

Daniel 11

1 ¶ Also I in the first year of Darius the Mede, even I, stood to confirm and to strengthen him.

2 And now will I shew thee the truth. Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than they all: and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia.

3 And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will.

4 And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those.

Notes on Daniel 11

(v.1) 1st year of Darius the Mede (539 BC)

Who was Darius the Mede?

Scripture refers to Darius the Mede taking the city of Babylon.

Daniel 5:31 'And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.'

Darius the Mede appears to have been Cyaxares the son of Astyages, and the uncle of Cyrus. (Mentioned by Xenophon).

He reigned with Cyrus for two years.

Cyrus the Great (c. 590/576 – 529 BC)



King of Iran (from 559 BC)

King over Medes (550 BC)

Founder of the Persian Empire

Cyrus was influenced by the teachings of Zoroaster

Zoroastrianism became the religion of Persia.

Cyrus took Babylon in October 539 BC.

Herodotus explains that the Persians entered Babylon by diverting the waters of the Euphrates into a canal. The water level dropped to the height of a man's thigh. The Persian army was then able to enter the city. Cyrus arrested Nabonidus and took the titles King of Babylon, Sumer, and Akkad.

(v.2) Three Kings – 4th richer than them all

1) Cyrus (590/579 - 529)

2) Cambyses (529-522) – the son of Cyrus

(In 522 BC Badiya, the brother of Cambyses, called **Smerdis**, led a revolt. Darius claimed Badiya was already dead, the revolt led by an imposter called Gaumata who was assassinated in 522)

3) Darius Hystaspes (522 -486)

4) Xerxes (485 – 465) – Xerxes is also called Ahasuerus (Ezra 4:6; Married Esther)

He was richer than previous rulers as inherited the wealth they accumulated.

He raised an army against Greece.

(v.3) **Alexander the Great (356BC – 323BC)**

When Alexander attacked the Persian Army he referred to the attack upon Greece by Xerxes.

“Your ancestors entered into Macedonia, and the other parts of Greece, and did us damage, when they had received no affront from us as the cause of it; and now I, created general of the Grecians, provoked by you, and desirous of avenging the injury done by the Persians, have passed over into Asia.”

Alexander fighting Darius III
at Battle of Issus.

National Archaeological
Museum.

Naples, Italy



The Greek Empire stretched from Macedon to some parts of India and south to Egypt. The city of Alexandria was founded by Alexander the Great.



Alexander died in Nebuchadnezzar's palace in Babylon on June 10-11, 323 BC.



British Museum

Front: Alexander wears the ram's horn of the Egyptian god Amun

Reverse: The seated goddess Athena with inscription 'of King Lysimachus'.

Coin of Alexander made by a former General, Lysimachus who ruled in Thrace N. Greece and parts of Asia Minor (305 –281 BC).

Early 3rd century.

Silver and gold coins.

(v.4) Height of his power – died in the palace at Babylon probably of malaria but it was rumoured that he was murdered by Cassander who had just arrived in Babylon.

Following the death of Alexander the struggle for control of parts of the Empire by his generals resulted in the four **Wars of the Diadochi** (322 BC-301 BC).

The eventual outcome of these wars of succession was that Alexander's kingdom was divided amongst his four generals.

1) **Ptolemy**

2) **Antigonus**

3) **Seleucus**

4) **Cassander**

1. Ptolemy (367 BC – 283 BC)– Ptolemy I Soter (Soter means preserver) founder of the Ptolemaic Kingdom and Dynasty.

2. Antigonus (382 BC – 301 BC) – Antigonus I founder of the Antigonid Dynasty. Known as Monophthalmus (the one eyed).

The Antigonid Dynasty was established by his son Demetrius (Antigonus II) controlling Macedon and most Greek states. The Antigonids ruled Macedon until 168 BC when it was conquered by the Romans.

3. Seleucus (358 BC – 281 BC) – Seleucus I called Nicator founder of Seleucid Empire and Dynasty.

4. Cassander (350 BC – 297 BC) – Son of Antipater. Antipatrid dynasty did not last. He killed Alexander the Great's mother Olympias. He was married to Thessalonica and renamed the city of Therma after his wife.

After the battle of Ipsus (301 BC) the Greek Empire was divided into Four.

Ptolomy in Egypt and the Levant.

Lysimachus ruled in Thrace

Seluceus in Mesopotamia and Iran

Cassander ruled Macedon

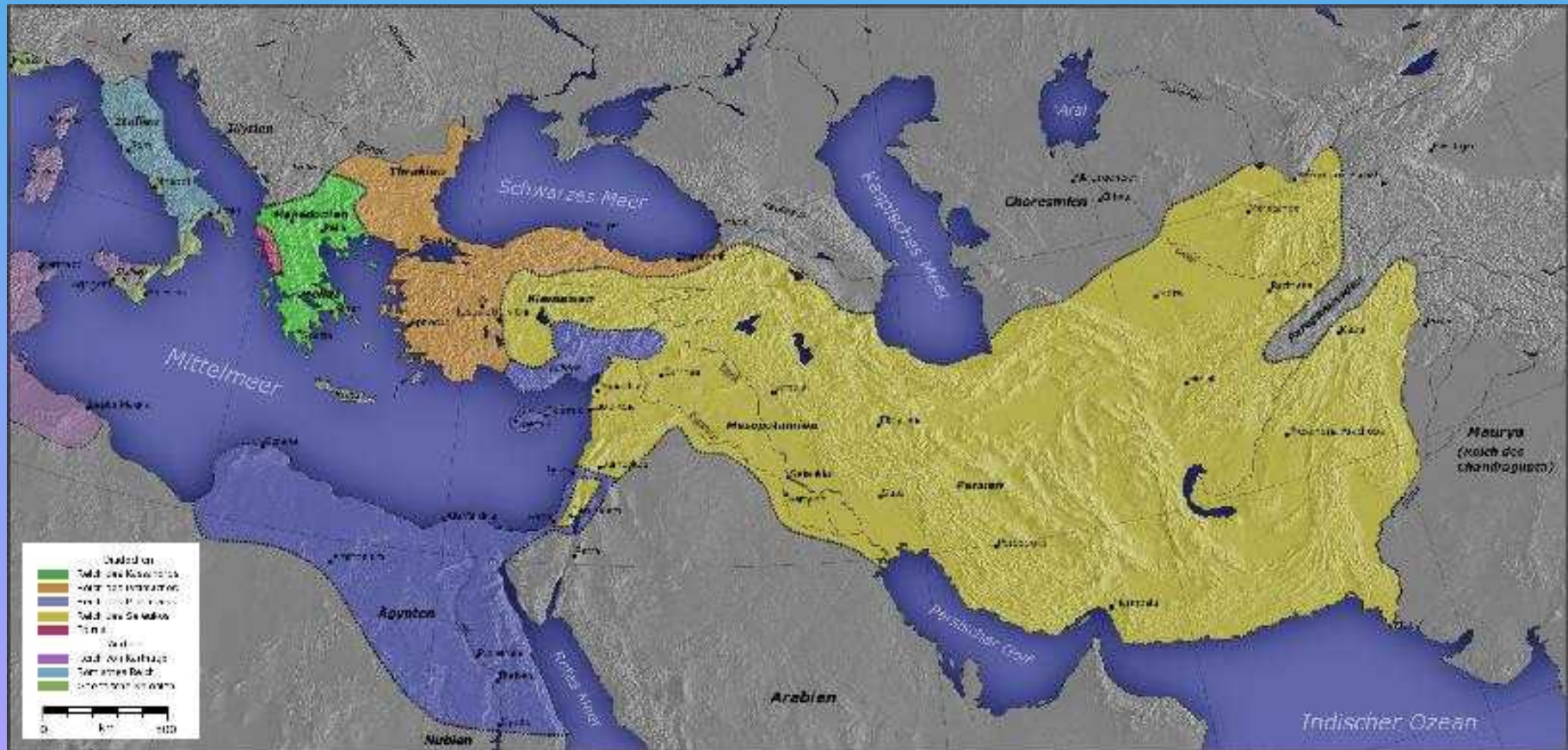
By 270 BC it was divided between three Empires.

The Ptolemaic kingdom in Egypt, Palestine and Cyrenaica.

The Seleucid Empire – Asia

The Antigonid Empire – Macedon

The Four Divisions of the Greek Empire



Cassander (Green), Lysimachus (Orange), Seleucus (yellow), Ptolemy (blue).

5 ¶ And the king of the south shall be strong, and one of his princes; and he shall be strong above him, and have dominion; his dominion shall be a great dominion.

(v.5) King of the South – Egypt

Ptolemy I Soter, described as the son of Lagus.

Ruled over Egypt.

Arabia, Phoenicia, Coelesyria, Cyprus.

Lybia, Cyrene, and Ethiopia.

Several isles in the Aegean sea, and many cities in Greece.



1. Ptolemy I Soter (367 BC – 283 BC)

Soter is a title meaning preserver

Founder of the Ptolemaic Kingdom and Dynasty.

Bust in the British Museum.

Ptolemy I Soter taking Jerusalem in 320 BC.

Josephus tells how Ptolemy took Jerusalem on the Sabbath day by deceit and treachery. Pretending to be friendly the Jews did not oppose him thinking he had come to offer sacrifice.

Once he controlled Jerusalem,
he ruled in a cruel manner

Antiquities Book 12 ch.1:1

Painting by Jean Fouquet



Ptolemy Soter took many Jews and Samaritans as captives to Egypt.

Settled in Egypt.

Many Jews had already been brought to Egypt by Alexander.

These Jews were later ransomed by Ptolemy Philadelphus and made free citizens.

Then he appointed 72 interpreters to make a Greek translation of the Pentateuch.

**Daniel 11:5b ...and one of his
princes**

One of Ptolemy's princes (Seleucus)

Shall be strong over him (Ptolemy
Soter)

Seleucus was at first a satrap of
Ptolemy Soter,

Seleucus proclaimed himself King in
305 BC with his capital Seleucia on the
Tigris.

Ruled over Syria, Babylon, Media.

Known as Seleucus Nicator.



Seleucus Nicator (305 BC – 281 BC)

National Archaeological Museum

Naples, Italy.

King of the North – Syria

1st ruler

Seleucus Nicator (305 BC – 281 BC)

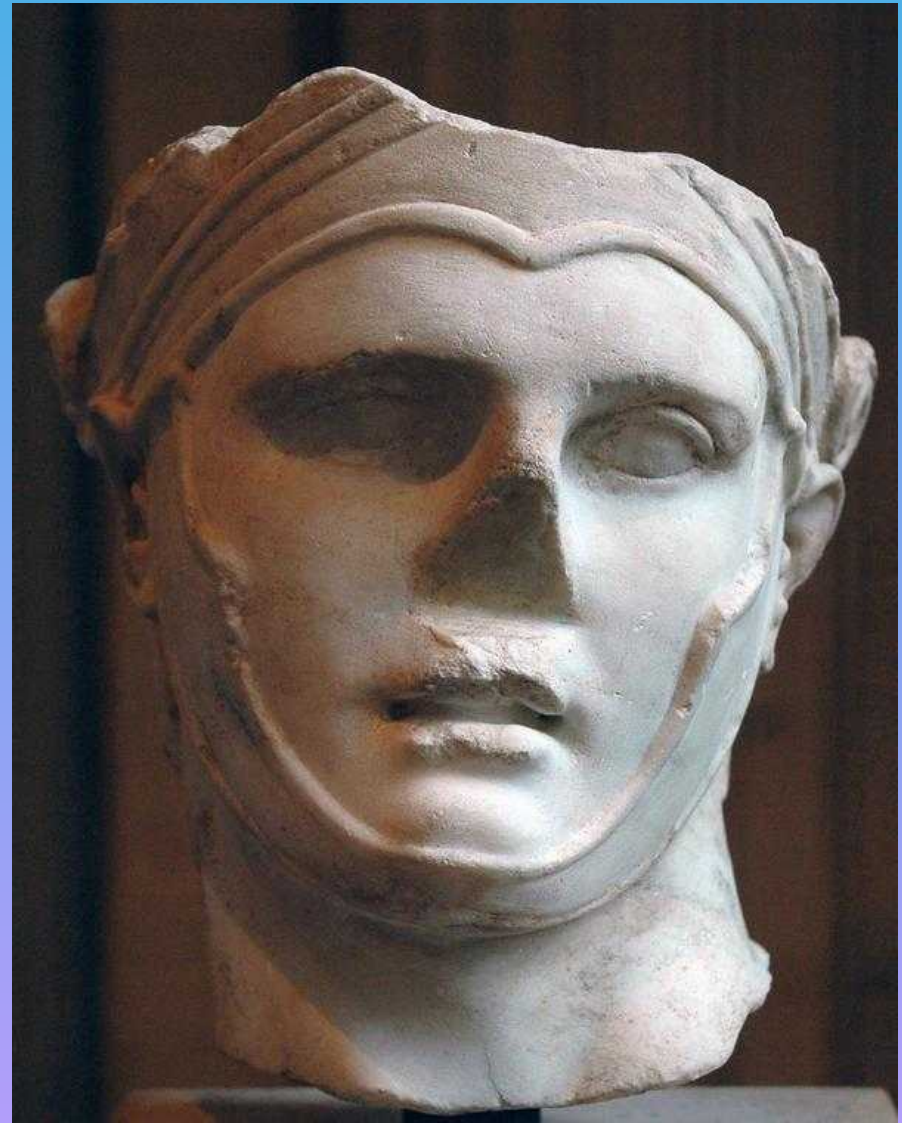
Son of Antiochus and Laodice

Married Apama (Persian princess)

Four children

Two Daughters – Apama and Laodice

Two sons – Antiochus and Achaeus



2nd ruler Antiochus Soter (281 BC – 261BC)

Father was Seleucus Soter

Mother was Apama (Persian princess)

Married his step mother Stratonice (daughter of Demetrius ruler of Macedon).

They had 5 children:

Seleucus (executed for rebellion)

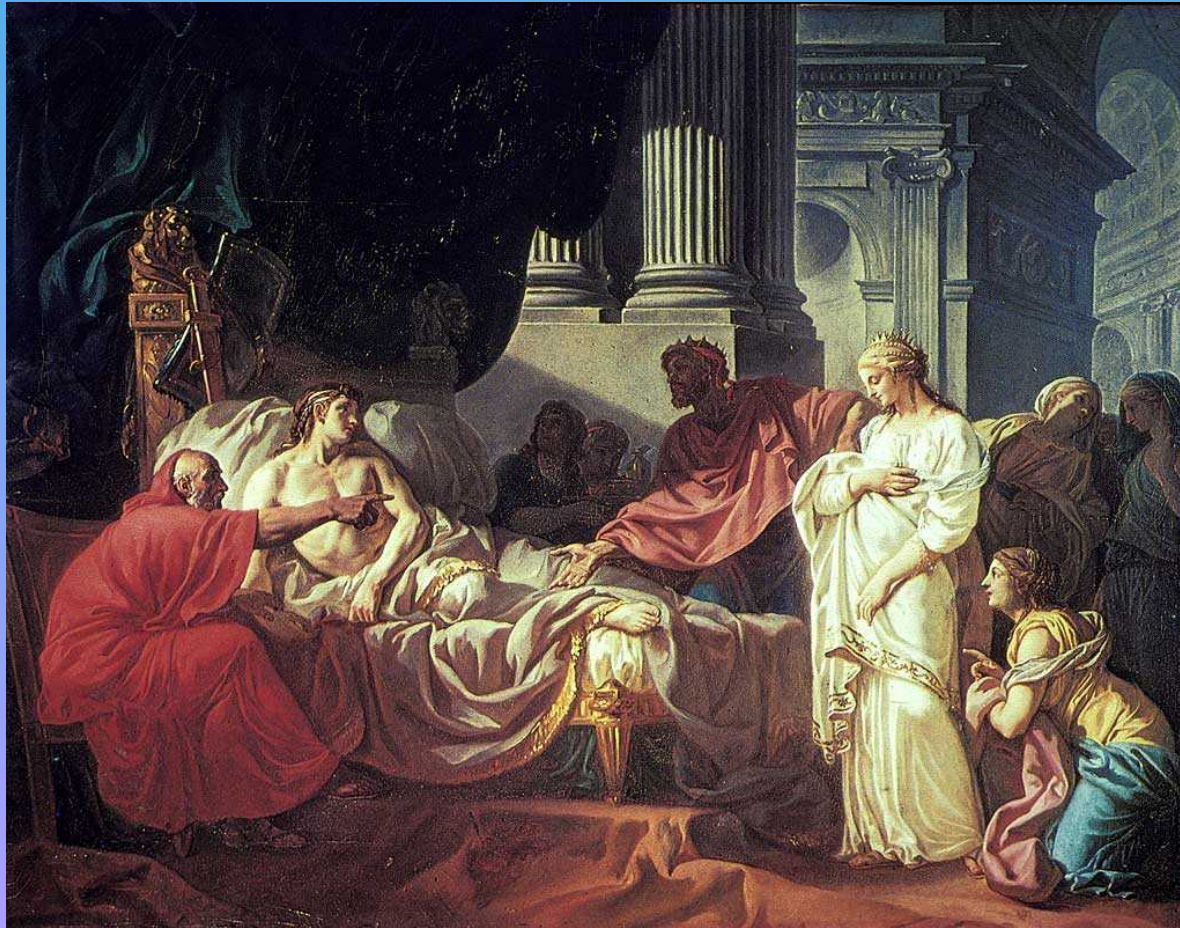
Laodice

Antiochus II Theos (286 BC – 246 BC) succeeded his father as the 3rd ruler of the Seleucids (261 BC – 246 BC)

Apama (Married Magas King of Cyrene)

Stratonice of Macedonia

Antiochus I and Stratonice by Jacques-Louis David (1774)



Antiochus burns with passion for his stepmother, Stratonice, the daughter of Demetrius. His father, Seleucus Soter, gave her to him, rather than see his son destroyed by passion.

Antiochus II Theos (261 BC – 246 BC) 3rd ruler of the Seleucids.

Married Laodice (probably his cousin)

Had two sons, **Seleucus II Callinicus (246 BC – 225 BC)** and Antiochus Hierax.



Inscription: Basileus Seleucos (...King Seleucus)

6 And in the end of years they shall join themselves together; for the king's daughter of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement: but she shall not retain the power of the arm; neither shall he stand, nor his arm: but she shall be given up, and they that brought her, and he that begat her, and he that strengthened her in these times.

(v.6) Ptolemy Philadelphus (309 BC – 246 BC)

King of Egypt (283 BC – 246 BC) – son of Ptolemy Lagus

Philadelphus who built up the library in Alexandria.

He was responsible for the translation of the Hebrew scriptures into Greek (LXX)

Agreement ending Second Syrian War

Bernice daughter of Ptolemy Philadelphus given as wife to Antiochus with dowry of gold to make agreement between Egypt and Syria.

Antiochus divorced his wife Laodice, sent into exile with her sons to Ephesus.

Bernice had one son by Antiochus

When Ptolemy died, Antiochus rejoined Laodice in Asia Minor and left Bernice and her son in Antioch.

Laodice poisoned Antiochus and made her son King (Seleucus II Callinicus)

Seleucus then murdered Bernice and her son who had fled to Daphne.

7 But out of a branch of her roots shall one stand up in his estate, which shall come with an army, and shall enter into the fortress of the king of the north, and shall deal against them, and shall prevail:

8 And shall also carry captives into Egypt their gods, with their princes, and with their precious vessels of silver and of gold; and he shall continue more years than the king of the north.

Third Syrian War.

Ptolomy III Euergetes (246 – 222 BC)

(v.7) Brother of Bernice (Ptolemy Euergetes) brought an army to defend his sister.

The fortress – Seleucia or Syria. He overcame Seleucia and it was held by Egptians for the next 27 years.

He also conquered Syria, Cilicia, most of the Seleucid Kingdom in Asia.

He would probably have conquered the whole Seleucid kingdom had he not been called home to put down a sedition in Egypt.

(v.8) Ptolomy Euergetes took 2500 gods (returning many that Cambyes had taken from Egypt).

Ptolomy III Euergetes reigned 25 years outlived **Seleucus II Callinicus (246 BC – 225 BC)** by 4 years.

9 So the king of the south shall come into his kingdom, and shall return into his own land.

10 But his sons shall be stirred up, and shall assemble a multitude of great forces: and one shall certainly come, and overflow, and pass through: then shall he return, and be stirred up, even to his fortress.

11 And the king of the south shall be moved with choler, and shall come forth and fight with him, even with the king of the north: and he shall set forth a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into his hand.

(v.10) Sons of Seleucus II Callinicus (243 BC – 225 BC)

They prepared armies to gain revenge against Egypt because of what Ptolemy Euergetes did.

1. **Seleucus Ceraunus (reigned 225 BC – 223 BC)** but was murdered (poisoned) in Phrygia during the 3rd year of his reign.

2. **Antiochus III the Great (241 BC – 187 BC)** reigned after him and he took Seleucia, Coelesyria, Phanel, Botris, Trieris, Calamus, invaded Israel.

v11) Antiochus and Ptolemy IV Philopater fought a battle at the fortress of Raphia between Egypt and Gaza.

Ptolemy Philopater moved by bitterness defeats Antiochus

12 And when he hath taken away the multitude, his heart shall be lifted up; and he shall cast down many ten thousands: but he shall not be strengthened by it.

13 For the king of the north shall return, and shall set forth a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come after certain years with a great army and with much riches.

14 And in those times there shall many stand up against the king of the south: also the robbers of thy people shall exalt themselves to establish the vision; but they shall fall.

15 So the king of the north shall come, and cast up a mount, and take the most fenced cities: and the arms of the south shall not withstand, neither his chosen people, neither shall there be any strength to withstand.

16 But he that cometh against him shall do according to his own will, and none shall stand before him: and he shall stand in the glorious land, which by his hand shall be consumed.

Ptolomy IV Philopator

Reigned 221 – 205 BC

(v12-13) Ptolomy filled with pride over his victory allows Antiochus to flee without following him.

Ptolomy resorts to ‘the lusts of the flesh’. Addicted to orgiastic forms of religion.

(v12) Entered Jerusalem sought to enter the holy of holies

Not able to do it.

Left in a rage.

Took out vengeance on the Jews in Alexandria

See 3 Maccabees chapter 1.



Gold octadrachm issued by Ptolemy Philopator.

British Museum

(v13) Antiochus III the Great returned after the death of Ptolomy Philopater.

Ptolomy V Epiphanes (reigned 204 –181 BC).
He was only 5 years of age when his father died.

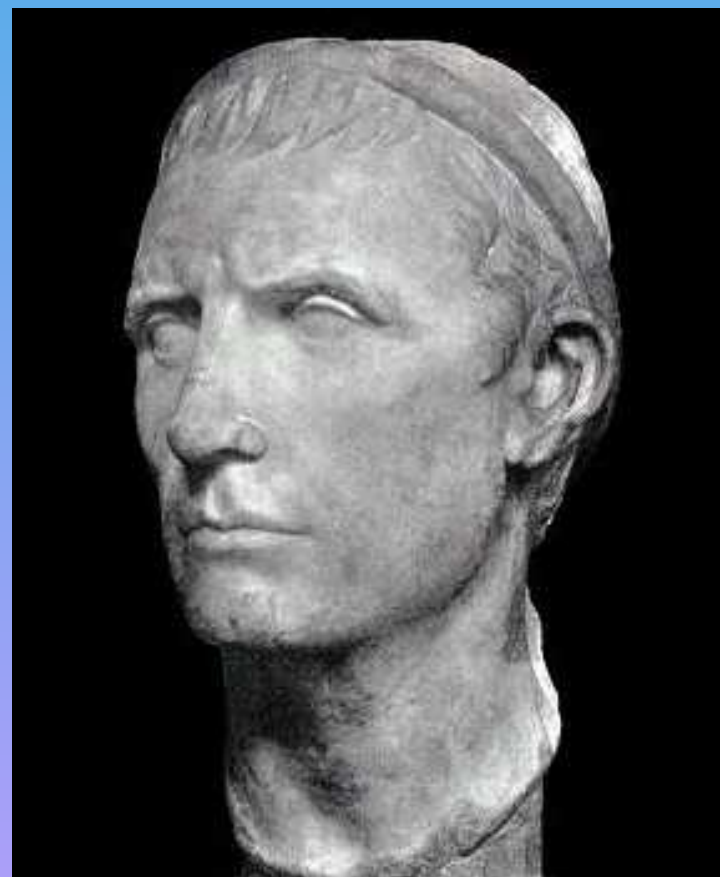
Antiochus made a league with Philip of Macedon to divide among themselves the Ptolemaic Kingdom.

Antiochus had a great army, great wealth and provision.

(v14) the robbers of thy people – refers to the Jews in Egypt.

(v15-16) Antiochus marched into Coelesyria and Palestine,

Antiochus defeats Scopas the General of Ptolemy.



Bust of Antiochus III

Louvre, Paris.

17 He shall also set his face to enter with the strength of his whole kingdom, and upright ones with him; thus shall he do: and he shall give him the daughter of women, corrupting her: but she shall not stand on his side, neither be for him.

18 After this shall he turn his face unto the isles, and shall take many: but a prince for his own behalf shall cause the reproach offered by him to cease; without his own reproach he shall cause it to turn upon him.

19 Then he shall turn his face toward the fort of his own land: but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found.

20 Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes in the glory of the kingdom: but within few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle.

(v 17) Ptolemy V Epiphanes and Cleopatra (204 – 176 BC)

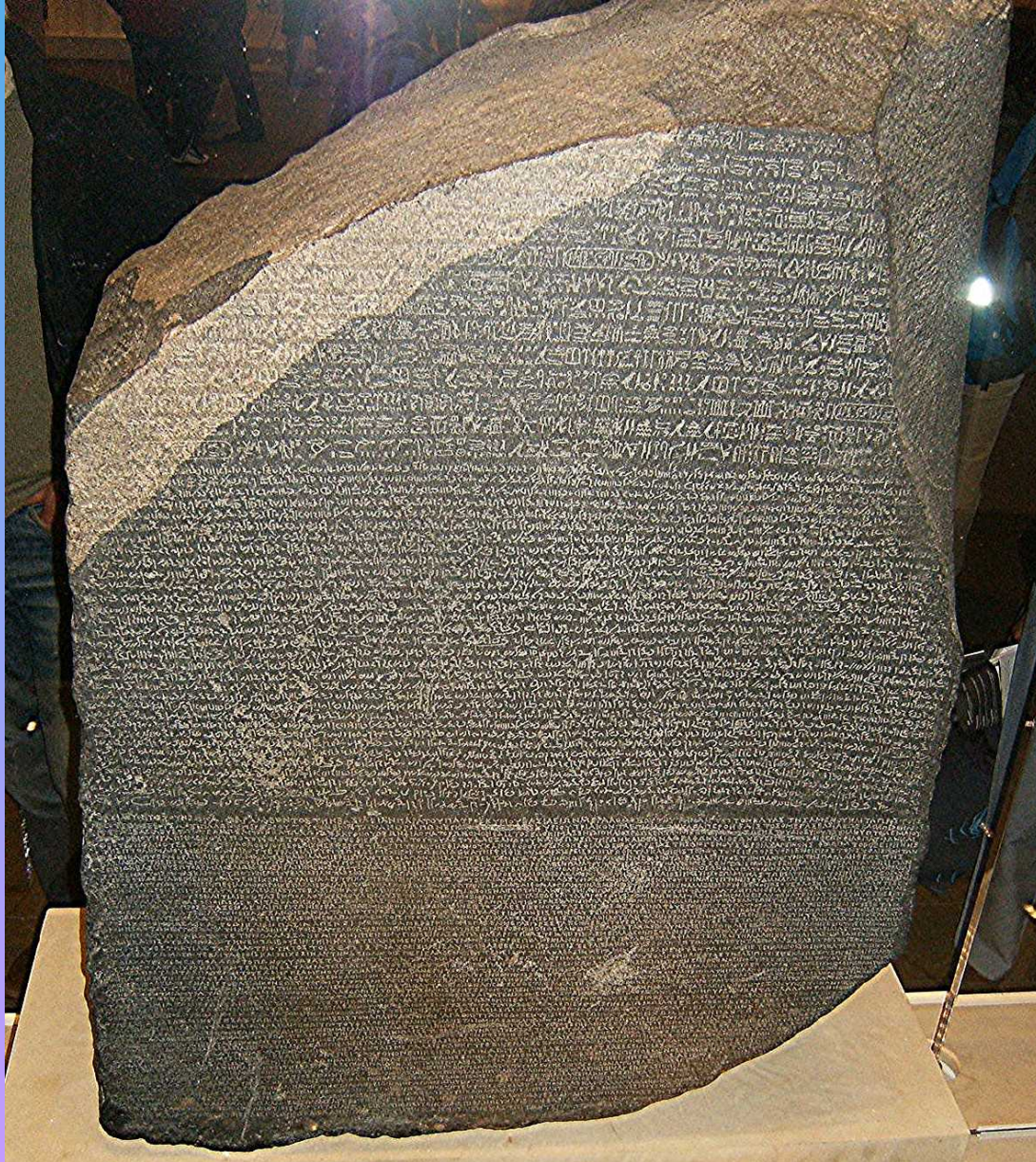
In 195 BC peace with Ptolemy was established at Raphia when the beautiful Cleopatra, daughter of Antiochus III was given in marriage to Ptolemy Epiphanes.

Antiochus did this for sinister reasons.

Antiochus III sought to conquer Egypt but when he was unable to take it by force (because Rome had an alliance with Ptolemy), he sought to take Egypt by corrupting his daughter so that she would destroy Ptolemy, allowing Antiochus to take control.

But Cleopatra, when married, sided with her husband against her father. Giving congratulations to Rome for defeating her father in the Roman Syrian War.

The Rosetta Stone



The Rosetta Stone was written during the reign of Ptolemy V in 196 BC.

Found 1799 at Rosetta, Egypt during Napoleon Campaign.

Contained the same message in 3 languages - Hieroglyphics, Demotic (Both of these are Egyptian), and Greek

The Rosetta Stone became the key to unlock the lost meaning of Egyptian Hieroglyphics.

The Rosetta Stone is in the British Museum

The Roman-Syrian War (192 BC – 188 BC)

Having made peace with Ptolemy, Antiochus III the Great was able to put all his resources into Europe.

(v18) the isles – moved into Europe (Aegean Sea).

He was defeated by the Romans at Thermopylae (191 BC) and Magnesia (190 BC) and was forced to sign the Treaty of Apamea (188 BC) giving up all claims in Europe and the territory in Asia Minor west of the Taurus.

Payment for the war had to be made to Rome in yearly instalments.

20 hostages were taken to ensure payment was made including the son of Antiochus.

(v19) Antiochus was slain in Persia attempting to rob a temple in 187 BC.

Seleucus IV Philopator (ruled 187 BC – 175 BC)

Seleucus IV Philopator (187 BC – 175 BC) succeeded Antiochus III but was under financial pressure due to need to pay Rome for the Roman-Syrian War.

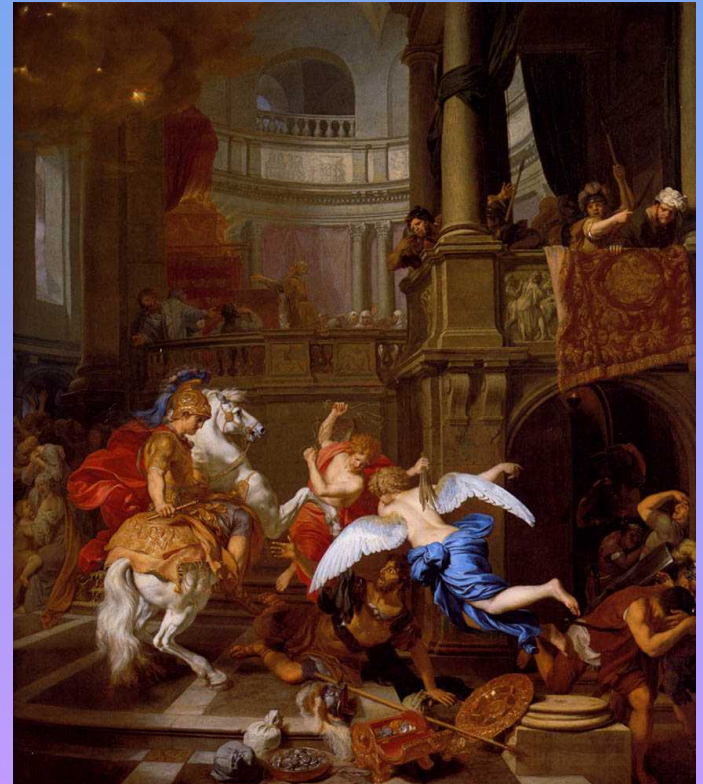
(v 20) A raiser of taxes.

Assassinated by his minister Heliodorus

Painting by Gerard de Lairese

Heliodorus expulsion from the temple when he attempts to plunder it.

2 Maccabees



21 ¶ And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

22 And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflowed from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant.

23 And after the league made with him he shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people.

24 He shall enter peaceably even upon the fattest places of the province; and he shall do that which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers' fathers; he shall scatter among them the prey, and spoil, and riches: yea, and he shall forecast his devices against the strong holds, even for a time.

Antiochus IV Epiphanes (215 BC – 164 BC)

Ruled Seleucid Empire (175 BC – 164 BC)

Demetrius, son of Seleucus IV Philopator, held in Rome as hostage.
Infant son, Antiochus, named head of state but murdered by Antiochus Epiphanes.

(v21) Throne taken by the brother of Seleucus IV Philopator - Antiochus IV Epiphanes. A vile person.

Antiochus subdues the land of Israel.

The Little Horn Daniel 8:9.

Antiochos Theos
Epiphanos Nicophoros

Antiochus God Manifest,
Bearer of Victory



Desecration of the Temple

Revolt against Antiochus IV known as Antiochus Epiphanes (Seleucid dynasty).

Antiochus Epiphanes in Syria

Ptolemy VI in Egypt

Conflict for supremacy in Judaea

Onias a chief priest - expelled the sons of Tobias from Jerusalem.

Sons of Tobias acted as guides for Antiochus allowing him to invade Jerusalem.

Stopped the daily sacrifices in the Temple for 3½ years.

167 BC Antiochus issued decree forbidding Jewish religious practices.

Forbade circumcision – ordered pigs to be sacrificed on the altar

Judaea under the brutal control of Bacchides - sent by Antiochus.

Onias fled to Ptolemy – dwelt in Heliopolis

The Maccabees

Matthias son of Asamonaeus – priest from Modein

Matthias Maccabee (d. c.166 BC) and his five sons refused to worship the Greek gods. Matthias slew a Jew as he was about to offer sacrifice in his place.

Killed Bacchides – fled to hills

166 BC Judah Maccabee led a revolt against Seleucid's.

Judah Maccabee died in battle in 160 BC.

Maccabees used guerilla tactics to defeat the Syrians.

Commemoration of Hannukah

Cleansed the temple

Jonathan Maccabee (d. 142 BC) made High Priest

Israel became independent state (164 BC – 63 BC)

Simon Maccabee began the Hasmonean dynasty (142 BC) which lasted until 37 BC.

Hanukkah (dedication or consecration)

(25 Kislev)

Miracle of the oil

After the temple was re-dedicated there was only enough oil for the golden lampstand to burn for one day. The oil burned for 8 days until more consecrated oil was prepared.

Hanukkah (1 Maccabees 56-59)

One light is lit for 8 days.

A bigger light called Shamash meaning guard is also lit each night.

See John 10:22

חנוכה



Hanukkah lamp

Discovered in Jerusalem c.1900.