

NOTES – Pyrrhus in Macedonia -

In 273 BC Ptolemy II of Egypt established diplomatic relations and friendship with Rome. {*The Navies of Rome, by Michael Pitassi*}

"The reputation of the Romans beginning now to spread through foreign nations by the war they had maintained for six years against Pyrrhus, whom at length they compelled to retire from Italy, and return ignominiously to Epirus, Ptolemy Philadelphus sent ambassadors to desire their friendship; and the Romans were charmed to find it solicited by so great a king." -- Rollin. 4 The following year the Romans sent to Egypt four ambassadors in return for this courtesy from Philadelphus. {1898 ATJ, GEP 220.1}

Rome's Defeat of Pyrrhus was a clear declaration to the rest of the ancient Mediterranean world that the Romans had arrived on the world scene of warfare and power politics, and recognition of this fact was no long time in coming. In 273B.C. King Ptolemy II Philadelphus of Egypt send ambassadors to Rome to open up friendly diplomatic relations with the victor of Italy. The Romans reciprocated by sending their own ambassadors to Egypt: Q. Fabius Maximus Gurges, N. Fabius Pictor, and Q. Ogulnius Gallus.... This delegation to Egypt, however, must have been headed by Gurges, who had been twice consul, censor, triumphator, and was perhaps the princeps senatus at the time of the embassy.

The Pyrrhic War finally came to an end in 272 BC. when Tarentum surrendered to Rome and joined many other Italian states in becoming a Roman ally. *A Critical History of Early Rome: From Prehistory to the First Punic War;* by Gary Forsythe

He presented Demetrius to the army and declared him his successor; and what everyone thought stranger than all was that he now conferred alone in his tent with Demetrius; whereas in former time he had never entered into any secret consultations even with him; but had always followed his own advice, made his resolutions, and then given out his commands. Once when Demetrius was a boy and asked him how soon the army would move, he is said to have answered him sharply, 'Are you afraid lest you, of all the army, should not hear the trumpet?' *Plutarch*

Briefly before battle was joined, unexpectedly Seleucus appeared on the scene and joined Lysimachus and Cassander, together with his son Antiochus and a large army and four hundred war elephants. This changed the entire situation. Plutarch offers some numbers, but they appear to be inflated. Still, it seems reasonably certain that after Seleucus' arrival, the armies were near equal in size.

The battle started when Demetrius, commanding Antigonus' cavalry, attacked Seleucus' son Antiochus and drove him from the battlefield. At the same time, Antigonus the One-Eyed, commanding the phalanx, came to grips with the infantry of the allies. Because Demetrius was away, Antigonus' flank was now unprotected, and when Seleucus threatened to attack this wing, a part of Antigonus' soldiers surrendered. Still, Antigonus expected to be saved by his son, but when Demetrius tried to return to the battlefield, he found his way blocked by Seleucus' elephants. According to Plutarch, Antigonus was killed by a hail of spears, which suggests that he was killed by light infantry. Understanding that everything was lost, Demetrius retreated with a small army. Diodorus adds that Antigonus received a royal burial. *Livius.org (battle of Ipsus)*

Cassander died in 298 B. C., and was succeeded by his son Philip, who himself soon died, leaving two brothers, Antipater and Alexander, to contend for the kingdom. Antipater, the elder, murdered his mother because she favored his brother for the crown. Alexander called to his aid Pyrrhus king of Epirus, and Demetrius, who had again been deprived of all his eastern possessions, and was in Greece besieging its cities. Pyrrhus established Alexander in the kingship, reconciled Antipater, and returned to his own dominion before Demetrius arrived in Macedonia (294 B. C.). When Demetrius did arrive, Alexander informed him that his services were not now needed. However, Demetrius lingered, and before long compassed the death of Alexander. Then, as the Macedonians would not have Antipater to be king, because he had so foully murdered his mother, Demetrius persuaded them to accept himself as their king. Antipater fled into Thrace, where, soon afterward, he died, and Demetrius reigned seven years as king of Macedonia, 294-287 B. C. {1898 ATJ, GEP 201.1}

Antipater, the eldest son of Cassander, had killed his mother Thessalonica and expelled his brother Alexander. Alexander sent to Demetrius for succour, and implored likewise the assistance of Pyrrhus. Demetrius, having many affairs upon his hands could not presently comply: but Pyrrhus came and commanded as the reward of his services, the city of Nymphaea, and all the maritime coast of Macedonia, altogether with Ambracia, Acarnania, and Amphilocio, which were some of the countries that did not originally belong to the kingdom of Macedon. The young prince agreeing to these conditions, Pyrrhus possessed himself of these countries, and secured them with his garrisons; after which he went on conquering the rest for Alexander and driving Antipater before him....

Demetrius, however, was unwilling to lose such an opportunity of aggrandizement ; he accordingly left Athens, and reached Macedonia towards the end of the year B. C. 294. He had not been there many days before he put Alexander to death, and thus became king of Macedonia. Between two such powerful neighbours and such restless spirits, as Demetrius and Pyrrhus, jealousies and contentions were sure to arise. Each was anxious for the dominions of the other, and the two former friends soon became the most deadly enemies. Deidameia, who might have acted as a mediator between her husband and her brother, was now dead. *Perseus*

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus:text:1999.04.0104:entry=pyrrhus-bio-5>

Demetrius, characteristically, already had his eyes elsewhere and was busy building up a large army and navy for a campaign in Asia Minor, evidently in the hope of restoring the Antigonid empire in the East. With this in mind he had already assembled 98,000 infantry and 12,000 cavalry and laid down the keels for 500 ships at the Piraeus, Corinth, Chalcis, and Pella... This vast military and naval programme is reflected in the increasingly large issues of coinage by various Macedonian and Greek mints under Demetrius control throughout these years... These various coinages reveal very clearly the size of the military and naval effort Demetrius was making at this time, the threat which it must have presented to his enemies, and the burden of taxation which it will have laid on the inhabitants of his empire.

News of what was afoot soon reached the other kings and spread general alarm. Recalling his father's ambitions, they were apprehensive at the menace which Demetrius in his turn

represented, now that he controlled Macedonia and at least part of Greece. Sometime in 288, therefore, Seleucus, Ptolemy, and Lysimachus made an alliance against him and sent a joint embassy to Pyrrhus urging him to ignore his agreement with Demetrius and to attack Macedonia. Plutarch speaks of a series of letters to Pyrrhus, which implies negotiations, but he does not record what Pyrrhus was offered. It seems likely, however, that he was demanded, and was granted Macedonia, for he was clearly taken aback by Lysimachus' later claim that the kingdom should be divided and, even though he gave way to this, he succeeded in keeping the larger share. The agreement was followed by joint action. In the spring of 287 Ptolemy sent a fleet into Greek waters to stir up revolt against Demetrius - especially, as events were to show, at Athens. The Cyclades were taken under Ptolemaic control and the island of Andros, which furnished a convenient base for action on the mainland, was seized and garrisoned. From Thrace Lysimachus invaded Macedonia and captured Amphipolis with the help of supporters within the city, while Pyrrhus, ignoring his pact with Demetrius, came in shortly afterwards from the west, probably via metsovo, Grevena, and Kozani, and from there advanced directly on Beroea, whence he ravaged the country widely.

As to what happened next, the sources disagree. Accordingly to the most likely account, Demetrius who was at the time in Greece, probably supervising his naval works there, left his son in charge, returned to Macedonia, and advanced against Lysimachus, but on then hearing that Pyrrhus had taken Beroea, suddenly found his army to be on the brink of mutiny. Judging that Macedonian troops might more readily fight against an Epirote than a general of Macedonian stock, he marched west to Beroea. It was too late. The Macedonians responding to the praises of Pyrrhus sung by the citizens of Beroea and influenced by infiltrators from Pyrrhus camp, resolved to be rid of their unpopular king. Eventually some of the soliders plucked up courage to approach Demetrius face to face and bad him go. Once he saw that he had lost all support, Demetrius slipped quietly away to seek temporary refuge in Cassandreia, where his wife Phil, in despair, took her own life by poison. From Cassandreia he made his way to Greece to rally his remaining supporters in the cities. Meanwhile at Beroea, Pyrrhus took over the Macedonian camp and was there acclaimed king of the Macedonians by the army. *A history of Macedonia: 336 -167 B.C. - p 226 - 229*

In those seven years Demetrius built up an army of one hundred thousand men, and a fleet of five hundred galleys. At this, Ptolemy, Lysimachus, and Seleucus became alarmed, and set about to check his further progress. They secured the alliance of Pyrrhus, whose dominions bordered Macedonia on the **west**, and who, of course, could not consider himself safe in the presence of Demetrius in possession of such an army as that. Lysimachus invaded Macedonia from the **east**, and Pyrrhus from the west. The troops of Demetrius all deserted him and joined Pyrrhus. Demetrius made his escape in disguise; and Lysimachus and Pyrrhus divided between them the dominion of Macedonia (287 B. C.) {*ATJ, Great Empires of Bible Prophecy, Chapter 13*}

...This cavalier attitude extended to his Macedonian subjects, if there is any truth in the famous story that he received written petitions while on a progress through pella and then emptied them into the river Axios in full view of his petitioners. If the king defaulted on his side of the implicit contract, his subjects might well do the same. Accordingly when Demetrius face a twofold invasion at the hands of Pyrrhus and Lysimachus, he found his troops insubordinate. They began to desert to Lysimachus, so he withdrew to meet Pyrrhus,

who was a non-Macedonian and had never who was a non-Macedonian and had never previously held his ground against Demetrius. The result was more desertion, in increasingly larger numbers, until Demetrius was totally abandoned. According to Plutarch he was told to take himself elsewhere, because the Macedonians had had enough of war fought simply to support his own luxury. The disillusion was profound. Unlike alexander Demetrius had monopolized the spoils of his campaigns – or so his subjects thought. The planned invasion of Asia, for all the size of the armament, would not bring any ultimate return to the fighting men even if Demetrius managed to restore his father's empire. This may have been a false perception, but it was certainly the prevailing view in Macedon, and Demetrius was deserted by his troops *en masse*. It cost him the kingdom of Macedonia, although he continue to act and be recognized as king, even without any territory to speak of. *The Legacy of Alexander: Politics, Warfare, and Propaganda Under the Successors – by A.B. Bosworth, Professor of Classics and Ancient History*

Lysimachus soon succeeded in sowing such distrust among the soldiers who had lately gone over from Demetrius to Pyrrhus, that they now went over from Pyrrhus to Lysimachus. This so weakened Pyrrhus that, rather than to contend against the power of Lysimachus, he with his own Epirotes and original allies retired to his own country of Epirus. This left the whole of Macedonia to Lysimachus, who formally took possession of it and added it to his dominions. {1898 ATJ, GEP 201.2}

But at last, after Demetrius had been wholly overthrown in Syria, Lysimachus, who now felt himself secure, and had nothing on his hands, at once set out against Pyrrhus. 6 Pyrrhus was in camp at Edessa, where Lysimachus fell upon his provision trains and mastered them, thus bringing him to straits; then, by letters and conferences he corrupted the leading Macedonians, upbraiding them because they had chosen as lord and master a man who was a foreigner, whose ancestors had always been subject to Macedonia, and were thrusting the friends and familiars of Alexander out of the country. 7 After many had thus been won over, Pyrrhus took alarm and departed with his Epeirots and allied forces, thus losing Macedonia precisely as he got it. {Plutarch - Life of Pyrrhus}

... Lysimachus at once followed up his tactical advantage with a propaganda campaign among the leading Macedonians in which he played upon their nationalistic feelings of superiority to their Epirote king. *A history of Macedonia: 336 -167 B.C. - p 235*