

Daniel 11 & Greek History – post Alexander the Great		
Based on https://www.angelfire.com/nt/theology/daniel-11.html		
BCE	Daniel 11	Greek History
539	(א) וְאַנְלִי בְּשָׁנַת אֲחֻת לְדַרְגּוּשׁ הַמְּדֵי לְמַחְזִיק וּלְמַעֲזוֹ לּוֹ : <i>(1) And in the first year of Darius the Mede, I arose to be an encouragement and a protection for him.</i>	There is some disagreement as to the identity of Darius the Mede. Some think it to be another name for Cyrus the Great who was both a Mede as well as a Persian. Others feel it to be a reference to a Mede governor who ruled under Cyrus.
530-465	(ב) וְעַתָּה אֶמֶת אֶגִּיד לָךְ הִנֵּה-עוֹד שְׁלֹשָׁה מְלָכִים עֹמְדִים לְפָנַי וְהָרְבִיעִי יַעֲשֶׂיר עֲשָׂרָה-דוֹל מְזַל וְכַחֲזֻקְתּוֹ בְּעֶשְׂרוֹ יַעֲרִי הַכֹּל אֶת מַלְכוּת גּוֹר : <i>(2) And now I will tell you the truth. Behold, three more kings are going to arise in Persia. Then a fourth will gain far more riches than all of them; as soon as he becomes strong through his riches, he will arouse the whole empire against the realm of Greece.</i>	Cyrus the Great captured Babylon in 539 BCE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambyses II, Cyrus' son (530-522) • Smerdis, Cambyses alleged brother (522) • Darius I the Great (521-486) The fourth king was Xerxes (486-465). He brought the strength of the Persian Empire against Greece, burning Athens to the ground and attempting to push into the southern peninsula before suffering the defeat at Salamis.
333-323	(ג) וְעַמֵּד מְלָךְ גָּבוֹר וּמְשַׁל מִמְּשָׁל רַב וְעֹשֶׂה כְּרָצוֹנוֹ : <i>(3) And a mighty king will arise, and he will rule with great authority and do as he pleases. (4) But as soon as he has arisen, his kingdom will be broken up and parceled out toward the four points of the compass, though not to his own descendants, nor according to his authority which he wielded; for his sovereignty will be uprooted and given to others besides them.</i>	The prophecy now jumps forward to the rise of a great king who would accomplish all within his will. This is the story of Alexander the Great , the young king of Macedon who conquered all the Persian Empire and marched his armies all the way to the borders of India before turning back. Alexander died in Babylon in the summer of 323 BCE, a mere month before his 33rd birthday. His death plunged the newly found empire into war as one and then another of these generals attempted to take a portion for himself. His empire was divided among four of his generals. These four kingdoms and their rulers were Macedonia-Greece under Antipater and his son, Thrace-Asia Minor under Lysimachus, the rest of Asia except lower Syria and Palestine under Seleucus Nicator, and Egypt and Palestine under Ptolemy. The remainder of the chapter documents the actions of the last two of these kingdoms—Egypt to the south of Jerusalem and Syria to the north of Jerusalem. In this section the rulers and their successors are referred to as the “king of the North” and the “king of the South.”
323-283	(ה) וַיִּחַזַּק מְלֹךְ-הַנֶּגֶב וּמֶרְסָאֵי וַיִּחַזַּק עִלָּיו וּמְשַׁל מִמְּשָׁל רַב מִמְּשָׁלָתוֹ : <i>(5) Then the king of the South will grow strong, along with one of his princes who will gain ascendancy over him and obtain dominion; his domain will be a great dominion indeed.</i>	Ptolemy I Soter was one of Alexander's generals who took control of Egypt. One of his own generals was Seleucus who eventually rose to ascendancy over Mesopotamia and Syria.
252	(ו) וַיִּלְקֹץ שְׁנַיִם וַתִּתְחַבְּרוּ וַיָּבֵת מְלֹךְ-הַנֶּגֶב תְּבוּאָה אֶל-מְלָךְ הַצָּפוֹן לַעֲשׂוֹת מִישָׁרִים וְלֹא-תַעֲצָר כּוֹחַ הַזְּרוּעַ וְלֹא יַעֲמֹד וְזָרְעוֹ וְתִנְתְּנוּ הִיא וּמְבִיאֶיהָ וְהִילָדָהּ וּמְחַזְקָהּ בְּעֵתֵיהֶם : <i>(6) And after some years they will form an alliance, and the daughter of the king of the South will come to the king of the North to carry out a peaceful arrangement. But she will not retain her position of power, nor will he remain with his power, but she will be given up, along with those who brought her in, and the one</i>	Ptolemy I died in 285 and his son, Ptolemy II Philadelphus eventually arranged an alliance with the Seleucid king Antiochus II Theos in which Antiochus II was to marry Bernice, the daughter of Ptolemy II. However, Antiochus II already had a wife named Laodice and she did not take kindly to being divorced. She conspired to have both Bernice and her infant son assassinated. Antiochus II was subsequently poisoned. Laodice ruled as regent until her own son, Seleucus II Callinicus, was old enough to assume the throne of the Seleucid Empire.

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	<i>who sired her, as well as he who supported her in those times.</i>		
246-241	<p>(ז) וְעַמֵּד מִנְצָר שְׂרָשִׁיָּה כָּנוּ וַיָּבֵא אֶל־הַחֵיל וַיְבֹא בְּמַעוֹן מְלָךְ הַצָּפוֹן וְעָשָׂה בָהֶם וַחֲזִיק :</p>	<p>(7) <i>But one of the descendants of her line will arise in his place, and he will come against their army and enter the fortress of the king of the North, and he will deal with them and display great strength.</i></p>	<p>Ptolemy III Euergetes organized a campaign to avenge the murder of his sister. He captured Antioch and marched all the way to Bactria and also defeated the Seleucid navy in the Aegean, recapturing the former conquests of his father in Asia Minor.</p>
240	<p>(ח) וְגַם אֲלֵהֵיהֶם עִם־נְסֻכֵיהֶם עִם־כְּלֵי הַמִּדְּתָם כֶּסֶף וְזָהָב בְּשִׁבֵי יָבֵא מִצָּרִים וְהוּא שָׁנִים יַעֲמֹד מִמְּלָךְ הַצָּפוֹן : (ט) וַיָּבֵא בְּמַלְכוּת מְלָךְ הַתְּיָבֵשׁ וְשָׁב אֶל־אֲדָמָתוֹ :</p>	<p>(8) <i>And also their gods with their metal images and their precious vessels of silver and gold he will take into captivity to Egypt, and he on his part will refrain from attacking the king of the North for some years. (9) Then the latter will enter the realm of the king of the South, but will return to his own land.</i></p>	<p>Ptolemy III went on to recapture the treasures that had been looted from Egypt in the days of Cambyses. Ptolemy III and Seleucus II eventually made a treaty in 240 BCE and Ptolemy III returned home to Egypt where he was given the title by the Egyptians of Euergetes – “Good worker.”</p>
226-223	<p>(י) וּבְנָיו וַתִּגְרוּ וְאָסְפוּ הַמּוֹן חֵיָלִים רַבִּים וַיָּבֵא בּוֹא וְשָׁטוּ וְעָבְרוּ וַיֵּשֶׁב וַיִּתְגַּרְהָ עַד־מַעֲזוֹ :</p>	<p>(10) <i>And his sons will mobilize and assemble a multitude of great forces; and one of them will keep on coming and overflow and pass through, that he may again wage war up to his very fortress.</i></p>	<p>Seleucus II was succeeded by his son Seleucus III who only lived three years before being followed by his younger brother, Antiochus III (the Great). Antiochus III set out on a battle of conquest, marching to the borders of Egypt where he was met by Ptolemy IV.</p>
218	<p>(יא) וַיִּתְמַרְמֵר מְלָךְ הַתְּיָבֵשׁ וַיִּצְאָ וְנִלְחַם עִמּוֹ עִם־מְלָךְ הַצָּפוֹן וְהֵעֱמִיד הַמּוֹן רַב וַיִּתְּנוּ הַהֶמּוֹן בְּיָדוֹ : (יב) וַיִּשָּׂא הַהֶמּוֹן וְרַם לְבָבוֹ וְהִפִּיל רַבָּאוֹת וְלֹא נָעוּז :</p>	<p>(11) <i>And the king of the South will be enraged and go forth and fight with the king of the North. Then the latter will raise a great multitude, but that multitude will be given into the hand of the former. (12) When the multitude is carried away, his heart will be lifted up, and he will cause tens of thousands to fall; yet he will not prevail.</i></p>	<p>Antiochus III was defeated by Ptolemy IV at the Battle of Raphia in 218 BCE. Antiochus III had to give up Palestine and Phoenicia to Egypt. Over the next 15 years, Antioch III was busy fighting elsewhere and his conquests took him all the way to the Caspian Sea in the north and to the Indus River in the east.</p>
202-201	<p>(יג) וְשָׁב מְלָךְ הַצָּפוֹן וְהֵעֱמִיד הַמּוֹן רַב מִן־הָרִאשׁוֹן וַיִּלְחֹץ הָעַתִּים שָׁנִים יָבֹוא בּוֹא בְּחֵיל גָּדוֹל וּבְרִכּוּשׁ רַב :</p>	<p>(13) <i>For the king of the North will again raise a greater multitude than the former, and after an interval of some years he will press on with a great army and much equipment.</i></p>	<p>Antiochus III returned to take up arms once more against Egypt, taking Gaza in 201 BCE</p>
201	<p>(יד) וַיִּבְעַתִּים הָהֵם רַבִּים יַעֲמְדוּ עַל־מְלָךְ הַתְּיָבֵשׁ וַיִּבְגְּלוּ פְּרִיָצִי עִמָּךְ יִנְשָׂאוּ לְהַעֲמִיד חֲזוֹן וְנִכְשְׁלוּ :</p>	<p>(14) <i>Now in those times many will rise up against the king of the South; the violent ones among your people will also lift themselves up in order to fulfill the vision, but they will fall down.</i></p>	<p>A pro-Seleucid party rose up in Jerusalem, but it was put down by the Egyptian general Scopas who pushed up to the area north of Israel that would be known as Caesarea Philippi.</p>

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200	(טו) וַיְבֹא מֶלֶךְ הַצָּפוֹן וַיִּשְׁפֹּף סוּלְלָה וְלָכַד עִיר מְבֻצָּרוֹת וְזָרְעוֹת הַנֶּגֶב לֹא יַעֲמְדוּ וְעַם מְבַחְרָיו וְאִין כֹּחַ לַעֲמֹד :	(15) Then the king of the North will come, cast up a siege mound, and capture a well-fortified city; and the forces of the South will not stand their ground, not even their choicest troops, for there will be no strength to make a stand.	As Antiochus III counterattacked, Scopas retreated to Sidon and found himself under siege at that city by the Seleucid King, finally losing the city to him.
198	(טז) וְלַעֲשׂ הִבָּא אֵלָיו כְּרָצוֹנוֹ וְאִין עוֹמֵד לִפְנֵינוּ וַיַּעֲמֵד בְּאַרְצ־הַחֲבִי וְכָלָה בְּיָדוֹ :	(16) But he who comes against him will do as he pleases, and no one will be able to withstand him; he will also stay for a time in the Beautiful Land, with destruction in his hand.	Antiochus III moved southward into Palestine, taking Jerusalem in 198.
195	(יז) וַיִּשֶׂם פָּנָיו לְבֹא בְּתַקָּף כָּל־מַלְכוּתוֹ וַיִּשְׁרִים עִמּוֹ וְעֵשָׂה וּבֵת הַנְּשִׁים יִתְּרֵלוּ לְהַשְׁחִיתָהּ וְלֹא תַעֲמֹד וְלֹא לֹו תַהֲיָה :	(17) And he will set his face to come with the power of his whole kingdom, bringing with him a proposal of peace which he will put into effect; he will also give him the daughter of women to ruin it. But she will not take a stand for him or be on his side.	Antiochus III entered into an alliance with the young Ptolemy V who was still a boy. The alliance was sealed by Ptolemy V marrying Cleopatra, the daughter of Antiochus III. Rather than being an influence on behalf of her father, Cleopatra became an ardent supporter of Egypt, even reigning a regent after the death of her husband in 181.
192	(יח) וַיִּשֶׂם פָּנָיו לְאֵיִים וְלָכַד רַבִּים וְהַשְׁבִּית קָצִין חֲרָפְתוֹ לֹו בְּלַתִּי חֲרָפְתוֹ יִשְׂיב לֹו :	(18) Then he will turn his face to the coastlands and capture many. But a commander will put a stop to his scorn against him; moreover, he will repay him for his scorn.	Antiochus III had invaded Thrace and was now asked by a league of city states in central Greece to aid them in their fight against Macedonia and the Peloponnesians. Meanwhile, the Romans threw in their weight against Antiochus III and he was forced to withdraw from Greece.
189-188	(יט) וַיִּשֶׂב פָּנָיו לְמַעוֹנָי אַרְצוֹ וְנִכְשַׁל וְנָפַל וְלֹא יִמָּצָא :	(19) So he will turn his face toward the fortresses of his own land, but he will stumble and fall and be found no more.	The Romans under Lucius Cornelius Scipio Asiaticus, the brother of Scipio Africanus, followed Antiochus III into Anatolia and met him in battle. Though the Romans were greatly outnumbered, they won a victory. Antiochus III had to give up all of Anatolia as well as his son, Antiochus IV who went as a hostage to Rome.
187	(כ) וְעַמֵּד עַל־כַּפְּנוֹ מַעֲבִיר נוֹגֵשׁ הַדָּר מְלָכוֹת וּבְיָמִים אַחֲדִים יִשְׁבֵּר וְלֹא בְּאַפְּסִים וְלֹא בְּמַלְחָמָה :	(2) Then in his place one will arise who will send an oppressor through the Jewel of his kingdom; yet within a few days he will be shattered, though neither in anger nor in battle.	Antiochus III was killed by an enraged mob when he attempted to rob the temple of Bel in Elymais to pay the Roman demands. Seleucus IV Philopator succeeded to the throne and sought to take funds from the temple in Jerusalem (2 Maccabees 3:7-40). Seleucus IV was eventually poisoned.
175	(כא) וְעַמֵּד עַל־כַּפְּנוֹ נְבִיָּה וְלֹא־נִתְּנָה עָלָיו הוֹד מְלָכוֹת וַיָּבֵא בְּשִׁלוֹהַּ וְהַחֲזִיק מְלָכוֹת בְּחִלְקָלְקוֹת :	(21) And in his place a despicable person will arise, on whom the honor of kingship has not been conferred, but he will come in a time of tranquility and seize the kingdom by intrigue.	Verses 21-35 are understood as describing the career of Antiochus IV Epiphanes. When Seleucus IV was murdered, his son Demetrius was the next in line for the throne, but the realm was instead taken by Antiochus IV, the second son of Antiochus III. He took for himself the title Epiphanes Theos — God Manifest.

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170	(כב) וזרעות השטף ישטפו ומלפניו וישברו וגם נגיד ברית :	(22) <i>And the overflowing forces will be flooded away before him and shattered, and also the prince of the covenant.</i>
170	(כג) ומרהתחברות אליו יעשה מרמה ועלה ועצם במעטגוי :	(23) <i>And after an alliance is made with him he will practice deception, and he will go up and gain power with a small force of people</i>
	(כד) בשלחה ובמשמני מדינה בוא ועשה אשר לאעשו אבתיו ואבות אבתיו בזה ושלל ורכוש להם יבזר ועל מבצרים יחשב מחשבתיו ועדעת :	(24) <i>In a time of tranquility he will enter the richest parts of the realm, and he will accomplish what his fathers never did, nor his ancestors; he will distribute plunder, booty, and possessions among them, and he will devise his schemes against strongholds, but only for a time.</i>
170	(כה) ויער פחו ולבו על מלך הנגב בחיל גדול ומלך הנגב יתגרה למלחמה בחיל גדול ועצום עד מאד ולא יעמד כייחשבו עליו מחשבות :	(25) <i>And he will stir up his strength and courage against the king of the South with a large army; so the king of the South will mobilize an extremely large and mighty army for war; but he will not stand, for schemes will be devised against him.</i>
170	(כו) ואכלי פתבגו ישברוהו וחילו ישטוף ונפלו חללים רבים :	(26) <i>And those who eat his choice food will destroy him, and his army will overflow, but many will fall down slain.</i>
170	(כז) ושניהם המלכים לבבם למרע ועלשלתן אחד קוב ידברו ולא תצלח כיעוד קץ למועד :	(27) <i>As for both kings, their hearts will be intent on evil, and they will speak lies to each other at the same table; but it will not succeed, for the end is still to come at the appointed time.</i>
169	(כח) וישב ארצו ברכוש גדול ולבבו על ברית קדש ועשה ושב לארצו :	(28) <i>Then he will return to his land with much plunder; but his heart will be set against the holy covenant, and he will take action and then return to his own land.</i>
168	(כט) למועד ישוב ויא בנגב ולא תהיה וכאחריה :	(29) <i>At the appointed time he will return and come into the South, but this last time it will not turn out the way it did before.</i>
		Ptolemy VII Philometor became of age and attempted to regain the lands of Palestine from the Seleucids, but was eventually defeated and captured by Antiochus IV.
		The Egyptians responded by taking Physcon, the brother of Ptolemy VII and making him the new king of Egypt. Antiochus IV responded by invading Egypt with the stated purpose of placing Ptolemy VII back on the throne.
		This is a summary of the accomplishments of Antiochus IV. By this time, he had gained control of everything from the Mediterranean to India.
		Ptolemy VII eventually worked out an agreement with his brother, Physcon, in which they would split the kingdom of Egypt into two parts and reign jointly. They now unified themselves against Antiochus IV, but he entered Egypt and laid siege to Alexandria.
		Ptolemy VII had supposedly been under the protection of Antiochus IV, but now they found themselves at odds.
		Negotiations continued and Ptolemy VII and his brother, Physcon, seemed to come to an agreement, though the intrigues between them would continue for some time.
		Antiochus IV returned from Egypt with great plunder. Several years earlier, he had accepted a bribe from a Jewish priest named Jason to remove the current high priest and put Jason in his place. Jason was eventually removed when another priest, Menelaus, offered a still higher bribe. When Jewish representatives came before the king with their complaint, Antiochus IV put them to death.
		Antiochus IV invaded Egypt again, trapping the two Ptolemaic kings in Alexandria.

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168	(ל) וּבָאוּ בֹ צַיִים כְּתִים וְנִכְאָה וְשָׁב וְזָעַם עַל-בְּרִית קֹדֶשׁ וְעָשָׂה וְשָׁב וְיָבֹוּ עַל עֲזָבֵי בְרִית קֹדֶשׁ :	(30) <i>For ships of Kittim will come against him; therefore he will be disheartened, and will return and become enraged at the holy covenant and take action; so he will come back and show regard for those who forsake the holy covenant.</i>	Gaius Popillius Laenas, a representative of Rome, met with Antiochus IV and ordered him out of Egypt on the authority of Rome. Antiochus IV agreed. Coming to Jerusalem, he found the Jews in revolt where Jason, acting on the rumor that Antiochus IV had been killed in Egypt, had raised a force to remove Menelaus from the priesthood.
168	(לא) וּזְרָעִים מִמֶּנּוּ יַעֲמְדוּ וְחִלְצוּ הַמִּקְדָּשׁ הַמְעוֹז וְהִסִּירוּ הַתְּמִיד וְנִתְּנוּ הַשְּׁקוֹץ מְשׁוּמִים :	(31) <i>And forces from him will arise, desecrate the sanctuary fortress, and do away with the regular sacrifice. And they will set up the abomination of desolation.</i>	Antiochus IV desecrated the temple, stopped the regular temple sacrifices, and set up a statue of Zeus in the temple whose features were made to resemble Antiochus IV.
167	(לב) וּמְרַשְׁעֵי בְרִית יַחֲנִיף בְּחִלְקוֹת...	(32a) <i>And by smooth words he will turn to godlessness those who act wickedly toward the covenant...</i>	1 Maccabees 1:11-15 describe how certain of the Jews accepted the changes of Antiochus IV and went so far as to build a gymnasium in Jerusalem and to seek to have their circumcisions reversed. Verse 43 goes on to say that “many even from Israel gladly adopted his religion; they sacrificed to idols and profaned the Sabbath.”
167	... וְעַם יִדְעֵי אֱלֹהֵיוּ יַחֲזִקוּ וְעָשׂוּ :	(32b) <i>...but the people who know their God will display strength and take action.</i>	There were those Jews who refused to turn from their observance of the Law. This turned into open revolt when the Maccabees took up arms against the Seleucids.
167	(לג) וּמִשְׁפִּילֵי עֵם יָבִינוּ לְרַבִּים וְנִכְשְׁלוּ בְּחַרְבַּ וּבִלְהֶבֶה בְּשָׁבִי וּבְבִגְיָה יָמִים :	(33) <i>And those who have insight among the people will give understanding to the many; yet they will fall by sword and by flame, by captivity and by plunder, for many days.</i>	Since they were fighting in order to retain their Torah observances, the Maccabees initially took a stance of not fighting on the Sabbath day. The Seleucids took advantage of this by attacking on the Sabbath and slaughtering many. After this, the priest Mattathias (father of the Maccabees) explained to the people that it would be permissible to defend themselves on the Sabbath.
167	(לד) וּבְהִנָּשְׁלָם יַעֲזְרוּ עִזָּר מְעַט וְנִלְווּ עֲלֵיהֶם רַבִּים בְּחִלְקִלְקוֹת :	(34) <i>Now when they fall they will be granted a little help, and many will join with them in hypocrisy.</i>	The Maccabees were joined by a company of Hasideans, mighty warriors of Israel, all who offered themselves willingly for the law (1 Maccabees 2:42). As a result, many who had previously gone along with the changes imposed by Antiochus IV now joined the revolt.
166	(לה) וּמִרְהַמְשִׁכֵּי יִכְשְׁלוּ לְצָרוֹף בָּתָם וּלְבַרְרָה וְלִלְבָּן עַד-עֵת קֹץ כִּי-עוֹד לְמוֹעֵד :	(35) <i>And some of those who have insight will fall, in order to refine, purge, and make them pure, until the end time; because it is still to come at the appointed time.</i>	The priest Mattathias died shortly thereafter. Eventually, the Maccabees managed to retake the temple and to purify it and restore the worship. This is celebrated today by Hanukkah.

Prophecy regarding Antiochus IV and summary of his career.

<p>(לו) וְעָשָׂה כְּרָצוֹנוֹ הַמְלֶכֶךְ וַיִּתְרוֹמֵם וַיִּתְגַּדֵּל עַל־כָּל־אֱלֹהִים וְעַל אֱלֹהִים יִדְבַר נִפְלְאוֹת וְהִצְלִיחַ עַד־צָלָה זָעַם כִּי נִהְרָצָה נַעֲשֵׂתָהּ :</p>	<p>(36) Then the king will do as he pleases, and he will exalt and magnify himself above every god, and will speak monstrous things against the God of gods; and he will prosper until the indignation is finished, for that which is decreed will be done.</p>	<p>So Antiochus carried off eighteen hundred talents from the temple, and hurried away to Antioch, thinking in his arrogance that he could sail on the land and walk on the sea, because his mind was elated (2 Maccabees 5:21). Furthermore, he eventually adopted the title, “King Antiochus, God Manifest.”</p>
<p>(לז) וְעַל־אֱלֹהֵי אֲבוֹתָיו לֹא יִבְיֹן וְעַל־חַמְדַּת נָשִׁים וְעַל־כָּל־אֱלֹהִים לֹא יִבְיֹן כִּי עַל־כָּל יִתְגַּדֵּל :</p>	<p>(37) And he will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any other god; for he will magnify himself above them all.</p>	<p>Speaking of Antiochus IV, we read the following report in 2 Maccabees 9:2. <i>He had entered the city called Persepolis and attempted to rob the temples and control the city. Therefore the people rushed to the rescue with arms, and Antiochus and his army were defeated, with the result that Antiochus was put to flight by the inhabitants and beat a shameful retreat.</i></p>
<p>(לח) וְלֹא־לֵאלֹהֵי מַעְזָיִם עֹלְכָנוּ יִכְבֹּד וְלֹא־לֵאלֹהֵי אֲשֶׁר לֹא־יָדְעוּהוּ אֲבוֹתָיו יִכְבֹּד בַּזָּהָב וּבַכֶּסֶף וּבַאֲבָנִים יִקְרָה וּבַחֲמֻדוֹת :</p>	<p>(38) But instead he will honor a god of fortresses, a god whom his fathers did not know; he will honor him with gold, silver, costly stones, and treasures.</p>	<p>It is noteworthy that the coins of his era have the image of Zeus rather than the more customary Apollos.</p>
<p>(לט) וְעָשָׂה לְמַבְצְרֵי מַעְזָיִם עִם־אֱלֹהֵי נֹכַר אֲשֶׁר יִפְרֵה יִרְבֶּה כְּבוֹד וְהַמְשִׁילֵם גְּבוּרִים וְאֲדָמָה יַחַלֵּק בְּמַחִיר :</p>	<p>(39) And he will take action against the strongest of fortresses with the help of a foreign god; he will give great honor to those who acknowledge him, and he will cause them to rule over the many, and will parcel out land for a price.</p>	<p>Antiochus IV sold the priesthood to the highest bidder, first to Jason, and later to Menelaus. The “strongest of fortresses” seems to be a reference to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem which Antiochus IV determined to convert to a temple to Zeus.</p>
<p>(מ) וּבַעֲת לְקֹץ יִתְנַגַּח עִמּוֹ מֶלֶךְ הַיָּמִן וְיִשְׁתַּעֲרַר עָלָיו מֶלֶךְ הַצָּפוֹן בְּרֶכֶב וּבַפָּרָשִׁים וּבַקְּנָנִיּוֹת רַבּוֹת וַיָּבֵא בַּאֲרָצוֹת וְשָׁטַף וְעָבַר :</p>	<p>(40) And at the end time the king of the South will collide with him, and the king of the North will storm against him with chariots, with horsemen, and with many ships; and he will enter countries, overflow them, and pass through.</p>	<p>We have no records of any final war with Egypt. It is more likely that we are to understand this as a summarization of the career of Antiochus IV and his invasions of Egypt and Israel.</p>
<p>(מא) וַיָּבֵא בְּאֶרֶץ הַצְּבִי וּרְבּוֹת יִכְשָׁלוּ וְאֵלֶּה יִמְלָטוּ מִיָּדוֹ אֲדוֹם וּמוֹאָב וְרֵאשִׁית בְּנֵי עַמּוֹן :</p>	<p>(41) He will also enter the Beautiful Land, and many countries will fall; but these will be rescued out of his hand: Edom, Moab and the foremost of the sons of Ammon.</p>	
<p>(מב) וַיִּשְׁלַח יָדוֹ בְּאֲרָצוֹת וְאֶרֶץ מִצְרַיִם לֹא תִהְיֶה לְפָלִיטָה :</p>	<p>(42) Then he will stretch out his hand against other countries, and the land of Egypt will not escape.</p>	<p>A summary of the conquests of Antiochus IV in Egypt.</p>
<p>(מג) וּמִשָּׁל בְּמַכְמְנֵי הַזָּהָב וְהַכֶּסֶף וּבְכָל חַמְדוֹת מִצְרַיִם וְלִבְיָם וְכִשְׁיִם בְּמִצְרַעְדֵי :</p>	<p>(43) But he will gain control over the hidden treasures of gold and silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt; and Libyans and Ethiopians will follow at his heels.</p>	<p>Prior to his departure from Egypt, Antiochus IV had thoroughly looted the country.</p>
<p>(מד) וּשְׁמַעוֹת יִבְהַלְּהוּ מִמִּזְרַח וּמִצָּפוֹן וַיֵּצֵא בְּחַמָּא גְדֹלָה לְהַשְׁמִיד וְלְהַחֲרִים רַבִּים :</p>	<p>(44) But rumors from the East and from the North will disturb him, and he will go forth with great wrath to destroy and annihilate many.</p>	<p>Antiochus IV left Israel upon hearing the news of revolts in Parthia and Anatolia.</p>
<p>(מה) וַיִּטֵּעַ אֶת־הַאֲהֵל אַפְדָּנוֹ בֵּין יַמִּים לְהַר־צְבִי־קָדֵשׁ וַיָּבֵא עַד־קִצּוֹ וַאֲנִין עוֹזֵר לוֹ :</p>	<p>(45) And he will pitch the tents of his royal pavilion between the seas and the beautiful Holy Mountain; yet he will come to his end, and no one will help him.</p>	<p>Though he had successfully conquered Jerusalem and the Holy Mountain, Antiochus IV eventually met his defeat and death.</p>

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- The "mighty king" (verse 3) is Alexander.
- The empire will be given to his successors (verse 4), and these are the king of the south (Ptolemy and his dynasty, who ruled in Egypt, emerging from there on their conquests), and the king of the north (Seleucus I and his dynasty, who ruled over Syria and the lands of the Tigris and the Euphrates).
- These – the kings of the north – would conquer *Eretz Yisrael* at the end of the 3rd century BCE from the hands of the Ptolemies (Antiochus III conquered it from Ptolemy V Epiphanes in battle in the year 201 BCE) (verse 5).
- The alliance of the king of the north and the king of the south through marriage ties (Berenice, daughter of Ptolemy II Philadelphus, married Antiochus II in 252 BCE following the Second Syrian War – 259-253 BCE) did not last, and all were put to death (in 246 BCE, as plotted by Laodice, Antiochus II's first wife and the mother of Seleucus II; she objected to her children being deprived of their royal inheritance (verse 6).
- The successor – Ptolemy III, son of Berenice from the "south," Egypt – took revenge on Seleucus II, son of Laodice from the north, and prevailed against him (verses 7-8).
- The children of Seleucus II – Seleucus III and, later, Antiochus III – fought back against the king of the south (Ptolemy IV Philopator), until the battle of Raphia (Rafiach, Gaza) (217 BCE), where the king of the south prevailed, but ultimately Antiochus III would defeat Ptolemy V Epiphanes (at the battle of Gaza, 201 BCE – verses 10-15) and conquered *Eretz Yisrael* (198 BCE).
- This Antiochus sought to extend his rule over Egypt, by having his daughter Cleopatra marry Ptolemy V (193 BCE), but his plan failed (verse 17).
- He set his sights on Turkey and Greece and conquered them (196-191 BCE – verse 18), but was dealt a blow by the Roman Scipio in the year 190 BCE, at Magnesia; he set off for Elam and was killed there (187 BCE, verses 18-19).
- He was succeeded by his son, Seleucus IV (187-175 BCE), who sent his minister Haliodorus to plunder the Temple in Jerusalem; his minister assassinated him shortly afterwards (verse 20).
- Thereafter, Seleucus's brother, Antiochus IV Epiphanes (170-168 BCE), arose with his terrible decrees against the Jews (verse 21). His deputy, Andronicus, murdered the *Kohen Gadol*, Chonio III (Onias) (verse 22).
- Antiochus IV then went on to conquer Egypt from the hands of Ptolemy VI, through cunning (170 BCE) (verses 23-27).