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**A Prophetic History of Daniel 11 for
Today: the Great Controversy With
Persia, Greece and Pagan Rome**

Part 1

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The Great Controversy with Persia, Greece, and Pagan Rome

Part I: Daniel 11:1-29

539/538 BC - 476 AD

Principles of Prophetic Interpretation for Daniel 11

Principles of Interpretation for Daniel 11

- 1. Biblical historical/historicist method of interpreting Daniel 11.**
- 2. Outline of Daniel 11 to be parallel to Daniel 2, 7 and 8.**
- 3. Daniel 2, 7, and 8 represent the kingdoms of Babylon, Medo- Persia, Greece and Rome in symbols, Daniel 11 presents some of the most prominent rulers of these kingdoms literally.**

Principles of Interpretation for Daniel 11

4. This chapter follows the Christo-centric, cross-centered interpretation of Daniel 9 that determines whether we deal with literal Israel with its literal geographical areas or spiritual Israel with its spiritual global/universal perspectives

The Great Controversy with Persia

**Vision of Christ and the
Prince of Persia (Dan
10:12-14, 20)**

Prophecies About the Persian Kingdom

529 to 465 BC

The Persian Kingdom

Prophecy of Daniel 11:2:

“And now will I shew thee the truth. Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than they all: and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia.”

The Persian Kingdom

**The four Persian kings
succeeding Cyrus:**

529-465 BC

- (1) Cambyses, Cyrus' son**
- (2) Smerdis, the usurper**
- (3) Darius Hystaspes**
- (4) Xerxes, richest king**

Prophecies About the Greek Kingdom

336-30 BC

The Greek Kingdom (Dan 11:3-15)

Prophecy of Daniel 11:3

“And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will.”

Alexander the Great

“a mighty king”

The Great Controversy with Greece

Prophecy of Daniel 11:4:

“And when he 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.”

The Great Controversy with Greece

**Alexander's kingdom
was divided into 4 parts
ruled by 4 of his
generals—Cassander,
Lysimachus, Seleucus
and Ptolemy.**

**It parallels events
connected with the four
heads of the leopard of
Daniel 7 and the four
horns of Daniel 8.**

An Israel-Centered View of Prophecy

Principles of Interpretation

Focus of the prophecy is God's people (Dan 10:14)

An Israel-Centered view of prophecy

Before the end of the 490 years of Dan 9 the locations of the king of the North and South are situated North and South to the geography of literal Israel. After 34 AD the focus is on spiritual Israel with its spiritual-global/universal perspectives.

An Israel-Centered View of the Kings of South and North

Cassander occupied Greece situated in the west of Palestine; **Lysimachus** had Thrace and Asia Minor in the North, **Seleucus** had Syria and Babylon in the east, and Ptolemy had Egypt in the South. When **Seleucus** defeated Lysimachus, he occupied the North.

Origin of the Conflict between the Kings of **North** and **South**

King of South

King of North

A conflict developed between **Ptolemy**, the king of the **South**, and **Seleucus**, the **king of the North**, that caught God's people in the middle.

This conflict in Daniel 11 describes the suffering of God's people in the Great Controversy till the time of the end

Strength of the King of the South (Dan 11:5)

King of South

***“And the king of
the south shall be
strong,”***

**This is Ptolemy I
Soter**

Strength of the **King of the North** (Dan 11:5)

King of North

*“one of his princes;
and he shall be strong
above him,”*

It refers to
Seleucus I Nicator,
one of Alexander’s
princes

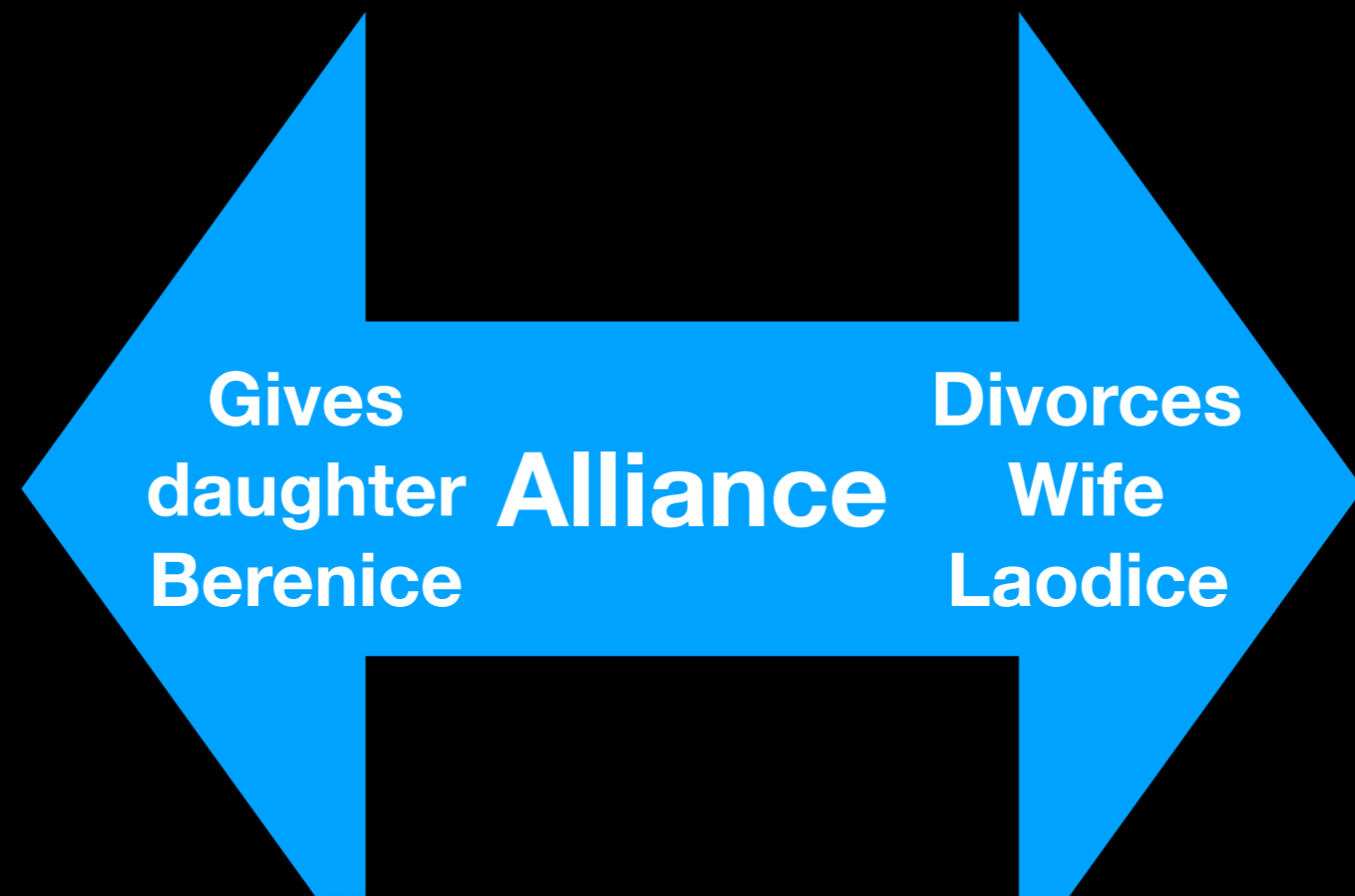
Marriage Alliance Between the South and the North

Prophecy of Daniel 11:6:

“And in the end of years they shall join themselves together; for the king's daughter of the south shall come to the king of the north 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.”

Marriage Alliance Between the South and the North (Dan 11:6)

Ptolemy II Philadelphus, the second king of Egypt, and Antiochus II Theos, third king of Syria



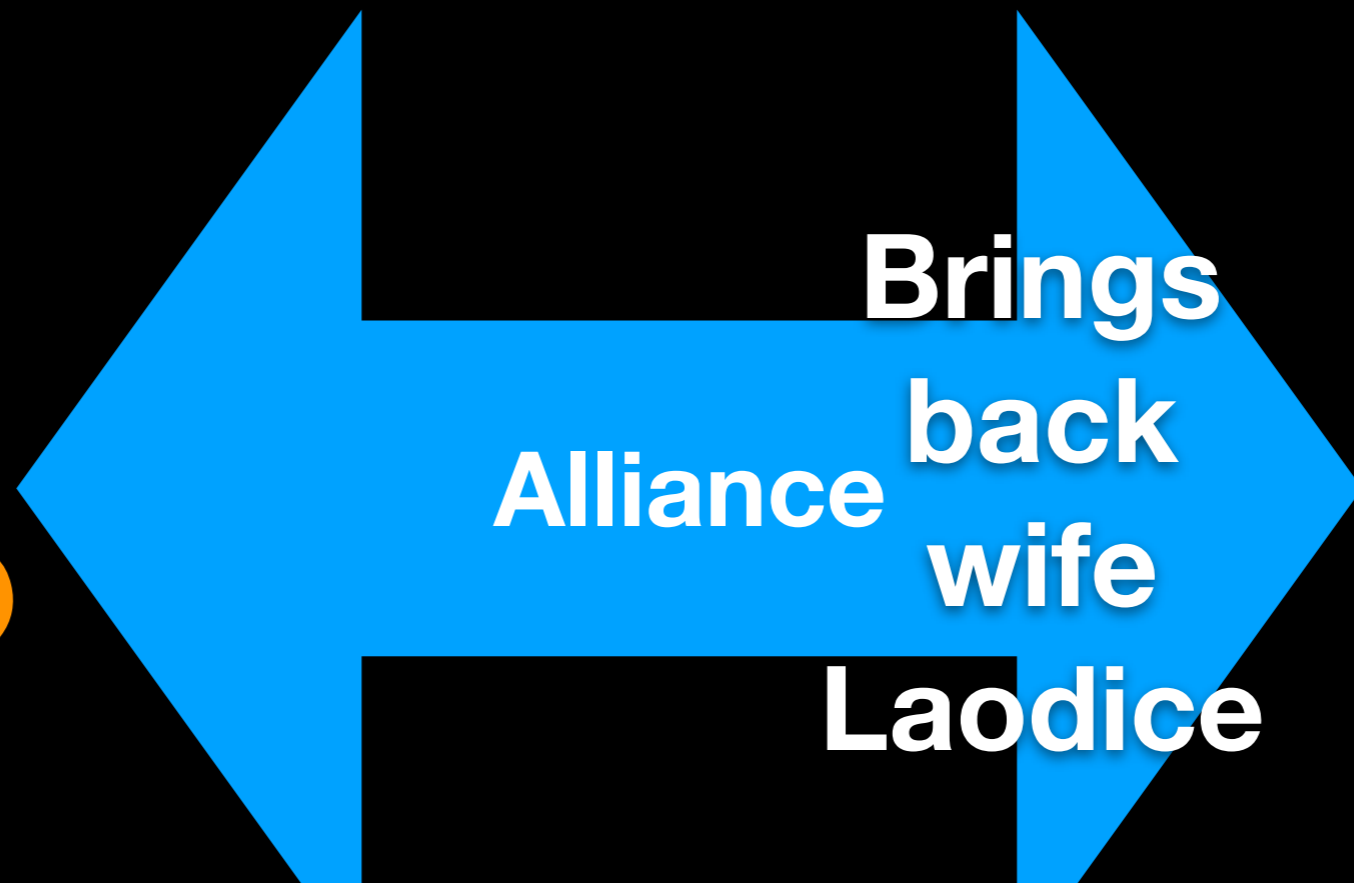
King of South Ptolemy II

King of North Antiochus II

Marriage Alliance Between the South and the North (Dan 11:6)

Ptolemy II Philadelphus, the second king of Egypt, and Antiochus II Theos, third king of Syria

DIES



King of South Ptolemy II

King of North Antiochus II

Marriage Alliance Between the South and the North (Dan 11:6)

Time for REVENGE!

Laodice **poisons husband**

Laodice **murders** Berenice,
her son and attendants

King of North Antiochus II

Marriage Alliance Between the South and the North (Dan 11:6)

**“She shall be given
up, and they that
brought her”**

King of North Antiochus II

Egypt's War of Revenge on Syria

Prophecy of Daniel 11:7-9:

“But out of a branch of her roots 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: 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. So the king of the south shall come into his kingdom, and shall return into his own land.”

Egypt's War of Revenge on Syria

**Time for
REVENGE!**

Ptolemy III Euergetes

Brother of murdered Berenice

Egypt's War of Revenge on **Syria (Dan 11:7-9)**

**Ptolemy with large
army attacks Seleucus
and captures idols**

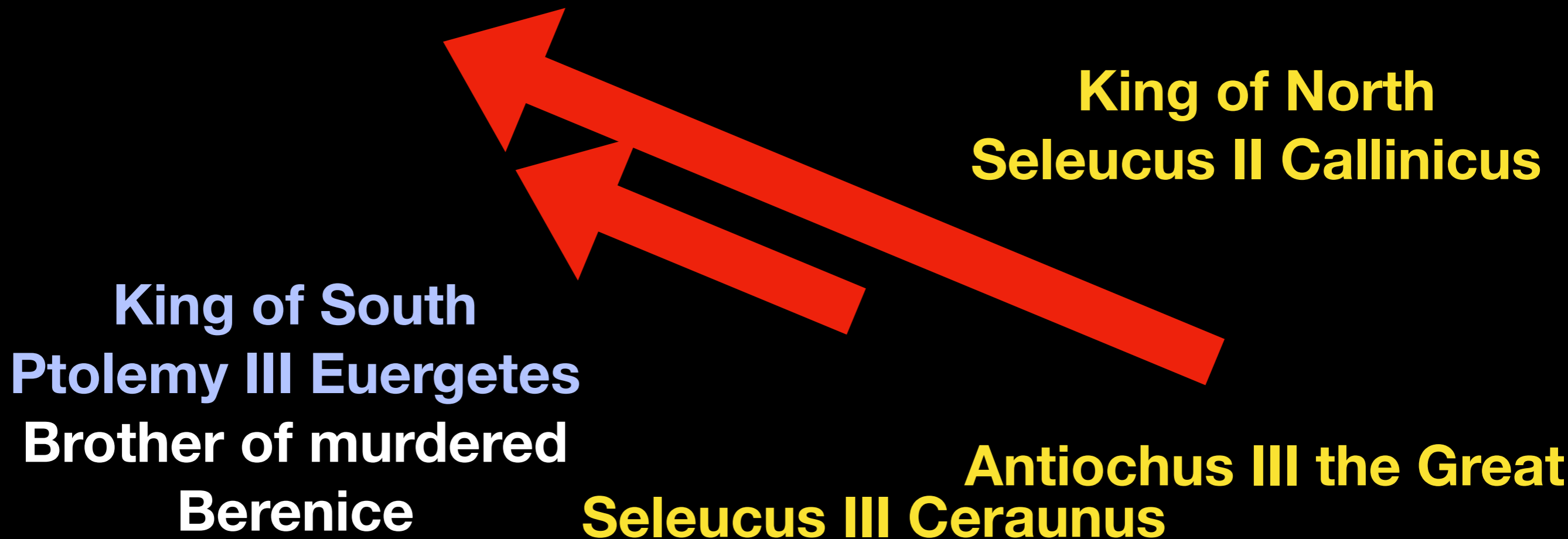
**King of South
Ptolemy III Euergetes
Brother of murdered
Berenice**

**King of North
Seleucus II Callinicus**

Syria's Counterattack on Egypt (Dan 11:10)

“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.”

Syria's Counterattack on Egypt (Dan 11:10)



Egypt's War Against Syria

Prophecy of Daniel 11:11:

“And the king of the south shall be moved with choler, and shall come forth and fight with him, even with the king of the north: and he shall set forth a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into his hand.”

Egypt's War Against Syria

Ptolemy IV Philopater succeeded his father, Ptolemy III Euergetes, in the kingdom of Egypt In the North, Antiochus III the Great

had succeeded his brother Ptolemy IV Philopater Seleucus III in the government of Syria. In the Battle of Raphia, Ptolemy IV inflicted on Antiochus a major defeat.

Antiochus III the Great

Egypt's Attack on God's People

Prophecy of Daniel 11:12:

“And when he hath 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.”

Egypt's Attack on God's People

After his successes Ptolemy IV's heart was lifted up and began to severely persecute the Jews who refused him to enter into the most holy place of the sanctuary. In Alexandria he killed between 40,000 and 60,000 Jews.

Syria's Campaign Against Egypt

Prophecy of Daniel 11:13:

“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.”

Syria's Campaign **Against Egypt**

After Ptolemy IV's death he was succeeded by his four or five old son, Ptolemy V Epiphanes. Now **Antiochus the Great** took the opportunity by raising a large army to defeat the infant king.

Antiochus III the Great

Rome Enters Prophecy

In Daniel 11:14-16 we see a transition from the **Syrian king of the North** to the **Roman kingdom**.

In verse 14 **Rome** enters the prophetic sphere of Israel.

In verse 16 the **power of Syria** is transferred to Rome after it conquered Syria.

From then on **Rome** takes over the role of the king of the North.

War Against **Egypt** and **Rome's** Interference

Prophecy of Daniel 11: 14:

“And in those times there shall many stand up against the **king of the south**: also the **robbers** of thy people shall exalt themselves to establish the vision; but they shall fall.”

War Against **Egypt** and **Rome's** Interference

Antiochus the Great, his ally

Philip V king of Macedon,

and others planned an

attack on the infant king

Ptolemy V to divide **Egypt**.

Ptolemy IV Philopater

But the Romans interfered

with these schemes, and in

the end they all fell.

Antiochus III the Great

Rome Robbed God's People

The Romans are called “the robbers of thy people” or literally, “the breakers of thy people,” or “those who act violently against thy people.”

The Romans robbed literal Israel of its independence (63 BC) and destroyed the Temple and Jerusalem (70 AD). Next the Roman Empire persecuted spiritual Israel for many centuries. Thus they established the vision of their role in prophecy.

Syria Attacks Egypt

Prophecy of Daniel 11:15:

“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.”

Syria Attacks Egypt

Antiochus III the Great was quite successful in this second campaign against **Egypt** until the Romans again stopped him. Rome's interference in the affairs of **Egypt** avoided the division of **Egypt**.

Prophecies About the Roman Empire

65 BC-475 BC

The Great Controversy with **Rome** (Dan 11:16-45)

Prophecy of Daniel 11:16

“But **he** that cometh against him shall do according to **his** own will, and none shall stand before **him**: and **he** shall stand in the glorious land, which by **his** hand shall be consumed.”

Rome Becomes the King of the North (Dan 11:16-45)

Pagan Rome (Dan 11:16-29)

Gradually the Roman Empire extended its influence into the eastern Mediterranean until it fully dominated the Seleucid kingdom, and made Syria a Roman province (65 BC). When that was accomplished, the Roman Empire had replaced Syria as the king of the North.

Rome's Major Conquests

In 146 BC **Rome** makes Macedonia a **Roman province**.

In 65 BC **Rome** makes Syria a **Roman province**.

In 63 BC the **Romans** made Judea, “the glorious land,” a **Roman province**.

Rome's Conquest of Egypt

Prophecy of Daniel 11:17:

“**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, corrupting her: but **she** shall not stand on **his** side, neither be for **him**.”

Rome's Conquest of **Egypt**

The conquest of **Egypt** by **Julius Caesar** was achieved with the vital support of Atipater and his army of Jews, the “upright ones” (47 BC).

Julius Caesar

Cleopatra, the daughter of women, was Julius Caesar's mistress.

Last representative of the
Ptolemaic dynasty, Cleopatra
attempted to perpetuate the Greek
dynasty through an immoral
relationship with Julius, “corrupting
her”, and she had a son by him.

Due to Caesar's untimely
assassination, “she shall not stand
on his side, neither be for him”.

Cleopatra

Rome's Conquest of the Pharnaces

Prophecy of Daniel 11:18:

“After this shall **he** turn his face unto the isles, and shall take many: but a prince for **his** own behalf shall cause the reproach offered by him to cease; without his own reproach he shall cause it to turn upon him.”

Rome's Conquest of the Pharnaces

Caesar's war with the king of Cimmerian Bosphorus drew him away from Egypt.

“But a prince for his own behalf shall cause the reproach offered by him to cease” can be identified as Mark Antony who would protect Caesar's political interests in Rome while he was away. Due to Caesar's absence from Rome, Antony would defend and cause the senate's reproach of Caesar's to fall upon himself.

Mark Antony

Julius Caesar Returns to Rome and Is Assassinated

Prophecy of Daniel

11:19:

“Then **he** shall turn his face toward the fort of **his** own land: but **he** shall stumble and fall, and not be found.”

Julius Caesar Returns to Rome and Fell

After **Caesar** defeated the last remaining fragments of Pompey's supporters **he** returned to Rome, the 'fort of **his** own land.'" Here **he** was made perpetual dictator, making **him** in fact absolute ruler of the **Roman empire**. When **he** was about to receive the title of king **he** was assassinated. Thus **he** suddenly stumbled and fell (44 BC), and was not found.

Emperor Caesar Augustus' Reign

Prophecy of Daniel 11:20:

“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.”

Emperor Caesar Augustus' Reign

Octavianus, later called Caesar Augustus, succeeded his uncle, Julius Caesar, who adopted him as his successor. Luke reported that he was a raiser of taxes at the time Christ was born (Luke 2:1).

Emperor Caesar Augustus' Reign

This taxation which embraced all the world was an event worthy of notice. **Augustus** reigned “in the glory of the kingdom” when **Rome** had reached the pinnacle of its greatness and power. In less than eighteen years after the taxing, **Augustus** died, not in anger nor in battle, but peacefully in his bed in 14 AD, in **his** seventy-sixth year.

Emperor Tiberius Caesar

Prophecy of Daniel 11:21:

“And in **his** estate shall stand up a **vile person**, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.”

Emperor Tiberius Caesar

Caesar Augustus was succeeded by Tiberius. The first part of his reign was characterized by prudence and ability, but the later part of his rule were marred by dissimulation, tyranny, hypocrisy, debauchery, and uninterrupted intoxication as recorded by his contemporaries.

Death of **Tiberius** and Jesus Christ

Prophecy of Daniel 11: 22:

“And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflown from before **him**, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant.”

Death of **Tiberius**

Some translated the text as “And the arms of the overflower shall be overflowed from before **him**, and shall be broken.” This expressions indicates revolution and violence. Indeed, emperor **Tiberius** suffered a violent death in his seventy-eighth year (37 AD), universally despised.

Death of **Tiberius** and Jesus Christ

It was during the reign of **Tiberius** that “the prince of the covenant,” who was Jesus Christ “the Messiah the Prince,” was to “confirm the covenant” one week with His people. This resulted in in the violent crucifixion death of Jesus Christ. Dan. 9:25-27.

Death of **Tiberius** and Jesus Christ

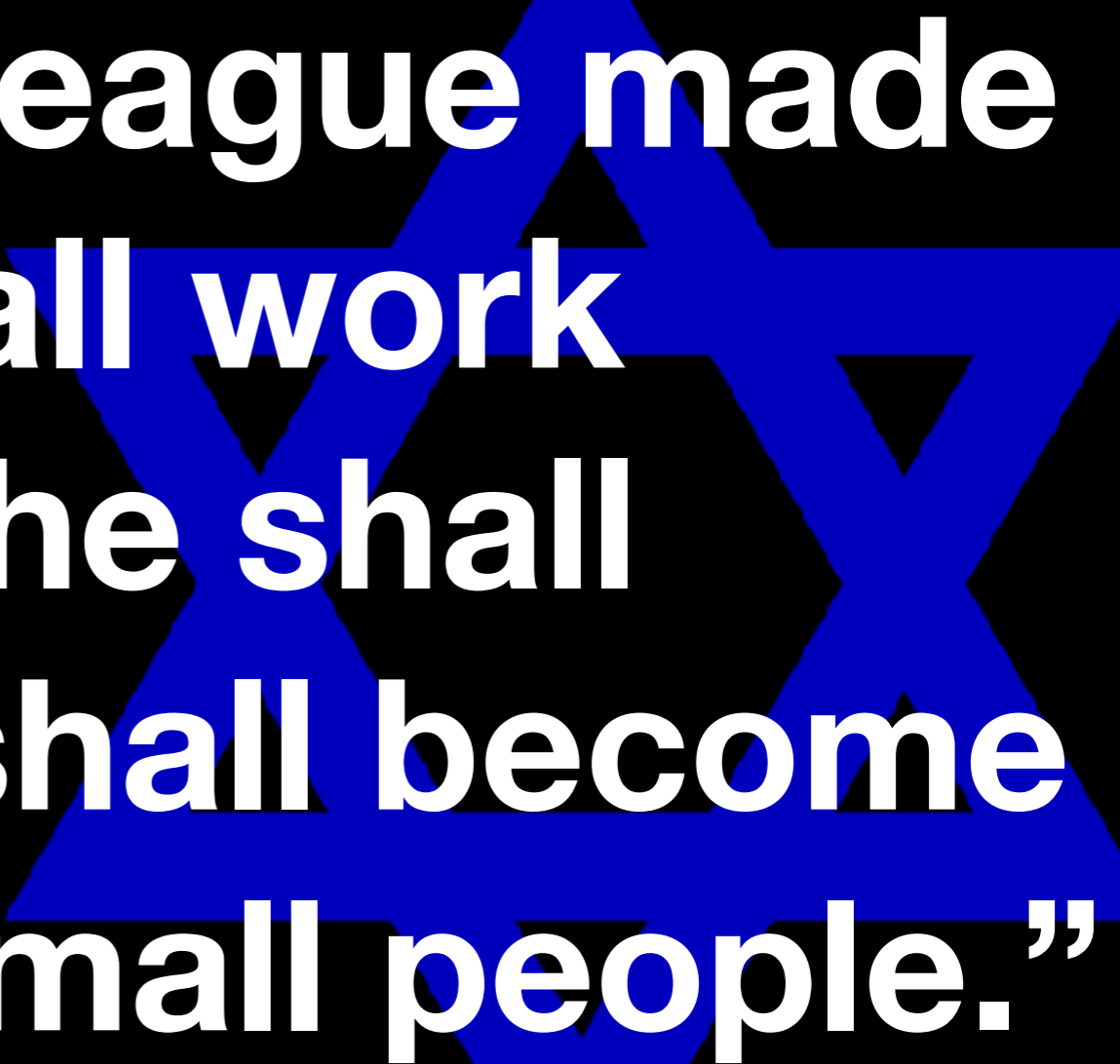
In a similar way in 31 AD Jesus Christ, the Prince of the covenant (Dan 9:25-27), ended His life (“be cut off”) through a violent death during the reign of **Tiberius**. His death terminated the earthly sanctuary services (“he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease”). He gave His life as the Lamb of God and began His High Priestly ministry in the heavenly sanctuary for God’s people.

Death of **Tiberius** and Jesus Christ

The Jewish - Roman Alliance

Prophecy of Daniel 11:23:


“And after the league made with him he shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people.”



The Jewish - Roman League

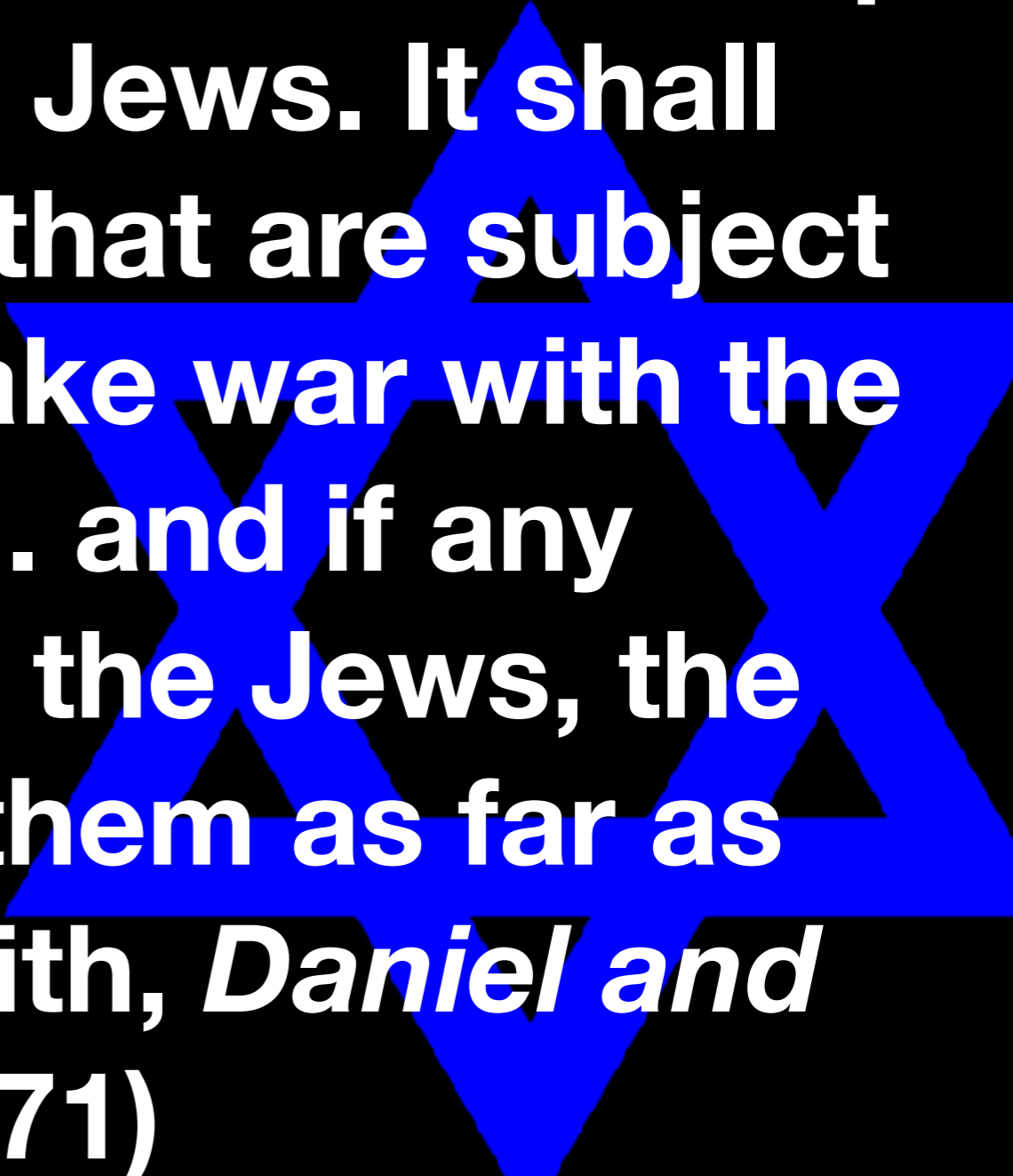
Fulfillment

Now the prophecy points to a turning point in Jewish-Roman relations as a result of a league the Jews had made earlier in 161 BC. This league promised mutual assistance with Rome to escape persecution by **Seleucid kings.**



The Jewish Roman League

“The decree of the senate concerning a league of assistance and friendship with the nation of the Jews. It shall not be lawful for any that are subject to the Romans, to make war with the nation of the Jews . . . and if any attack be made upon the Jews, the Romans shall assist them as far as they are able” (U. Smith, *Daniel and Revelation*, pp. 270-271)



The Jewish Roman League of 161 BC

**“This decree,” says
Josephus, “was
the first league that
the Romans made
with the Jews.”**

Rome's Unique Strategy of Conquest

Fulfillment

Prior to Rome, the expansion of kingdoms was through wars. Rome, however, expanded its territory with peaceable means. Rulers would leave by legacy their provinces or kingdoms to the Romans. In return they were treated with kindness, leniency, and received protection under the umbrella of Rome.

King of the North

Conquers the South

Prophecy of Daniel 11:25

“And **he** shall stir up **his** power and **his** courage against the **king of the south** 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**”

Decisive Battle Between Rome and the Greek Ptolemaic Dynasty

Daniel 11:25-27 deals with the final conflict between the **Rome as the king of the North** with 80,000 soldiers and the **Greek Ptolemaic kingdom as the king of the South** with 125,000 soldiers.

This war ended the last aspirations of the **Greek Ptolemaic dynasty** as a world power. In stead, the Battle of Actium in 31 BC made **Rome** the undisputed ruler of the then-known civilized world.

Decisive Battle Between the **Roman** and the **Greek Empires**

The date 31 BC is the beginning of the prophetic “time” of verse 24.

This “time” marks the beginning of **Rome's** supremacy with **all** governmental directives issuing from the city of Rome. That “time” period ends 360 years after 31 BC which is in 330 AD when **Constantine** removed the government from Rome to Constantinople (31 BC + 360 = 330AD).

The Cause of the Defeat of the King of the South (Dan 11:26).

This text reveals the events at the battle of Actium and its aftermath that led to the overthrow of the Ptolemaic dynasty under Mark Antony and Cleopatra and their suicides.

The Cause of the Defeat of the King of the South

Prophecy of Daniel 11:26

**“Yea, they that feed of the
portion of his meat shall destroy
him, and his army shall overflow;
and many shall fall down slain.”**

The Cause of the Defeat of the King of the South

Fulfillment

The causes of the defeat of **Mark Antony** was the desertion of his allies and friends, those who were fed with “the portion of his meat.” In the end his forces surrendered to **Caesar** and in despair, Antony took his own life.

Character of the King of the North and King of the South
Prophecy of Daniel 11:27

“And both 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.”

Character of the **King of the North** and **King of the South** Fulfillment

Here are insights about the character of these rulers before the battle of Actium. **Mark Antony** and **Caesar** were formerly in alliance. Yet under the cover of friendship they were both aspiring and intriguing for universal dominion.

The Exploits of the King of the North

Prophecy of Daniel 11:28

“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”

The Exploits of the King of the North

After the elimination of the king of the South the text brings out the exploits of the king of the North and his two triumphal returns to Rome. The first return was after Rome's conquest of Egypt when he took the riches of Egypt to Rome.

The Exploits of the King of the North

The second return took place after **Rome's** expedition against Judea and Jerusalem. The holy covenant refers to the covenant God has maintained with His people. From this time on Jews as well as Christians fell victim to the **Roman** persecutions that lasted for centuries.

Relocation of the Capital of the **Roman Empire**

The Prophecy of Daniel 11: 29:
“At the time appointed **he**
shall return, and come toward
the south; but it shall not be
as the former, or as the latter.”

Relocation of the Capital of the **Roman Empire**

Fulfillment

The “time appointed” refers to the end of the prophetic “time” of verse 24.

At this time **Rome** does not move to the **south**, to conquer **Egypt**, but Rome moves toward the south by moving the capital of the **Roman Empire** to Constantinople.

Effect of the Relocation of the Capital of the **Roman Empire**

This move of the capital led to demoralization and ruin, leading to the downfall of the western empire. Soon the barbarians tribes began their invasions till the imperial power of the West ended in 476 AD.

End of Part I

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