

Year	Daniel 11	Historical Context
334-323 BC	Verses 3-4	The “mighty king” is Alexander the Great. When Alexander dies, the kingdom of Greece is divided into four which is also described in Daniel 7:6 and Daniel 8:8. Ultimately, the four kingdoms would be consolidated into two Kingdoms. The Seleucids (Syria – Kingdom of the North) and The Ptolemies (Egypt – Kingdom of the South). These two kingdoms would engage in constant battle exchanging dominance until the permanent rise of the Roman empire in the first century BC.
323-301 BC	Verse 5	Ptolemy of Egypt emerged as the strongest of Alexander’s kingdoms. After war between the four kingdoms, Seleucus I fled to Egypt and was appointed general of Egypt. After many military victories, Seleucus I eventually returned to Babylon as took the title of king and expanded his territory into Egypt thereby becoming the one “stronger than he” (Ptolemy).
250-246 BC	Verse 6	The Ptolemaic and Seleucid kingdoms continued to fight to expand their territories. As a peace treaty, Ptolemy II agreed to give his daughter Berenice in marriage to Antiochus II. The problem was that Antiochus II was already married to his wife Laodice. Having been shunned by this arrangement, Laodice poisoned her husband Antiochus II. With Laodice in a position of authority, she had Berenice and her attendants killed and attacked Egypt killing Berenice’s father Ptolemy II.
246-242 BC	Verses 7-9	Berenice’s brother Ptolemy III succeeds their father. In retaliation for the murder of his sister, Ptolemy III captures the Syrian capital of Antioch. He captured Laodice and executed her. Ptolemy III returns the Egyptian idols taken to Persia by Cambyses in 525 BC (11:8). In 242 BC, Seleucus II reestablishes his authority in Syria and attempts to invade Egypt but was unsuccessful (11:9)
223-218 BC	Verse 10	Seleucus II was succeeded by his son Seleucus III who was killed in battle. He was succeeded by his brother Antiochus III who became known as Antiochus the Great. Due to a weak Ptolemy IV in Egypt, Antiochus III regained a large portion of the southern kingdom including portions of Palestine (the glorious land) including Jerusalem which is most likely what, “as far as his fortress” is referring to. See cross reference in 11:31 describing the “temple and fortress” in Jerusalem.
217 BC	Verses 11-12	In response to Antiochus’ military actions, Ptolemy launched a counterattack. He raised up a “great multitude.” Ptolemy soundly defeated Antiochus and regained Palestine and parts of Syria. This victory made Ptolemy arrogant. The historian Polybius writes, “(Ptolemy) abandoned all noble pursuits and gave himself up to a life of debauchery.” Therefore, “his heart was exalted.”
212-187 BC	Verses 13-19	Antiochus campaigned and strengthened his forces from 212-205 BC. In 204, after the death of Ptolemy IV, Antiochus seized an opportunity (Ptolemy V was only five years old) and reclaimed southern Syria and Palestine. Neither would again come under

		<p>Ptolemaic control (11:16). Rome was beginning to assert itself from the west. Therefore, Antiochus did not invade Egypt. Instead, Antiochus III entered into a marriage alliance by giving his daughter Cleopatra I to Ptolemy V as his wife. The goal of Antiochus III was to have his daughter Cleopatra undermine Ptolemy V and all of Egypt, but Cleopatra was loyal to her husband. Therefore, this attempt “did not stand or be to his advantage.” (11:17) With the alliance in place, Antiochus turns his attention to the Romans. Antiochus was soundly defeated at the Battle of Magnesia in 190 BC. Lucius Cornelius Scipio was the commander who “put an end to his insolence.” (11:18) In 188 BC, Antiochus was forced to accept the Treaty of Apamea making him a vassal of Rome. In addition to an annual tribute paid to Rome, Antiochus gave up his son – Antiochus IV. In 187, desperate for funds to pay his tribute to Rome, Antiochus III attempted to rob the temple of Zeus/Bel at Elymais and was killed when the local population rose up. (11:19)</p>
187-175 BC	Verse 20	<p>Seleucus IV succeeded Antiochus III. In order to pay the tribute he inherited from his father, Seleucus IV sent his finance minister, Heliodorus, to Jerusalem in order to seize the wealth of the temple treasury. Thus, Heliodorus is the “exactor of tribute.” 2 Maccabees 3 details the account of Heliodorus and describes how he was “broken neither in anger nor in battle.”</p>
175 BC	Verses 21-24	<p>In 175, Antiochus IV, later known as Antiochus Epiphanes IV (Daniel 8:9-25), was released from Rome in exchange for his nephew Demetrius. With the heir in Rome, Antiochus IV took the throne. Antiochus IV is the “contemptable person who royal majesty has not been given.” (11:21) The “prince (leader) of the covenant” refers to the high priest who was Onias III who is described in 2 Maccabees 3. Antiochus IV made an alliance with Onias’ brother Jason (2 Maccabees 4:23-26). This alliance is referred to in 11:23.</p>
169 BC	Verses 25-28	<p>Antiochus IV begins a campaign against Egypt. Antiochus IV and Ptolemy VI enter into an alliance together but neither one intend to keep it (11:27).</p>
168 BC	Verses 29-30a	<p>Antiochus IV moves against Egypt but the invasion was not successful due to the intervention of the Roman “ships from Kittim.” (11:30) The defeat enrages Antiochus IV and he takes his anger out on Jerusalem.</p>
167 BC	Verses 30b-35	<p>The actions of Antiochus Epiphanes IV are described in Daniel 8:9-25 as well as 1 Maccabees 1-2. Verses 33-35 describe the actions of people, some remained faithful but most forsook the covenant. On December 6, 167 (Hanukkah) the people of Jerusalem rededicated the temple.</p>