

Daniel Chapter Eleven

- Chapter eleven is Gabriel's explanation to Daniel for the message/vision he received in Chapter 10.
 - Gabriel was assigned a role in strengthening and protecting Darius the Mede [11:1].
 - Gabriel had already demonstrated his strengthening ministry to Daniel [10:18-19].
- Three more kings would arise in Persia [10:2].
 - Cyrus' son Cambyses (530 – 522 B.C.).
 - Pseudo-Smerdis (522 B.C.).
 - Darius I Hystaspes (521 – 486 B.C.).
- Then a fourth king would arise in Persia [10:2].
 - Xerxes (Ahasuerus in Esther) reigned 485 – 465 B.C.
 - He acquired great wealth during his reign.
 - Persia became more powerful during his reign.
 - He led multiple military campaigns against Greece during his reign.
- Another king would arise [10:3-4].
 - These verses give a synopsis of the rise and fall of Alexander the Great.
 - He would be a mighty king, doing as he pleased.
 - He would see his kingdom broken up and parceled out to others, but not with his power (cp. 8:8, 22).
- King of the South and King of the North [11:5-35].
 - The King of the South is the Ptolemy ruler of Egypt.
 - The King of the North is the Seleucid ruler of Syria.
 - See notes on Daniel Chapter Two and Chapter Eight.

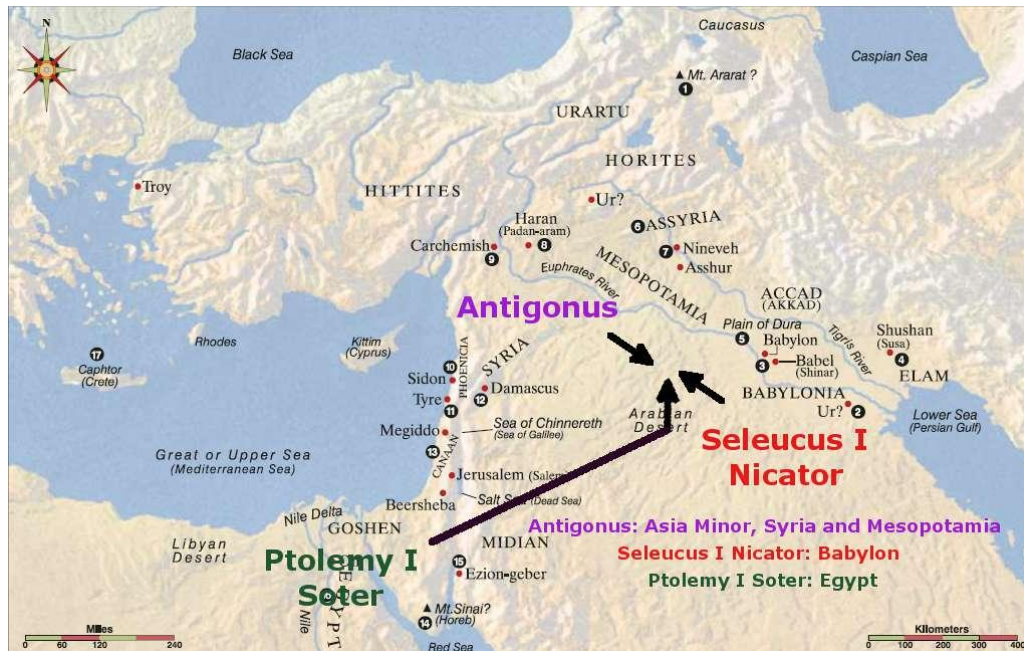
The Ptolemies and the Seleucids in Daniel 11:5-35

Ptolemies (Kings "of the South," Egypt)		Seleucids (Kings "of the North," Syria)	
Daniel 11:5	Ptolemy I Soter (323-285 B.C.)*	Daniel 11:5	Seleucus I Nicator (312-281 B.C.)
11:6	Ptolemy II Philadelphus (285-246)		Antiochus I Soter † (281-262)
11:7-8	Ptolemy III Evergetes (246-221)	11:6	Antiochus II Theos (262-246)
11:11-12,	Ptolemy IV Philopator	11:7-9	Seleucus II Callinicus (246-227)
14-15	(221-204)	11:10	Seleucus III Soter (227-223)
11:17	Ptolemy V Epiphanes (204-181)	11:10-11, 13, 15-19	Antiochus III the Great (223-187)
11:25	Ptolemy VI Philometer (181-145)	11:20	Seleucus IV Philopater (187-176)
		11:21- 32	Antiochus IV Epiphanes (175-163)

*The years designate the rulers' reigns.

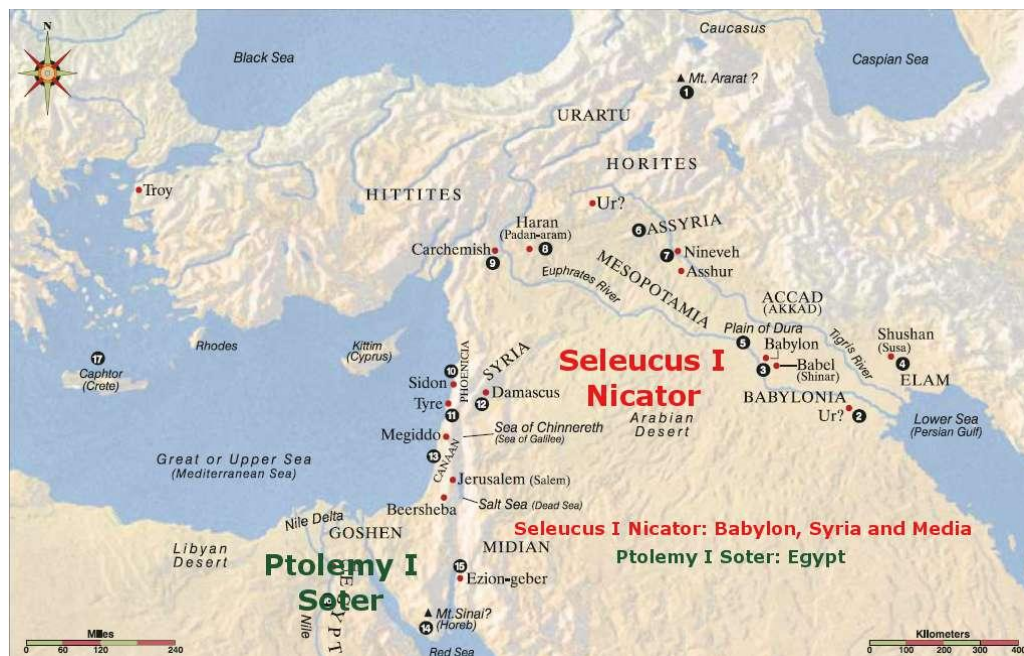
†Not referred to in Daniel 11:5-35.

- Historical fulfillment of verse 11:5...
 - The strong King of the South was Ptolemy I Soter who ruled 323 – 285 B.C.
 - He was a general under Alexander, given authority over Egypt in 323 B.C. and made king in 304 B.C.
 - The commander mentioned in this verse (translated as “one of his princes” in NASB) was another general under Alexander, Seleucus I Nicator, who was given authority over Babylon in 321 B.C. and ruled until he was murdered in 281 B.C.
 - In 316 B.C. Seleucus joined forces with Ptolemy I Soter to hold off an attack on Babylon by Antigonus, another of Alexander’s generals, resulting in the defeat of Antigonus in 312 B.C.



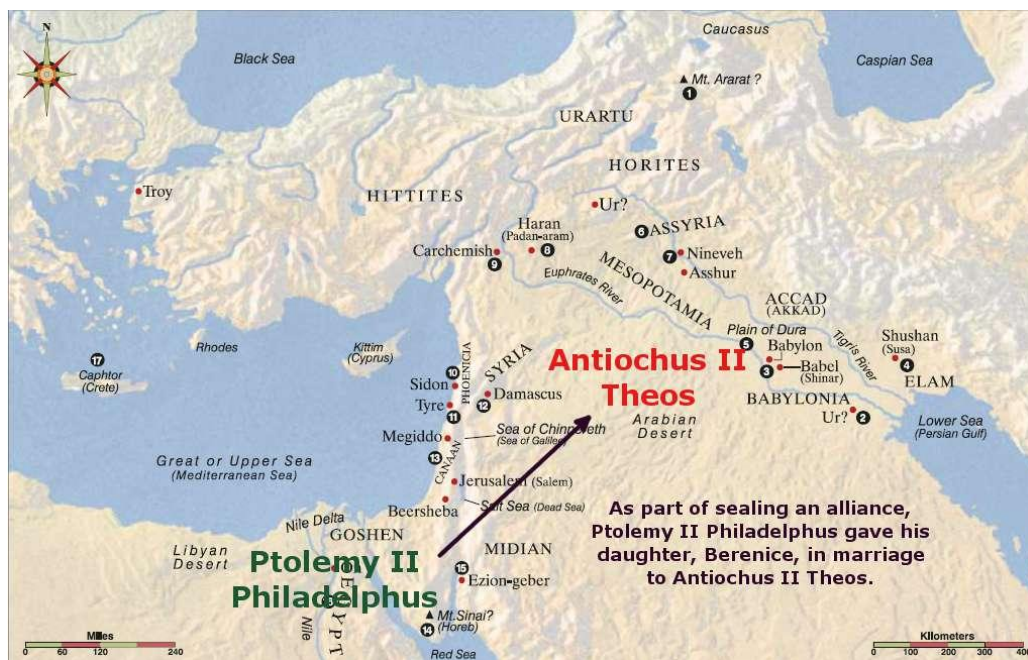
Daniel 11:5

- Seleucus, strengthened by the victory, came to rule over Babylon, Media and Syria and was given the title of king in 305 B.C.
- Seleucus “obtained dominion” over Ptolemy I Soter in that he ruled over far more territory.



Result of Daniel 11:5

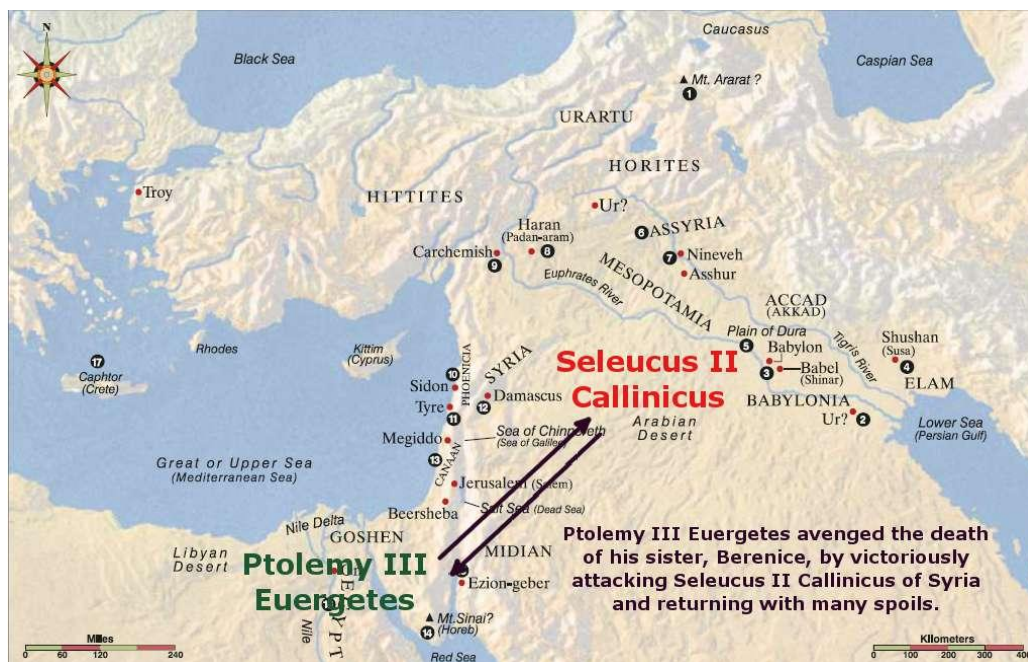
- Historical fulfillment of verse 11:6...
 - When Ptolemy I Soter died, his son, Ptolemy II Philadelphus, ruled in Egypt from 285 – 246 B.C.
 - When Seleucus I Nicator was murdered, his son, Antiochus I Soter, ruled in Syria from 281 – 262 B.C.
 - When Antiochus I Soter died, his son, Antiochus II Theos, ruled in Syria from 262 – 246 B.C.
 - Ptolemy II and Antiochus II were bitter enemies, but after many years of antagonism they entered into an alliance in 250 B.C.
 - This alliance was sealed by the marriage of Berenice, the daughter of Ptolemy II, to Antiochus II.



Daniel 11:6

- In order to marry Berenice, Antiochus II had divorced his wife Laodice.
- The marriage to Berenice would not last because Laodice had Berenice killed (she was “given up”).
- Laodice then poisoned Antiochus II and made her son, Seleucus II Callinicus, king over Syria and he ruled from 246 – 227 B.C.

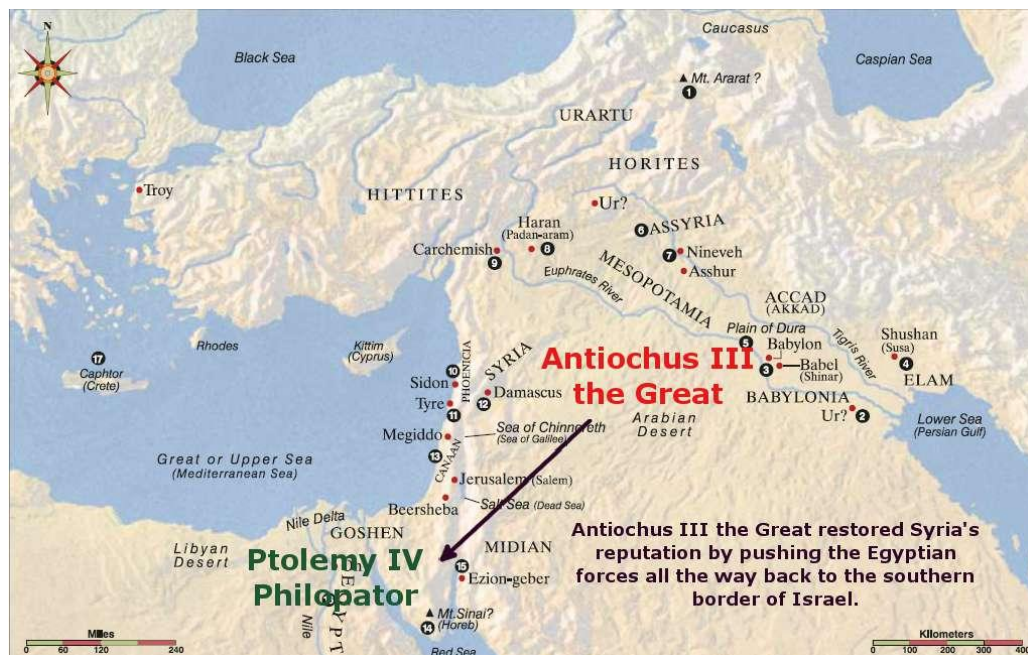
- Historical fulfillment of verses 11:7-8...
 - When Ptolemy II Philadelphus died, his son, Ptolemy III Euergetes (Berenice's brother), succeeded his father and ruled in Egypt from 246 – 221 B.C.
 - Once in power, Ptolemy III Euergetes set out to avenge the death of his sister Berenice.
 - He attacked Syria and was victorious.
 - He put Laodice to death.
 - He returned to Egypt with many spoils (precious vessels of silver and gold).



Daniel 11:7-8

- Historical fulfillment of verses 11:9-10...
 - After this humiliating defeat, Seleucus II Callinicus sought to invade Egypt, but was unsuccessful.
 - When Seleucus II Callinicus died, his son, Seleucus III Soter, ruled in Syria from 227 – 223 B.C.
 - When Seleucus III Soter was killed by conspirators, his brother, Antiochus III the Great, took over at age 18 and ruled in Syria from 223 – 187 B.C.

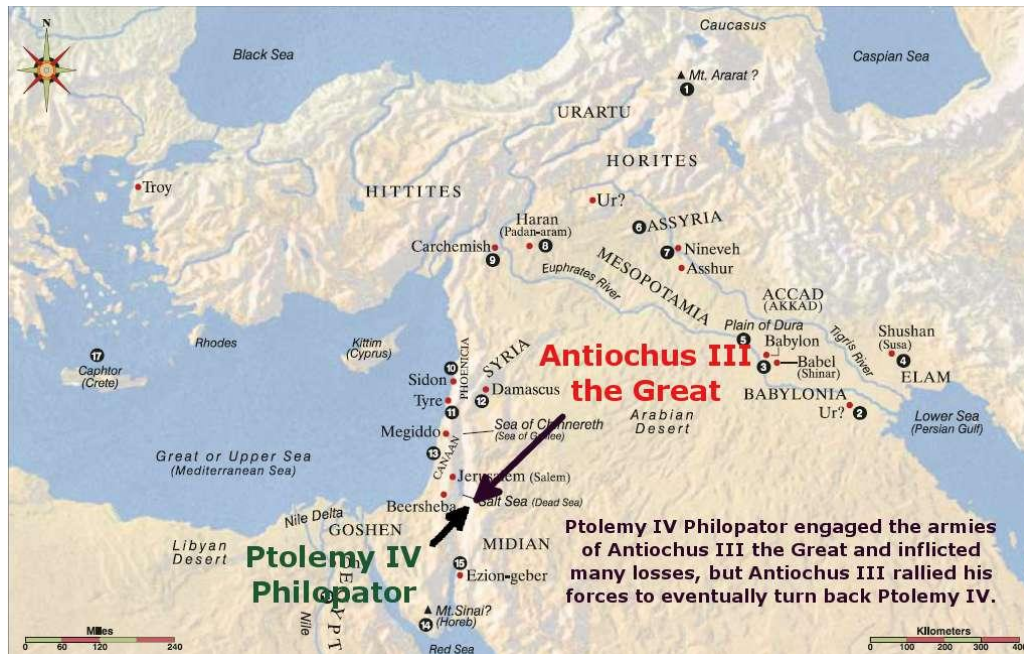
- These two sons sought to restore Syria's reputation through military conquest.
- Seleucus III was engaged in an attack against Asia Minor when he was killed by conspirators in 223 B.C.
- Antiochus III attacked Egypt, which at that point had taken control of all the territory up to the southern border of Syria, including the land of Israel.
- Antiochus III succeeded in pushing the Egyptian forces all the way back to the southern border of Israel during his campaign of 219 – 217 B.C.



Daniel 11:9-10

- Historical fulfillment of verses 11:11-13...
 - The King of the South in these verses is Ptolemy IV Philopator who ruled in Egypt from 221 – 204 B.C.
 - Ptolemy IV was the one driven back during the campaign of 219 – 217 B.C.
 - Enraged by the setbacks, he rallied his forces at the southern border of Israel and stood strong against Antiochus III for awhile, killing many thousands.

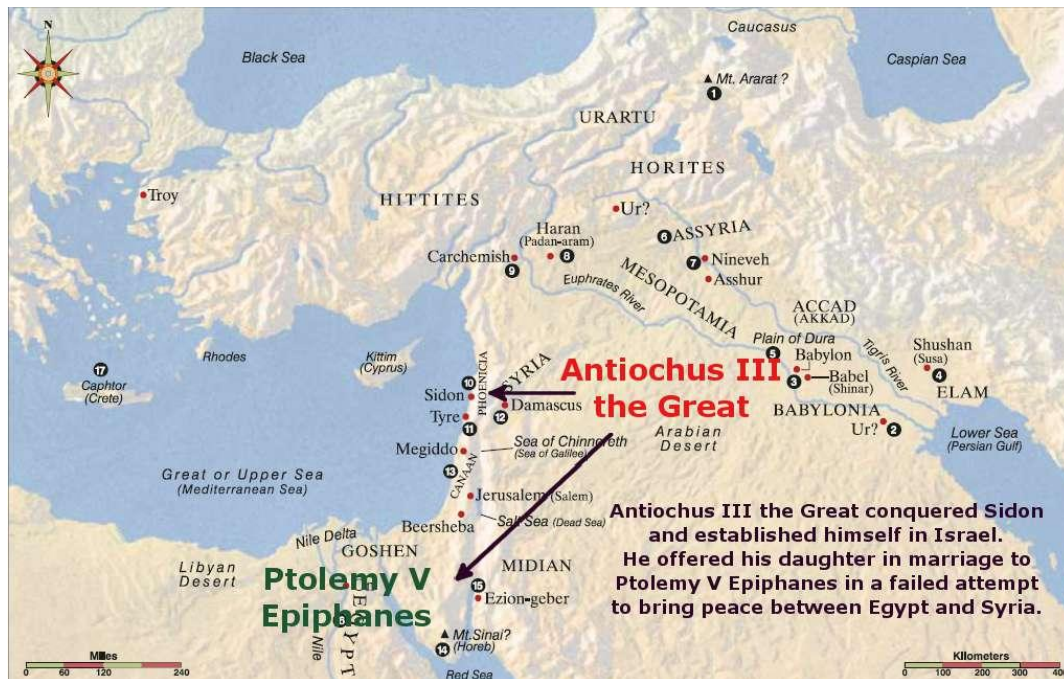
- Antiochus III reformed his forces and eventually turned back the armies of Ptolemy IV.



Daniel 11:11-13

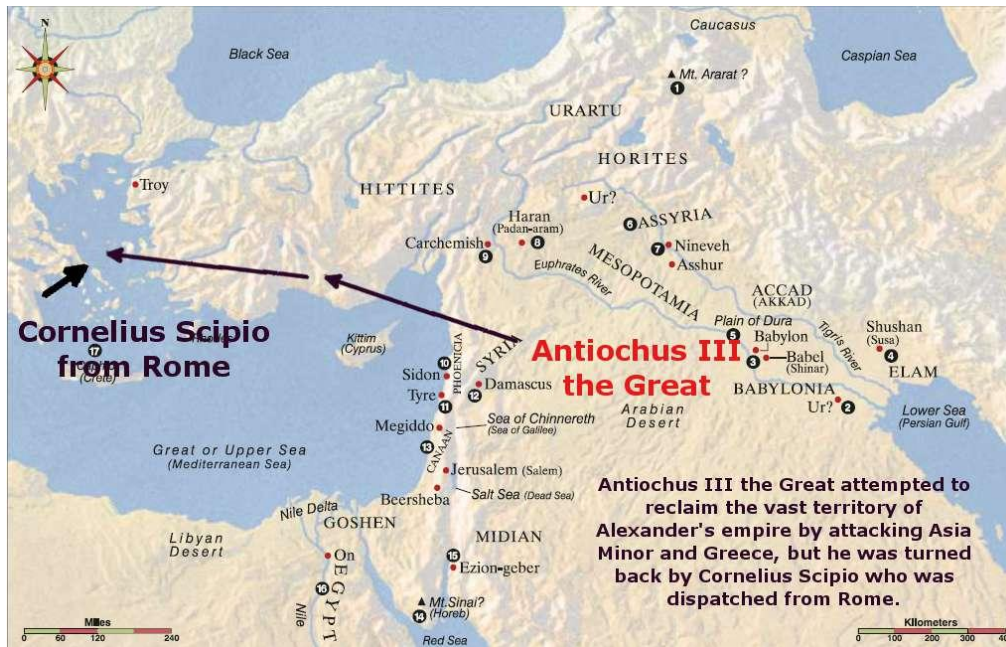
- Historical fulfillment of verses 11:14-17...
 - Syria was not Egypt's only enemy.
 - Philip of Macedonia joined Antiochus III against Egypt.
 - Many Jews (your people, v. 14) also joined Antiochus III against Egypt, possibly in a vain attempt to gain independence from both Egypt and Syria.
 - Antiochus III had expelled the Egyptians from Israel and sought to consolidate his control over it.
 - The fortified city most likely refers to Sidon which Antiochus III captured in 203 B.C.
 - By 199 B.C. Antiochus III had established himself in the Beautiful Land (Israel, cp. vv. 8:9; 11:41).
 - In an attempt to bring peace between Egypt and Syria, Antiochus III offered his daughter in marriage to Ptolemy V Epiphanes of Egypt.

- This attempt to establish an alliance between the two nations did not succeed.



Daniel 11:14-17

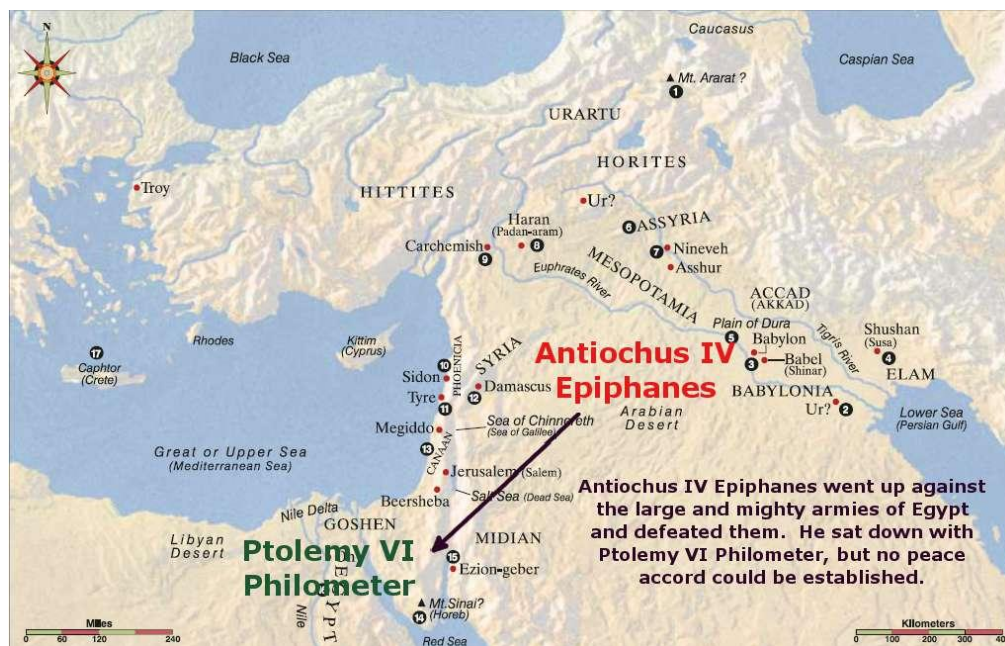
- Historical fulfillment of verses 11:18-19...
 - Antiochus III redirected his focus toward Asia Minor in 197 B.C. and Greece in 192 B.C.
 - Cornelius Scipio (a commander) was dispatched from Rome and turned Antiochus III back.
 - In 188 B.C. Antiochus III returned from the campaign to his own land where he died a year later.
 - Antiochus III was the most ambitious military leader of any of Alexander's successors, but his dream of reuniting the empire was never realized.



Daniel 11:18-19

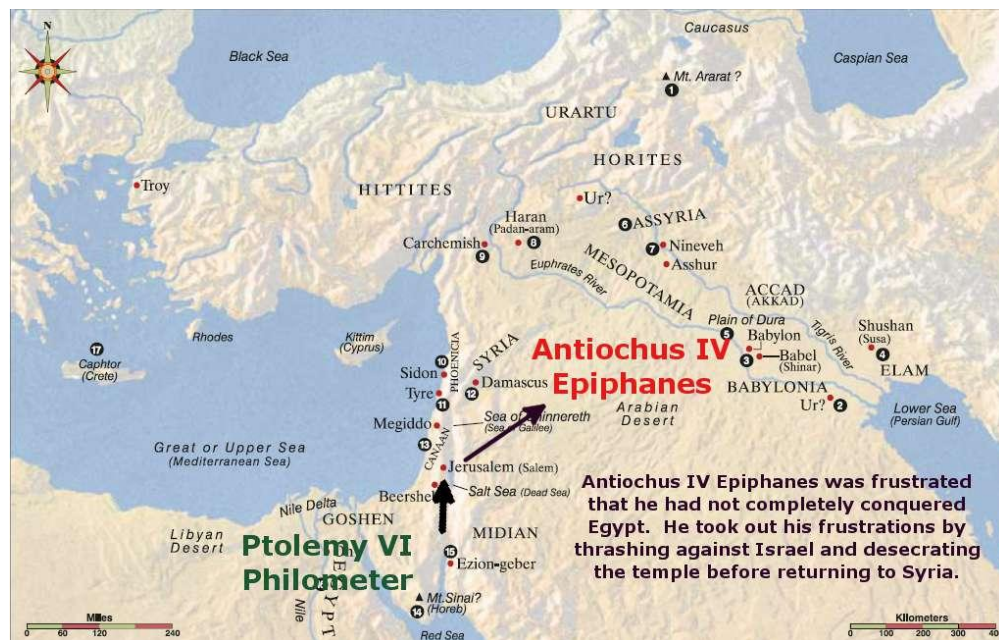
- Historical fulfillment of verse 11:20...
 - When Antiochus III the Great died, his son, Seleucus IV Philopator, ruled in Syria from 187 – 176 B.C.
 - Seleucus IV heavily taxed his people to pay Rome.
 - He was poisoned (shattered, though not in anger nor in battle) by his treasurer Heliodorus.
- Verses 11:21-35 focus on another son of Antiochus III, Antiochus IV Epiphanes, the little horn of Daniel chapter eight and type of the coming Antichrist.
- Historical fulfillment of verses 11:21-22...
 - Antiochus IV is introduced as a despicable person.
 - He gave himself the name Epiphanes which means “The Illustrious One”.
 - He was found to be untrustworthy and was nicknamed Epimanes which means “The Madman”.
 - The throne should have been taken by Demetrius Soter, a son of Seleucus IV, but instead Antiochus IV Epiphanes hijacked the throne (seized it by intrigue) and had himself named king (ruling 175 – 163 B.C.).

- He was able to turn back an invading army of the Egyptians and was therefore accepted as king.
- The “prince of the covenant” is most likely the high priest, Onias III, who was removed by Antiochus IV.
- Historical fulfillment of verses 11:23-24...
 - Antiochus IV gained power/influence with the help of a small number of people within the kingdom.
 - He redistributed wealth by taking from the rich and giving to those who supported him.
- Historical fulfillment of verses 11:25-27...
 - After consolidating his kingdom, Antiochus IV went up in battle against Egypt in 170 B.C.
 - The Egyptians had a large and mighty army, but were defeated by the forces of Antiochus IV.
 - Antiochus IV sat down at the “table” with Ptolemy VI Philometer as though they were now friends, but the two kings were deceptive in their dealings with each other and no peace accord was established.



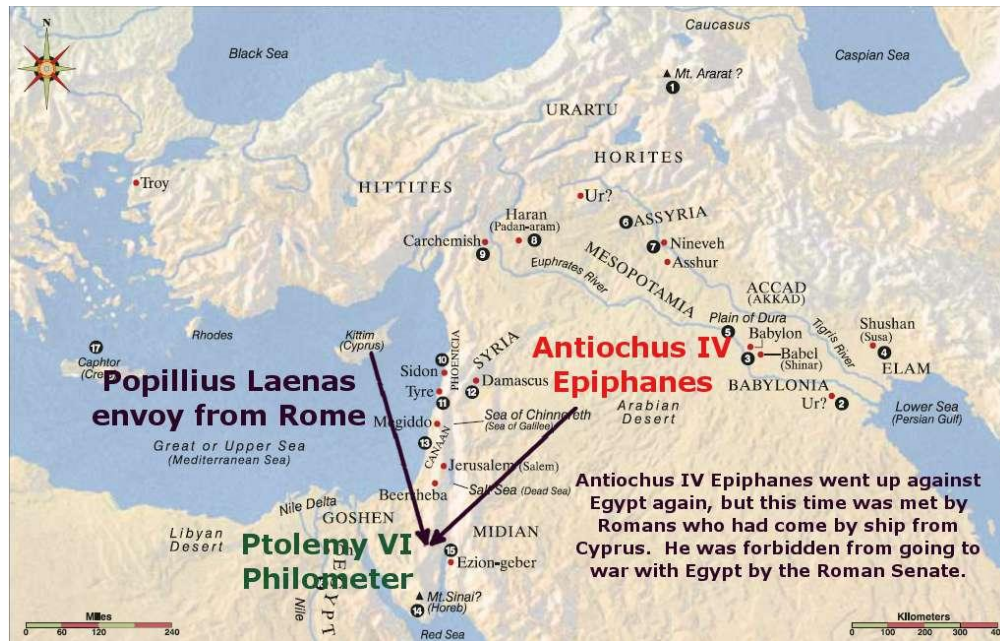
Daniel 11:25-27

- Historical fulfillment of verse 11:28...
 - Although Antiochus IV had not succeeded in taking all of Egypt, he did take quite a bit of plunder with him from his military conquests.
 - His frustrations at not being able to completely conquer Egypt or establish an alliance with them manifested itself in his trashing against Israel.
 - Antiochus IV Epiphanes despised the Jewish system of worship (the holy covenant), desecrated the temple in Jerusalem, and then returned to Syria.



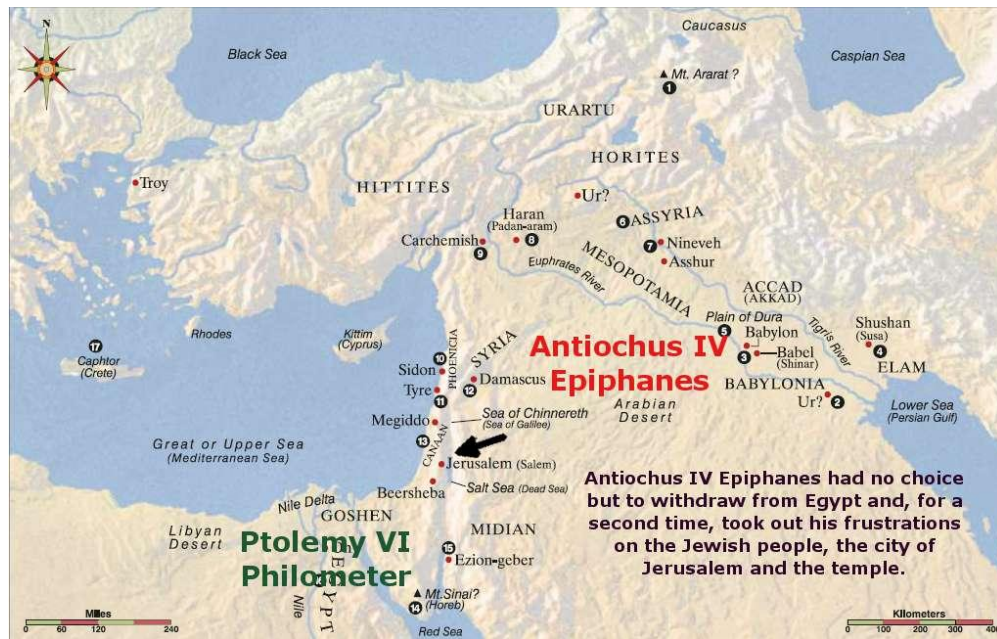
Daniel 11:28

- Historical fulfillment of verses 11:29-30a...
 - Two years later (168 B.C.) Antiochus IV came up against Egypt (the South) again.
 - As he was marching into Egypt he was met by the Romans who had come in ships from Cyprus.
 - The Roman senate sent Antiochus IV a letter forbidding him to go to war against Egypt.



Daniel 11:29-30a

- When he asked for time to consider his options, the envoy (Popillius Laenas) drew a circle around him and demanded an answer before he left the circle.
- Antiochus IV relented because to continue his campaign against Egypt would be tantamount to declaring war on Rome.
- This was a humiliating defeat for Antiochus IV (he will be disheartened), but he saw no option except to return to his own land.
- For a second time (as in verse 28), Antiochus IV took out his frustrations on the Jewish people, the city of Jerusalem and the temple.
- Historical fulfillment of verses 11:30b-32...
 - This time Antiochus IV would persuade (cf. v. 32) some of the rebellious Jews to fight on his side and he would show these Jews favor.
 - Antiochus IV desecrated the temple and put an end to the daily sacrifices of the Jews.
 - The city of Jerusalem was then sacked by Apollonius (a general of Antiochus IV) who attacked on the Sabbath, killing many and taking many as slaves, during what was purported to be a peace mission.



Antiochus IV and Apollonius besiege Jerusalem

- In an attempt to “Hellenize” the Jews, they were forbidden from following their religious festivals (and even circumcision) and they were commanded to burn their copies of the Law.
- Then, the “abomination of desolation” was setup.
 - An altar to Zeus was erected on the altar of burnt offering (outside the temple) and a pig was sacrificed.
 - Jews were required to offer a pig on the 25th of each month in honor of Antiochus IV’s birthday.
- Antiochus IV promised rebellious Jews great reward if they would set aside their God and worship Zeus, the god of Greece.
 - Unfortunately, many people in Israel were persuaded by his “smooth words” and turned to worship Zeus.
 - There was a small remnant, however, who remained faithful to God, refusing to participate in any of these detestable practices.
- Antiochus IV died (insane) in Persia in 163 B.C.

- Historical fulfillment of verses 11:33-35...
 - The Jews who remained faithful to God were persecuted and martyred for their faith.
 - The Maccabean revolt began in 166 B.C.
 - Mattathias, a priest, refused to submit to a false god.
 - He and his sons fled from Jerusalem to the mountains.
 - In the beginning only a few Jews joined them.
 - As their movement became popular many joined with them, some out of false motives.
 - The suffering of the faithful purified & refined them.
 - The time of the persecution was of a short duration.
 - It had previously been revealed to Daniel that the temple would be desecrated for 1,150 days [8:14].
 - Here Daniel was assured that this persecution would run its course and then be lifted, for its end will still come at the appointed time.
 - One of Mattathias' sons, Judas, became well known for refurbishing and restoring the temple in late 164 B.C. He was called Judas Maccabeus, "the Hammerer".
- The text now takes a prophetic shift to a description of the coming Antichrist [11:36-39].
 - Daniel has heard about Antiochus IV Epiphanes, a type of the Antichrist.
 - The little horn of the 4-horned (Gr.) beast [8:9, 23-25].
 - The detailed description in this chapter [11:21-35].
 - Daniel has heard about the Antichrist himself.
 - The little horn of the 10-horned (Ro.) beast [7:8, 11, 19, 20, 24, 25].
 - The prince who is to come [9:26-27].
 - NOTE: Prophetic events may be 1000s of years apart in time, yet given in the same verse of Scripture.
 - Isaiah 61:1-3 pictures both the 1st and 2nd Advents.
 - Jesus "rightly divides" this passage in Luke 4:18-21.
 - NOTE: The switch from shadow to reality, or type to antitype, is not uncommon in prophetic revelation.
 - The King of Babylon [Isa 14:4-10] with Satan [14:11-21].

- The King of Tyre [Ezek 28:1-10] with Satan [28:11-19].
- This “king” will do as he pleases [11:36].
 - Nebuchadnezzar had this superiority [5:19].
 - The ram of Medo-Persia had this superiority [8:4].
 - Alexander had this superiority [11:3].
 - Antiochus III the Great had this superiority [11:16].
 - Antichrist will have this superiority [11:36].
- He will exalt and magnify himself above every so-called god [11:36].
 - Satan tried exalted himself in pride [Isa 14:13].
 - Nebuchadnezzar exalted himself in pride [5:20].
 - Antiochus Epiphanes exalted himself in pride [8:11, 25].
 - Antichrist will exalt himself in pride [11:36, 2 Th 2:4].
- He will speak monstrous things against the God of gods [11:36 cp. 7:8, 11, 20, 25 and Rev 13:5-6].
- He will prosper until the end when the complete destruction that is decreed occurs [11:36 cp. 9:27].
- He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers (those of Roman polytheism) [11:37].
- He will show no regard for “the one desired by women” – the Messiah (many Jewish women desired to be the mother of the Messiah, the nation’s Savior and King) [11:37].
- He will magnify himself above all the gods [11:37].
- He will honor a god of fortresses, meaning that he will establish demonic alliances [11:38].
 - NOTE: The term “fortresses” is used here to refer to fortifications in the spiritual realm [2 Cor 10:3-5].
- He will achieve great victories with the help of fallen angels and demons and will reward those who serve him with honor, authority and real estate [11:39].
- The warfare of Antichrist is described [11:40-45].
 - The King of the South (Egypt) and the King of the North (Syria) will attack him [11:40].
 - NOTE: This is not the same battle described in Ezek 38.

- Antichrist will respond by invading the middle-east.
 - His armies will occupy many countries [11:40-42].
 - Israel is among these countries [11:41].
 - Edom (Jordan), Moab (Iraq) and the sons of Ammon (Saudi Arabia) will not be conquered [11:41].
 - Egypt will be conquered and plundered [11:42-43].
 - Libya and Ethiopia (Sudan) will join his cause [11:43].
- Antichrist will be disturbed by rumors from the north and the east [11:44].
 - This could be because of the 200 million soldiers that have been mobilized [Rev 9:16].
 - Antichrist will respond by staging his army for a great battle [11:44 cp. Rev 16:13-16].
- Antichrist will establish his political headquarters in Jerusalem [11:45].
- Antichrist will come to his end [11:45].