

THE BEAST STRUCTURE

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THE THIRD BEAST KINGS OF THE NORTH AND SOUTH DANIEL 11:1-20

Note: The prophecy of Dan 11 was given to Daniel in the first year of Darius the Mede King of Persia which was also the first year of Cyrus his nephew or grandson. The prophecy first foretells of four later kings in Persia. Xerxes the Great who reigned from 519 to 465 BC, was the fourth King who tried to conquer all of Greece.

Dan 11:1 Also I in the first year of Darius the Mede, [even] I, stood to confirm and to strengthen him.

Dan 11:2 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.

The next two verses foretell the rise of Alexander the Great's Greek Kingdom following the Kingdom of Persia and how his kingdom would be broken into four divisions upon his death.

Dan 11:3 And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will.

Dan 11:4 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.

Dan 11:5-20 concerns only two of those four divisions of Alexander's kingdom, the Ptolemaic Dynasty in Egypt, called King of the South, because it was south of Jerusalem, and the Seleucid Dynasty in Syria, called King of the North, because it was north of Judea. The Holy Land passed back and forth between these two divisions. Verses 21-32 have to do with a King of the North, Antiochus Epiphanes who in 168 BC conquered Judea and placed the Abomination of Desolation in the temple. Verses 33-35 have to do with a long period of time following this. Finally verses 36-45 have to do with a second King of the North who rises after this long period of time.

These two lists show the Kings of the North and South in Daniel 11 from verse 5 to 20

KINGS OF THE SOUTH	KINGS OF THE NORTH
303 to 30 BC	305 BC to 64 BC
Ptolemy I Soter (Lagides) 303 to 285 BC	Seleucus I Nicator 312 to 281 BC
Ptolemy II Philadelphus 285 to 247 BC	Antiochus I Soter 281 to 261 BC
Ptolemy III Euergetes 246 to 221 BC	Antiochus II Theos 261 to 246 BC
Ptolemy IV Philopater 221 to 203 BC	Seleucus II Callinicus 246 to 225 BC
Ptolemy V Epiphanes 203 to 181 BC	Seleucus III Ceraunus 225 to 223 BC

Ptolemy VI Philometer 181 to 164 BC and 163 to 145 BC	Antiochus III The Great 223 to 187 BC
	Seleucus IV Philopator 187 to 175 BC
	Heliodorus (Treasurer) 175 BC

Dan 11:5 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.

Note: Ptolemy I Soter (Lagides) became very strong. He declared himself Pharaoh of Egypt, created a powerful Hellenistic dynasty and ruled an area stretching from southern Syria to Cyrene (Libya) and south to Nubia (Southern Egypt). Alexandria became the capital city and a center of Greek culture and trade.

Another of Alexander's princes, or generals, Seleucus Nicator also became very powerful. In 312 BC he returned to Babylon from where he had been expelled. At first his kingdom consisted of Babylon, Susiana (Iran), Media (Northwestern Iran) and Persia. But within six years he was master of all countries lying between the Indus (Pakistan and Western India) and Euphrates on one boundary and the Jaxartes (Uzbekistan – south of Russia in Central Asia) and Indian Ocean on the other. After the Battle of Ipsus in 301 BC, Cappadocia, part of Phrygia (districts in Asia Minor), Upper Syria and the right bank of Middle Euphrates were added to his kingdom. He then shifted his capital from Babylon to Syria and established himself in Syria as king. .

Dan 11:6 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.

Note: At the end of fifty years from the beginning of the Kings of the North and South, Syria's ruler was Antiochus II Theos. In 260 BC he was at war (the Second Syrian War - 260-253 BC) with Ptolemy Philadelphus, King of the South. The war was ended in 252 BC by a marriage between Antiochus and Bernice, Ptolemy's daughter. Antiochus divorced his first wife, Laodice, who had a son, Callinicus. He agreed that the son of Bernice should inherit the throne. But she was not able to effect the purpose of the alliance. And Antiochus, whom she married, did not stand. Philadelphus, her father did not succeed in setting his line on the throne of Syria through Bernice. But on the death of Philadelphus in 247 BC, Antiochus repudiated Bernice and took back his former wife, Laodice. She then poisoned him to secure the throne for her son.

Dan 11:7 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:

Note: Bernice and Laodice were now both competing for the throne for their sons. Bernice asked her brother (a branch of her roots) Ptolemy III Euergetes, to come to Antioch and help place her son on the throne. When Ptolemy arrived, Berenice and her child had been assassinated. Ptolemy declared war (the third Syrian War) on Laodice's son, Seleucus II Callinicus in 246 BC. He slew Laodice and seized the fortress of Syria, Seleucia, the port of Antioch, capital of the kingdom. In the war that followed he swept all before him. All Asia to the Euphrates except some parts of Lydia and Phrygia submitted to him. He then proceeded across the Euphrates and added Mesopotamia, Babylonia, Susiana, Media and Persia.

Dan 11:8 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.

Dan 11:9 So the King of the South shall come into his kingdom, and shall return into his own land.

Note: After his conquests Ptolemy III carried back into Egypt immense spoil, 40,000 talents of silver and 2500 molten images and idolatrous vessels which, in 527 BC, had been carried away from Egypt by Cambyses. He would have occupied the whole Syrian kingdom had he not been called back to Egypt by a revolt there. (240 BC) Therefore he lost almost all his conquests. Callinicus once more ruled from the Indus to the Aegean. Ptolemy III Euergetes continued to rule Egypt until his death in 221 BC, more years than the King of the North, Seleucus II Callinicus, who died in 225 BC.

Dan 11:10 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.

Note: When Seleucus II Callinicus died, his two sons took over the kingdom of the north. First Seleucus III Ceraunus, 226-223 BC, ruled only three years and was assassinated. Then his brother Antiochus III, The Great, ruled from 223-187 BC. Both of these sons assembled immense forces to war against Ptolemy IV Philopater in Egypt. By 221 BC, one of them, Antiochus III had re-established Seleucid control over Media and Persia. He then began the Fourth Syrian War in 219 BC. He recaptured Seleucia Pieria as well as cities in Phoenicia. By 217 BC he had conquered the territory of Syria including Judea and 'passed through like an overflowing torrent' to Dura (near Caesarea). There he gave Ptolemy a four months truce. After the truce he 'returned' or renewed the war and was 'stirred up' even to Ptolemy's fortress, Raphia, a border-fortress of Egypt near Gaza.

Dan 11:11 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 11:12 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.

Note: The Egyptian king, Ptolemy IV Philopater, was roused; and with an army of 70,000 infantry and 5,000 cavalry inflicted severe defeat on Antiochus the Great at the battle of Raphia (217 BC) southwest of Gaza. This war was waged to determine the sovereignty of Coele Syria. Coele-Syria was the region of southern Syria -Valley of Lebanon- covering the entire area south of the river Eleutherus including Judea. Antiochus had 62,000 infantry and 6,000 cavalry. 10,000 of his army were slain and 4,000 made captives. Thus Ptolemy cast down tens of thousands and again annexed Judea to Egypt. His heart was then lifted up in pride and he profaned the temple in Jerusalem by entering into the holy place. He was not strengthened by his victory, for instead of making himself master of the whole of Syria as he might have done, he made peace with Antiochus, and then retired to enjoy himself in various vices.

Dan 11:13 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.

Dan 11:14 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 11:15 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.

Dan 11:16 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.

Note: Fourteen years after Antiochus III had been defeated at Raphia, in 203 BC, Ptolemy Philopater died leaving the throne to a four-year-old son, Ptolemy Epiphanes. Then Antiochus, taking advantage of this situation, strengthened his forces and returned to Egypt. He made a treaty allying Philip of Macedon with him and began to sack Egypt as indicated by the words, 'shall come and cast up a mount (or siege ramp) and take the most fenced cities.' Scopas the Egyptian general met Antiochus at Panium (200 BC) near the source of the Jordan, was defeated, and fled to Sidon, a strongly 'fenced city' where he was forced to surrender. The Battle of Panium marked the end of Ptolemaic rule in Judea, the 'glorious land'. Egypt's 'chosen people' or choicest army was sent under Eropus, Menocles, and Damoxenus to deliver Scopas, but in vain. After the Battle of Panium Rome declared war against Macedonia and ordered Philip and Antiochus to keep their hands off Egypt because it was vital for their food supply. Rome overcame the Macedonians in 197 BC in the Battle of Cynoscephalae

Philip and Antiochus wrested Phoenicia and southern Syria from Egypt. In this they were assisted by some of the Jews, the 'robbers of thy people' who helped Antiochus's army with provisions when on his return from Egypt he besieged the Egyptian garrison left in Jerusalem. These Jews unconsciously helped fulfill the purpose of God according to this vision, but they failed in their aim of making Judea independent as they wanted to do. Antiochus completed the subjugation of Coele-Syria in 198 BC. In 197 BC Antiochus canceled his invasion of Egypt, and instead attacked Ptolemaic coastal possessions in Caria and Cilicia.

Dan 11:17 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, neither be for him.

Note: In 197 BC Antiochus III had captured a number of cities in Asia Minor previously controlled by Egypt. He had intended to enter Egypt with the strength of his whole kingdom, the 'upright ones' or Jewish nation who had aided him, also with him. The Romans negotiated with him in 196 BC and supported Egypt because of their economic interests there. He therefore planned a different scheme to gain control of Egypt as indicated by the words 'thus shall he do'. He indicated to Rome his willingness to make peace with Ptolemy V. Also Ptolemy needed to focus on problems in Egypt. So in 195 BC he signed a peace treaty with Antiochus. He agreed to accept the loss of all possessions outside Egypt, except for Cyprus and Cyrenaica. He left the Seleucid king in possession of Coele-Syria and agreed to marry Antiochus' daughter Cleopatra I (called the daughter of women). Ptolemy V had been coronated in 196 BC and took the name Epiphanes. He and Cleopatra were betrothed in 195 BC and their marriage took place in 193 BC in Raphia. At that time Ptolemy V was about 16 years and Cleopatra I about 10 years old. By giving his daughter in marriage, Antiochus III secretly hoped to make his victory permanent and subtly to gain complete possession of Egypt. But as it turned out, Cleopatra did not stand on the side of Antiochus, her father, for she saw it was only a trick to gain possession of Egypt. She sided instead with her young husband, Ptolemy V.

Dan 11:18 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.

Note: Antiochus III believed his marriage alliance with Egypt would protect him, so he turned his attention to conquer, in 197 to 196 BC, the islands and coasts of Asia Minor. He 'took many' of the isles in the Aegean in his war with the Romans, and crossed the Hellespont. He was allied in this with Hannibal of Carthage. This created difficulties with Rome. The Roman general, Lucius Cornelius Scipio Asiaticus, utterly defeated him at the Battle of Magnesia in Asia Minor 190 BC. Lucius caused the

reproach which Antiochus inflicted on Rome by injuring her allies, to cease. He did it for his own glory or 'without his own reproach'.

Dan 11:19 Then he shall turn his face toward the fort of his own land: but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found.

Note: Antiochus next turned his attention to the fortress of his own land, Syria since he was compelled by Rome to relinquish all his territory west of the Taurus, and to bear the expenses of the war. He garrisoned the cities left to him. In 187 BC, a year after his return he attempted to plunder the temple of Jupiter at Elymais by night. Perhaps his motive was avarice or the want of money to pay the tribute imposed by Rome (a thousand talents). He was slain with his soldiers.

Dan 11:20 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.

Note: Seleucus Philopator IV (187-176 BC), the son of Antiochus the Great, in an effort to raise money because he owed the Romans huge annual tribute payments, sent a tax collector, Heliodorus, through Judea and to Jerusalem to plunder the temple. Simon, a Benjamite, in spite against Onias III, the high priest, had given him information about the treasures in the temple. Seleucus reigned only 11 years when Heliodorus poisoned him. Thus he died 'neither in anger nor in battle'. His reign of 11 years was only a 'few days' compared to Antiochus' reign of 37 years. Heliodorus hoped to gain the throne for himself since Seleucus's only son, Demetrius, was being held hostage by Rome. But Antiochus Epiphanes, Seleucus' brother, by the help of Eumenes, king of Pergamos, succeeded to the throne in 175 B.C.

CONCLUSION

Keep in mind that these detailed prophecies of wars and intrigues between the Kings of the North and South (303 – 175 BC) were revealed to Daniel according to Dan 11:1 in the first year of Darius the Mede 539 BC. This was hundreds of years before the Persian Kingdom ended, the Greek Kingdom of Alexander the Great afterwards arose and was broken into the four divisions.

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