

(vv. 21-35) deal with events connected with Antiochus Epiphanes. Those who hold the Maccabean viewpoint declare that the book of Daniel was written during Antiochus Epiphanes' reign, and say that these verses give a true picture of events with which the writer was familiar because they had already occurred. Most of those who believe that the book was written by a prophet in the time of Nebuchadnezzar consider these verses to be a marvelously accurate prediction of the character and deeds of Antiochus Epiphanes. Up to this point there is little difference in the way interpreters with differing viewpoints interpret the passage.

In sharp contrast to these first three sections, those in the second set are very difficult to fit with what is known of the history of Antiochus Epiphanes. Holders of the Maccabean view attempt to show that the description of a king's character in verses 36-39 can be understood as applying to Antiochus, but such an attempt does not work out, as we shall see when we examine those verses in detail.

Even greater difficulties occur when the attempt is made to fit the statements of verses 40-45 with the events of Antiochus' life. Some writers attempt to consider them as a recapitulation of the events previously described, but this does not work out. The more common view of those who hold the Maccabean viewpoint is to say that verses 40-45 represent the mistaken guesses of the writer as to what was ahead. Many evangelicals feel that verses 36-45 must describe a great future opponent of God's people, with an interval of at least two thousand years between verses 35 and 36.

Antiochus Epiphanes

After saying that Daniel 11:5-20 traces the course of the Seleucid kingdom in considerable detail from its beginning through the reigns of the father and brother of Antiochus, Jerome says that at verse 21 the author suddenly jumps forward to the "man of sin" described by Paul in 2 Thessalonians, and that the rest of the chapter relates to this