

Daniel's Final Vision (chapters 10—12)

11:6-9 The first conflict

Verse 6—(252 BC). Antiochus II (grandson of Seleuchus) married Berenice, daughter of Ptolemy II (son of Ptolemy). Berenice displaced Antiochus's first wife Laodice.

When Ptolemy died, Antiochus divorced Berenice and reinstated Laodice, who poisoned her husband and secured the throne for her son Seleuchus II, in 246 BC.

Laodice and her son had Berenice and her son murdered.

Verse 7, 8—Ptolemy III (brother of Berenice, and successor to Ptolemy II) then attacked Syria to avenge his sister's death. He took Damascus and Antioch and executed Laodice. After further pillaging in Syria, Ptolemy returned to Egypt, taking much booty with him.

Verse 9—Seleuchus II made an abortive counter attack, then agreed to a ten-year truce. He later died in a riding accident.

11:10-19 Victory and defeat

Verse 10, 11, 12—The two sons of Seleuchus II, Seleuchus III (who reigned two years) and Antiochus III (The Great), attacked Ptolemy IV with 15,000 men, but were defeated at Raphia in 217 BC.

Verse 13, 14—Ptolemy IV having died, Antiochus III reentered Palestine and had the support of many of the Jews against Egypt.

Verse 15— Antiochus defeated an Egyptian army, besieged and captured Gaza and Sidon.

Verse 16— With Egypt powerless to resist, Antiochus entered Jerusalem, generally welcomed by the Jews.

Verse 17—As a ploy to gain power over Egypt, Antiochus gave his daughter Cleopatra to be married to Ptolemy V. However, she remained loyal to her husband, even after he died.

Verse 18, 19— Antiochus invaded Greece and Asia Minor, but was defeated by the Roman commander Scipio at Magnesia in 190 BC. The terms of peace were expensive to Antiochus. He left his son Antiochus IV as a hostage in Rome until he could pay his indemnity to Rome. In attempting to cover these debts, Antiochus plundered a temple in Elymais (near Susa), and was killed in the process.

11:20 The first oppressor

His successor, Seleuchus IV, was left with his father's crushing war debts, and imposed heavy taxation in his realm. He attempted to plunder Jerusalem's temple, but was unsuccessful (2 Mac.3). He was assassinated by his prime minister Heliodorus.

11:21-24 The desolator's rule begins

11:25-28 First attack on Egypt

11:29-30 Second attack on Egypt

168 BC. Antiochus attacked Egypt, conquered Memphis and almost took Alexandria.

He was thwarted and humiliated by the intervention of Poppilus Laenas and the Roman fleet.

11:30-35 Attack on the Jews

11:36-45 Who the...?