

madman." Though praised to his face, he was quite generally despised.

In a specific sense the term may represent the attitude toward Antiochus before he became king. As the verse says, his people did not plan to give him the honor of royalty but considered him as of no particular account. Many years had passed since he had been in Syria and he was not next in line to the throne. The authorities in the Seleucid kingdom had no desire to give the honor of the kingdom to Antiochus, but he made a deal with the king of Pergamum, who furnished him with money and supplies and enabled him quickly to enter Syria, where he obtained the kingdom by clever maneuvering and quickly disposed of those who opposed him.

In 11:21 the KJV says "he shall come in peaceably." Instead of "peaceably" most recent translations render *b^eshalwah* as "without warning," "in a time of tranquility," or "unawares." None of these translations give the exact force of the original. The idea is that those to whom he came did not realize his purpose and therefore felt safe. The same word was used in 8:25 to indicate the destruction by his soldiers of men who had been led to believe that the soldiers had come as friends. It occurs again in 11:24 to describe his seizure of valuable property from men who did not realize his intentions.

Verse 22 might be taken as a general summary of his various conquests, but would seem more probably to refer specifically to his success in overcoming opposition to his becoming king. The last phrase in this verse, "a prince of the covenant," has been interpreted in various ways. Perhaps it points to some unfaithfulness toward the king of Pergamum, with whom he had made a covenant that resulted in that king's giving him help toward getting the throne. Most interpreters take it as referring to the murder of Onias, a former high priest, but this seems out of place in the context, since it did not occur until five years after he became king, and also after many of the activities described in verse 24.

As predicted in verse 23, Antiochus worked deceitfully