

1

South (Ptolemies in Egypt)	North (Seleucids in Syria)
Ptolemy I 323-285	Seleucus I – 312-280
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	Seleucus III (Ceraunus) 226-223
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Ptolemy VI (Philometer) 181-145	Antiochus IV (Epiphanes) 175-164

2

Ptolemy I and Seleucid I

- 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. (Dan. 11:5)
- The Egyptian dynasty descended from Ptolemy, Alexander's general.
- The Syrian Dynasty descended from Seleucus, another general and friend of Ptolemy.
- Ptolemy was at one time Seleucus's protector. In 312, Seleucus recovered Babylon and established his dynasty
- After Ptolemy I dies, there was continual aggression and war between the two, with Judea caught in the middle of both kingdoms.

3

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4

Ptolemy II and Antiochus I

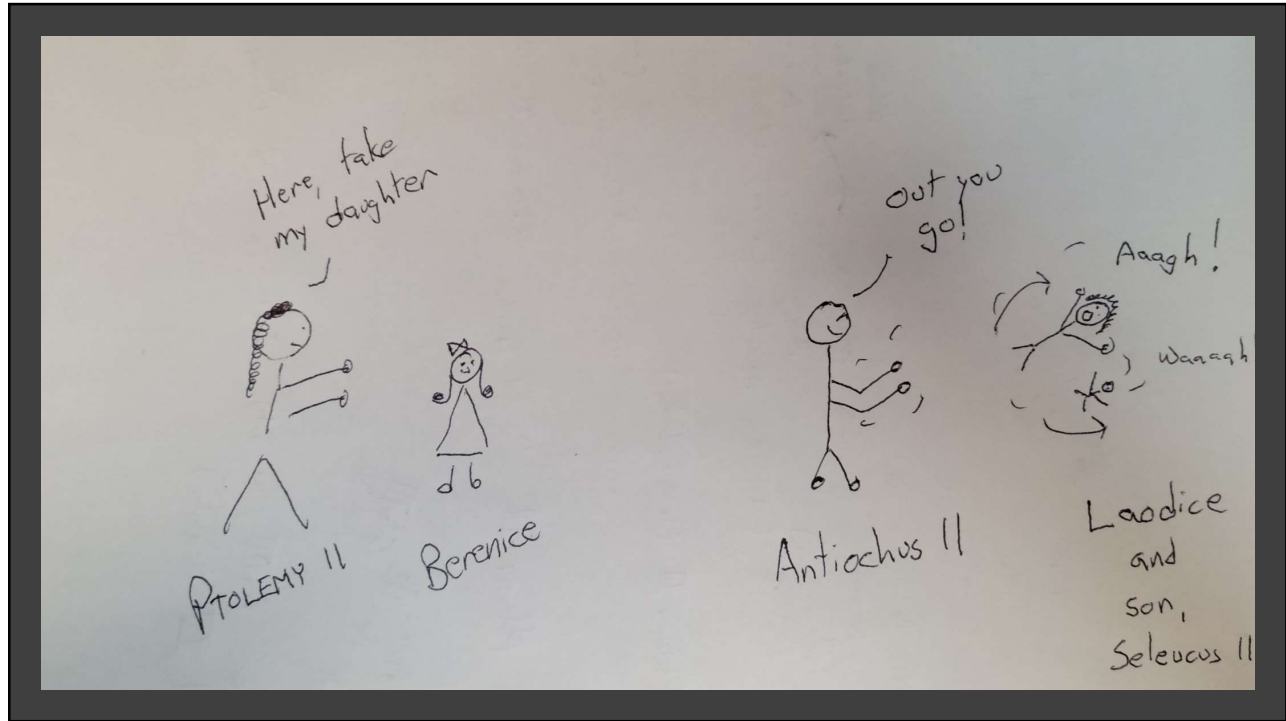
- ⁶ And in the end of years they shall join themselves together; for the king's daughter of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement: but she shall not retain the power of the arm; neither shall he stand, nor his arm: but she shall be given up, and they that brought her, and he that begat her, and he that strengthened her in *these* times. (Dan. 11:6)
- Ptolemy retires and gives the kingdom to his son, Ptolemy II. Seleucus takes advantage and seeks to defeat him.
- Seleucus dies and is succeeded by his son, Antiochus I
- War goes on.
- Ptolemy II seeks peace by marrying his daughter, Berenice, to Antiochus II

5

Ptolemy II and Antiochus I

- 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. (Dan. 11:6)
- Antiochus is to divorce his wife Laodice, disinherit their son, Seleucus II, and give the throne to the son of Berenice.
- Then Ptolemy II dies. Antiochus divorces Berenice, returning to Laodice.
- Laodice then poisons Antiochus II and encourages her son Seleucus II to kill Berenice and her son

6



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8

Ptolemy III and Seleucus II

- 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.
- ⁹ So the king of the south shall come into *his* kingdom, and shall return into his own land. (Dan. 11:7-9)
- Ptolemy III is the brother of Berenice, not a descendent.
- He seeks vengeance against Seleucus II and marches against him.
- He beats him soundly, and carries the plunder back to Egypt.
- Notice the emphasis on "carry their gods captive." Israel's God is not carried captive. He carries his people, not the other way around.

9

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10

Ptolemy III and Seleucus III and Antiochus III

- 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. (Dan. 11:10)
- Seleucus III and his son, Antiochus III continue to war with Ptolemy III.
- They march right up to the fortress of Ptolemy III.
- Ptolemy III defeats them and they retreat.

11

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12

Ptolemy IV and Antiochus III

- 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. (Dan. 11:11)
- Antiochus III takes the throne and continues his war against Ptolemy IV, who succeeded Ptolemy III.
- Ptolemy IV is enraged at Antiochus III invading his territory and musters an army.
- Ptolemy again defeats Antiochus

13

Ptolemy IV and Antiochus III

- 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. (Dan. 11:12-14)
- Ptolemy IV, after his victories, is consumed by the idea of his own deity. His heart is lifted up. He is a proud tyrant.
- He slaughters at will, but God has planned his end. Ptolemy's plot against God will not succeed.
- Antiochus III eventually defeats him, takes Jerusalem out of his hands.
- Ptolemy's excesses made his subjects glad to be rid of him
- Many of the Jews, thinking they would establish prophecy, joined forces against Ptolemy III, but their alliance with the Seleucids would cause them much anguish and sorrow.

14

Ptolemy IV and Antiochus III

- 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. (Dan. 11:15-16)
- Antiochus III defeats Ptolemy IV
- But he also succumbs to the lust of power.
- Jerusalem suffers greatly under his hand

15

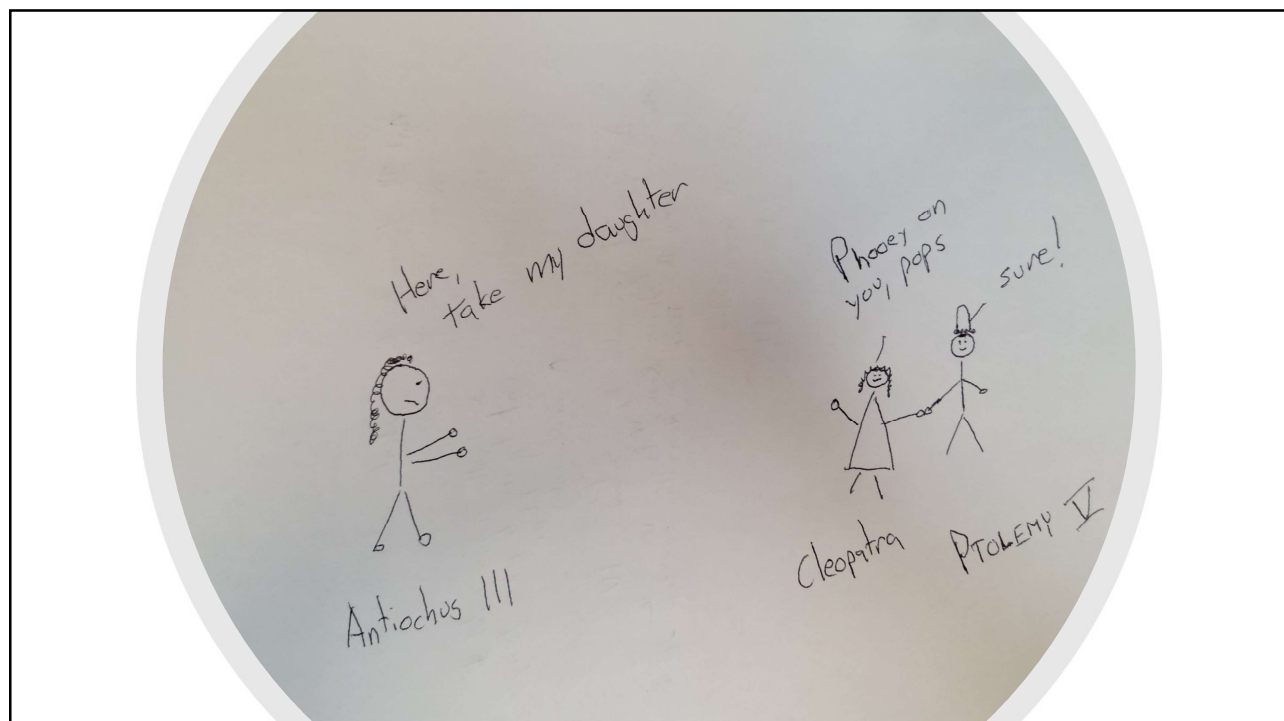
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16

Antiochus III and Ptolemy V

- 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. (Dan. 11:17)
- The first “he” is Antiochus III.
- Antiochus gives his daughter Cleopatra to Ptolemy V, thinking that he will be able to control Egypt that way.
- But Cleopatra’s loyalty is with her husband
- (This is not the same Cleopatra made famous by Elizabeth Taylor – that would be Cleo VII)

17



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19

Antiochus III

- 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. (Dan. 11:18-19)
- Antiochus III (now known as “the Great”) turns his attention to the coastlands of the Mediterranean.
- But this mistake is costly, as it arouses the attention of Rome.
- He is outgunned with nowhere to go but back to his own land.
- Rome enacts heavy tribute.
- He is assassinated in Elam while trying to rob a temple there.

20

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21

Seleucus IV

- 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. (Dan. 11:20)
- Seleucus IV seeks to keep the glory of the kingdom by raising taxes.
- He demands tribute from the temples of the gods
- He hears of the treasure of the temple in Jerusalem.
- He sends his collectors to plunder it.
- He is assassinated shortly afterwards

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23

Antiochus IV
Epiphanes

- 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. (Dan. 11:21)
- Antiochus Epiphanes was so vile that he is a type of Antichrist

24

Historical Notes

- Alexandria in Egypt was built by Alexander the Great and became the capital city of the Ptolemies
- Antioch was the center for the Seleucid Dynasties
- Cleopatra VII was the last of the Ptolemies. After her, Egypt became a Roman province
- Ptolemy I peacefully entered Jerusalem in 320 BC and then took it by force. He exiled many of the Jews to Alexandria but gave them freedom there. They prospered so much that many more voluntarily migrated.
- Ptolemy II commissioned the Septuagint. Alexandria becomes a center of Jewish (and later, Christian) thought – until conquered by the armies of Islam in 641 AD

25

Concluding remarks

God is in the midst of the whirlwind.

If these are confusing times to study from a distance, how much more so would it have been to live them?

And yet, through it all, God is preparing His Redeemer

This world will not be freed from the curse by the power and kingdoms of men.

26

Concluding remarks

The temptation is always to try to bring in the kingdom by force, but it always fails

15 For thus saith the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.

16 But ye said, No; for we will flee upon horses; therefore shall ye flee: and, We will ride upon the swift; therefore shall they that pursue you be swift. (Isa. 30:15-16)

The movement of kings, although terrifying, is never out of God's control.

Keep your eyes fixed upon the Kingdom of God. One like the Son of Man will descend from the Ancient of days and come into his kingdom.

27

Concluding remarks

13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him.

14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed. (Dan. 7:13-14)

28

Concluding remarks

The kingdoms of this world come and go.

They are determined by force, by intrigue, by deceit, by fear

But the kingdom of our God and of His Christ is eternal, for it is founded upon the word of God, which cannot be broken.