

god certainly does not fit what is known of Antiochus who gave such honor to Zeus and the other gods of Greece. It is true that he was very proud of his title, "Epiphanes," which described him as a god, and he would seem to have been the first of the Seleucids actually to put such a title on his coins. Yet this represented an exaltation of himself above human beings, not an exaltation above the great gods of Greece. The many temples that he built, as well as his attempt to force the Jews to worship Greek gods, make it impossible to think of him as the one described in statements A, C and E.

It has been said that there is ground for thinking that Antiochus identified himself with the god Zeus. Even if this should be proved it would not mean that he exalted himself above every god or that he did not regard any god.

In connection with statement C it has been suggested that Antiochus showed disregard for Apollo, the alleged ancestor of the Seleucid kings, by so greatly honoring Zeus. Such a statement, however, is not in line with fact. As all Greeks recognized the supremacy of Zeus, the father of the gods, over Apollo, who was considered his son, it is hardly reasonable to count veneration of Zeus as indicating disregard of Apollo.

The Seleucid kings who preceded Antiochus Epiphanes generally pictured the god Apollo on their emblems, since they thought of him as the founder of the dynasty. In later years their emblems were more apt to picture Zeus, the king of the gods. This would show a desire to exalt themselves by claiming connection with the head of the pantheon, but could hardly be considered as a fulfillment of the statement "neither shall he regard the gods of his fathers."

In statement C the Hebrew word *èlohim* may be translated "God" or "gods." The KJV renders this word as "God" more than two thousand times and as "gods" more than two hundred times. In neither case could the statement reasonably apply to Antiochus.

There is great disagreement as to what is meant by statement D. Some think that it must in some way refer to a deity. One writer has suggested that perhaps Antiochus