

Notes on Daniel 11

Covers Persia to Antiochus (approximately 400 years 540-150)

v.2-4

- 4 kings not just 4 but 4 notable kings, probably ending with Xerxes I or Darius III
- Mighty king is Alexander who conquered the Persians in 330 BC, died in 323 BC and left Kingdom to mentally challenged half-brother Philip III and son Alexander IV (both of whom were murdered)
- Power passed to four generals in 311 BC (4 Kingdoms of Daniel 8)

v.5-20

- Ptolemy (south) and Seleucus (north) defeated other divided sections of Greek empire in 301 BC and then turned against one another
- 250 BC – a political marriage was arranged to bring peace. Antiochus II married Berenice after divorcing first wife Laodice. Antiochus II reconciled with Berenice who had her rival (and the son) poisoned (v.6)
- 223-187 BC - Antiochus III comes to throne and reclaims much land (v.10-19)
- 217 BC - battle of Raphia which Ptolemys won but the victory was short lived
- 212 BC - Antiochus III marched against Ptolemy V because he was young and the actual power broker of the kingdom wasn't liked by the people of the kingdom
- v.16 – physical setting in Israel, so the people of Israel get trampled from both sides. Antiochus III gives his daughter Cleopatra to Ptolemy V (who died in 182 BC, Cleopatra becomes power broker in Egypt)
- Antiochus III defeated by Romans in 191 BC and again 190 BC

v.21-35

- Antiochus IV (Epiphanes) was contemptible person
- Took over with help of “few people” v.23 – supporting kings and warlords, alliances which he broke soon after getting power
- Tobiad family took over priesthood by supporting Antiochus, starting program of Sadducee-like acquiescence to the ruling powers
- 170 BC – 165 BC Antiochus fends off a coup and rages against Jews – slaughtering people by the hundreds, burning of the Torah, stopping sacrifices in the temple, offering pigs on the temple's altar, and putting meteorite dedicated to Zeus in holy of holies