antiochus (IV) Epiphanes. The Romans turned over a large part of Asia Minor to a small independent kingdom called Pergamum, which thus became very wealthy for a brief period, but eventually was absorbed by Rome. The rise of the "fourth beast" and its rapaciousness came as a great shock to Antiochus III.

In this brief time Antiochus lost more than he had gained in all his years of fighting. With his treasury empty it was necessary that he try to recoup his finances. He made his eldest son, Seleucus IV, co-king along with him, and went to the eastern part of his dominion in search of funds. When he attempted to rob the treasury of a small temple its guardians suddenly attacked and killed him. These events are summarized in verse 19, which ends with the statement that he "will stumble and fall, to be seen no more."