

5 Daniel (session 2)

which we have abundance of historical evidence. When Ptolemy broke off his friendship with him, Antiochus went again with a large army against Egypt. He went down there and he carried everything before him. He had two-thirds of Egypt in his hands; it looked as if he was going to seize the rest of it, and then it says here "the ships of Kittim shall come against him." Actually the Roman ships came. The Roman senate had discussed the matter and they said, Antiochus is getting too strong. Antiochus, if he takes Egypt he will be a real menace to us. We must stop him. So a man named Lillius Pompellius who had been a good friend of Antiochus in the 14 years when he lived in Rome, was sent by the Roman senate. He himself being a senator was to tell Antiochus what the Roman senate wanted done. So he landed there in N. Egypt where Antiochus was and Antiochus met him there on the shores. It was a very dramatic story how this young Roman came up to him and Antiochus came up to him and he said, Hello Lillius. My it's good to see you." And Lillius just greeted him with a very stern face. He said, I have a message for you. "Oh," said Antiochus, "I'll be glad to hear it but first he said, it's nice to see you; let's have dinner together before we talk business." The man said, "I have a message for you from the Roman Senate." "Well, he said, tell it to me later." "No, he said, I must deliver my message before I can show any friendship." "Well, Antiochus said, What is your message?" "Well, he said, the Roman Senate says you must withdraw from Egypt. You must no more enter here with Egypt or with Asia Minor, but keep in between these two areas." "Well, Antiochus said, what's only a matter that requires only a little consideration, that request of the Roman senate." And immediately Lillius took his staff and drew a circle around Antiochus in the sand, and he said, "You may consider it just as long as you remain within that circle." "When you leave that circle, I must know your answer." And Antiochus immediately changed his whole attitude. "He, he said, if that's the case of course I'll do what the Roman Senate says."

Immediately Lillius instead of being stern and unfriendly, immediately he smiled and said, "Well, if that's your attitude, my it's nice to see you Antiochus. I'm glad to hear good things about how you are getting on." So they had a fine dinner together and Antiochus tried to hide his feelings, but he took his army and he withdrew from Egypt.