

FIRST SYRIAN WAR (274–271 BC)

A decade into his rule, Ptolemy II faced Antiochus I, the Seleucid king who was trying to expand his empire's holdings in Syria and Anatolia. The First Syrian War was a major victory for the Ptolemies. Antiochus took the Ptolemaic controlled areas in coastal Syria and southern Anatolia in his initial rush. Ptolemy reconquered these territories by 271 BC, extending Ptolemaic rule as far as Caria and into most of Cilicia.

DANIEL 11:6—PEACE TREATY: 252BC; 1797

SECOND SYRIAN WAR (260–253 BC)

Antiochus II succeeded his father in 261 BC, and thus began a new war for Syria. Most of the information about the Second Syrian War has been lost. It is clear that Antigonos' fleet defeated Ptolemy's at **the Battle of Cos in 261**, diminishing Ptolemaic naval power. The war was concluded with the marriage of Antiochus to Ptolemy's daughter, **Berenice** Syra. Antiochus repudiated his previous wife, **Laodice**, and turned over substantial domain to her.

DANIEL 11:6–9—DEADLY WOUND; 246; 1798

THIRD SYRIAN WAR (246–241 BC)

Also known as **the Laodicean War**, the Third Syrian War began with one of the many succession crises that plagued the Hellenistic states. Antiochus II left two ambitious mothers, his repudiated wife Laodice and Ptolemy II's daughter Berenice Syra, in a competition to put their respective sons on the throne. Laodice claimed that Antiochus had named her son heir while on his deathbed, but Berenice argued that her newly born son was the legitimate heir. Berenice asked her brother Ptolemy III, the new Ptolemaic king, 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 on Laodice's newly crowned son, Seleucus II, **in 246 BC.**

DANIEL 11:11, 12—MIDNIGHT

FOURTH SYRIAN WAR (219–217 BC)

BATTLE OF RAPHAIA

In the summer of **June 22, 217 BC**, Ptolemy engaged and defeated the long-delayed Antiochus in the Battle of Raphia. Ptolemy's victory preserved his control over Coele-Syria, and **the weak king** declined to advance further into Antiochus' empire. The battle of Raphia was the deciding battle of the Fourth Syrian War.

DANIEL 11:13–15—MIDNIGHT CRY

FIFTH SYRIAN WAR (202–195 BC)

BATTLE OF PANIUM 200 OR 198BC

The death of Ptolemy IV in 204 BC was followed by a bloody conflict over **the regency as his heir, Ptolemy V, was just a child.** The conflict began with the murder of the dead king's wife and sister Arsinoë by the ministers Agathocles and Sosibius. The fate of Sosibius is unclear, but Agathocles seems to have held the regency for some time until he was lynched by the volatile Alexandrian mob. The regency was passed from one adviser to another, and the kingdom was in a state of near anarchy.

Seeking to take advantage of this turmoil, Antiochus III staged a second invasion of Coele-Syria. **He made an agreement with Philip V of Macedon** to conquer and share the Ptolemies' non-Egyptian territories, although this alliance did not last long. Antiochus quickly swept through

the region. After a brief setback at Gaza, he delivered a **crushing blow to the Ptolemies at the Battle of Panium near the head of the River Jordan** which earned him the important port of Sidon.

In **200 BC**, Roman emissaries came to Philip and Antiochus demanding that they refrain from invading Egypt. The Romans would suffer no disruption of the import of grain from Egypt, key to supporting the massive population in Italy. As neither monarch had planned to invade Egypt itself, they willingly complied to Rome's demands. Antiochus completed the subjugation of Coele-Syria in **198 BC** and went on to raid Ptolemy's remaining coastal strongholds in Caria and Cilicia.

Unfortunately some of the more important battles of the Successors are rather poorly described, one of these is the battle of Panion, a battle which we have a firm identification of locale, but a rather weak historical narrative. We don't even really know when the battle took place, it could be in 200 BC or 198 BCE, such is the scant nature of the record. What we do know is that in the hills and small plateau near **the fountains of Pan** at Baniyas (later Caesarea Philippi), located on the northern border of modern Israel, there was a decisive battle that **ended Ptolemaic rule in Coele-Syria, the final major act in the hundred yearlong Syrian Wars.**

SIXTH SYRIAN WAR (170–168 BC)

**49 YEARS (END OF GREECE) RAPHIA JUNE 22, 217BC—PYDNA JUNE 22, 168BC
168BC**

“This horn must symbolize Rome, as in the parallel visions of Dan.2 and 7. Rome came out of one of the horns of the goat, as it **conquered Macedonia B.C. 168**, and in **161 became connected with the people of God by its league with the Jews**; 1 Mac.8; Josephus' Antiq., b. xii., c. x., sec. 6; Prideaux, vol.ii., p.166; thus becoming a subject of prophecy, and appearing to the prophet to come out of the Macedonian horn. It extended its conquests toward the east, south, and pleasant land (Palestine), **making provinces** of the following countries: **Syria, B.C. 65; Palestine, B.C. 63; Egypt, B.C. 30.** It stood up against the Prince of princes, nailing Christ to the cross. By Rome the daily was taken away and the transgression of desolation set up; that is, there was a change in the religion of the empire, Paganism (the daily desolation) was taken away, and the papacy (the transgression of desolation, or the abomination that maketh desolate) was set up. Dan.12:11. An host was given him: the hordes of barbarians that overran the empire, but were converted to the papal faith.” Uriah Smith, *The Bible Institute*, 52.

BATTLE OF PYDNA

The Battle of Pydna is believed to have been fought on **June 22, 168 BC** and was part of the **Third Macedonian War**.

Antiochus IV Epiphanes, (Greek: “God Manifest”) also called **Antiochus Epimanes (the Mad)** (born c. 215 BC—died 164, Tabae, Iran), Seleucid king of the Hellenistic Syrian kingdom who reigned from 175 to 164 BC. In the winter of 169/**168** Perseus of **Macedonia** in vain begged **Antiochus** to join forces with him against the danger that Rome presented to all of the Hellenistic monarchs. In Egypt, Ptolemy VI made common cause with his brother and sister and sent a renewed request to Rome for aid, and Antiochus prepared for battle. The fleet of Antiochus won a victory at Cyprus, whose governor surrendered the island to him. Antiochus invaded Egypt again in **168**, demanded that Cyprus and Pelusium be ceded to him, occupied Lower Egypt, and camped outside Alexandria. The cause of the Ptolemaeans seemed lost. But on **June 22, 168**, the Romans defeated Perseus and his Macedonians at **Pydna**, and there deprived Antiochus of the benefits of his victory. **In Eleusis, a suburb of Alexandria, the Roman ambassador, Gaius Popillius Laenas, presented Antiochus with the ultimatum that he evacuate Egypt and Cyprus immediately. Antiochus, taken by surprise, asked for time to consider. Popillius, however, drew a circle in the earth around the king with his walking stick and demanded an unequivocal answer before Antiochus left the circle. Dismayed by this public humiliation, the king quickly agreed to comply. Roman intervention had reestablished the status quo.** By being allowed to retain southern Syria, to which Egypt had laid claim, Antiochus was able to preserve the territorial integrity of his realm.

DANIEL 11:40–45

538 (45 YEARS)

Heruli: 493; Vandals: 534; Goths (Visigoths & Ostrogoths): 538

DANIEL 11:4

Lysimachus (N) Cassander (W) Seleucus (E) **Ptolemy (S)**

DANIEL 11:5

Ptolemy (S) the prince: Seleucus Nicator (general of Ptolemy)

Seleucus Nicator’s Great Dominion: Seleucus (E) **301 BC** Cassander (W) **286 BC**
Lysimachus (N) **281 BC**

Daniel 8:9; 11:15–17, 24 (31 BC & 538); 40–43 (Libyans & Ethiopians)

DANIEL 11:6

Verse six **A**: “the end of the years”;

252BC peace treaty (agreement) daughter (Bernice: bringer of victory) of Ptolemy Philadelphus **KoS** to Antiochus Theos **KoN** divorces Laodice

Verse 6 **B**: Bernice, her son, and supporters slain **246BC**

DANIEL 11:7

“enter into the fortress” see verse ten; branch: Bernice’s brother Ptolemy 3rd Euergetes attacks Seleucus Callinicus **246BC**

DANIEL 11:8, 9

246 BC

1798

Peace treaty: Treaty of Tolentino 19 February, 1797.

VERSES 10–12

Verse ten: “even to his fortress” as opposed to “enter[ing] into his fortress”

“overflow and pass through” is same as “overflow and pass over” Daniel 11:40.

“His sons” Sons: Two sons—Seleucus Ceraunus and Antiochus the Great

Vladimir: ruler of the world. First—Vladimir Lenin, last Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin.

Vladimirovich: Vladimir—ruler of the world ovich—son of

Antiochus the Great attacks Ptolemy Philopator **219BC**. Takes everything but Egypt “even to his fortress”

DANIEL 11:16

63BC Pompey: “by his hand. . . consumed”

Three month siege; advances every Sabbath; enters Most Holy Place for first time (Abomination desolation sign); Great slaughter 12,000

VERSES 17–19: END OF GRECIAN EMPIRE

Verse seventeen: “he”—Julius Caesar “shall also set his face to enter”—Jeremiah 42:15–17

47BC Julius Caesar takes Egypt.

“Bishop Newton furnishes another reading for this verse, which seems more clearly to express the sense, as follows: ‘He shall also set his face to enter by force **the whole kingdom.**’ Verse 16 brought us down to the conquest of Syria and Judea by the Romans. Rome had previously conquered Macedon and Thrace. Egypt was now all that remained of the ‘whole kingdom’ of Alexander, not brought into subjection to the Roman power, which power now set its face to enter by force into that country.” Uriah Smith, *Daniel and the Revelation*, 260.

“Augustus Caesar succeeded his uncle, Julius, by whom he had been adopted as his successor. He publicly announced his adoption by his uncle, and took his name, to which he added that of Octavianus. Combining with Mark Antony and Lepidus to avenge the death of Caesar, they formed what is called **the triumvirate form of government**. Having subsequently **firmly established himself in the empire**, the senate conferred upon him the title of Augustus, and the other members of the triumvirate being now dead, he **became supreme ruler.**” Uriah Smith, *Daniel and the Revelation*, 265.

“Triumvirs. Every one acquainted with Roman history is familiar with the name ‘triumvirs,’ and the part they acted in the conduct of the Roman State. Of these the historian speaks as follows:—‘Triumviri, or Tres viri (Lat. tres, *three*, and viri, *men*), in ancient Rome, a board of three men appointed for some special public duty. A number of kinds of triumviri are specified by Roman authors. **In B. C. 60. Julius Caesar, Pompey, and Crassus**, formed a coalition for the conduct of public affairs; this is called the *first triumvirate*, but the men who constituted it bore no official title of triumviri, and exercised only an usurped power. The *second triumviri*, that of **Octavian, Mark Antony, and Lepidus**, was officially recognized by the senate, and the three magistrates bore the name of Triumviri Republicae Constituendae (*triumvirs for arranging public affairs*).’— Id.

“Here, then, we have **two periods in Roman history when the government was administered by three men, another form of management of the state peculiar to Rome**. If we throw out the first as not officially recognized, we still have the second, which was officially recognized by the senate, and a title given them accordingly.” Uriah Smith, *The Seven Heads of Revelation*, 20.

After Augustus **KoN** establishes three-fold union he becomes supreme ruler (verse 20), Tiberious and Christ arrive

After modern Rome **KoN** establishes three-fold union and becomes supreme ruler (verse 42, 43) Christ arrives

Third obstacle is Egypt for both pagan Rome (Daniel 11:17–19) and for modern Rome (Daniel 11:42).

Second obstacle is glorious land for both pagan Rome (Daniel 11:16) and for modern Rome (Daniel 11:41).

VERSES 11–15 MIDNIGHT & THE MIDNIGHT CRY

Midnight

“Eleven eleven and twelve”: the Battle of Raphia **217BC**

And the king of the south shall be moved with choler, and shall come forth and fight with him (**KoN**), *even* with the king of the north: and he (**KoN**) shall set forth a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into his (**KoS**) hand.

Unexpected victory for the notoriously cruel and immoral king of the south: Ptolemy 4th Philapator. The whole region provides praise to Ptolemy, including the Jews who invite him to Jerusalem. He accepts invitation and then goes to Jerusalem in verse twelve.

And when he hath taken away the multitude, his heart shall be lifted up **BC 217**; and he shall cast down *many* ten thousands: but he shall not be strengthened *by it*.

“heart shall be lifted up”: Daniel 5:23

But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath *is*, and whose *are* all thy ways, hast thou not glorified.

2 Chronicles 26:16–21—**KoS** attempts to offer incense; resisted by 81 priests, receives mark of leprosy on forehead, cut off from the temple. “to his destruction”

VERSE 15

The Midnight Cry: the Battle of Panium **200 or 198BC**

Third trumpet: Attila the Hun

168BC

“The little horn comes forth from one of the horns of the goat. How, it may be asked, can this be true of Rome? It is unnecessary to remind the reader that earthly governments are not introduced into prophecy till they become in some way connected with the people of God. Rome became connected with the Jews, the people of God at that time, by the famous Jewish League, B.C.161. 1 Maccabees 8; Josephus’s Antiquities, book 12, chap.10, sec.6; Prideaux, Vol.II, p.166. But **seven years before this, that is, in B.C.168**, Rome had conquered Macedonia, and made that country a part of its empire. Rome is therefore introduced into prophecy just as, from the conquered Macedonian horn of the goat, it is going forth to new conquests in other directions. It therefore appeared to the prophet, or may be properly spoken of in this prophecy, as coming forth from one of the horns of the goat.” Uriah Smith, *Daniel and Revelation*, 175.

49 YEARS (END OF GREECE)

First Battle of Raphia June 22, 217BC—Battle of Pydna June 22, 168BC