

Daniel 11.5-19

The Ptolemies and Seleucids (c. 310–200 BCE)

Verses 5-9

Verse 5

Ptolemy I and **Seleucus I**: Seleucus served Ptolemy for a time, then was made king of Babylon and the east in 310; his dominion greater than Ptolemy's

Verse 6

Ptolemy II arranged a peace treaty with **Antiochus II**; Antiochus was to marry the daughter of Ptolemy, **Berenike**. Antiochus had to divorce his wife **Laodike**, who organized a successful conspiracy—Berenike and her infant son are murdered. Antiochus dies shortly after, and so does Ptolemy.

Verse 7

“But one of the descendants of her line...”, i.e. Berenike's brother **Ptolemy III**; Ptolemy III sacks and captures Antioch, 246-241 BCE. He also invaded the eastern territories of the Seleucids—a monument testifies to this.

Verse 8

Ptolemy III recovered Egyptian treasures that were taken by **Cambyes** in 524; other than this, he left the Seleucids alone—more interested in Aegean adventures. (Note that Egypt is specifically mentioned as the king of the South—“Syria” as a title for the North would be confusing.)

Verse 9

Records a subsequent invasion of **Seleucus II**, just into north Syria and Phoenicia.

Verses 10-13

Verse 10

The rise of Seleucus III, who only reigned 3 years; his brother **Antiochus III** became king in 223. The invasion of Antiochus III—retakes Antioch and proceeds south.

Verse 11

Ptolemy IV repels Antiochus III at Raphia, 217; Ptolemy had a much smaller force.

Verse 12

Ptolemy IV's pride is magnified, but he will not prevail for very long; Antiochus III was compelled to concede all of Phoenicia and Palestine.

(Antiochus III reconquers Sardis, and puts down the rebellion of his general, Achaeus, 216-213.)

(Antiochus' expedition to the east in the spirit of Alexander the Great—after his conquests he is called **Antiochus III the Great**, 212-205)

Verse 13

After the death of Ptolemy IV, and **Ptolemy V** is just 5 years old, Antiochus III invades with a larger, better-trained and better-equipped army.

Verses 14-19

Verse 14

Many Jews will rise up against Ptolemy V at this time—to fulfill the vision of Daniel 8 and 9; but they will fall.

Verse 15

Antiochus III lays a siege against the Egyptians at Sidon; the Egyptian general **Scopas** surrenders—had been defeated at Gaza and Panion, 201 and 200.

Verse 16

Antiochus III “...*will do as he pleases...*”—it will be in his power to destroy Jerusalem, but he will not; he is welcomed into Jerusalem as a savior, 198.

Verse 17

Antiochus III approaches Ptolemy V with a peace treaty in 197—he seeks to marry his daughter, **Cleopatra**, to young Ptolemy V. Antiochus thought her son would be heir to both kingdoms to the glory of the Seleucids—but she took the side of Egypt.

Verse 18

Antiochus III invades Greece in wars against Pergamum and Rhodes; **Hannibal** is his admiral; Antiochus was asked for help by the Aetolian League. He withdraws from Thermopylae in the face of the advancing Romans; defeated by the Romans at Magnesia, east of Sardis, by **Scipio Asiaticus**, 189.

Verse 19

Antiochus III is repaid for his scorn—the treaty of Apameia in 188 and the humiliating terms: 20,000 talents, out of Asia Minor, and turn over all of his elephants. He died pillaging the Temple of Bel in Elymais—the locals overwhelmed his small army and killed him.