

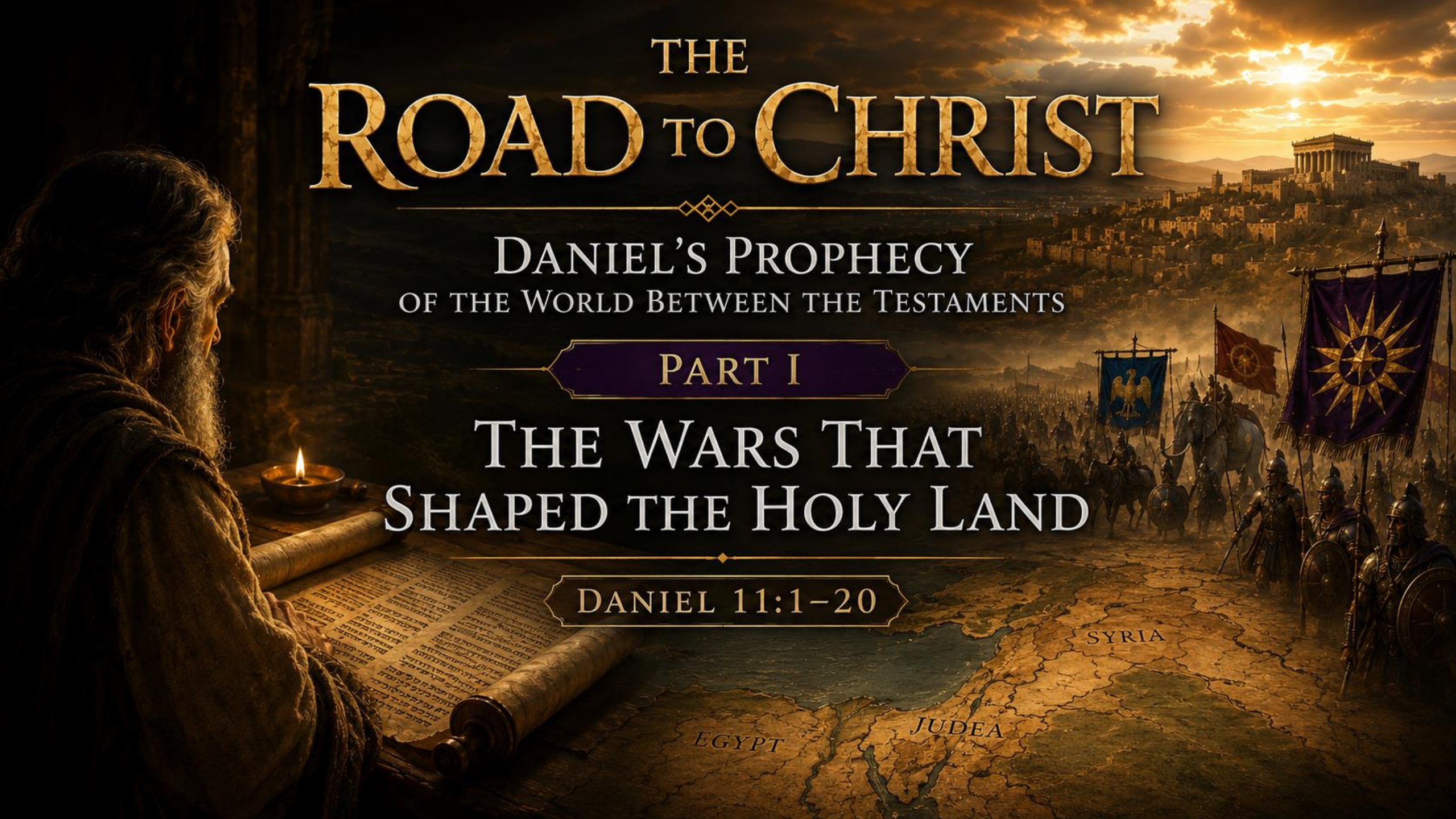
THE ROAD TO CHRIST

DANIEL'S PROPHECY
OF THE WORLD BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS

PART I

THE WARS THAT
SHAPED THE HOLY LAND

DANIEL 11:1–20





DANIEL 11:1

¹In the first year of Darius the Mede, I stood up to strengthen and to support him. Now I will declare to you the truth:

DANIEL 11:2

“And now I will show you the truth. Behold,
three kings shall arise in Persia,
and a fourth shall be far richer than they all;
and he shall stir up all his strength against the realm of Greece.”

⇌ THE FOUR KINGS OF PERSIA ⇌

1



CYRUS THE GREAT
(559–530 BC)

*Founded the Persian Empire.
Allowed the Jews to return and
rebuild Jerusalem.*

2



CAMBYSES II
(530–522 BC)

*Conquered Egypt and
extended Persian rule.*

3



DARIUS I THE GREAT
(522–486 BC)

*Organized and strengthened
the empire. Rebuilt and
expanded the kingdom.*

4



XERXES I (Ahasuerus)
(486–465 BC)

*Far richer than they all;
stirred up his strength
against Greece.*

⇌ These four kings mark the rise, strength, and expansion of the Persian Empire, setting the stage for the future conflict with Greece. ⇌

DANIEL 11:3

“Then a **mighty** king shall arise, who shall rule with **great dominion**, do as he pleases, and shall **magnify himself** in his heart.”



“

“And when the book of Daniel was showed him, wherein Daniel declared that one of the Greeks should destroy the empire of the Persians, **he supposed that himself was the person intended; and as he was then glad**, . . . whereupon the high-priest desired that they might enjoy the laws of their forefathers, and might pay no tribute on the seventh year. He granted all they desired:”

– JOSEPHUS, ANTIQUITIES OF THE JEWS, BOOK XI, CHAPTER 8, §5

CASSANDER

KINGDOM:
MACEDONIA & GREECE
(WEST)

Capital: Pella

LYSIMACHUS

KINGDOM:
THRACE & ASIA MINOR
(NORTH)

Capital: Lysimachia

DANIEL 11:4

And when he becomes strong,
his kingdom shall be broken
and divided toward the four
winds of heaven, but not
among his posterity, nor
according to his dominion
which he commanded...
for his kingdom shall be
plucked up, even for others
besides these.

ALEXANDER THE GREAT
356–323 BC
DIED IN BABYLON

NOT TO HIS POSTERITY

Alexander left heirs, but none inherited the kingdom.



ALEXANDER IV
(posthumous son)

MURDERED
IN 310 BC



HERACLES
(illegitimate son)

MURDERED
IN 311 BC



PHILIP III
ARRHIDAEUS
(half-brother)

MURDERED
IN 317 BC



NO LEGITIMATE
HEIR REMAINED.
THE KINGDOM
PASSED TO OTHERS
BESIDES THESE.

SELEUCUS

KINGDOM:
SYRIA, MESOPOTAMIA,
PERSIA & BEYOND
(EAST)

Capital: Babylon

PTOLEMY

KINGDOM:
EGYPT, CYRENAICA,
CYPRUS & COELE-SYRIA
(SOUTH)

Capital: Alexandria

THE KINGDOM WAS DIVIDED TOWARD THE FOUR WINDS OF HEAVEN.

DANIEL 11:4

"And when he becomes strong, his kingdom shall be broken and divided toward the four winds of heaven, but not among his posterity, nor according to his dominion which he commanded... for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others besides these."

NOT TO HIS POSTERITY

Alexander left heirs, but none inherited the kingdom. Every legitimate claimant was murdered.

ALEXANDER IV
(posthumous son)

PHILIP III
ARRHIDAIEUS
(half-brother)

HERACLES
(illegitimate son)



ALL WERE LATER
MURDERED

CASSANDER
Macedonia
& Greece

LYSIMACHUS
Thrace &
Asia Minor

SELEUCUS
Syria, Mesopotamia,
Persia & Beyond

PTOLEMY
Egypt, Cyrenaica,
Cyprus & Coele-Syria

ALEXANDER THE GREAT

356-323 BC

DYING IN BABYLON

HIS KINGDOM SHALL BE BROKEN AND DIVIDED TOWARD THE FOUR WINDS OF HEAVEN



It was not an immediate division. After Alexander's death (323 BC), nearly 20 years of wars were fought among his generals before these four kingdoms emerged.

Alexander conquered the world with the sword. Others divided it among themselves. ✦ None of Alexander's posterity inherited the kingdom. ✦ His kingdom was plucked up for others besides these.

DANIEL 11:5

“Then the king of the South shall be strong, but one of his princes shall be stronger than he and shall rule, and his authority shall be a great authority.”

After Alexander’s death (323 BC), his empire was divided among four generals. **Daniel** focuses on the **two whose conflicts repeatedly swept through the land of Israel**.

THE OTHER KINGDOMS
(LESS FOCUSED IN DANIEL 11)

Cassander (Macedonia)
Lysimachus (Thrace/Asia Minor)

MACEDONIA
(CASSANDER)

THRACE / ASIA MINOR
(LYSIMACHUS)

Black Sea

Mediterranean Sea

Alexandria •

KING OF THE SOUTH
PTOLEMY I SOTER
(PTOLEMAIC EMPIRE)

- Ruled Egypt
- Extremely wealthy
- Controlled trade and the Mediterranean

EGYPT

**JUDEA
(ISRAEL)**

CAUGHT BETWEEN
THE TWO KINGDOMS

Red Sea

Antioch

SYRIA

MESOPOTAMIA

Susa

Babylon

PERSIA

Persian Gulf

TO INDIA →

ONE OF HIS PRINCES WHO BECOMES
STRONGER THAN HE
SELEUCUS I Nicator
(SELEUCID EMPIRE)

- Once a commander under Ptolemy
- Later became independent
- Ruled a far larger empire
- From the Mediterranean to India



For nearly 150 years, the kings of the North (Seleucids) and South (Ptolemies) fought for dominance—and **Israel was the battleground between them**.

DANIEL 11:6

“After some years they shall make an **alliance**, and the **daughter of the king of the South** shall come to the king of the North to make an agreement. But she shall **not retain the strength** of her arm, and he and his arm shall **not endure**, but she shall be **given up**, and her attendants, he who fathered her, and he who supported her in those times.”



LAODICE I
FIRST WIFE
OF ANTIOCHUS II

*Jealousy would
turn the hope
of peace into
betrayal, murder,
and renewed war.*



DANIEL 11:7

“But out of a **branch of her roots** one shall **stand up** in his place, and shall come with an **army** and enter the **fortress** of the king of the North, and deal against them and **prevail**.”



PTOLEMY III EURGETES

KING OF THE SOUTH (EGYPT)

246–222 BC



Takes the throne after Ptolemy II



Determined to avenge his sister Berenice and her son



Raises a powerful army



Marches north to strike Seleucid Syria

A NEW POWER RISES FROM EGYPT
After the murder of Berenice and the death of Antiochus II,
a new king in Egypt avenges the wrongs of his family
and strikes the Seleucid heartland.

FORTRESS OF THE
KING OF THE NORTH
(ANTIOCHUS II'S EMPIRE)



OUT OF A BRANCH OF HER ROOTS...

A new ruler from Egypt arises from the same dynasty
(Ptolemy III, grandson of Ptolemy II).

AND HE PREVAILS.

- Enters the heartland of the North
- Defeats their forces
- Plunders their territories
- Returns to Egypt in triumph



PTOLEMY II
(Philadelphus)
DIES (246 BC)



BERENICE
MURDERED
(246 BC)



ANTIOCHUS II
POISONED
(246 BC)



PTOLEMY III
ARISES TO
AVENGE (c. 245 BC)



INVADES AND
DEFEATS THE
KING OF THE NORTH
(AS PROPHECIED)



GOD SOVEREIGNLY DIRECTS HISTORY—RAISING UP AND REMOVING KINGDOMS TO FULFILL HIS WORD.



DANIEL 11:8

“He shall also carry off the **gods** of their land, and their **precious vessels** of silver and gold; and he shall carry off to Egypt the **captive**, along with their **precious things** for a time.”

THE KING OF THE SOUTH PREVAILS

After his victory, Ptolemy III plunders the land of the North and carries the spoils back to Egypt.

WHAT HE TAKES:



- The gods of their land
- Precious vessels of silver and gold
- The captive (people)
- Their precious things



THE VICTORY AND SPOILS (THE FULFILLMENT)



PTOLEMY III
KING OF THE SOUTH
(EGYPT)



DEFEATS THE
KING OF THE NORTH
(Seleucid Empire)



PLUNDERS THE LAND
OF THE NORTH



TAKES THE CAPTIVE
(PEOPLE)



CARRIES OFF THE GODS
AND PRECIOUS VESSELS
OF SILVER AND GOLD



CARRIES THEM
TO EGYPT



FOR A TIME



NOT A PERMANENT CAPTIVITY, BUT A TEMPORARY HUMILIATION AND PLUNDERING—
YET ANOTHER CYCLE IN THE LONG CONFLICT BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH.

DANIEL 11:9

“So the **king of the North** shall come into the realm of the **king of the South**, but shall **return to his own land**.”

THE KING OF THE NORTH ATTEMPTS REVENGE... BUT RETURNS HOME EMPTY-HANDED.

Seleucus II invades Egypt to retaliate after the devastating invasion of Ptolemy III, but he fails to accomplish his objective and is forced to withdraw.



**SELEUCUS II
(CALLINICUS)**

KING OF THE NORTH
(SELEUCID EMPIRE)

Invades Egypt with an army
to avenge his previous
defeat and the humiliation
suffered by his kingdom.

BUT HE FAILS.

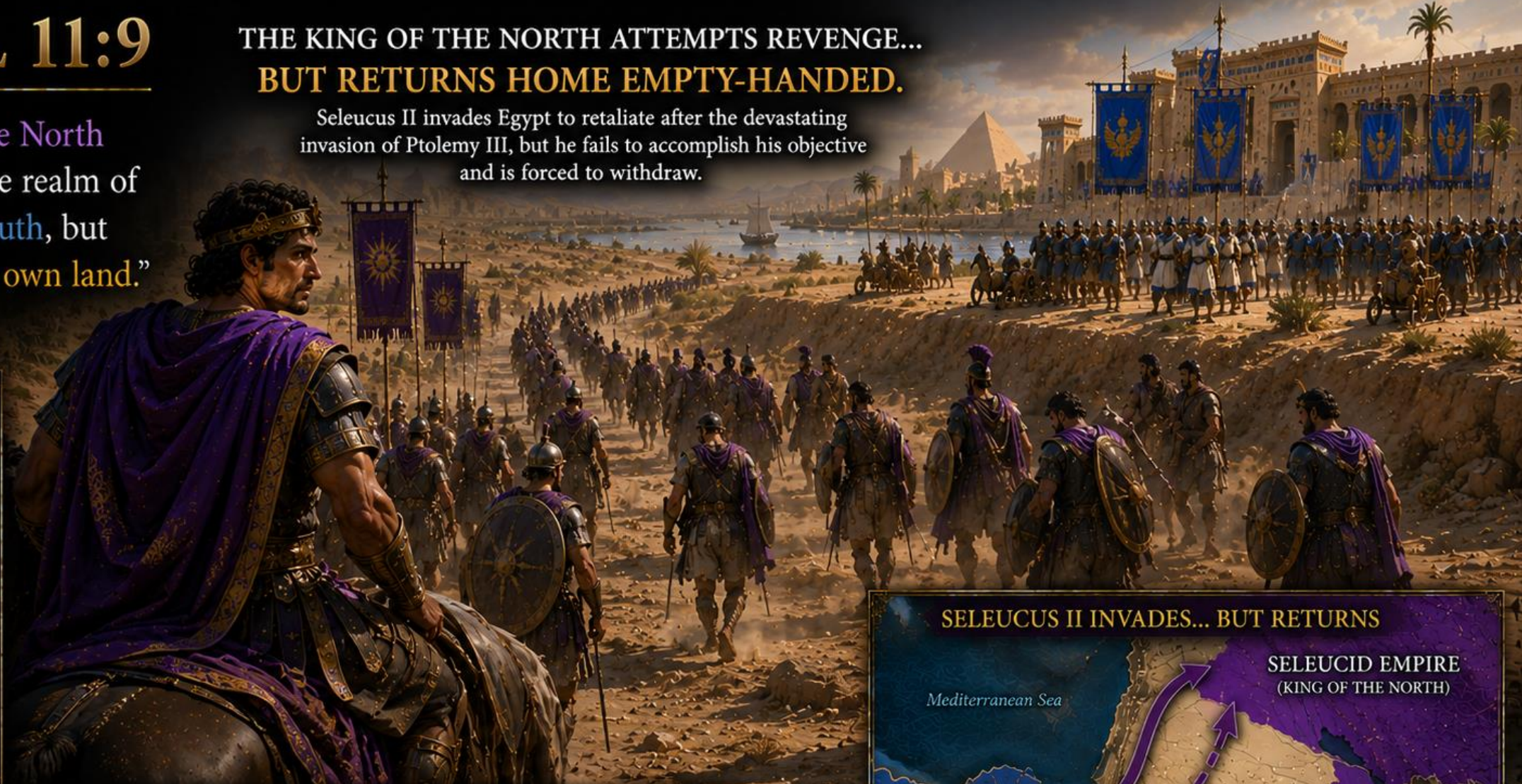
He turns back and returns
to his own land.



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

After the crushing defeat of Antiochus II by Ptolemy III (Daniel 11:7–8), Seleucus II launches a retaliatory invasion of Egypt around 240 BC.

He penetrates into Egypt, but Ptolemy III's strong defenses and strategic positions stop his advance. Unable to gain victory or achieve his aims, Seleucus II withdraws back to Syria.



SELEUCUS II INVADES... BUT RETURNS



**SELEUCID EMPIRE
(KING OF THE NORTH)**

**EGYPT
(KING OF THE SOUTH)**

He comes into the realm
of the king of the South,
but returns to his
own land.

DANIEL 11:10-11

THE KING OF THE NORTH AND THE KING OF THE SOUTH

10 BUT HIS SONS SHALL BE STIRRED UP, GATHER A GREAT ARMY, AND ONE SHALL SURELY COME AND OVERWHELM AND PASS THROUGH. THEN HE SHALL RETURN AND BE STIRRED UP TO HIS FORTRESS.

KING OF THE NORTH
ANTIOCHUS III THE GREAT
(223-187 BC)

8 HE SHALL ALSO CARRY OFF TO EGYPT THEIR GODS WITH THEIR METAL IMAGES AND THEIR PRECIOUS VESSELS OF SILVER AND GOLD, AND FOR SOME YEARS HE SHALL REFRAIN FROM ATTACKING THE KING OF THE NORTH.



EGYPT
ALEXANDRIA

ANTIOCH
(SYRIA)

COELE-SYRIA /
PALESTINE
(PASS THROUGH)

RAPHIA
(ON THE BORDER
OF EGYPT)

1 He gathers a great army and comes from his land.

2 He overwhelms and passes through the land.

3 They meet and fight near Raphia. The king of the south is enraged and comes forth to battle.

4 The multitude of the king of the north is given into his hand.

11 THE KING OF THE SOUTH SHALL BE ENRAGED AND COME FORTH AND FIGHT AGAINST THE KING OF THE NORTH, WHO SHALL SET OUT A GREAT MULTITUDE, BUT THE MULTITUDE SHALL BE GIVEN INTO HIS HAND.

KING OF THE SOUTH
PTOLEMY IV PHILOPATOR
(221-204 BC)



THE PATTERN OF THIS CONFLICT



KING OF THE NORTH



GATHERS A GREAT ARMY AND COMES SOUTH



PASSES THROUGH THE LAND



MEETS AND FIGHTS THE KING OF THE SOUTH



SOUTH PREVAILS – THE MULTITUDE IS GIVEN INTO HIS HAND



NORTH RETURNS TO HIS OWN LAND

KEY POINTS

- The king of the north initiates the campaign.
- He passes through the land seeking to overwhelm the south.
- The conflict climaxes near Raphia in Egypt.
- The king of the south, enraged, fights and defeats him.
- The king of the north retreats to his own land.

DANIEL 11:12

THE KING OF THE SOUTH EXALTED, BUT NOT STRONG

When he has taken away from him
the multitude, his heart shall
be exalted; but he shall not
remain strong.



RAPHIA, 217 BC

The king of the South (Egypt) defeats the king of the North (Seleucids) and slays tens of thousands.
His heart is exalted—but his victory will not last.



DANIEL 11:13

THE KING OF THE NORTH SHALL AGAIN RAISE A MULTITUDE

For the king of the North shall
again raise a multitude,
greater than the first;
and after some years
he shall come on
with a great army and
abundant supplies.



ANTIOCHUS III THE GREAT (223–187 BC)

After being defeated by Egypt at Raphia (217 BC),
he rebuilds his strength. After some years,
he returns with a far greater army.



DANIEL 11:14

IN THOSE TIMES MANY SHALL RISE AGAINST THE KING OF THE SOUTH

In those times many shall
rise against the king of the South.
And the violent among
your own people shall
lift themselves up
to establish the vision,
but they shall fall.



The balance of power is shifting.
Ambitions rise in many places—
even among God's own people.
But human plans cannot stand
against the purposes of God.



DANIEL 11:15



THE KING OF
THE NORTH

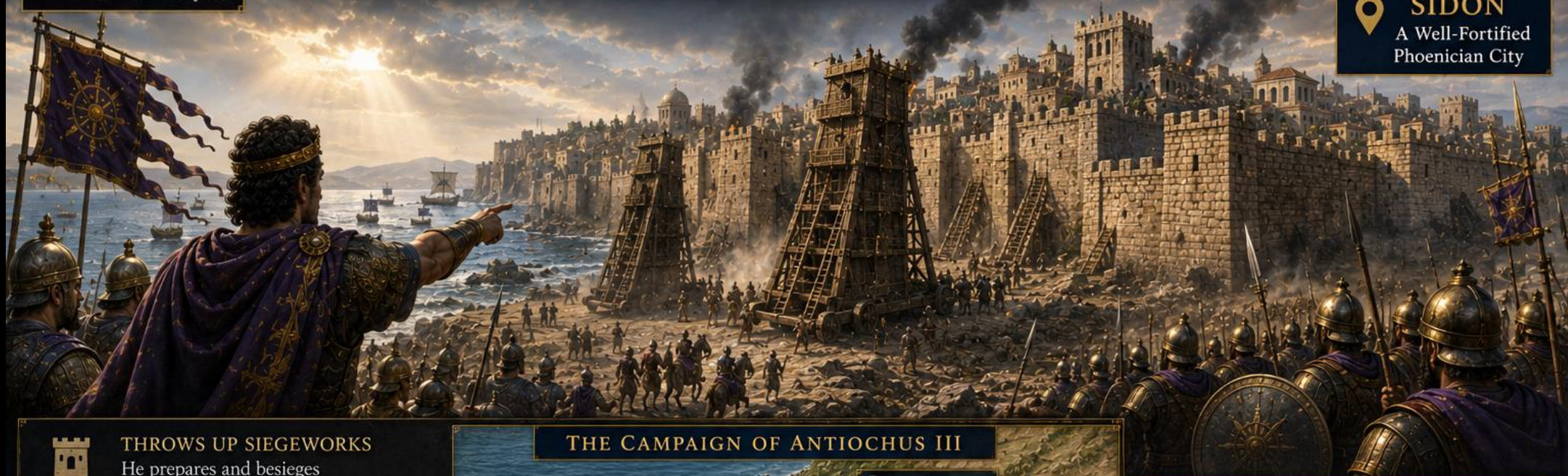
Antiochus III
(Seleucid Empire)

THEN THE KING OF THE NORTH SHALL COME AND THROW UP SIEGEWORKS
AND TAKE A **WELL-FORTIFIED CITY**. AND THE FORCES OF THE SOUTH SHALL NOT STAND,
OR EVEN HIS BEST TROOPS, FOR THERE SHALL BE **NO STRENGTH TO STAND**.



SIDON

A Well-Fortified
Phoenician City



THROWS UP SIEGEWORKS

He prepares and besieges
the strong city.



TAKES A WELL-FORTIFIED CITY

Sidon is captured after a
determined siege.



THE FORCES OF THE SOUTH SHALL NOT STAND

Egyptian relief forces cannot
break the siege.



NO STRENGTH TO STAND

Even his best troops are powerless
to prevail.

THE CAMPAIGN OF ANTIOCHUS III



PANIUM

Antiochus defeats
Egyptian forces
(200 BC)

SIDON

Well-fortified city
is besieged
and taken

THE GLORIOUS LAND
(JUDEA)

HISTORICAL FULFILLMENT

Antiochus III defeats the armies of Egypt,
besieges the great city of Sidon,
and secures control of the land.



*Daniel foretold the events
centuries before they happened.*

THIS VICTORY OPENS THE WAY FOR HIM TO STAND IN THE GLORIOUS LAND...

DANIEL 11:16

DANIEL 11:16

“But he who comes against him
shall do as he wills, and none shall stand before him.
And he shall stand in the glorious land,
with destruction in his hand.”

ANTIOCHUS III THE GREAT

Victorious over the king of the south,
he takes control of the Glorious Land (Judea).

DANIEL 11:17

He shall set his face to come with the strength of his whole kingdom, and he shall bring terms of an agreement and perform them. He shall give him **the daughter of women** to destroy the kingdom, **but it shall not stand or be to his advantage.**



DANIEL 11:18

Afterward he shall turn his face to the **coastlands** and shall capture many of them, but a **commander** shall put an end to his insolence.



DANIEL 11:19

Then he shall turn his
face back toward the
fortresses of his own land,
but he shall **stumble and fall**,
and shall not be found.



DANIEL 11:20

Then he shall arise in his place
one who shall send a **tribute**
to the king of the South,
but one of his officials shall
come against him and
obtain for himself glory,
but within a few days
he shall be broken,
neither in anger
nor in battle.



DANIEL 11:21

In his place
shall arise
a contemptible person
to whom
royal majesty
has not been given.
He shall come
in without warning
and obtain the kingdom
by flatteries.

