

# The Prophetic Devolution of Alexander's Greek Empire



# Lesson Overview

## From Daniel 11

- Greek Empire divided
- Egypt and Syria
- Antiochus III
- Antiochus IV
- The Maccabees
  - Battles
- The Hasmoneans



# Empire divided by his four generals



# Ptolemy (south) & Seleucid (north)

Daniel 11:4-9 “<sup>4</sup>And when he [Alexander] shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those. <sup>5</sup>And the king of the south [Ptolemy I] shall be strong, and one of his princes [Ptolemy II]; and he shall be strong above him, and have dominion; his dominion shall be a great dominion. <sup>6</sup>And in the end of years they shall join themselves together; for the king's daughter of the south [Bernice] shall come to the king of the north [Antiochus II] to make an agreement: but she shall not retain the power of the arm; neither shall he stand, nor his arm: but she shall be given up, and they that brought her, and he that begat her, and he that strengthened her in these times. <sup>7</sup>But out of a branch of her roots [Ptolemy III] shall one stand up in his estate, which shall come with an army, and shall enter into the fortress of the king of the north, and shall deal against them, and shall prevail: <sup>8</sup>And shall also carry captives into Egypt their gods, with their princes, and with their precious vessels of silver and of gold; and he shall continue more years than the king of the north. <sup>9</sup>So the king of the south shall come into his kingdom, and shall return into his own land.”

# Kings of the North & South

(Daniel 11) Syria & Egypt

**ANTIOCHOS III MEGAS**

223 - 187 BCE



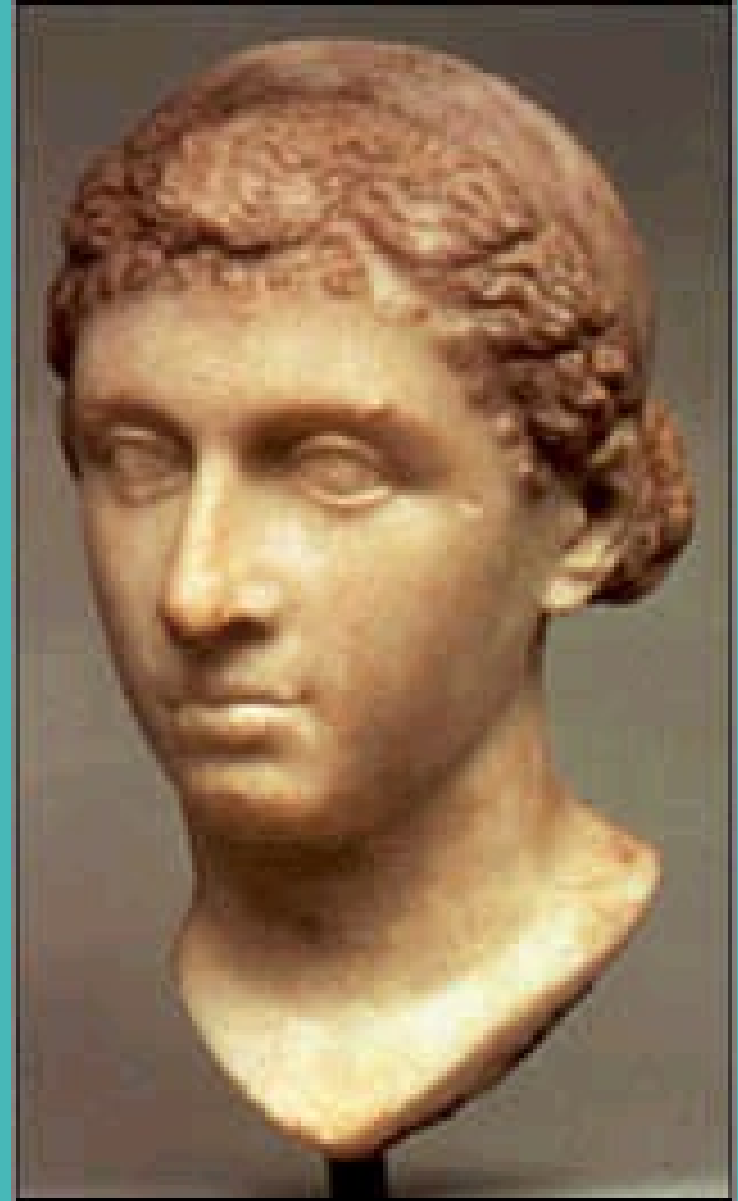
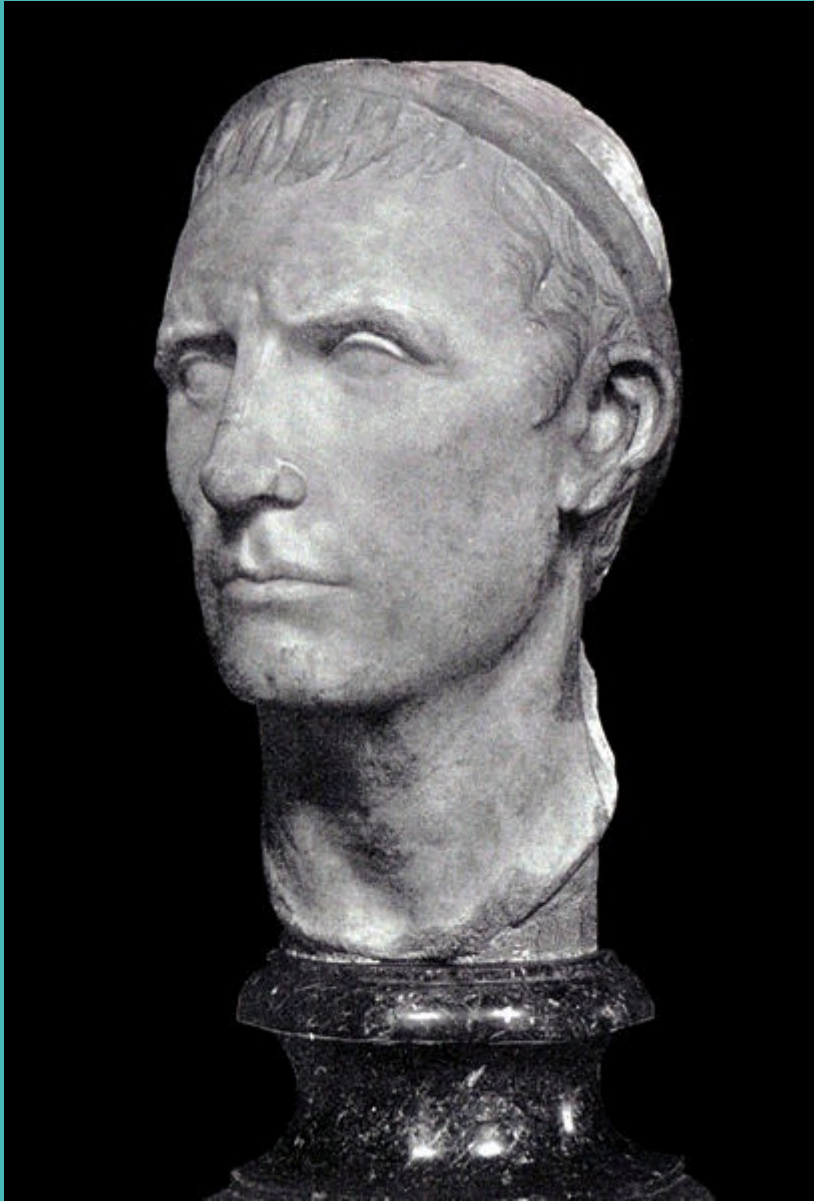
Ptolemy IV



# Battles between Egypt & Syria

Daniel 11:10-17 “<sup>10</sup>But his sons shall be stirred up, and shall assemble a multitude of great forces: and one shall certainly come, and overflow, and pass through: then shall he return, and be stirred up, even to his fortress. <sup>11</sup>And the king of the south [Ptolemy IV] shall be moved with choler, and shall come forth and fight with him, even with the king of the north [Antiochus III]: and he shall set forth a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into his hand. <sup>12</sup>And when he has taken away the multitude, his heart shall be lifted up; and he shall cast down many ten thousands: but he shall not be strengthened by it. <sup>13</sup>For the king of the north shall return, and shall set forth a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come after certain years with a great army and with much riches. <sup>14</sup>And in those times there shall many stand up against the king of the south: also the robbers of your people [Tobias] shall exalt themselves to establish the vision; but they shall fall. <sup>15</sup>So the king of the north shall come, and cast up a mount, and take the most fenced cities: and the arms of the south shall not withstand, neither his chosen people, neither shall there be any strength to withstand. <sup>16</sup>But he that comes against him shall do according to his own will, and none shall stand before him: and he shall stand in the glorious land [Israel], which by his hand shall be consumed. <sup>17</sup>He shall also set his face to enter with the strength of his whole kingdom, and upright ones with him; thus shall he do: and he shall give him the daughter of women [Cleopatra], corrupting her: but she shall not stand on his side, neither be for him.”

# Antiochus III & daughter Cleopatra



# Battles between Rome & Syria



Daniel 11:18-20 “<sup>18</sup>After this shall he [**Antiochus III**] turn his face to the [Greek] isles, and shall take many: but a prince [**Scipio**] for his own behalf shall cause the reproach offered by him to cease; without his own reproach he shall cause it to turn on him. <sup>19</sup>Then he [**Antiochus III**] shall turn his face toward the fort [Magnesia] of his own land: but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found. <sup>20</sup>Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes in the glory of the kingdom: but within few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle.”

# Antiochus IV Epiphanes

## “Daniel's description”



Antiochus III  
223-187 BC



Reigned  
175-164 BC

Inscription “Antiochus, image of God, bearer of victory”

Daniel 8:9-12 “<sup>9</sup>And out of one of them came forth a **little horn**, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land. <sup>10</sup>And **it** waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and **it** cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped on them. <sup>11</sup>Yes, **he** magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by **him** the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of the sanctuary was cast down. <sup>12</sup>And an host was given **him** against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and **it** cast down the truth to the ground; and **it** practiced, and prospered.”

# Antiochus IV vs Ptolemy IV

Daniel 11:21-25 “ <sup>21</sup>And in his estate shall stand up a vile person [Antiochus IV], to whom they shall not give the honor of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries. <sup>22</sup>And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflowed from before him, and shall be broken; yes, also the prince of the covenant [Jason, high priest]. <sup>23</sup>And after the league made with him he shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people.

<sup>24</sup>He shall enter peaceably even on the fattest places of the province; and he shall do that which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers' fathers; he shall scatter among them the prey, and spoil, and riches: yes, and he shall forecast his devices against the strong holds, even for a time. <sup>25</sup>And he shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the south [Ptolemy IV] with a great army; and the king of the south shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand: for they shall forecast devices against him.”

# Antiochus IV stopped by Rome

Daniel 11:26-33 “<sup>26</sup>Yes, they that feed of the portion of his meat shall destroy him, and his army shall overflow: and many shall fall down slain. <sup>27</sup>And both of these kings' hearts shall be to do mischief, and they shall speak lies at one table; but it shall not prosper: for yet the end shall be at the time appointed. <sup>28</sup>Then shall he return into his land with great riches; and his heart shall be against the holy covenant; and he shall do exploits, and return to his own land. <sup>29</sup>At the time appointed he shall return, and come toward the south; but it shall not be as the former, or as the latter. <sup>30</sup>For the **ships of Chittim** shall come against him: therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant. <sup>31</sup>And **arms** shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that makes desolate. <sup>32</sup>And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: **but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.** <sup>33</sup>And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: **yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days.”**

# Faces of Antiochus IV



173 BC



166 BC



168 BC



164 BC



# 40,000 slain & 40,000 enslaved

“Now when there was gone forth a false rumour, as though Antiochus had been dead, Jason took at the least a thousand men, and suddenly made an assault upon the city [Jerusalem] . . . Now when this that was done came to the king's ear, he thought that Judea had revolted: whereupon removing out of Egypt in a furious mind, he took the city by force of arms, And commanded his men of war not to spare such as they met, and to slay such as went up upon the houses. Thus there was killing of young and old, making away of men, women, and children, slaying of virgins and infants. And there were destroyed within the space of three whole days fourscore thousand, whereof forty thousand were slain in the conflict; and no fewer sold than slain.”

(2 Maccabees 5:5a,11-14 history, not scripture)

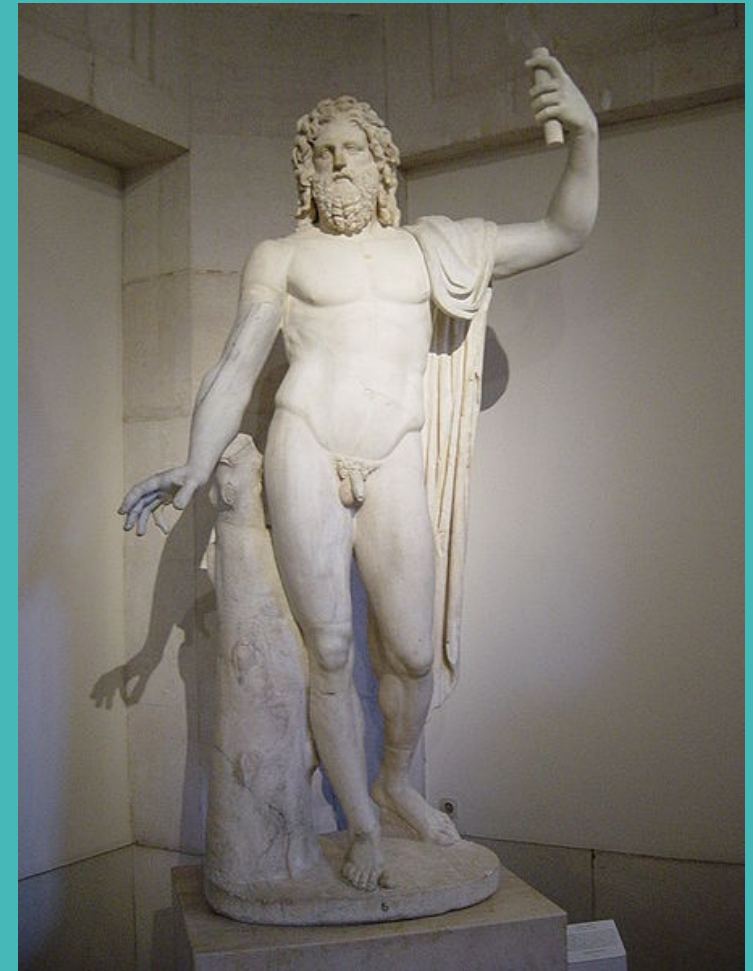
“by sword, by flame, by captivity,  
by spoil” (Daniel 11:33)

“And after two years fully expired the king sent his chief collector of tribute unto the cities of Juda, who came unto Jerusalem with a great multitude, And spake peaceable words unto them, but all was deceit: for when they had given him credence, he fell suddenly upon the city, and **smote** it very sore, and destroyed much people of Israel. And when he had taken the **spoils** of the city, he set it on **fire**, and pulled down the houses and walls thereof on every side. But the women and children took they **captive**, and possessed the cattle. Then builded they the city of David with a great and strong wall, and with mighty towers, and made it a strong hold for them.”

(1 Maccabees 1:29-33 history, not scripture)

# Antiochus IV worshipped Zeus/Jupiter

Daniel 11:36-39 “<sup>36</sup>And **the king** shall do according to **his** will; and **he** shall exalt **himself**, and magnify **himself** above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. <sup>37</sup>Neither shall **he** regard the God of **his** fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for **he** shall magnify **himself** above all. <sup>38</sup>But in his estate shall **he** honor the God of forces: and a god whom **his** fathers knew not shall **he** honor with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things. <sup>39</sup>Thus shall **he** do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom **he** shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and **he** shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain.”





Phidias created the 40' statue of Zeus in Olympia about 435 BC

# Antiochus IV's pride is humbled

“7: Howbeit **he** nothing at all ceased from **his** bragging, but still was filled with pride, breathing out fire in **his** rage against the Jews, and commanding to haste the journey: but it came to pass that **he** fell down from his chariot, carried violently; so that having a sore fall, all the members of his body were much pained. 8: And thus **he** that a little afore thought **he** might command the waves of the sea, (so proud was **he** beyond the condition of man) and weigh the high mountains in a balance, was now cast on the ground, and carried in an horselitter, shewing forth unto all the manifest power of God. 9: So that the worms rose up out of the body of **this wicked man**, and whiles **he** lived in sorrow and pain, **his** flesh fell away, and the filthiness of his smell was noisome to all his army. 10: And **the man**, that thought a little afore **he** could reach to the stars of heaven, no man could endure to carry for his intolerable stink. 11: Here therefore, being plagued, **he** began to leave off **his** great pride, and to come to the knowledge of **himself** by the scourge of God, **his** pain increasing every moment. 12: And when **he** himself could not abide **his** own smell, **he** said these words, It is meet to be subject unto God, and that a man that is mortal should not proudly think of himself if he were God.”

(2 Macabbees 9:7-12 history, not scripture)

# Death of Antiochus IV Epiphanes

Daniel 11:40-45 “<sup>40</sup>And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. <sup>41</sup>He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. <sup>42</sup>He shall stretch forth his hand also on the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. <sup>43</sup>But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps. <sup>44</sup>But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many. <sup>45</sup>And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.”

# Antiochus IV reign of terror

**170:** He killed 40,000 in Judah and sold 40,000 as slaves. He took all the gold and silver from the Temple. He sacrificed a pig on the altar, boiled the meat and forced priests to eat it; those who refused had tongues cut out.

**169:** Antiochus IV built a navy (against the terms of the Peace of Apamea his father signed) and conquered Cyprus and large parts of Egypt and presented himself as protector of Ptolemy VI against his relatives Ptolemy VIII and Cleopatra II.

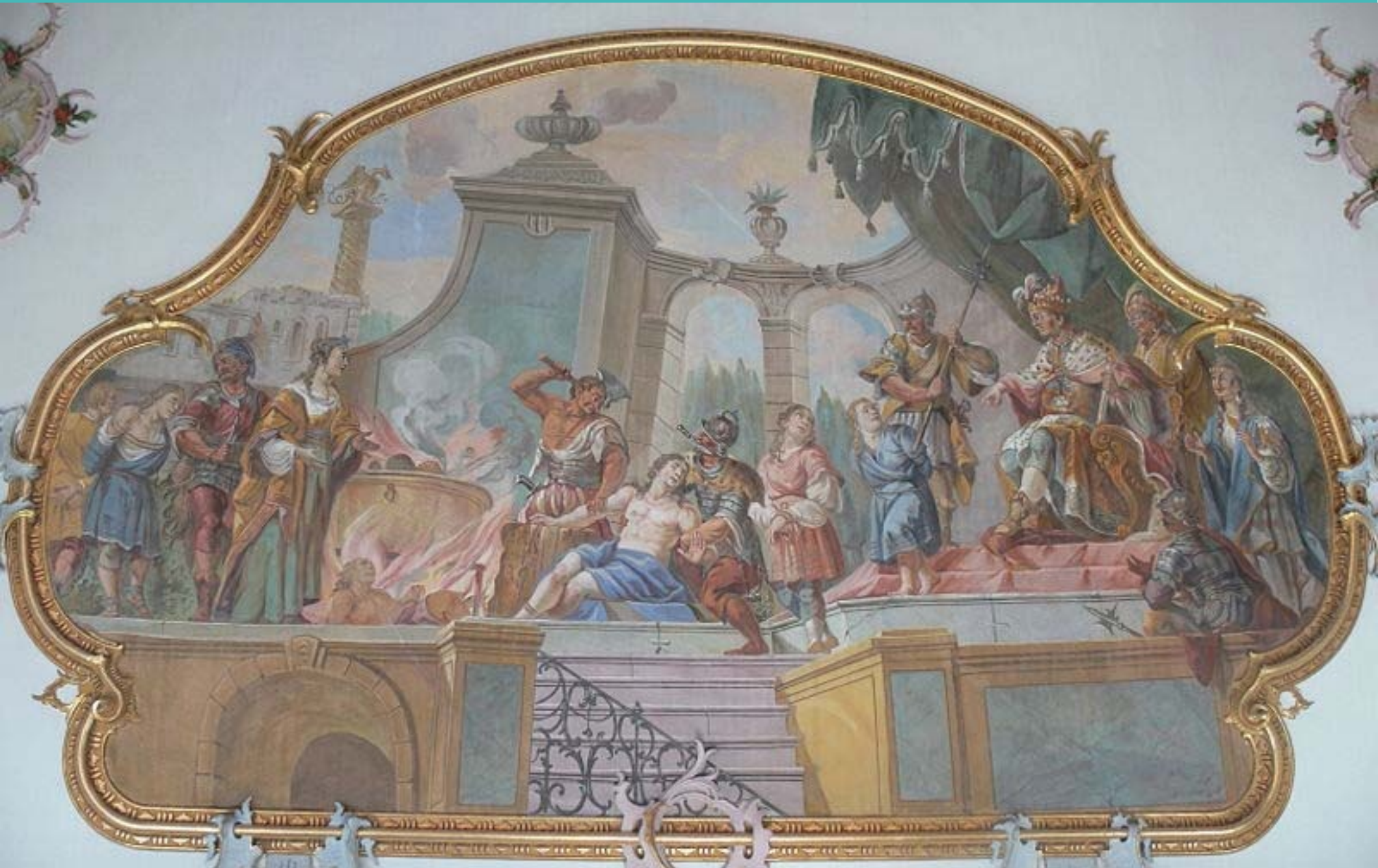
**168:** Roman pressure forced Antiochus to stop attack of Egypt. He sent Apollonius with army of 22,000 to collect tribute from Jerusalem. They kill and capture many, plunder the city and burn it.

**167:** Antiochus forbade sacrifices, circumcision and other Jewish laws; they were to worship idols and eat pork, or be killed. An idol of Zeus was placed on the altar. Scrolls were burned; their owners, killed.

**165:** Antiochus captured Artaxias, capital of Armenia.

**164:** Antiochus' attack on Susa failed. He got reports of Israel and bragged he would make Jerusalem a graveyard of Jews and became ill. He repented, and sought to restore to the Jews all he had taken, and to let them worship God freely. He died of a painful, stinky bowel disease.

# Antiochus IV killing Jews



# The Maccabees

**167:** Mattathias and his sons (the Maccabees) fought the Syrians and destroyed their altars. Cleansing of the temple in Jerusalem began.

**166:** Judas Maccabeus led a successful revolt with 6,000 men; routing and killing over 20,000 of the enemy and apostates.

**165:** Judas routes an army of 65,000, killing 5,000. Judas captured Jerusalem, and had the priests cleanse and rededicate the Temple (the 25<sup>th</sup> of Kislev) and they celebrated for 8 days (Hanukkah).

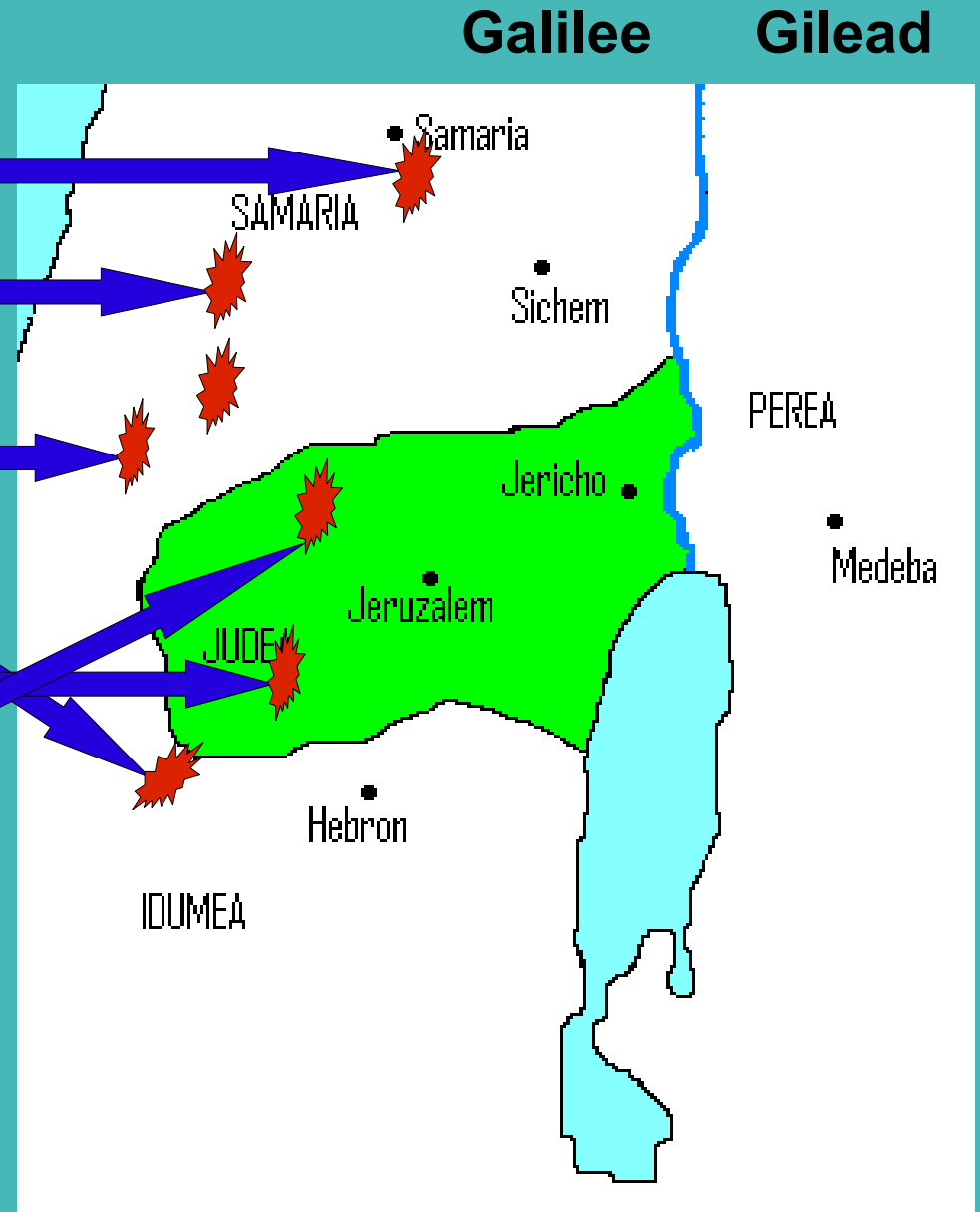
**164:** Countries around Israel killed the Jews in their lands. Antiochus' got reports of Israel and bragged he would make Jerusalem a graveyard of Jews and became ill. He repented, and sought to restore to the Jews all he had taken, and to let them worship God freely. He died, but one of his generals continued to fight the Jews. The armies of Judas killed 70,000 of them.

**163:** The Jews killed 26,000 who attacked Jerusalem, and 100,000 in other battles throughout Judah.

The descendants of the Maccabees (Hasmoneans) ruled Judah until Herod the Great.

# Judah under Judas Maccabeus

- 167 Battle of Wadi Haramia
- 166 Battle of Beth Horon
- 166 Battle of Emmaus
- 164 Battle of Beth Zur
- 164 Battle of Beth Zechariah
- 161 Battle of Adasa
- Battle of Diathema (in Gilead)
- 161 Battle of Elasa



# 7 Maccabees and 8 Hasmoneans

Micah 5:2-7 “**2**But you, Bethlehem Ephratah, though you be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall he come forth to me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. **3**Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travails has brought forth: then the remnant of his brothers shall return to the children of Israel. **4**And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great to the ends of the earth. **5**And this man shall be the peace, when the **Assyrian** shall come into our land: and when **he** shall tread in our palaces, then shall **we** raise against **him seven shepherds, and eight principal men**. **6**And they shall waste the land of **Assyria** with the sword, and the land of Nimrod in the entrances thereof: thus shall he deliver us from the **Assyrian**, when **he** comes into our land, and when **he** treads within our borders. **7**And the **remnant of Jacob** shall be in the middle of many people as a dew from the LORD, as the showers on the grass, that tarries not for man, nor waits for the sons of men.”

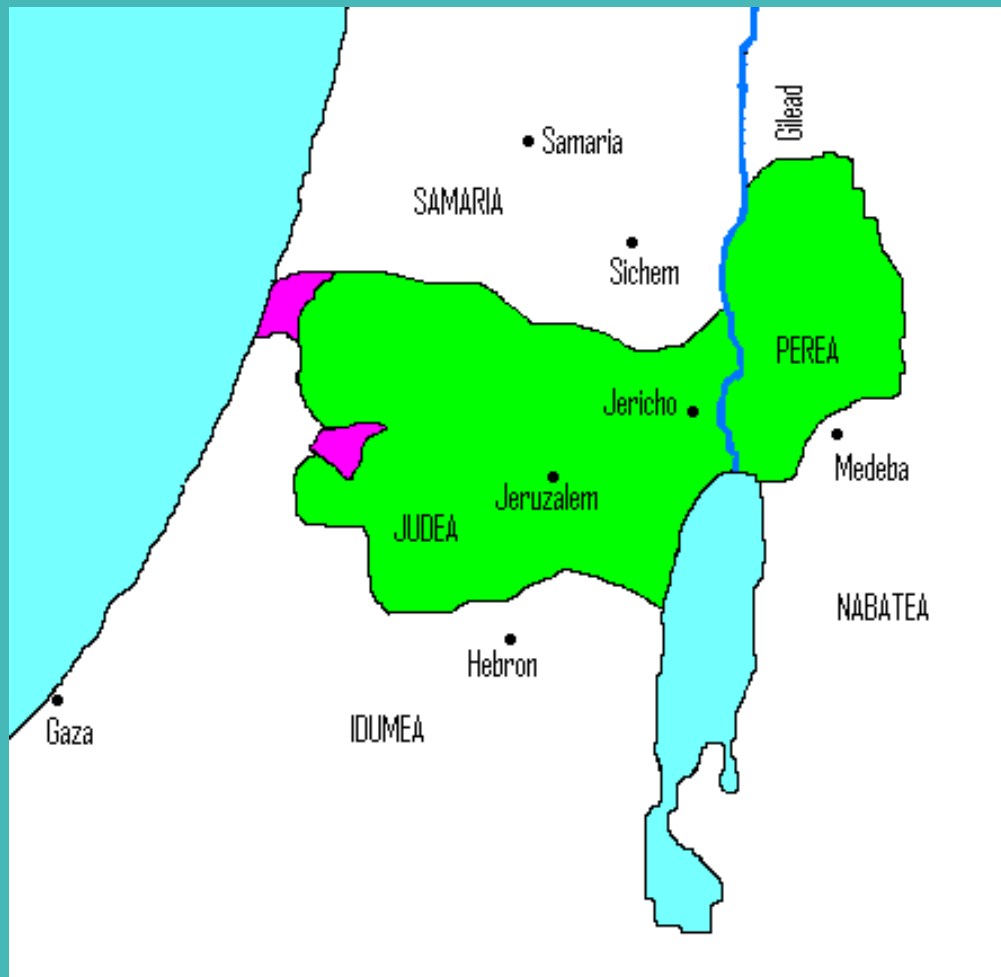
# 7 shepherds & 8 principal men

Maccabees (hammers)

- Mattathias 168-167
  - Jonnan
  - Simon 144-135
  - Judas 167- 161
  - Eleazar
  - Jonathan 161-144
- Hyrcanus, Simon's son  
135-104

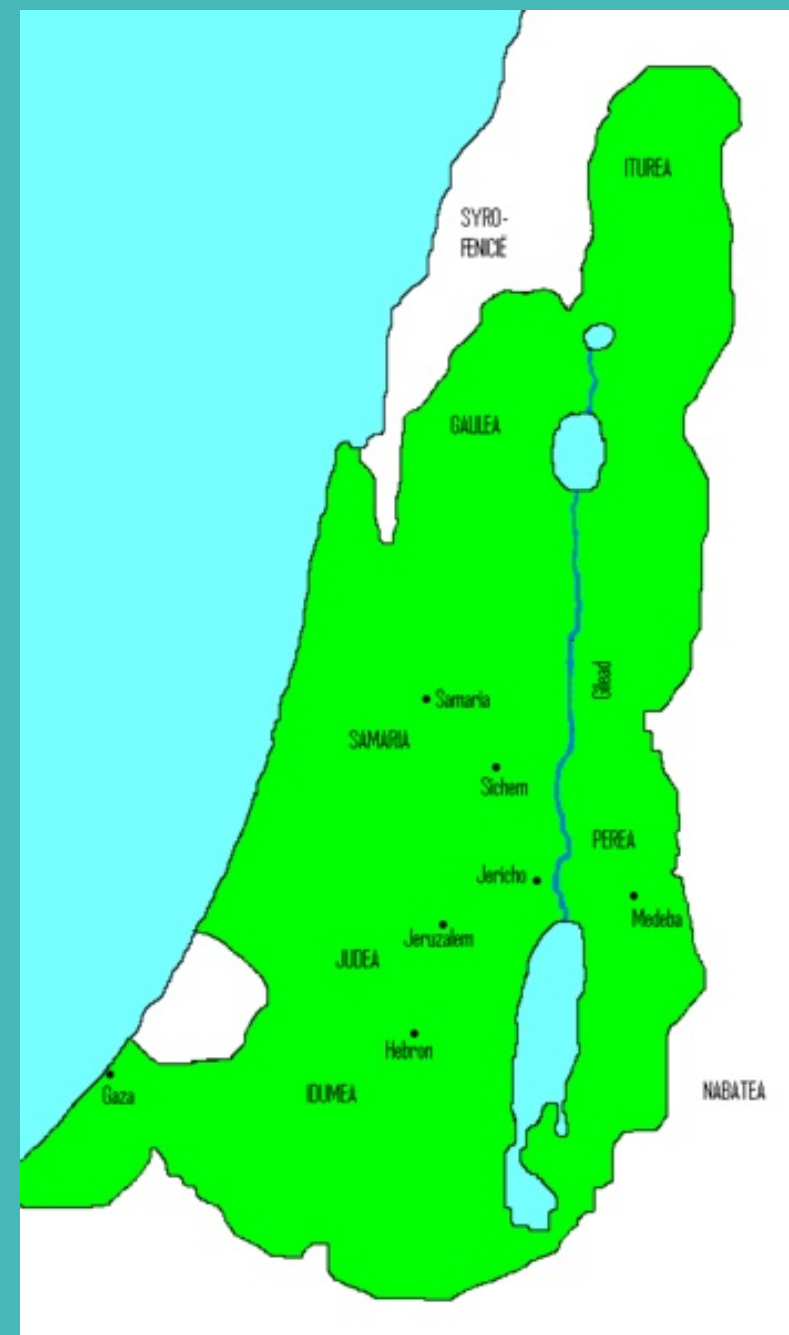
- Aristobulus 104-103
- Alexander Janraeus
- Alexandra 76-67
- Hyrcanus II 67-66
- Aristobulus II 66-63
- Hyrcanus II 63-40
- Antigorus 40-37
- Herod the Great 37-1

# Israel Restored



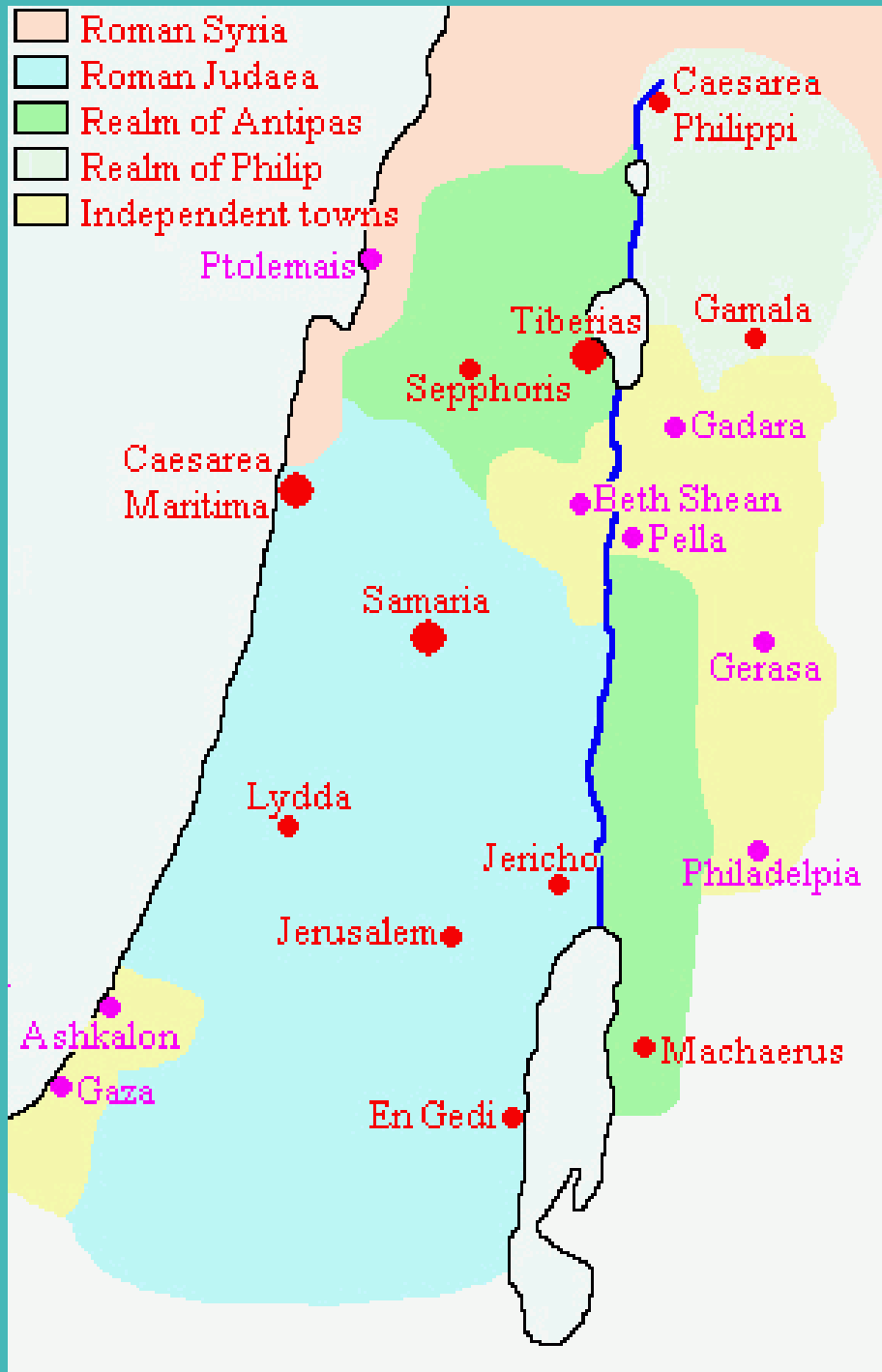
Judea under Simon Maccabeus  
144-135 BC

**END OF MACEDONIAN (GREEK) RULE 130 BC**



Israel under "Selene" Alexandra  
76-67 BC

# Roman Rule



Matthew 2:2-6 “<sup>2</sup>Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. <sup>5</sup>And they said to him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, <sup>6</sup>And you Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, are not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of you shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.”

# The Prophetic Devolution of Alexander's Greek Empire



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A study by Eve Clarity ©2008

Welcome Pray

This mosaic was found in Pompeii in the House of the Faun and is now in a museum in Naples.

# Lesson Overview

## From Daniel 11

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# Alexander the Great's Empire



## Empire divided by his four generals



From Alexander the Great's death in 323 until 301 BC there were four wars fought over succession which eventually settled into the four kingdoms of Greece\*, Thrace\*(Turkey), Syria\*, and Egypt\*.

Ptolemy became king of Egypt and made the southern kingdom strong. In 320BC he entered Jerusalem and added Judah to his realm. Seleucus Nicator built up Syria. Syria became the stronger of the two kingdoms. Antioch became Syria's capital, and kings used it in their names. Antiochus the 1<sup>st</sup> was surnamed Soter (Saviour) by the Gauls who became the Galatians.

## Ptolemy (south) & Seleucid (north)

Daniel 11:4-9 “<sup>4</sup>And when he [Alexander] shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those. <sup>5</sup>And the king of the south [Ptolemy I] shall be strong, and one of his princes [Ptolemy II]; and he shall be strong above him, and have dominion; his dominion shall be a great dominion. <sup>6</sup>And in the end of years they shall join themselves together; for the king's daughter of the south [Bernice] shall come to the king of the north [Antiochus II] to make an agreement: but she shall not retain the power of the arm; neither shall he stand, nor his arm: but she shall be given up, and they that brought her, and he that begat her, and he that strengthened her in these times. <sup>7</sup>But out of a branch of her roots [Ptolemy III] shall one stand up in his estate, which shall come with an army, and shall enter into the fortress of the king of the north, and shall deal against them, and shall prevail: <sup>8</sup>And shall also carry captives into Egypt their gods, with their princes, and with their precious vessels of silver and of gold; and he shall continue more years than the king of the north. <sup>9</sup>So the king of the south shall come into his kingdom, and shall return into his own land.” <sup>5</sup>

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[Ptolemy II invited 72 Jews to translate the Torah into Greek, which is why it's called the Septuagint (70)].

To conclude an alliance of peace, Ptolemy II Philadelphus compelled Antiochus II (Theos) of Syria to put aside his own wife, Laodice, and marry his daughter, Bernice. But when Ptolemy died two years later, Antiochus abandoned his Egyptian wife and took back Laodice. In order to gain her revenge, Laodice first had her husband, murdered, then brought Bernice and her son by Antiochus to Antioch in Syria, and had them slain.

Ptolemy II Philadelphus was succeeded by Ptolemy III Evergates, “a branch of her roots”. Ptolemy III invaded and made strong inroads into the Syrian power, laying low all they had built to avenge the murder of his sister. He took people and 40,000 talents of silver and gold vessels.

# Kings of the North & South

(Daniel 11) Syria & Egypt



Seleucus II Callinicus reigned in Syria from 247-226BC and conducted an unsuccessful expedition against Egypt. His sons, Seleucus III (227-224), and Antiochus III the Great (224-187), jointly continued their father's campaign against Egypt. Seleucus came to an untimely end, but Antiochus III continued to make great and rapid conquests. He defeated the Egyptians at Sidon and was able to penetrate as far south as to attack the Egyptian "fortress" at Gaza.

This map is prior to that second invasion of Antiochus III\* in which he captured Sidon. He took over Palestine in 195BC.

## Battles between Egypt & Syria

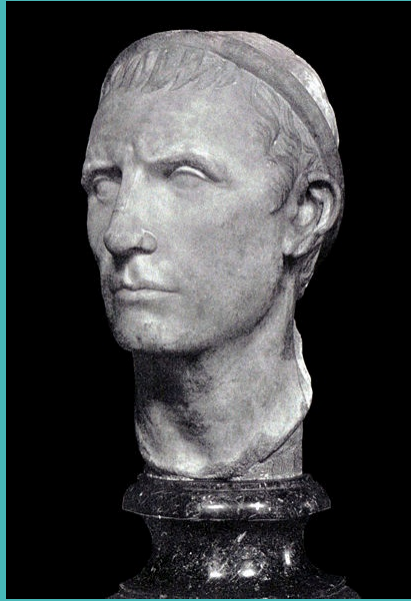
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Ptolemy IV gathered 73,000 men and 73 elephants. However the army of Antiochus III was even greater -- 72,000 infantry, 6,000 horsemen and 102 elephants -- and at first gained the advantage, but too soon abandoned caution and sought to plunder an enemy not fully conquered and the Egyptian king was victorious. However as Ptolemy was so much addicted to luxurious living, it was of little concern to him to utilize his success to the full and he was not "*strengthened*" by his victory.

Some years later, Antiochus III the Great raised a greater army, and securing better equipment, attained some of the success of his first efforts because the king of Egypt offered no opposition, and after his death various uprisings materially weakened the Egyptian power and broke it by internal distention.

In Daniel 11:15-16 we read how Antiochus drove the Egyptians back to Sidon, defeating "*the most fenced city*". Liberating the Jews from Egypt, he released them from all taxes for three years, and afterwards from one third of the taxes.

## Antiochus III & daughter Cleopatra



8

In Daniel 11 it is a daughter from the king of the south, but now we have a daughter from the king of the north whose name is familiar.

Antiochus III gives daughter Cleopatra to Ptolemy V for “peace”, but instructs her to destroy Egypt (she didn't). Antiochus III proceeds to attack Greece, but is encountered by Roman armies and defeated in 190, and dies in 187BC.

Cleopatra gives birth to Ptolemy VI and VII and Cleopatra II.

[It is Cleopatra VII who has a fling with Marc Antony.]

# Battles between Rome & Syria



Daniel 11:18-20 “<sup>18</sup>After this shall he [Antiochus III] turn his face to the [Greek] isles, and shall take many: but a prince [Scipio] for his own behalf shall cause the reproach offered by him to cease; without his own reproach he shall cause it to turn on him. <sup>19</sup>Then he [Antiochus III] shall turn his face toward the fort [Magnaesia] of his own land: but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found. <sup>20</sup>Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes in the glory of the kingdom: but within few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle.” 9

Not content with acquiring Egypt, Antiochus III next sought to gain control of the Greek islands. By 196BC he had a foothold in Thrace which called forth the active resistance of Rome. Scipio defeated his attack on Thermopylae\*, beat his commanders in 2 naval battles\* as he retreated, and beat him at his own fort in the Battle of Magnesia\* (190BC), Lucius Scipio administered such a sound defeat that the “reproach” or presumptuous boastings of the Syrian were silenced once and for all. Yet Scipio achieved his victory without repaying Antiochus with like boasting -- “without his own reproach”.

In his humiliation, Antiochus turned to “the fort of his own land” where no trouble or defeat could befall him. So disheartened did he become, in fact, his end was still more ignominious: he “shall stumble and fall and be found no more”. History once again vindicated God's foreknowledge of what will be, and constituted sure proof He could also control what He fore knew.

Seleucus IV Philopater (187-176BC) succeeded Antiochus. Only what bears upon the fortune of Israel is told about this Syrian king who had to pay Rome an enormous annual tribute of 1,000 talents. To this end he sent a “raiser of taxes”, probably Heliodorus (II Maccabees 7), to appropriate the rich treasures of the Temple at Jerusalem. [www.biblebelievers.org]

## Antiochus IV Epiphanes “Daniel's description”



Antiochus III  
223-187 BC



Reigned  
175-164 BC

Inscription “Antiochus, image of God, bearer of victory”

Daniel 8:9-12 “<sup>9</sup>And out of one of them came forth a **little horn**, which waxed exceeding great, toward the south, and toward the east, and toward the pleasant land. <sup>10</sup>And **it** waxed great, even to the host of heaven; and **it** cast down some of the host and of the stars to the ground, and stamped on them. <sup>11</sup>Yes, **he** magnified himself even to the prince of the host, and by **him** the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of the sanctuary was cast down. <sup>12</sup>And an host was given **him** against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and **it** cast down the truth to the ground; and **it** practiced, and prospered.”

Syria was eventually ruled by Antiochus Epiphanes ('shining one'), but the Jews called him Antiochus Epimanes ('mad one'). He invaded Egypt in 170 and again in 168 BC (each time going through Israel). He had a pig sacrificed in the temple to Zeus on Kislev 25, 170 BC, and tried to get the Jews to eat the meat; they were tortured for refusing and burnt on the altar. He had the priests make offerings to Jupiter. Josephus states he reigned terror on Judah for 2300 days (6.66 years). He decided to exterminate the Jews, but mysteriously died en route in 164 BC). Macabbeans led a successful revolt against his Syrian armies which is commemorated in Hanukkah.

## Antiochus IV vs Ptolemy IV

Daniel 11:21-25 “<sup>21</sup>And in his estate shall stand up a vile person [Antiochus IV], to whom they shall not give the honor of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries. <sup>22</sup>And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflowed from before him, and shall be broken; yes, also the prince of the covenant [Jason, high priest]. <sup>23</sup>And after the league made with him he shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people.

<sup>24</sup>He shall enter peaceably even on the fattest places of the province; and he shall do that which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers' fathers; he shall scatter among them the prey, and spoil, and riches: yes, and he shall forecast his devices against the strong holds, even for a time. <sup>25</sup>And he shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the south [Ptolemy IV] with a great army; and the king of the south shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand: for they shall forecast devices against him.”

11

Antiochus IV was at Athens, on his way from Rome, when his father died; and Heliodorus had declared himself king, as had several others. But *Antiochus came in peaceably*, for he obtained the *kingdom by flatteries*. He *flattered Eumenes*, king of Pergamus, and *Attalus* his brother, and got their assistance. He *flattered* the Romans, and sent ambassadors to court their favour, and pay them the arrears of the tribute. He *flattered* the Syrians, and gained their concurrence; and as he *flattered* the Syrians, so they flattered him, giving him the epithet of *Epiphanes*-the *Illustrious*. But he was a *vile person*, for *Polybius* says of him, "He ate and drank with the meanest fellows, singing debauched songs," - Clarke

*He shall stir up his power*] Antiochus marched against Ptolemy IV, *the king of the south*, (Egypt,) with a great army; and the Egyptian generals had raised a *mighty force*. But the Egyptian army was defeated. The next campaign Antiochus had greater success; he took Memphis, and made himself master of all Egypt, except *Alexandria*, see *1Macc 1:16-19*. Ptolemy Macron gave up Cyprus to Antiochus; and the Alexandrians were led to renounce their allegiance to Potlemy Philometer, and took his younger brother, and made him king in his stead. -- Clarke

Antiochus returned with great riches through Israel to Syria on his way home from Egypt, but antagonistic against the Covenant people and their destiny he plundered the temple in passing (II Maccabees 5; I Maccabees 1:20-).

## Antiochus IV stopped by Rome

Daniel 11:26-33 “<sup>26</sup>Yes, they that feed of the portion of his meat shall destroy him, and his army shall overflow: and many shall fall down slain. <sup>27</sup>And both of these kings' hearts shall be to do mischief, and they shall speak lies at one table; but it shall not prosper: for yet the end shall be at the time appointed. <sup>28</sup>Then shall he return into his land with great riches; and **his heart shall be against the holy covenant**; and **he** shall do exploits, and return to his own land. <sup>29</sup>At the time appointed **he** shall return, and come toward the south; but it shall not be as the former, or as the latter. <sup>30</sup>For the **ships of Chittim** shall come against **him**: therefore **he** shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall **he** do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them that forsake the holy covenant. <sup>31</sup>And **arms** shall stand on **his** part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily sacrifice, and they shall place the abomination that makes desolate. <sup>32</sup>And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall **he** corrupt by flatteries: **but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.** <sup>33</sup>And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: **yet they shall fall by the sword, and by flame, by captivity, and by spoil, many days.**”

They who ate *his meat* betrayed him; so that he was defeated. When Antiochus came to Memphis, he and Philometer had frequent conferences and *spoke lies* to each other, Antiochus professing great friendship to his nephew, yet in his heart designing to ruin the kingdom by fomenting the discords which already subsisted between the two brothers. On the other hand, Philometer *spoke lies*, determining to join his brother against their deceitful uncle.

*But it shall not prosper*] Neither succeeded in his object.

Ships from Chittim took a Roman Senator to Alexandria where he drew a circle about Antiochus and curtly told him he must agree to withdraw his troops before he stepped out of the circle, else meet the Romans in war. Antiochus agreed to withdraw from Egypt immediately with great spoils.

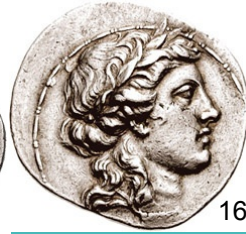
En route, Antiochus brought a great army against Jerusalem; took it by storm; he boiled swine's flesh, and sprinkled the temple and the altar with the broth; broke into the holy of holies; took away the golden vessels and other sacred treasures, to the value of *one thousand eight hundred* talents. -- Clarke

This was in fulfillment of one of the “desolations of abomination”.

# Faces of Antiochus IV



173 BC



166 BC



168 BC



164 BC



## 40,000 slain & 40,000 enslaved

“Now when there was gone forth a false rumour, as though Antiochus had been dead, Jason took at the least a thousand men, and suddenly made an assault upon the city [Jerusalem] . . . Now when this that was done came to the king's ear, he thought that Judea had revolted: whereupon removing out of Egypt in a furious mind, he took the city by force of arms, And commanded his men of war not to spare such as they met, and to slay such as went up upon the houses. Thus there was killing of young and old, making away of men, women, and children, slaying of virgins and infants. And there were destroyed within the space of three whole days fourscore thousand, whereof forty thousand were slain in the conflict; and no fewer sold than slain.”  
(2 Maccabees 5:5a,11-14 history, not scripture)

14

*I have found the historical books of 1 & 2 Maccabees most helpful in filling in details, and I will quote them. They are included in the Apocrypha in Catholic Bibles, but since the Apocrypha also includes fanciful stories, it is rightly excluded from Protestant Holy Scripture. But Christians and non-Christians both agree the books of Maccabees are historically accurate. The author of the books is unknown, but likely a Jew who lived through the events described or had primary sources available.*

*1 Macabbees 3:38-41 “[38] Lysias chose Ptolemy the son of Dorymenes, and Nicanor and Gorgias, mighty men among the friends of the king, [39] and sent with them forty thousand infantry and seven thousand cavalry to go into the land of Judah and destroy it, as the king had commanded. [40] so they departed with their entire force, and when they arrived they encamped near Emmaus in the plain. [41] When the traders of the region heard what was said to them, they took silver and gold in immense amounts, and fetters, and went to the camp to get the sons of Israel for slaves. And forces from Syria and the land of the Philistines joined with them.”*

## “by sword, by flame, by captivity, by spoil” (Daniel 11:33)

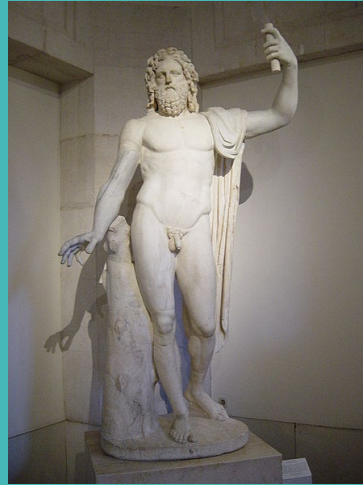
“And after two years fully expired the king sent his chief collector of tribute unto the cities of Juda, who came unto Jerusalem with a great multitude, And spake peaceable words unto them, but all was deceit: for when they had given him credence, he fell suddenly upon the city, and **smote** it very sore, and destroyed much people of Israel. And when he had taken the **spoils** of the city, he set it on **fire**, and pulled down the houses and walls thereof on every side. But the women and children took they **captive**, and possessed the cattle. Then builded they the city of David with a great and strong wall, and with mighty towers, and made it a strong hold for them.”  
(1 Maccabees 1:29-33 history, not scripture)

15

“So when Antiochus had carried out of the temple a thousand and eight hundred talents, he departed in all haste unto Antiochia, weening in his pride to make the land navigable, and the sea passable by foot: such was the haughtiness of his mind. And he left governors to vex the nation: at Jerusalem, Philip, for his country a Phrygian, and for manners more barbarous than he that set him there; And at Garizim, Andronicus; and besides, Menelaus, who worse than all the rest bare an heavy hand over the citizens, having a malicious mind against his countrymen the Jews. He sent also that detestable ringleader Apollonius with an army of two and twenty thousand, commanding him to slay all those that were in their best age, and to sell the women and the younger sort: Who coming to Jerusalem, and pretending peace, did forbear till the holy day of the sabbath, when taking the Jews keeping holy day, he commanded his men to arm themselves. And so he slew all them that were gone to the celebrating of the sabbath, and running through the city with weapons slew great multitudes.” (2 Maccabees 5:21-26)

## Antiochus IV worshipped Zeus/Jupiter

Daniel 11:36-39 “<sup>36</sup>And the king shall do according to his will; and he shall exalt himself, and magnify himself above every god, and shall speak marvelous things against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the indignation be accomplished: for that that is determined shall be done. <sup>37</sup>Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all. <sup>38</sup>But in his estate shall he honor the God of forces: and a god whom his fathers knew not shall he honor with gold, and silver, and with precious stones, and pleasant things. <sup>39</sup>Thus shall he do in the most strong holds with a strange god, whom he shall acknowledge and increase with glory: and he shall cause them to rule over many, and shall divide the land for gain.”



16

Antiochus introduced the worship of Romans Zeus (Jupiter Olympius to Greeks) which his fathers had not known.

Because of his father, Antiochus was held hostage in Rome for several years, and thus learned to admire Zeus. He tricked his older brother into taking his place as hostage, and then took the kingdom of Syria which was rightfully his to rule.

“nor the desire of women nor any god” - the primary female diety was Venus, who was known by many names like Nanea.

2 Macabbees 1:13-16 “**13:** For when the leader was come into Persia, and the army with him that seemed invincible, they were slain in the temple of Nanea by the deceit of Nanea's priests. **14:** For Antiochus, as though he would marry her, came into the place, and his friends that were with him, to receive money in name of a dowry. **15:** Which when the priests of Nanea had set forth, and he was entered with a small company into the compass of the temple, they shut the temple as soon as Antiochus was come in: **16:** And opening a privy door of the roof, they threw stones like thunderbolts, and struck down the captain, hewed them in pieces, smote off their heads and cast them to those that were without.” **DIVIDE THE LAND**

1 Macabbees 3:35-36 “[**35**] Lysias was to send a force against them to wipe out and destroy the strength of Israel and the remnant of Jerusalem; he was to banish the memory of them from the place, [**36**] settle aliens in all their territory, and distribute their land.”



Phidias created the 40' statue of Zeus in Olympia about 435 BC

17

In Greece Zeus watched over the famous Olympic games, of which wrestling was a primary sport. All athletes performed in the nude (*gymnos* means naked; hence the name gymnasium). Antiochus IV built a gymnasium in Jerusalem and forced the priests to strip and wrestle in his attempt to hellenize the Jews.

Zeus was known as Jupiter in Roman mythology. In both he was the king of the gods and led their warriors to victory.

“Not long after this the king sent an old man of Athens to compel the Jews to depart from the laws of their fathers, and not to live after the laws of God: And to pollute also the temple in Jerusalem, and to call it the temple of Jupiter Olympius; and that in Garizim, of Jupiter the Defender of strangers, as they did desire that dwelt in the place. The coming in of this mischief was sore and grievous to the people: For the temple was filled with riot and revelling by the Gentiles, who dallied with harlots, and had to do with women within the circuit of the holy places, and besides that brought in things that were not lawful. The altar also was filled with profane things, which the law forbiddeth. Neither was it lawful for a man to keep sabbath days or ancient fasts, or to profess himself at all to be a Jew.”(2 Macabbees 6:1-6)

## Antiochus IV's pride is humbled

“7: Howbeit **he** nothing at all ceased from **his** bragging, but still was filled with pride, breathing out fire in **his** rage against the Jews, and commanding to haste the journey: but it came to pass that **he** fell down from his chariot, carried violently; so that having a sore fall, all the members of his body were much pained. 8: And thus **he** that a little afore thought **he** might command the waves of the sea, (so proud was **he** beyond the condition of man) and weigh the high mountains in a balance, was now cast on the ground, and carried in an horselitter, shewing forth unto all the manifest power of God. 9: So that the worms rose up out of the body of **this wicked man**, and whiles **he** lived in sorrow and pain, **his** flesh fell away, and the filthiness of his smell was noisome to all his army. 10: And **the man**, that thought a little afore **he** could reach to the stars of heaven, no man could endure to carry for his intolerable stink. 11: Here therefore, being plagued, **he** began to leave off **his** great pride, and to come to the knowledge of **himself** by the scourge of God, **his** pain increasing every moment. 12: And when **he** himself could not abide **his** own smell, **he** said these words, It is meet to be subject unto God, and that a man that is mortal should not proudly think of himself if he were God.”  
(2 Macabbees 9:7-12 history, not scripture)

18

Antiochus introduced the worship of Jupiter Olympius from the Greeks which his fathers had not known.

## Death of Antiochus IV Epiphanes

Daniel 11:40-45 “<sup>40</sup>And at the time of the end shall the king of the south push at him: and the king of the north shall come against him like a whirlwind, with chariots, and with horsemen, and with many ships; and he shall enter into the countries, and shall overflow and pass over. <sup>41</sup>He shall enter also into the glorious land, and many countries shall be overthrown: but these shall escape out of his hand, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon. <sup>42</sup>He shall stretch forth his hand also on the countries: and the land of Egypt shall not escape. <sup>43</sup>But he shall have power over the treasures of gold and of silver, and over all the precious things of Egypt: and the Libyans and the Ethiopians shall be at his steps. <sup>44</sup>But tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him: therefore he shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many. <sup>45</sup>And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain; yet he shall come to his end, and none shall help him.”

19

Edom, Moab, and Ammon were in league with Antiochus against the Jews.

Antiochus had hired Libyan and Ethiopian mercenaries.

Though he did not attack Egypt again, by his threats and show of power he plundered their treasures.

After the battle of Beth-Horon: 1 Macabbees 3:25-27 “[**25**] Then Judas and his brothers began to be feared, and terror fell upon the Gentiles round about them. [**26**] His fame reached the king, and the Gentiles talked of the battles of Judas. [**27**] When king Antiochus heard these reports, he was greatly angered; and he sent and gathered all the forces of his kingdom, a very strong army.”

Antiochus headed east to Susa, hoping to plunder there as well, but meets his end. 40,000 of his troops under the command of Lysias pitch their tents (tabernacles) in Emmaus, halfway between Jerusalem and the Mediterranean Sea.

## Antiochus IV reign of terror

**170:** He killed 40,000 in Judah and sold 40,000 as slaves. He took all the gold and silver from the Temple. He sacrificed a pig on the altar, boiled the meat and forced priests to eat it; those who refused had tongues cut out.

**169:** Antiochus IV built a navy (against the terms of the Peace of Apamea his father signed) and conquered Cyprus and large parts of Egypt and presented himself as protector of Ptolemy VI against his relatives Ptolemy VIII and Cleopatra II.

**168:** Roman pressure forced Antiochus to stop attack of Egypt. He sent Apollonius with army of 22,000 to collect tribute from Jerusalem. They kill and capture many, plunder the city and burn it.

**167:** Antiochus forbade sacrifices, circumcision and other Jewish laws; they were to worship idols and eat pork, or be killed. An idol of Zeus was placed on the altar. Scrolls were burned; their owners, killed.

**165:** Antiochus captured Artaxias, capital of Armenia.

**164:** Antiochus' attack on Susa failed. He got reports of Israel and bragged he would make Jerusalem a graveyard of Jews and became ill. He repented, and sought to restore to the Jews all he had taken, and to let them worship God freely. He died of a painful, stinky bowel disease. 20

173 Refoundation of Babylon in Greek community. Visit to Jerusalem.  
170 Antiochus tried to Hellenize the Jews by building a gymnasium in Jerusalem and stripping the priests and having them wrestle. He took all the gold and silver from the Temple. He sacrificed a pig on the altar, boiled the meat and forced priests to eat it; those who refused had their tongues cut out. His tyranny aroused both the religious and the political consciousness of the Jews, which resulted in the revolution led by the Maccabees. Mattathias organized open resistance in 167-166, and with his son and successor Judas the Maccabee (hammer) defeated two large and well-equipped armies of Antiochus. Antiochus was busy fighting against the Parthians. He gave Lysias instructions to send a large army against the Jews and exterminate them utterly. But the generals Ptolemæus, Nicanor, and Gorgias, whom Lysias despatched with large armies against Judah, were defeated one after the other (166-165), and compelled to take refuge upon Philistine soil. Lysias himself (165) was forced to flee to Antioch, having been completely routed by the victorious Jews. Antiochus died shortly thereafter in Persia, fall 164.  
2300 days = 6 2/3 years (6.66) using 360 day year. Antiochus IV began terrorizing Jerusalem's Temple in spring 170, and died in Nov/Dec 164 after writing letters of apology for doing so. 6 2/3 yr.

## Antiochus IV killing Jews



Art by Franz Hermann 1771; Photograph: Andreas Praefcke, 2007 (GNU)  
Pfarrkirche St. Pankratius, Wiggensbach Deckengemälde im nördlichen  
Querschiff: „Das Martyrium der sieben makkabäischen Brüder und ihrer Mutter

1 Maccabees 1:41-43+50=51 “Moreover king Antiochus wrote to his whole kingdom, that all should be one people, And every one should leave his laws: so all the heathen agreed according to the commandment of the king. Yea, many also of the Israelites consented to his religion, and sacrificed unto idols, and profaned the sabbath. . . . And whosoever would not do according to the commandment of the king, he said, he should die. In the selfsame manner wrote he to his whole kingdom, and appointed overseers over all the people, commanding the cities of Juda to sacrifice, city by city.”

1 Maccabees 2:19-20 “Then Mattathias spake with a loud voice, Though all the nations that are under the king's dominion obey him, and fall away every one from the religion of their fathers, and give consent to his commandments: Yet will I and my sons and my brethren walk in the covenant of our fathers.” Mattathias had five sons: Joannan, Simon, Judas, Eleazar, and Jonathan.

## The Maccabees

**167:** Mattathias and his sons (the Maccabees) fought the Syrians and destroyed their altars. Cleansing of the temple in Jerusalem began.

**166:** Judas Maccabeus led a successful revolt with 6,000 men; routing and killing over 20,000 of the enemy and apostates.

**165:** Judas routes an army of 65,000, killing 5,000. Judas captured Jerusalem, and had the priests cleanse and rededicate the Temple (the 25<sup>th</sup> of Kislev) and they celebrated for 8 days (Hanukkah).

**164:** Countries around Israel killed the Jews in their lands. Antiochus' got reports of Israel and bragged he would make Jerusalem a graveyard of Jews and became ill. He repented, and sought to restore to the Jews all he had taken, and to let them worship God freely. He died, but one of his generals continued to fight the Jews. The armies of Judas killed 70,000 of them.

**163:** The Jews killed 26,000 who attacked Jerusalem, and 100,000 in other battles throughout Judah.

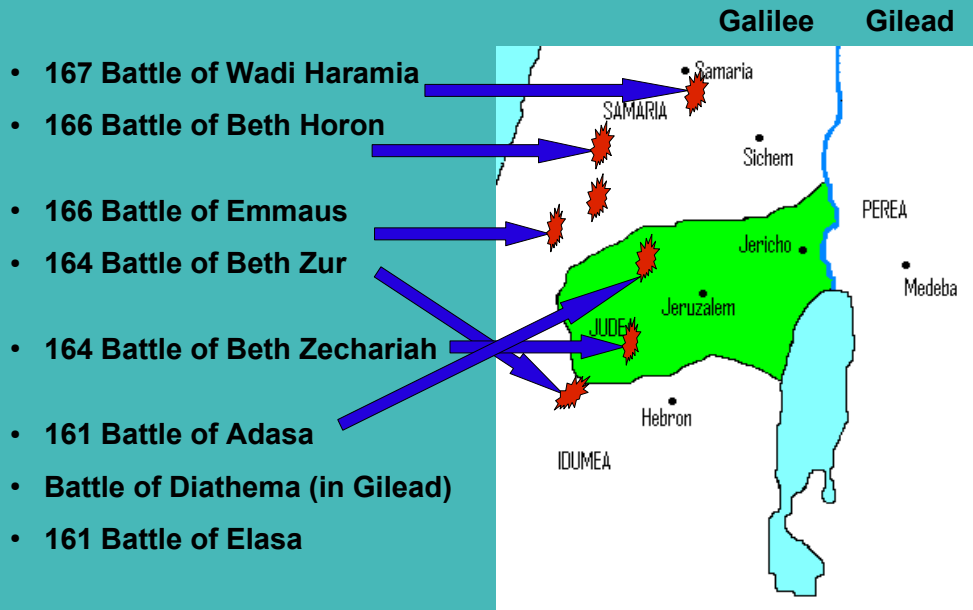
The descendants of the Maccabees (Hasmoneans) ruled Judah until Herod the Great.

22

Mattathias organized open resistance in 167-166, and with his son and successor Judas the Maccabee (hammer) defeated two large and well-equipped armies of Antiochus. Antiochus was busy fighting against the Parthians. He gave Lysias instructions to send a large army against the Jews and exterminate them utterly. But the generals Ptolemæus, Nicanor, and Gorgias, whom Lysias despatched with large armies against Judah, were defeated one after the other (166-165), and compelled to take refuge upon Philistine soil. Lysias himself (165) was forced to flee to Antioch, having been completely routed by the victorious Jews. Antiochus died shortly thereafter in Persia, 164.

Daniel 11:34-35 “<sup>34</sup>Now when they (Syrians) shall fall, they (Jews) shall be helped with a little help (Macabbees): but many shall join to them with flatteries. <sup>35</sup>And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet for a time appointed.”

# Judah under Judas Maccabeus



Judas divides his 600 men into 4 groups and wipes out 2,000 men of Apollonia in Wadi Haramia, and Judas takes Apollonia's sword.\* At Beth Horon,\* Judas kills 800 men, and the rest flee into Philistia After Beth-Horon, 1 Maccabees 3:25-26 "Then began the fear of Judas and his brethren, and an exceeding great dread, to fall upon the nations round about them: Insomuch as his fame came unto the king, and all nations talked of the battles of Judas."

Battle of Emmaus\*, Judas and his men kill 3,000 out of the 27,000 men whom Lysias sent under the command of Gorgias and Nicanor, as they fled "**unto Gazera, and unto the plains of Idumea, and Azotus, and Jamnia,**" (1 Macc 4:15) Their weapons included javelins, spears, swords, shields, battering rams, and ballistas.

Two years later at Beth Zur,\* Judas kills 5,000 out of Lysias' 65,000 men, and Lysias' men dropped their shields and weapons and ran.

At Beth Zechariah,\* Lysias returns with 50,000 better trained mercenaries and 32 elephants which cause Judas to retreat. Adasa\*

When Judas went to Gilead\*, he killed 8,000 of the army of Timotheus, and killed all the men in Bosora, Casphon, Maked, Bosor, and Ephron, and all the Arabians in Raphon. While he was busy there, his brother Simon was defeating the enemy in the Galilee\* all the way to Arbatta and the coast city of Ptolemais (Acco) Judas and Simon brought the women and children back to Judah. And then took Hebron and Maspha (Misphah), Judas dies at Elasa\*

## 7 Maccabees and 8 Hasmoneans

Micah 5:2-7 “**2**But you, Bethlehem Ephratah, though you be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall he come forth to me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. **3**Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travails has brought forth: then the remnant of his brothers shall return to the children of Israel. **4**And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great to the ends of the earth. **5**And this man shall be the peace, **when the Assyrian shall come into our land: and when he shall tread in our palaces, then shall we raise against him seven shepherds, and eight principal men.** **6**And they shall waste the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod in the entrances thereof: thus shall he deliver us from the Assyrian, when he comes into our land, and when he treads within our borders. **7**And the remnant of Jacob shall be in the middle of many people as a dew from the LORD, as the showers on the grass, that tarries not for man, nor waits for the sons of men.”

24

The prophet Micah takes up where Daniel left off after Antiochus IV, and foretells the rulers of Judah until Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Mattathias, had his five sons, and Hyrcanus, the son of Simon makes seven.

Eight princes of the *Asmonean* race; beginning with *Aristobulus*, and ending with *Herod*, who was married to *Mariamne*.-*Sharpe*.

## 7 shepherds & 8 principal men

- Maccabees (hammers)
  - Mattathias 168-167
    - Jonnan
    - Simon 144-135
    - Judas 167- 161
    - Eleazar
    - Jonathan 161-144
  - Hyrcanus, Simon's son 135-104
- Aristobulus 104-103
- Alexander Janraeus
- Alexandra 76-67
- Hyrcanus II 67-66
- Aristobulus II 66-63
- Hyrcanus II 63-40
- Antigorus 40-37
- Herod the Great 37-1

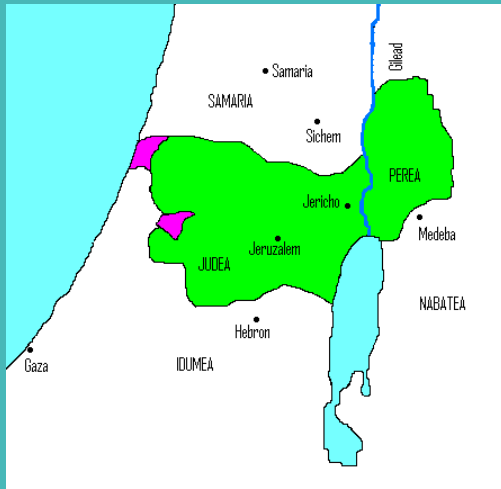
25

Eleazar died in the Battle of Beth Zechariah valiantly attacking and killing an elephant from underneath, but then crushed to death.

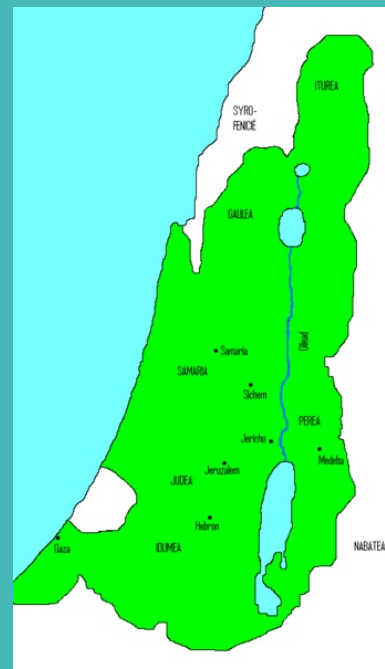
Aristobulus, Alexander ruled from 103 to 76 and then his wife Salome Alexandra reigned after him until Hyrcanus II took the throne. Then he and Aristobulus appeal to Rome, and Rome restores Hyrcanus to the throne in 63. So it's actually 7 men, one of whom rules twice.

Herod, was not a Jew, He was Idumean (from Edom). Herod defeated Antigorus and then married his teenage niece, Mariamne, which helped to secure him a claim to the throne and gain some Jewish favor because she was Hasmonean. However, Herod already had a wife, Doris, and a young son, Antipater III, and chose to banish them both. Herod died in 1 BC (not 4BC). He ordered boys two and under killed in 3 BC when Christ was born in Bethlehem.

## Israel Restored



Judea under Simon Maccabeus  
144-135 BC

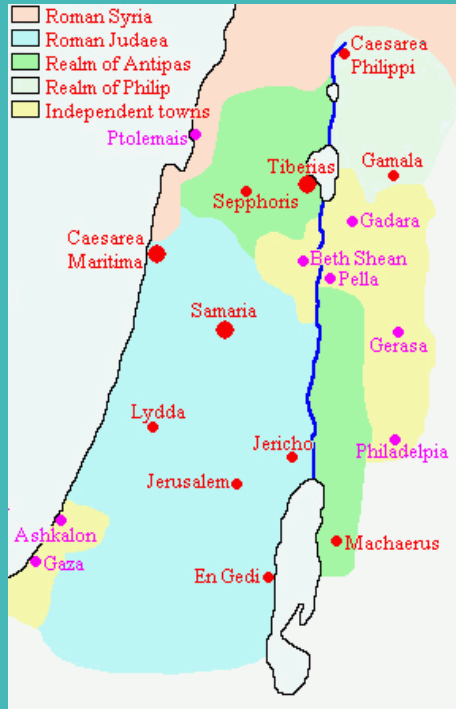


Israel under "Selene" Alexandra  
76-67 BC

END OF MACEDONIAN (GREEK) RULE 130 BC

Alexander Jannaeus reconquered much of ancient Israel which had existed under King David's reign. But he had made the Pharisees his enemies, which he sought to correct in his will and directions to his wife. Alexandra abided by his wishes and allowed the Pharisees to direct matters of state.

## Roman Rule



Matthew 2:2-6 “<sup>2</sup>Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. <sup>5</sup>And they said to him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, <sup>6</sup>And you Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, are not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of you shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.”