

## **Update #3**

### **CBCG Research Projects for 2016 The Daniel Project**

*Target Date Sunday, January 24, 2016  
Publication Date Tuesday, January 26, 2016*

Tuesday, January 26, 2016

Dear Fred,

A typical “sand trap” of research is that of not knowing how troublesome the work may be until landing in such a place. Once there the only recourse is to knock the research ball back onto the green and head on down the “course” of research as best as one can. The “sand trap” in this Update happened to be the work involved in figuring out who was who in Daniel 11:5-9. As you will see in this Update these verses turned out to be the most difficult to sort out thus far.

No sooner did I begin swinging away at resolving the “whose who” of Daniel 11:5-9 when I lost all of my clubs! That is, part of my computer service went down for a day or so when I was about to finish the course and mail this off to you!

Anyway, I trust you will like my final Update “score”. I don’t want you to think I was goofing around when all the time I was really “golfing around”.

Your brother in Christ,  
Carl

CC: Ron Cary  
Dwight Blevins

# Introductory Remarks

## Seleucid Dynasty Kings of the North

**King**                      **Reign (BC)**                      **Seleucid Kings  
of Daniel 11:5-7  
(yellow highlighted)**

**Following Kings of the North Mentioned in Daniel 11:5-7  
Reigns Cover a Period of 80 Years from 305 BC to 225 BC**

<b>1-Seleucus I Nicator</b>	King 305-281	Apama <sup>C</sup>	<b>Subject of Daniel 11:5</b>
<b>2-Antiochus I Soter</b>	King 281-261	Stratonice <sup>C</sup>	<b>Subject of Daniel 11:6</b>
<b>3-Antiochus II Theos</b>	King 261-246	Laodice I <sup>C</sup> Berenice <sup>C</sup>	<b>Subject of Daniel 11:6</b> Daughter of <b>2-Ptolemy II</b>
<b>4-Seleucus II Callinicus</b>	King 246-225	Laodice II <sup>C</sup>	<b>Subject of Daniel 11:7</b>

**Following Kings not mentioned in Daniel 11:5-9**

<b>5-Seleucus III Ceraunus or Soter</b>	King 225-223	Euboea <sup>C</sup>	
<b>6-Antiochus III the Great</b>	King 223-187	Laodice III <sup>C</sup>	
<b>7-Seleucus IV Philopator</b>	King 187-175	Laodice IV <sup>C</sup>	
<b>8-Antiochus IV Epiphanes</b>	King 175-163	Laodice IV <sup>C</sup>	

**C = Consort**

**Yellow Highlight** = Seleucid Kings or Family member of a King prophesied in **Daniel 11:5-9**

# Ptolemaic Dynasty Kings of the South

King	Reign (BC)	Ptolemaic Kings of Daniel 11:5-9 (yellow highlighted)
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**Following Kings of the North Mentioned in Daniel 11:5-9  
Reigns Cover a Period of 84 Years from 305 BC to 225 BC**

<b>1-Ptolemy I Lagus</b> or Soter	King 305-284	Thais <sup>C</sup> Artakama <sup>C</sup> Eurydice <sup>C</sup> Berenice I <sup>C</sup>	<b>Subject of Daniel 11:5</b>
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<b>2-Ptolemy II Philadelphus</b>	King 285-246	Arsinoe I <sup>C</sup> Arsinoe II <sup>C</sup>	<b>Subject of Daniel 11:6</b>
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<b>3-Ptolemy III Euergetes</b>	King 246-221	<b>2-Berenice II <sup>C</sup></b> <b>2-Berenice II <sup>C</sup></b>	<b>Subject of Daniel 11:7</b> <b>Subject of Daniel 11:8-9</b>
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## Following Kings not mentioned in Daniel 11:5-9

<b>4-Ptolemy IV Philopator</b>	King 221-203	Arsinoe III <sup>C</sup>
<b>5-Ptolemy V Epiphanes</b>	King 203-181	Cleopatra I <sup>C</sup>
<b>6-Ptolemy VI Philometor</b>	King 181-164	Cleopatra II <sup>C</sup>

**C = Consort**

**Yellow Highlight = Ptolemaic Kings or Family of Kings Prophesied in Daniel 11:5-9**

**Outline of the Six Syrian Wars**  
**Listing Major Players**  
**Fighting for Control of the Holy Land**  
**Period Covered—274-168 BC**  
**(106 Years)**  
**Daniel 11:5-9**

<b>War Dates</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Kings of the North</b>	<b>Kings of the South</b>	
1 <sup>st</sup> Syrian War Interrum	274-271 BC (c. 11 years)	3 Years	2-Antiochus I	2-Ptolemy II
2 <sup>nd</sup> Syrian War Interrum	260-253 BC (c. 7 years)	7 Years	3-Antiochus II	2-Ptolemy II
3 <sup>rd</sup> Syrian War Interrum	246-241 BC (c. 22 years)	5 Years	4-Seleucus II	3-Ptolemy III
4 <sup>th</sup> Syrian War Interrum	219-217 BC (c. 25 years)	2 Years	6-Antiochus III	4-Ptolemy IV
5 <sup>th</sup> Syrian War Interrum	202-195 BC (c. 25 years)	7 Years	6-Antiochus III	5-Ptolemy V
6 <sup>th</sup> Syrian War	170-168 BC	2 Years	8-Antiochus IV Epiphanes	6-Ptolemy VI

**Revolt of the Maccabees**  
**167-160 BC**

# **Exegesis of Daniel 11:5 through Daniel 11:9**

**Covering the Period After the Death of  
Alexander III (the Great) and the Division of  
His Empire by His 4 Generals (305 BC)  
to the First Year of**

**Antiochus III the Great  
(the Father of Antiochus Epiphanes)**

**305-223 BC  
A Period of 82 Years**

## Daniel 11:5

### The Beginning of the Dynasties of the Kings of the North and the Kings of the South

**King of the North**  
**Reigned over the Satraps of**  
**Syria, Babylonia and Media**

**1-Seleucus I Nicator (Conqueror)**  
**King of Syria**  
**(305-280 BC)**

**King of the South**  
**Reigned over the Satraps of**  
**Egypt, Libyan and Arabian Regions**

**1-Ptolemy I Lagus or Soter**  
**King of Egypt**  
**(305-284 BC)**

**Keil--**From the 5th verse the prophecy passes to the wars of the kings of the south and the north for the supremacy and for the dominion over the Holy Land, which lay between the two. **V. 5** describes the growing strength of these two kings, and **v. 6** an attempt made by them to join themselves together. *chaazaq*, to become strong.

**11:5** And *the king of the south*<sup>7</sup> shall be strong, and one of his princes<sup>8</sup>; and *he*<sup>8</sup> shall be strong above *him*<sup>7</sup>, and have dominion; *his dominion*<sup>8</sup> shall be a great dominion (KJV).

**Verse 5—Note 7)—“the king of the south...him”**

A reference to **1-Ptolemy I (House of) Lagus or Soter (Savour).**

**King of the South**--King of Egyptian and Libyan Satraps and adjacent Arabian Regions

**Verse 5—Note 8)—“and one of his princes...he”**

A reference to **1-Seleucus I Nicator. King of the North.** King of Syrian, Babylonian and Median Satraps

# Daniel 11:6

## The King of the South Makes a League With the King of the North

### King of the North

#### 3-Antiochus II Theos

(Son of Antiochus I Soter (281-261 BC))  
(261-246 BC)

### King of the South

#### 2-Ptolemy II Philadelphus

(285-246 BC)

**11:6** *And in the end of years <sup>9</sup> they <sup>10</sup> shall join themselves together <sup>11</sup>; for the king's daughter of the south <sup>12</sup> shall come to the king of the north <sup>13</sup> to make an agreement: but she shall not retain the power of the arm <sup>14</sup>; neither shall he stand <sup>15</sup>, nor his arm: but she shall be given up <sup>16</sup>, and they that brought her, and he that begat her, and he that strengthened her in these times.*

#### Verse 6—Note 9)—“in the end of years”

A reference to a 63 year time period before formation of a league between **2-Ptolemy II Philadelphus King of the South (285-246 BC)** and **2-Antiochus I Soter King of the North (261-246 BC)**

#### Verse 6—Note 10)—“they”

A reference to **2-Ptolemy II Philadelphus King of the South (285-246 BC)** and **2-Antiochus I Soter King of the North (261-246 BC)**

#### Verse 6—Note 11)—“shall join themselves together”

They shall form a league



**Verse 6—Note 12)**—“*the king’s daughter of the south*”

A reference to **2-Bernice II**, daughter of **2-Ptolemy II Philadelphus King of the South (285-246 BC)**

**Verse 6—Note 13)**—“*the king of the north*”

A reference to **2-Antiochus I Soter King of the North (261-246 BC)**

**Verse 6—Note 14)**—“*the king’s daughter of the south*”

A reference to **2-Bernice II**, daughter of **2-Ptolemy II Philadelphus King of the South (285-246 BC)**

**Verse 6—Note 15)**—“*neither shall he stand*”

A reference to **2-Ptolemy II Philadelphus King of the South (285-246 BC)**

**Verse 6—Note 16)**—“*but she shall be given up*”

A reference to the murder of **2-Berenice II** and her infant son by **2-Antiochus I Soter King of the North (261-246 BC)**

## Daniel 11:7-9

### The King of the South Attacks the King of the North

#### King of the South

**3-Ptolemy III Euergetes**  
(Benefactor)  
(246-221 BC)

#### King of the North

**4-Seleucus II Callinicus**  
(246-225 BC)

**11:7** But *out of a branch*<sup>17</sup> *of her roots*<sup>18</sup> *shall one stand up*<sup>19</sup> *in his estate*<sup>20</sup>, which shall come with an army, and shall *enter into the fortress of the king of the north*<sup>21</sup>, and shall deal against them, and shall prevail:

**11:8** *and shall also carry captives into Egypt*<sup>22</sup> *their gods, with their princes, and with their precious vessels of silver and of gold; and he shall continue more years*<sup>23</sup> *than the king of the north.*

**11:9** So *the king of the south*<sup>24</sup> *shall come into his kingdom, and shall return into his own land* (vs. 7-9).

#### Verse 7—Note 17)—“*out of a branch*”

A reference to **3-Ptolemy III Euergetes (Benefactor) King of the South (246-221 BC)**—the brother of **2-Berenice II**

#### Verse 7—Note 18)—“*of her roots*”

A reference to **2-Ptolemy II Philadelphus King of the South (285-246 BC)**—the father of **2-Berenice II (246-241 BC)**

**Verse 7—Note 19)—“*shall one stand up*”**

A reference to **3-Ptolemy III Euergetes (Benefactor) King of the South (246-221 BC)**—the brother of **2-Berenice II (246-241 BC)**

**Verse 7—Note 20)—“*in his estate* <sup>20</sup>”**

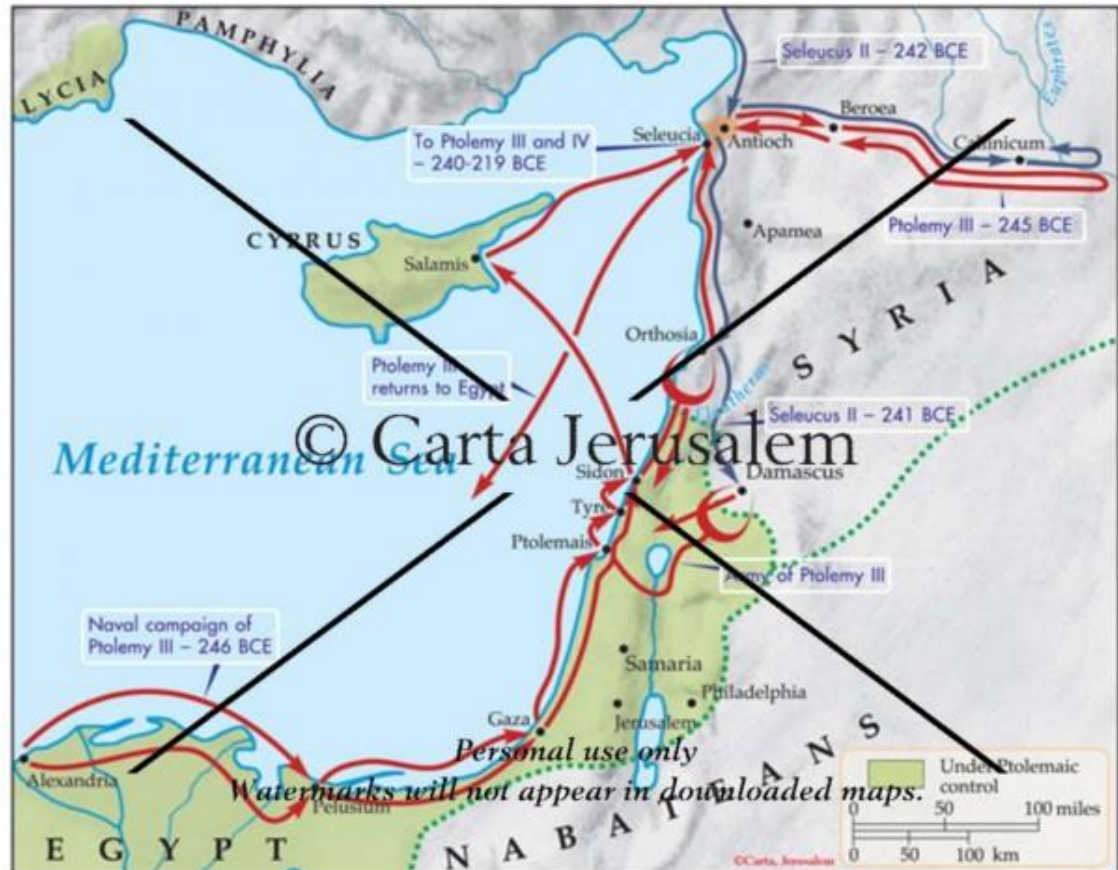
**2-Ptolemy II Philadelphus King of the South (285-246 BC)**  
**2-Berenice II Queen of the South (246-241 BC)** acting on behalf of her father **2-Ptolemy II Philadelphus King of the South (285-246 BC)**

**Verse 7—Note 21)—“*enter into the fortress of the king of the north* <sup>21</sup>”**

A reference to **2-Berenice II Queen of the South (246-241 BC)** entering into the fortress of **4-Seleucus II Callinicus King of the North (246-225 BC)**, son of **3-Antiochus II King of the North (261-246 BC)**

**Verse 8—Note 22)—“and shall also carry captives into Egypt <sup>22</sup>”**

A reference to the **2-Berenice II** Queen of the South (246-241 BC) during the **Third Syrian War—246-240 BC** (see map below)



**Verse 8—Note 23)—“he <sup>23</sup> shall continue more years”**

A reference to **3-Ptolemy III Euergetes, (Benefactor)** King of the South, brother of **2-Berenice II**, who died in 221 BC—whereas **4-Seleucus II** King of the North died in 225 BC

**Verse 8—Note 24)—“*than the king of the North* <sup>24</sup>”**

A reference to **4-Seleucus II**, king of the North who died in 225 BC

**Verse 9—Note 25)—“*the king of the south* <sup>25</sup>”**

A reference to **3-Ptolemy III Euergetes (Benefactor)** (246-221 BC)—the brother of **2-Berenice II** (daughter of **2-Ptolemy II Philadelphus** (285-246 BC))

# Historical and Exegetical Commentary

## Daniel 11:5

### 1-Seleucus I Nicator (310-280 BC) King of the North

King of Syrian,  
Babylonian  
and Median Satraps

**BRITANNICA:** Seleucus I Nicator, also spelled Seleukos Nikator (“Conqueror”) (born c. 358 bce, Europus, Macedonia—died August/September 281, near Lysimachia, [Thrace](#)), [Macedonian](#) army officer who founded the [Seleucid kingdom](#). In the struggles following the death of [Alexander the Great](#), he rose from governor of [Babylon](#) to [king](#) of an empire centering on [Syria](#) and [Iran](#).

#### Early life and ascent to power

Seleucus was the son of Antiochus, a general of [Philip II](#) of Macedonia, the father of [Alexander the Great](#). Seleucus participated in the conquest of the Persian empire as one of Alexander’s officers, and in 326 bce he commanded the Macedonian [infantry](#) against King [Porus](#) of India in [battle on the Hydaspes River](#). In 324 Alexander ordered a mass wedding ceremony at [Susa](#) (in Persia) to put into practice his ideal of uniting the peoples of Macedonia and [Persia](#). On this occasion Seleucus married Apama, the daughter of Spitamenes, the ruler of [Bactria](#). Of all the Macedonian nobles, he was the only one who did not repudiate his wife after Alexander’s death.

After Alexander died (323 bce), Seleucus was given the command of the *hetairoi* (companions) [cavalry](#) and took part in the regent [Perdiccas](#)’s campaign to oust [Ptolemy](#), the governor ([satrap](#)) of [Egypt](#). In [Egypt](#), however, he joined with others in the assassination of [Perdiccas](#). When the empire was divided in 321, he was given the governorship (satrapy) of [Babylon](#). At the same time, [Antigonus Monophthalmus](#) (the One-Eyed) had been placed in command of a campaign against [Eumenes](#) of Cardia, a supporter of Perdiccas. In 317 Seleucus aided Antigonus but, after Eumenes’s execution in 316, Antigonus demanded that

Seleucus give an accounting of the income from his satrapy. Seleucus refused to give the accounting and escaped capture by fleeing to Ptolemy in Egypt.

From 316 to 312 Seleucus remained in Ptolemy's service. He took the initiative in forging a coalition among Ptolemy, [Lysimachus](#) (the ruler of Thrace), and [Cassander](#) (who laid claim to [Macedonia](#)) against Antigonos, whose desire to become the ruler of the whole of Alexander's empire was a threat to them all. In the resulting coalition [war](#) (315–311), Seleucus was made one of Ptolemy's generals and jointly with him commanded the Ptolemaic troops that defeated the force of [Demetrius](#), the son of Antigonos, at the Battle of Gaza in southern [Syria](#) (312).

Seleucus once again turned his attention to returning to [Babylonia](#), and in August 312 he was able to reconquer Babylon with only a small army. This conquest marked the beginning of the Seleucid era, which is dated Dios 1 (October 7), 312, in the Macedonian calendar and Nisan 1 (April 3), 311, in the Babylonian calendar. Antigonos ordered Nicanor, one of his generals, to invade Babylonia from the east and his son Demetrius to attack it from the west, but they failed to oust Seleucus. When Antigonos made peace with his enemies in 311, Seleucus was not included.

### **Consolidation of gains**

Little is known about the next few years of Seleucus's reign; he presumably used them to consolidate his gains. In the year 305 he followed the example of the other successors and assumed the title of king (*basileus*). He embarked on an expansion of his kingdom throughout the Iranian east (the upper satrapies) as far as [India](#), but his advance was eventually halted by [Chandragupta](#) (called Sandrocottus or Androcottus in Greek and Latin sources), the founder of the [Mauryan empire](#) of India. In a pact concluded by the two potentates, Seleucus agreed to territorial concessions in exchange for 500 elephants. Their pact also contained a marriage clause, in which Seleucus may have agreed to send a daughter to India, but details of the arrangement are unknown.

Developments in the west were also a factor in causing Seleucus to end his campaign in India (303). He had joined a coalition that Ptolemy, [Cassander](#), and [Lysimachus](#) had once again formed against Antigonos and Demetrius. In the winter of 302 Seleucus was back in Asia Minor and, together with Cassander and Lysimachus, defeated Antigonos in the [Battle of Ipsus](#) (301). The victors divided the lands of their enemy among them, with Seleucus being given Syria. The southern part of Syria, Coele Syria, had in the meantime been occupied by Ptolemy, who had not taken part in the war. This gave rise to the long series of [Syrian wars](#) between the Seleucids and Ptolemies. For the time being, however,

Seleucus declined to enforce his claim; he merely transferred his capital from [Seleucia on the Tigris](#) to the newly founded city of [Antioch](#) on the [Orontes](#) (301–300).

Ptolemy, anxious to improve relations with Lysimachus, had given him his daughter Arsinoe in marriage. To provide a counterbalance, Seleucus asked for the hand of Stratonice, the daughter of Demetrius, and in 298 the wedding was held with much pomp at Rhosus in Syria. Soon, however, Seleucus's territorial demands (e.g., the surrender of [Cilicia](#) and the cities of [Tyre](#) and [Sidon](#)) ruptured the previously harmonious relationship with Demetrius.

In 294 a sensational scandal occurred at the court of Seleucus. [Antiochus](#), his son by Apama, fell in love with his beautiful stepmother, [Stratonice](#), and his unrequited passion affected his health. Seleucus gave him Stratonice, assigned him as commander in chief to the upper satrapies, and appointed him co-regent.

In 285 Seleucus took Demetrius prisoner, thus foiling his attempt to conquer Asia, and interned him in [Apamea](#), where he died in 283. Subsequently, Seleucus intervened in dissensions in the house of Lysimachus, who had had his son Agathocles assassinated. In February 281 Lysimachus fell in a battle against Seleucus at Corupedium, and Seleucus gained control of [Lysimachus's](#) kingdom. He was now near his goal of reestablishing Alexander's empire. He crossed over to Europe to enter Macedonia, but at the end of August or beginning of September 281, he was murdered by Ptolemy Ceraunus, who had been passed over by his father, Ptolemy, as successor to the Egyptian throne. Seleucus's son and successor, [Antiochus I](#), entombed his father's ashes in Seleucia, initiated (probably) the posthumous cult of his father, and ordered his veneration as [Zeus Nicator](#).

Seleucus was an energetic ruler, creating the Seleucid empire, which gained its greatest expansion under his rule. He took great interest in the administration of his territories and founded many new cities. He also encouraged scientific research: Patrocles explored the [Caspian Sea](#) and [Megasthenes](#) the [Ganges River](#). A bronze bust—a very impressive likeness of him, conveying his imposing personality—was found in [Herculaneum](#) (in [Italy](#)) and is now in [Naples](#).

[Jakob Seibert](#)



# Historical and Exegetical Commentary

## Daniel 11:5

### 1-Ptolemy I Lagus (305-285/4 BC) King of the South

Noble House of Lagus  
Titled Soter meaning Savior

King of Egyptian,  
Libyan and  
Adjacent Arabian Regions

**BRITANNICA:** Ptolemy I Soter, (born 367/366 bc, Macedonia—died 283/282, Egypt), Macedonian [general](#) of [Alexander the Great](#), who became ruler of Egypt (323–285 bc) and founder of the [Ptolemaic dynasty](#), which reigned longer than any other dynasty established on the soil of the Alexandrian empire and only succumbed to the Romans in 30 bc.

#### Early life and career

[Ptolemy](#) was the son of the nobleman Lagus, a native of the Macedonian district of Eordaea whose family was undistinguished until Ptolemy's time, and of Arsinoe, who was related to the Macedonian [Argead dynasty](#). He was probably educated as a page at the royal court of Macedonia, where he became closely associated with Alexander. He was exiled in 337, along with other companions of the crown prince. When he returned, after Alexander's accession to the throne in 336, he joined the King's bodyguard, took part in Alexander's European campaigns of 336–335, and in the fall of 330 was appointed personal bodyguard (*sōmatophylax*) to Alexander; in this capacity he captured the [assassin of Darius III](#), the Persian emperor, in 329. He was closely associated with Alexander during the advance through the Persian highland. As a result of Ptolemy's successful military performance on the way from Bactria (in northeastern Afghanistan) to the Indus River (327–325), he became commander (*triērarchos*) of the Macedonian

fleet on the Hydaspes (modern Jhelum in India). Alexander decorated him several times for his deeds and married him to the Persian Artacama at the mass wedding at [Susa](#), the Persian capital, which was the crowning event of Alexander's policy of merging the Macedonian and Iranian populations.

### **Satrap of Egypt**

Ptolemy, who distinguished himself as a cautious and trustworthy troop commander under Alexander, also proved to be a politician of unusual diplomatic and strategic ability in the long series of struggles over the throne that broke out after Alexander's death in 323. Convinced from the outset that the generals could not maintain the unity of Alexander's empire, he proposed during the council at [Babylon](#), which followed Alexander's death, that the satrapies (the provinces of the huge empire) be divided among the generals. He became [satrap of Egypt, with the adjacent Libyan and Arabian regions](#), and methodically took advantage of the geographic isolation of the Nile territory to make it a great Hellenistic power. He took steps to improve internal administration and to acquire several external possessions in [Cyrenaica](#) (the easternmost part of Libya), [Cyprus](#), and [Syria](#) and on the coast of Asia Minor; these, he hoped, would guarantee him military security. Although he pursued a friendly policy toward [Greece](#) that secured his political influence there, he also succeeded in winning over the native Egyptian population.

In 322 Ptolemy, taking advantage of internal disturbances, acquired the African Hellenic towns of [Cyrenaica](#). In 322–321, as a member of a coalition of “successors” (*diadochoi*) of Alexander, he fought against [Perdiccas](#), the ruler (*chiliarchos*) of the Asiatic region of the empire. The coalition was victorious and [Perdiccas](#) died during the fighting. Ptolemy's diplomatic talent was put to the test during this [war](#). When the satrapies were redistributed at Triparadisus in northern Syria, [Antipater](#), the general of the European region, became regent of the Macedonian empire and Ptolemy was confirmed in possession of Egypt and [Cyrene](#). He further strengthened his position by marrying Eurydice, the third daughter of Antipater.

About 317 he married [Berenice I](#), the granddaughter of [Cassander](#), the son of Antipater. [Cassander](#), at his father's death in 319, refused to accept his father's successor, made war upon him, seized part of the empire, and in 305 assumed the title of king of Macedonia. In the coalition war of 315–311, Ptolemy obtained possession of [Cyprus](#). In this war he scored his most important victory in the battle near [Gaza](#) in 312, in which the Egyptian contingents were decisive. But war broke out anew in 310, and he lost Cyprus again in 306. He temporarily lost Cyrene as well and was unable to hold the important Greek positions of Corinth and

neighbouring [Sicyon](#) and [Megara](#), which he had captured in 308. He ultimately suffered overwhelming defeat in 306 in the naval battle near [Salamis](#) on Cyprus. The victor in this battle, [Antigonus I Monophthalmus](#), who was assisted by his son, [Demetrius Poliorcetes](#), assumed the title of king in 306. The remaining satraps, led by Ptolemy after he successfully resisted Antigonus' attack on Egypt, also took the title of king in 305–304.

### **King of Egypt**

After naming himself king, Ptolemy's first concern was the continuing war with Antigonus, which was now focussed on the island of [Rhodes](#). In 304 Ptolemy aided the inhabitants of [Rhodes](#) against Antigonus and was accorded the divine title Soter (Saviour), which he was commonly called from that time. The dissolution of Alexander's empire was brought to a close with the battle near [Ipsus](#) in Asia Minor in 301. During this battle Antigonus was defeated by the other kings. This led to the attempt by the remaining successors of Alexander to define their kingdoms. For this reason a dispute arose between Ptolemy and [Seleucus I Nicator](#) of Babylon over [Syria](#), particularly the southern [Syrian](#) ports, which served as terminal points for the caravan routes. This quarrel, however, was temporarily settled peacefully through compromise. In addition to Coele Syria (Palestine), Ptolemy apparently also occupied Pamphylia, Lycia, and part of Pisidia in southern Asia Minor.

During the last 15 years of his reign, because of the defeats he suffered between 308 and 306, Ptolemy preferred to secure and expand his empire through a policy of alliances and marriages rather than through warfare. In 300 he concluded an alliance with [Lysimachus](#) of Thrace (modern Bulgaria) and gave him his daughter [Arsinoe II](#) in marriage in 299/298. At approximately the same time he married his stepdaughter Theoxena to [Agathocles](#), the tyrant of Syracuse (southeastern Sicily). About 296 he made peace with [Demetrius](#) Poliorcetes, to whom he betrothed his daughter Ptolemais. To [Pyrrhus](#) of [Epirus](#), Demetrius' brother-in-law, who was at the Egyptian court as a hostage, he gave his stepdaughter Antigone. He finally brought rebellious Cyrene into subjection in 298, and in approximately 294 he gained control over Cyprus and the Phoenician coastal towns of Tyre and Sidon.

In a last coalition war in 288–286, in which Ptolemy, Seleucus, [Lysimachus](#), and Pyrrhus opposed Demetrius, the Egyptian fleet participated decisively in the liberation of Athens from Macedonian occupation. During this war Ptolemy obtained the protectorate over the [League of Islanders](#), which was established by Antigonus Monophthalmus in 315 and included most of the Greek islands in the

Aegean. Egypt's maritime supremacy in the Mediterranean in the ensuing decades was based on this alliance.

Ptolemy was able to evaluate the chaotic international situation of this post-Alexandrian era, which was characterized by constantly renewed wars with shifting alliances and coalitions, in realistic political terms. Adhering to a basically defensive foreign policy, he secured Egypt against external enemies and expanded it by means of directly controlled foreign possessions and hegemonic administrations. He did not, however, neglect to devote attention to the internal organization of the country and to provide for a successor. In 290 he made his wife Berenice queen of Egypt and in 285 (possibly on June 26) appointed his younger son [Ptolemy II Philadelphus](#), who was born to Berenice in 308, co-regent and successor. The provision for the succession, which was based on examples from the time of the pharaohs, made possible a peaceful transition when Ptolemy died in the winter of 283–282. The early Ptolemies were occupied with the economic exploitation of Egypt, but, because of the lack of first-hand information, the details of Ptolemy's participation in the process cannot be determined. It is certain, however, that discrimination against the Egyptians took place during his reign. The only town he founded was Ptolemais in [Upper Egypt](#). He probably placed Macedonian military commanders alongside the Egyptian provincial administrators and intervened unobtrusively in legal and financial affairs. In order to regulate the latter, he introduced coinage, which until that time was unknown in Egypt.

He found it necessary from the outset, however, to pursue a conciliatory policy toward the Egyptians, since Egyptians had to be recruited for his army, which initially numbered only 4,000 men. Ptolemy won over the Egyptians through the establishment in [Memphis](#) of the [Serapis](#) cult, which fused the Egyptian and Greek religions; through restoration of the temples of the pharaohs, which had been destroyed by the Persians; and through gifts to the ancient Egyptian gods and patronage of the Egyptian nobility and priesthood. Finally, he founded the [Museum](#) (Mouseion), a common workplace for scholars and artists, and established the famous library at [Alexandria](#). Besides being a patron of the arts and sciences, he was a writer himself. In the last few years of his life Ptolemy wrote a generally reliable history of Alexander's campaigns. Although it is now lost, it can be largely reconstructed through the extensive use made of it later by the historian [Arrian](#).

Several times during his life Ptolemy was proclaimed a [deity](#) by certain classes of people. After his death he was raised to the level of a god by all the Egyptians.

[Robert Werner](#)

# Historical and Exegetical Commentary

## Daniel 11:6

**2-Antiochus I Soter (281-261 BC)**  
**King of the North**

**King of Syrian,  
Babylonian  
and Median Satraps**



**born**

**324 BCE**

**died**

**c. 262 BCE or 261 BCE**

Antiochus I Soter, (born 324 bc—died 262/261), king of the [Seleucid kingdom](#) of [Syria](#), who ruled about 292–281 bc in the east and 281–261 over the whole kingdom. Under great external pressures, he consolidated his kingdom and encouraged the founding of cities.

Antiochus was the son of [Seleucus I](#), founder of the Seleucid kingdom, and his Sogdian queen, Apama. When an invasion of nomads threatened the eastern



possessions of his father's realm (between the Caspian and Aral seas and the Indian Ocean), Antiochus was appointed king (292). He restored some of the damage caused by the invaders and rebuilt three cities. Because his father still had interest in expanding the eastern trade, Antiochus dispatched a noted geographer and general to explore the environs of the Caspian Sea.

After his father's assassination in 281, Antiochus succeeded to the entire realm, but he was immediately beset by revolts in Syria (probably instigated by Egypt), by independence movements in northern [Anatolia](#), and by a war led by [Antigonus II Gonatas](#), ruler of the Greek cities and Macedonia. In 279, after the Gauls invaded Greece and almost ruined Antigonus, he and Antiochus signed a pact promising not to interfere with one another's territory. The next year, however, 20,000 Gauls crossed into Asia Minor, and the independent states in the northern part recruited them to harass Antiochus. He was preoccupied with the pacification of Syria until 275, when, utilizing Indian elephants brought from the east, he defeated the Gauls, who were afterward settled by their allies in Phrygia to make it a buffer state. The Ionian city-states that Antiochus had spared from the Gauls' ravages hailed him as a god and named him Soter ("Saviour"). In 275 the alliance with Antigonus, now fully in possession of Macedonia, was cemented by marriage to Antiochus' half sister.

Following the Gallic incursions in Greece, Antiochus encouraged Greek immigration to his realm and established many new cities in Asia Minor to serve as counterweights to the Gauls. He built other cities in Iran to forestall the Parthian threat to his eastern frontier, and he probably fostered a revival of Babylonian culture and religion to counteract [Persian](#) influence. At Babylon he rebuilt the ancient Esagila shrine, although he moved the city's populace to a great Seleucid city a short distance away on the Tigris River.

The aggressions of [Ptolemy II](#) of Egypt caused continuous friction with Antiochus. In 279 he lost Miletus, in southwestern Asia Minor, and in 276 the Egyptians invaded northern Syria. But Antiochus defeated his opponent, repelled him, and secured an alliance with the Egyptian ruler's half brother who ruled [Cyrene](#). After Ptolemy married the energetic Arsinoe II, however, the war turned against the Seleucids, and about 273–272, Phoenicia and the coast of Asia Minor were lost to Egypt.

The continuous troubles in the west caused Seleucid control in the far eastern part of the empire to weaken. In 280 Antiochus made his eldest son king in the east, but he proved incompetent. Between 266 and 261 Antiochus was drawn into a war with Pergamum, and in 262 he suffered a defeat and lost additional territory. Soon afterward he died, leaving his son Antiochus II as successor.

# **Historical and Exegetical Commentary**

## **Daniel 11:6**

**2-Ptolemy II Philadelphus (285-246 BC)**  
**King of the South**

**Noble House of Lagus**  
**Titled Soter meaning Savior**

**King of Egyptian,  
Libyan and  
Adjacent Arabian Regions**



**born**

**308 BCE**

**Cos, Greece**

**died**

**246 BCE**

Ptolemy II Philadelphus, ( Philadelphus in Greek: “Brother-Loving”) (born 308 bce, [Cos](#)—died 246), king of Egypt (285–246 bce), second king of the Ptolemaic dynasty, who extended his power by skillful diplomacy, developed agriculture and commerce, and made Alexandria a leading centre of the arts and sciences.

### **Life**

Reigning at first with his father, [Ptolemy I Soter](#), he became sole ruler in 283–282 and purged his family of possible rivals. This dynastic strife led also to the banishment of his first wife, [Arsinoe I](#), daughter of King [Lysimachus](#) of Thrace. Ptolemy then married his sister, [Arsinoe II](#), an event that shocked [Greek](#) public opinion but was celebrated by the Alexandrian court poets. Taking advantage of the difficulties of the rival kingdoms of the Seleucids and Antigonids, Ptolemy II extended his rule in Syria, Asia Minor, and the Aegean at their expense and asserted at the same time his influence in Ethiopia and Arabia. Egyptian embassies to Rome as well as to [India](#) reflect the wide range of Ptolemy’s political and commercial interests.

Although a new war with the Seleucids (from 274 to 270) did not affect the basic position of the rival kingdoms, the so-called [Chremonidean War](#) (268?–261), stirred up by Ptolemy against [Antigonus II Gonatas](#), king of Macedonia, resulted in the weakening of Ptolemaic influence in the Aegean and brought about near disaster to Ptolemy’s allies Athens and Sparta. Ptolemy was no more successful in the Second [Syrian War](#) (c. 260–253), fought against the coalition of the Seleucid king [Antiochus II](#) and [Antigonus](#) Gonatas. The unsuccessful course of the military operations was compensated for, to a certain degree, by the diplomatic skill of Ptolemy, who first managed to lure Antigonus into concluding a separate peace (255) and then brought the war with the [Seleucid](#) Empire to an end by marrying his daughter, [Berenice](#)—provided with a huge dowry—to his foe [Antiochus II](#). The magnitude of this political masterstroke can be gauged by the fact that Antiochus, before marrying the Ptolemaic princess, had to dismiss his former wife, Laodice. Thus freed for the moment from Seleucid opposition and



sustained by the considerable financial means provided by the Egyptian economy, Ptolemy II devoted himself again to [Greece](#) and aroused new adversaries to Antigonid Macedonia. While the Macedonian forces were bogged down in Greece, Ptolemy reasserted his influence in the Aegean, making good the setback suffered during the Chremonidean War. He further improved his position by arranging for the marriage of his son (and later successor) [Ptolemy III Euergetes](#) to the daughter of King [Magas](#) of Cyrene, who had proved so far a very troublesome neighbour. Not aiming at outright hegemony (even less imperialistic conquest) in the [Hellenistic](#) world of the eastern Mediterranean, Ptolemy II tried nonetheless to secure for Egypt as good a position as possible, holding at large his rivals beyond a wide buffer zone of foreign possessions. Without being completely successful, he managed to let his allies bear the brunt of the heaviest reverses, healing his own military wounds with diplomatic remedies. The influence on Ptolemy of his wife and sister [Arsinoe II](#), particularly in foreign affairs, was certainly substantial, though not as extensive as claimed by some contemporary authors.

### **Influence**

Ptolemy II's record in domestic affairs is no less impressive. From pharaonic times onward, agriculture and the work of artisans in Egypt had been highly organized. Under Ptolemy's supervision and with the help of Greek administrators, this system developed into a kind of planned economy. The peasant masses of the Nile Valley provided cheap labour, so that the introduction of slavery on a broad basis was never considered an economic necessity in Ptolemaic Egypt. Ptolemy II became a master at the fiscal exploitation of the Egyptian countryside; the capital, Alexandria, served as the main trading and export centre. Ptolemy II displayed a vivid interest in Greek as well as in Egyptian religion, paid visits to the sanctuaries in the countryside, and spent large sums erecting temples. Anxious to secure a solid position for, and religious elevation of, his dynasty, the [King insisted upon divine honours](#) not only for his parents but also for his sister and wife Arsinoe II and himself as *theoi adelphoi* ("brother gods"). He thus became one of the most ardent promoters of the Hellenistic [ruler cult](#), which in turn was to have a far-reaching influence on the [cult](#) of the Roman emperors.

Under Ptolemy II, [Alexandria](#) also played a leading role in [arts and science](#). Throughout the whole Mediterranean world the King acquired a reputation for being a generous patron of poets and scholars. Surrounding himself with a host of court poets, such as [Callimachus](#) and [Theocritus](#), he expanded the [library](#) and financed the [museum](#), a research centre founded as a counterweight to the more

antimonarchial Athenian schools. Learning there was not confined to philosophy and literature but extended also to include mathematics and natural sciences. The age of Ptolemy II coincided with the apex of Hellenistic civilization; its vigour and glamour were a result of the still fresh forces of Greek leadership in the eastern Mediterranean. Ptolemy II was no man of peace, but neither was he one of the warlike Hellenistic soldier-kings. A prudent and enlightened ruler, he found his strength in diplomatic ability and his satisfaction in a vast curiosity of mind.

[Heinz Heinen](#)

# Historical and Exegetical Commentary

## Daniel 11:6

### 3-Antiochus II Theos (261-246 BC) King of the North

King of Syrian,  
Babylonian  
and Median Satraps

born

*c.* 287 BCE

died

246 BCE

Antiochus II Theos, (born *c.* 287 bc—died 246), king of the Seleucid dominions in the Middle East, who succeeded his father, Antiochus I, in 261 bc and spent much of his reign at war with [Egypt](#), recovering much territory in Anatolia.

Finding a willing ally in [Antigonus](#), ruler of Macedonia, who had suffered at the hands of [Ptolemy II](#) of Egypt, **Antiochus waged the Second Syrian War (259–255) against Ptolemy to avenge his father’s losses.** While Antigonus defeated the Egyptian fleet at sea, Antiochus reconquered much of Anatolia, including the cities of Miletus and [Ephesus](#), and also the Phoenician coast.

In Miletus, Antiochus overthrew a tyrant after he recaptured the city, and the citizens worshiped him as a god in thanksgiving. He later organized an empire-wide cult, as suggested by his epithet, Theos (God). He also established the freedom of the other Ionian cities. Further, he continued his predecessors’ policies of encouraging the foundation of cities in his realm.

**For unknown reasons, around 253, Antiochus dismissed his first queen, Laodice, and married Ptolemy’s daughter [Berenice](#).** At his death in 246, a civil war erupted between the two queens. He was succeeded by his son Seleucus II, while another son, [Antiochus Hierax](#), established himself in western Anatolia.

# Historical and Exegetical Commentary

## Daniel 11:7-9

**3-Ptolemy III Euergetes (246-221 BC)**  
**King of the South**

**Titled Euergetes meaning Benefactor**

**King of Egyptian,  
Libyan and  
Adjacent Arabian Regions**



Ptolemy III Euergetes, (Greek: Benefactor) (flourished 246–221 bce), Macedonian king of Egypt, son of [Ptolemy II](#); he reunited Egypt and Cyrenaica and successfully waged the Third [Syrian War](#) against the [Seleucid kingdom](#).

Almost nothing is known of Ptolemy's youth before 245, when, following a long engagement, he married [Berenice II](#), the daughter of Magas, king of Cyrene; thereby he reunited Egypt and Cyrenaica, which had been divided since 258. Shortly after his accession and marriage, Ptolemy invaded Coele Syria, to avenge the murder of his sister, the widow of the Seleucid king [Antiochus II](#). Ptolemy's navy, perhaps aided by rebels in the cities, advanced against [Seleucus II](#)'s forces as far as Thrace, across the Hellespont, and also captured some islands off the Asia Minor coast, but were checked c. 245. Meanwhile, Ptolemy, with the army, penetrated deep into Mesopotamia, reaching at least Seleucia on the Tigris, near [Babylon](#). According to classical sources he was compelled to halt his advance because of domestic troubles. Famine and a low Nile, as well as the hostile alliance between Macedonia, Seleucid Syria, and Rhodes, were perhaps additional reasons. The war in Asia Minor and the Aegean intensified as the Achaean League, one of the Greek confederations, allied itself to Egypt, while Seleucus II secured two allies in the Black Sea region. Ptolemy was pushed out of Mesopotamia and part of North Syria in 242–241, and the next year peace was finally achieved. Ptolemy managed to keep the Orontes River region and Antioch, both in Syria; Ephesus, in Asia Minor; and Thrace and perhaps also Cilicia.

Within Egypt, Ptolemy continued the colonization of al-Fayyūm (the oasis-like depression southwest of Cairo), which his father had developed. **He also reformed the [calendar](#), adopting 311 as the first year of a “Ptolemaic Era.” The Canopus decree, a declaration published by a synod of Egyptian priests, suggests that the true duration of the year (365 1/4 days) was now recognized, for an extra day was added to the calendar every four years. The new calendar failed, however, to achieve popular acceptance.** The priests and classical sources also credited Ptolemy with the restoration of the divine statues plundered from the temples during Persian rule. In addition, the King initiated construction at Edfu, the Upper Egyptian site of a great Ptolemaic temple, and made donations to other temples.

Ptolemy avoided involvement in the wars that continued to plague Syria and Macedonia. He did, however, send aid to Rhodes after earthquakes devastated the island, but he refrained from subsidizing the schemes of the Spartan king against Macedonia, though he granted him asylum in 222. In Asia Minor, when a pretender to one of the kingdoms, who was the instigator of much of the trouble

there, sought asylum in Ptolemaic territory, Ptolemy promptly interned him. His [policy](#) was to maintain an equilibrium of power, guaranteeing the safety of his own territory. After declaring his son his successor, Ptolemy died, leaving Egypt at the peak of its political power and internally stable and prosperous.

# Historical and Exegetical Commentary

## Daniel 11:7

### 4-Seleucus II Callinicus (246-225 BC) King of the North

King of Syrian,  
Babylonian  
and Median Satraps

Seleucus II Callinicus, (died 225 bc), fourth [king](#) (reigned 246–225) of the Seleucid dynasty, son of [Antiochus II Theos](#).

Antiochus II repudiated his wife Laodice (Seleucus' mother) and married Ptolemy's daughter [Berenice](#), but by 246 bc Antiochus had left Berenice in order to live again with Laodice and Seleucus in Asia Minor. Laodice poisoned him and proclaimed her son as King Seleucus II, while her partisans at Antioch made away with Berenice. Berenice's brother, Ptolemy III, who had just succeeded to the Egyptian throne, at once invaded the Seleucid realm and annexed the eastern provinces, while his fleets swept the coasts of Asia Minor. In the interior of Asia Minor Seleucus maintained himself, and when Ptolemy returned to Egypt he recovered northern Syria and the nearer provinces of [Iran](#). At Ancyra (about 235?) Seleucus was defeated by his younger brother [Antiochus Hierax](#), supported by Laodice, and left the country beyond the Taurus to his brother and the other powers of the peninsula. Of these [Pergamum](#) rose to greatness under Attalus I, and Antiochus Hierax perished as a fugitive in [Thrace](#) in 228 or 227. A year later Seleucus was killed by a fall from his horse.