

## DANIEL 11:11-19

Study by Glenn Palmer

**Introduction.** Antiochus III (Seleucid) continued to fight against the Ptolemys (Egypt).

**Daniel 11:11** *Then the king of the South will march out in rage and fight against the king of the North, who will raise a large army, but it will be defeated.*

1. The Battle of Raphia in 217 B.C.
  - a. The king of the South, Ptolemy Philopator (r. 224-204), had a large army. According to the Greek historian Polybius: 70,000 infantry, 5,000 cavalry and 73 African elephants.
  - b. Antiochus III (b. 242 B.C., r. 223 B.C., d. 187) had a large army: 62,000 infantry, 6,000 cavalry and 102 Indian elephants
2. Ptolemy lost 1,500 infantry and 700 cavalry.

**Daniel 11:12** *When the army is carried off, the king of the South will be filled with pride and will slaughter many thousands, yet he will not remain triumphant*

3. Antiochus III fled the field and lost
  - a. 10,000 infantry killed
  - b. 300 cavalry killed
  - c. 4,000 men captured
4. Ptolemy Philopator, instead of marching northward and capturing many additional cities, gained the valley of Lebanon and then returned to Egypt because he was lazy, a drunkard, and a womanizer. This concluded the 4<sup>th</sup> Syrian War.

**Daniel 11:13** *For the king of the North will muster another army, larger than the first; and after several years he will advance with a huge army fully equipped.*

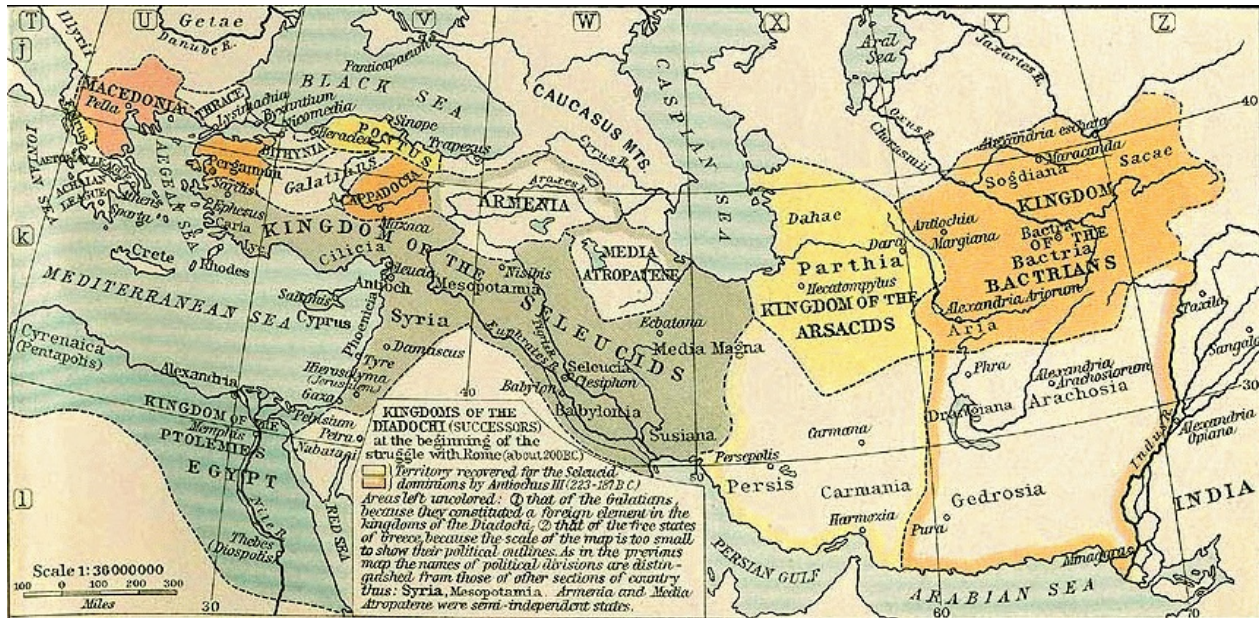
5. Antiochus III then campaigned in Asia Minor and captured almost all of it (216-213). From 212-205 he campaigned to the east and captured what is today Afghanistan and Pakistan and Bactria (north of Afghanistan). He reached India and then marched back west and reached Syria. (See Map 1 on pg. 2)
6. He was so successful that they changed his name from Antiochus III to Antiochus the Great.

*Practical Application: God's perspective. If I were a betting man, I would bet that most of you would not have known that Antiochus III was called Antiochus the Great. So from a human perspective, our works here on this earth will fade from memory and will be remembered only by historians. Do you know anything of what your great-grandfather or mother did? What is important are these questions that Jesus Christ will ask on Judgment Day: "Who do you say that I am? Am I the only Son of God? Am I your Savior?" These are the important questions. There is no evidence that Antiochus the Great believed in Jesus Christ as his Savior. So, while he may have been the Great on this world, he will not be great in Jesus Christ's eyes.*

**Daniel 11:14** *In those times many will rise against the king of the South.*

7. Ptolemy IV Philopator died in 204 B.C. and his four (five?) year old son became Pharaoh, Ptolemy V Epiphanes. Ptolemy's mother, Arsinoe, wanted to rule. His two powerful ministers, Sosibius and Agathocles, tried to rule in his place and they murder his mother.
8. Antiochus III the Great, seeing an opportunity to increase his kingdom, decided to make war against the king of the South, Ptolemy V.

9. Antiochus III the Great made a secret alliance with Philip of Macedon to conquer Egyptian territories outside Egypt. So one kingdom, Seleucid (Persia, Syria, and 1/2 of Asia Minor) and one kingdom (Macedon) vs. the Ptolemaic Egypt.
10. In addition to external threats, some Egyptians rebelled in the Nile delta.
11. Thus, when the Bible says "many will rise against the king of the South," Ptolemy was faced with internal and external threats to his rule.



Map 1: Note that the orange and the yellow territories are recovered by Antiochus III the Great  
[http://www.emersonkent.com/map\\_archive/macedonian\\_empire\\_from\\_200\\_bc.htm](http://www.emersonkent.com/map_archive/macedonian_empire_from_200_bc.htm) accessed on 01 Feb 14

*The violent men among your own people [KJV: robbers of thy people] will rebel in fulfillment of the vision, but without success.*

12. Some Jews, those favoring the Hellenization (Greek), sided with Antiochus III the Great against Ptolemy. The Sadducees were a Hellenistic party.
13. Ptolemy sent his best general Scopas to fight Antiochus III the Great. En route he put down the Jewish rebellion.

**Daniel 11:15** *Then the king of the North will come and build up siege ramps and will capture a fortified city. The forces of the South will be powerless to resist; even their best troops will not have the strength to stand.*

14. Scopas won several battles, but eventually was beaten at the Battle of Mt. Panium (near the source of the Jordan River). He and 10,000 soldiers fled to Sidon. Antiochus III the Great laid siege to Sidon in 200 B.C.
15. Ptolemy raised another superb army under generals Eropus, Menocles, and Damoxenus to rescue Scopas in Sidon. But they too were defeated. Scopas surrendered Sidon to Antiochus due to famine in 198 B.C. and is brutally put to death.

**Daniel 11:16** *The invader will do as he pleases; no one will be able to stand against him. He will establish himself in the Beautiful Land and will have the power to destroy it.*

16. Egyptian armies were defeated, so Antiochus III the Great had the run of the land

17. Never again would Egypt conquer Israel
18. The Beautiful Land = Israel. Why was Israel called the "Beautiful Land"? It did not have majestic mountains like Switzerland nor the fall beauty of Vermont nor the flowering beauty of Virginia in the spring. In fact lots of the land was desert. That was why Jesus could go into the Wilderness and not leave Israel. The one major river ends up in a salt lake, called the Dead Sea. Israel did not receive enough rain to produce a bountiful surplus. That is why the patriarchs went to Egypt to avoid famine. So why was Israel called "the Beautiful Land"?

*Calvin: "God has chosen it for Himself as His seat and dwelling place."*

19. Jewish priests invited Antiochus III to Judea

*Practical Application: Theme of the book is that God is Lord of lords and King of kings. Thus, even though Antiochus III the Great had free reign in the Beautiful Land, he only had free reign because God in His sovereign will allowed Antiochus to have such power. God is in charge!!!!*

**Daniel 11:17** *He will determine to come with might of his entire kingdom and will make an alliance with the King of the South. And he will give him a daughter [of women] in marriage in order to overthrow the kingdom, but his plans [she] will not succeed or help him.*

20. Unable to beat Egypt on the battlefield, in 195 B.C. Antiochus III the Great made an agreement with Ptolemy V (13 years old) and promised him his daughter Cleopatra I [NOT the Cleopatra of Cleopatra and Mark Anthony and Julius Caesar fame] in marriage.
21. 195 B.C. Hannibal joined the court of Antiochus III the Great.
22. Ptolemy V (16) and Cleopatra I (10) were married in 193 B.C. at Raphia.
23. The goal was that Cleopatra I would aid her father in gaining Egypt for him. But Cleopatra I sided with her husband Ptolemy V against her father Antiochus III.

*Practical Application: How do we treat marriage? Do we follow Genesis 2:24: "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and they will become one flesh." In other words, the union between husband and wife is stronger than parents or children. Children will attempt to play off on parent against another. Or mother and daughter against son. But the Bible says it is husband and wife for each other. Marriage trumps all.*

**Daniel 11:18** *Then he will turn his attention to the coastlands and will take many of them but a commander will put an end to his insolence and will turn his insolence back on him.*

24. Coastlands - Asia Minor - Greece which he attacked in 196 B.C.
25. In 192 B.C. Antiochus landed on Euboea, (an island near Athens) with 10,500 soldiers
26. In 191 B.C. the Romans chased Antiochus III from Greece; much of his fleet destroyed.
27. In 190 B.C. the Battle of Magnesia was fought.<sup>1</sup>
  - a. Romans: Lucius Cornelius Scipio led the Romans. He was a poor leader, but his brother, Publius Scipio Africanus who defeated Hannibal, was there as well.
    - 1.) Romans had 27,000 infantry
    - 2.) 3,000 light-armed Achaean and Pergamene infantry
    - 3.) 2,800 cavalry including 800 from Pergamon led by King Eumenes I
    - 4.) 16 African elephants

<sup>1</sup>: <http://hannibalbarca.webspace.virginimedia.com/magnesia-190bc.htm> (including map) accessed on 01 Feb 14

- b. Antiochus III the Great and Hannibal
  - 1.) 70,000 soldiers
  - 2.) 54 Indian elephants, scythe-chariots, and heavily armored cavalry
- c. Antiochus used his strong cavalry and beat the Roman cavalry, but pursued them to the camp and fought there instead of going back to the real battle. Note that this was the same mistake that he made at Raphia. The Romans beat him despite being outnumbered 2:1. Antiochus had 50,000(?) casualties out of a 70,000 man army.

**Daniel 11:19** *After this, he will turn back toward the fortresses of his own country but will stumble and fall, to be seen no more.*

28. In 188 B.C. - Peace of Apamea:

- a. Seleucid influence in the Mediterranean ended.<sup>2</sup>
  - b. "Antiochus agreed to pay a war indemnity of 15,000 Euboic talents. Of this 500 was paid when the negotiations began in 189, 2,500 was to be paid once the Senate ratified the peace, and the remaining 12,000 in twelve annual instalment of 1,000 talents."<sup>3</sup>
  - c. Antiochus III could not sail west of the promontory of Sarpedonium in Cilicia (Map 2).
  - d. Romans got half his ships, and then they gave Antiochus his ships in pieces!!
  - e. He was allowed to have ten large ships.
  - f. He was forbidden to fight a war anywhere in Europe or in the Aegean.
  - g. Antiochus III's sons, Antiochus IV and Demetrius, were taken as hostages to Rome.
  - h. Hannibal must be turned over.
29. On 03 Jul 187 Antiochus III died attacking the temple of Baal in Susa trying to collect money for the war indemnity.



Map 2: After the Peace of Apamea. [http://www.emersonkent.com/map\\_archive/asia\\_minor\\_188\\_bc.htm](http://www.emersonkent.com/map_archive/asia_minor_188_bc.htm) accessed on 01 Feb 14. Note on much he lost.

<sup>2</sup>. Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>. [http://www.historyofwar.org/articles/peace\\_apamea.html](http://www.historyofwar.org/articles/peace_apamea.html) accessed on 01 Feb 14.