

The Sure Word of Prophecy, part 3

Wed. 3/15/23

- v 27 And both these kings hearts shall be to do mischief - Pr 6:14, Acts 13:10
and they shall speak lies at one table - Psalm 5:6, Dan 4

hx: Antiochus and Ptolemy had numerous conferences at the same table in Memphis. Both professed great concern for one another, while privily plotting and laying snares against each other.

Ptolemy was planning to secretly ally with his brother in Alexandria and suddenly attack Antiochus in the near future.

Meanwhile, Antiochus was privately recruiting key servants in Ptolemy's palace to gain access for the assassination of Ptolemy.

but it shall not prosper : Neither succeeded in their schemes.

for the end shall be at the time appointed (12x OT) doct: the Tribulation

first ref - Gen 18:14; Dan 8:19, 10:1, 11:27, 29, 35; last - Hab 2:3

spir: Job 7:1 14:5 Heb 9:27

- v 28 Then shall he return to his land with great riches

Antiochus returned to Syria with Egyptian the spoils gained from his palace intrigue.

and his heart shall be against the holy covenant

When Antiochus came home he learned that the Jews in Israel made great rejoicing over a rumor of his death. This greatly angered him and he determined to punish them.

and he shall do great exploits def: 1. a deed of renown; great or noble
 2. an act of great wickedness *

* In 168 BC he led his army against the Holy Land. They killed 40,000; took 40,000 captive; and sold 40,000 as slaves.

v 29

At the time appointed he shall return . . . toward the south Later that year he attacked Egypt.

but it shall not be as the former : when he won a complete victory, v 26;

or as the latter : when he held a peace conference, v 27.

v 30 For the ships of Chittim shall come against him Chittim was a colony on the island of Cyprus. They were a seafaring people that made great ships and sold them to Rome. As Antiochus was marching toward Alexandria, his path was blocked by a Roman ambassador named Gaius Popillius Laenas who arrived via a Roman ship of Chittim. Gaius delivered a

message from the Roman Senate directing Antiochus to withdraw his armies from Egypt and Cyprus or consider himself in a state of war with the Roman Republic. Antiochus said: "I will discuss it with my council". Whereupon the Roman envoy drew a line in the sand around Antiochus and said: "Before you leave this circle, give me a reply that I can take back to the Roman Senate." Antiochus understood this meant if he stepped out of the circle without committing to leave Egypt immediately, Rome would declare war against him. Quickly weighing his options, Antiochus decided to withdraw. Only then did Popillius agree to shake hands with him.

v 30 Therefore he shall be grieved, and return, In his work detailing the Punic Wars called "*The Histories*", Greek historian Polybius wrote: "Grieving and groaning, mortified, humiliated and disappointed, Antiochus began his return journey home."

v 30 and have indignation against the holy covenant Antiochus vented his rage against the Jews. He hated the law of Moses and the worship of the God of Israel. Antiochus was refined in Greek culture and learning. He was a lover of art which expressed itself in grand temples dedicated to the Greek gods. He hated God's covenant that made the Jews a peculiar people, distinct from all other nations and dignified above them. He was vexed by the privileges and promises made to them in their scriptures.

Spir: The hope and joy of the people of God is the **envy** of their neighbors.
e.g. Esau hated Jacob because he got the blessing.

Those who are strangers to the holy covenant are often enemies to it.
Proverbs 27:4 & 14:30; Job 5:2

Hist: Antiochus sent his general Apollonius with 22,000 men into the Holy City where they killed men, women and children, and set fire to houses after they plundered them.

v 30 he shall have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant

Antiochus utilized disobedient, apostate Jews to further his evil designs.

Historical Accounts taken from 1 & 2 Maccabees

10 And there came a wicked root, Antiochus Epiphanes, he reigned in the 137th year of the kingdoms of the Greeks. [note: year 137 corresponds to 175 BC]

11 In those days there went out of Israel wicked men, who persuaded many, saying "Let us go and make a covenant with the heathen that are round about us; for since we departed from them, we have had much sorrow."

12 So this device pleased them well. [note: Proverbs 19:21]

- 13 Then certain of the people went to the king, who gave them license to do the ordinances of the heathen.
- 14 Whereupon they built a Greek stadium* in Jerusalem. [* a large, open school]
- 15 And made themselves uncircumcised, and forsook the holy covenant, and joined themselves to the heathen, and were sold to do mischief.

1 Maccabees 1:10-15

- 7 Jason, the brother of Onias the High Priest . . . 8 went to see king Antiochus . . .
- 9 and requested if he might have license to set up a place in Jerusalem for the training of youth in the fashions of the heathen and enroll them as citizens of Antioch.

2 Maccabees 4:7-9

v 31 and arms shall stand on his part

Because of the treacherous Jews, Antiochus had both his army returning from Egypt and a great party of turncoat Jews.

and they shall pollute the sanctuary

Spir: Unbelievers pollute God's house.

John 16:8-9 Romans 11:20 2 Thes 2:12

Hist:

As Antiochus army ransacked Judea and Jerusalem; 1 Maccabees states :

- v 21 He proudly entered into the sanctuary, and took away the golden altar, and the candlestick of light, and all the vessels thereof,
- v 22 And the table of shewbread . . . and the censers of gold, and the vail, and the crowns, and the golden ornaments. He pillared all things.
- v 23 He took also the silver, the precious vessels; also he took the hidden treasures
- v 24 And when he had taken all away, he went into his own land, having made a great massacre, and spoken very proudly.

1 Maccabees 1:21-24

Antiochus personally violated the Temple, entering the Holy of holies, taking the golden vessels, and mocked the God of Israel.

He returned home to his own country and arrogantly boasted of his exploits.

Two years later he sent a large army against the towns of Judea, and when his soldiers entered Jerusalem he ordered his overseers to :

v 31 place the abomination that maketh desolate

On the fifteenth day of the month Kislev in the year 145. 1 Maccabees 1:54

[= 165 BC]