

This chapter shows forth the accuracy of *the scripture of truth* (Dan 10:21). It unveils the history of the wars between the Ptolemies of Egypt and the Seleucids of Syria. The details are so accurate that critics claim that Daniel could not have been written in 534 BC. So the critical scholars post date the book of Daniel to ~ 100 BC. It's the scholars versus **the scriptures**.

2 Timothy 3:15-17 2 Peter 2:19-21 Isaiah 44:6-9 & 46:9-10

GOD's PROPHECY = Pre-Written History

God writes accurate History both before and after it happens. God usually omits the names of his enemies, according to **Psalm 9:5** and **Proverbs 10:7**. The names of the wicked are unveiled as history is unfolding.

v 1 *first year of Darius the Mede* ~ 534 BC

	1. Cyrus		
v 2 <i>There shall stand up yet</i>	2. Ahasuerus	Esther 1:1	
<i>three kings in Persia</i>	3. Artaxerxes	Ezra 7:1	[sec: Cambyses]
<i>and the fourth</i>	4. Artaxerxes	Neh 2:1	[sec: Xerxes]
<i>his strength ... riches</i>	He had an army of 800,000 & began the "Greco-Persian Wars", Dan 8 . These wars lasted 50 years and ended in an unstable 'peace'.		

The prophecy now jumps ~ 100 years forward.

v 3 *a mighty king ... great dominion* Alexander the Great - ruled: 336 - 323 BC

v 4 <i>his kingdom shall be broken</i>	Daniel 8:21-22		
<i>four winds</i>	N - Syria	<u>Seleucus</u> :	Seleucid Empire
<i>not his posterity</i>	S - Egypt	<u>Ptolemy</u> :	Ptolemaic Kingdom
	W - Macedonia	Cassander :	Ancient Greece
	E - Asia	Lysimachus :	Thrace / Asia minor

The prophecy now jumps ~ 50 years.

It predicts "the Syrian Wars" : a series of six wars between Syria and Egypt over 106 years.

v 5 <i>k. of the south, strong</i>	Ptolemaeus Soter (or Lagus)
<i>one prince ... great dominion</i>	Ptolemy Philadelphus : Ethiopia, Libya, Arabia, Phoenicia
v 6 <i>the kings daughter</i>	= Berenice married Antiochus II Theos, King of Syria

Hx: Ptolemy sent his beautiful daughter Berenice, with a large dowry, to king Antiochus Theos in Syria. His plan: Their offspring son would be the next Syrian ruler and he would submit to the Ptolemaic Empire. The Problem : Antiochus Theos already had a wife named Laodice. The Plot : Berenice allured Antiochus and he divorced Laodice and married Berenice and they had a son the following year. Laodice offered to remain as a Palace servant where she poisoned Berenice, Antiochus and the child. Then she brought her own son, Seleucus II Callinicus to the throne.

- v 7 *a branch of her roots shall come with an army and prevail* Berenice's brother : Ptolemy III Euergetes took the Egyptian throne. He declared war on Seleucus (and his mother Laodice) to avenge his sisters murder. His army conquered & ransacked Damascus.
Hx Time Period : Third Syrian War, 246 - 241 BC
- v 8 *carry captives , silver, gold continue more years than the K. of North* Ptolemy III brought great booty and many slaves back to Egypt. Ptolemy lived to age of 56. Seleucus died a captive at the age of 40
- v 9 *shall come into his kingdom* The Ptolemaic Kingdom was at the height of its power (240 - 220 BC).
- v 10 *But his sons shall be stirred up overflow and pass through* **his** = the king of the north (end v 8). Seleucus had 5 children. His sons continued warring against Egypt. i.e. **Israel** - God's Holy Land was the battle ground for these wars !

Doctrine : Isaiah 40:15-17 vs. Isaiah 8:8 & Deut 11:11-12

- v 11 *the king of the south moved with choler but the multitudes . . .* Ptolemy IV Philopater (222 - 204 BC). He's angry at Seleucus' kids continual conflicts against his Empire. The Syrians attempted to ambush Egypt with *great multitudes*. . . were . . . given into **his** hand. **his** = Ptolemy IV of Egypt
- v 12 *his heart lifted up he shall cast down many but not strengthened* Ptolemy took great pride over his victory in the Fourth Syrian War. He had just defeated the armies of Antiochus the Great (r: 222-187 BC). And he was proclaimed to be a deity : *Theos Philopater*. But a revolt broke out in Egypt and rebels captured the city of Thebes. And Ptolemy died in the midst of the conflict. His 6 yo son took the throne.
- v 13 *the king of the north shall return ... a multitude* Antiochus the Great seized the opportunity and quickly returned with an army of 62,000 footmen, 6,000 horses, and 102 elephants.
- v 14 *and shall many stand against the ...k. of south robbers of thy people exalt themselves to establish the vision but they shall fall* (1) Antiochus made a league with (2) Phillip V of Macedon for the partition of Ptolemaic possessions, (3) Egyptian rebels, and (4) *wicked Jews* who hoped to gain the favor of Antiochus. They mistook Egypt for the iron legs, Dan 2. Antiochus turned against these traitor Jews in the following wars.