



# Greece and the Kings of the North and South

## Study guide # 3

Description	Verse	Details
<b>336 BC: Alexander the Great rises to power</b>	<b>Vs. 3</b> - And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will.	Alexander the Great unites Greece and conquers the known world
<b>323 BC: Alexander's death and the Diadochi (Alexander's successors)</b>	<b>Vs. 4</b> - 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.	Alexander the Great contracted a mysterious disease and died. The Greek Empire fell into civil war as Alexander's generals fought for power and territory. Four of these generals would be relevant to prophecy: Lysimachus ruled Asia Minor in the north Ptolemy ruled Egypt in the south Seleucus ruled Syria and eastern nations Cassander ruled Greece and Macedonia
<b>The King of the South helps establish the King of the North</b>	<b>Vs. 5</b> - And the king of the south shall be strong, and one of his princes; and he shall be strong above him, and have dominion; his dominion shall be a great dominion.	Ptolemy ruled Egypt. He would help Seleucus, who originally was a governor in Babylonia, conquer the eastern portion of Alexander's Greek Empire. Then Seleucus would conquer Lysimachus' territory in the north. As a result, Scripture would call Seleucus the King of the North and Ptolemy would be known as the King of the South. Seleucus would rule the north and the eastern portion of the kingdom which is why the Scripture declares his dominion shall be a great dominion.
<b>A deadly alliance between the King of the North and South</b>	<b>Vs. 6</b> - 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.	To ensure peace and prosperity, Antiochus II, the King of the North marries Berenice the daughter of Ptolemy II, the King of the South. However, in order to do this Antiochus divorced his wife Laodice. After Ptolemy II died, Antiochus tried to reunite with his wife, but she poisoned him and killed Berenice and Berenice's son.
<b>246 – 242 BC: The Third Syrian War</b>	<b>Vs. 7</b> - 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:	Ptolemy III is the branch of Berenice's roots. To avenge his sister, he raised an army and came against the north, which was ruled by Laodice's son, Seleucus II. In exchange for peace, Seleucus awarded Ptolemy new territories in Syria.



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<b>245 BC: Ptolemy III recovers idols and artifacts</b>	<b>Vs. 8</b> - 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.	During Ptolemy's invasion into the north, he would recover idols along with silver and gold and brought them to Egypt. Ptolemy would reign longer than Seleucus II.
<b>244 BC: Seleucus II regains lost territory</b>	<b>Vs. 9</b> - So the king of the south shall come into his kingdom, and shall return into his own land.	Seleucus II regained a portion of the territory he lost to the King of the South.
<b>239 – 236 BC: War of the Brothers</b>	<b>Vs. 10</b> - 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.	During the conflict between Seleucus II and Ptolemy III, Seleucus' brother Antiochus Hierax took some of his brother's territory for himself. This would start a war between the two brothers. And thus both kings were stirred up within their own fortress.
<b>217 BC: Battle of Raphia (The Fourth Syrian War)</b>	<b>Vs. 11</b> - 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.	During this battle fought in the Palestinian city of Rafah, Ptolemy IV defeated Antiochus III
<b>Ptolemy IV's missed opportunity</b>	<b>Vs. 12</b> - 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.	Ptolemy IV was so proud of his victory at Rafah, that he failed to see that he crippled the Seleucid Empire and could've conquered the north. Instead of pursuing his enemies, he returned to Egypt to celebrate. In essence, Ptolemy wasn't strengthened by this victory.
<b>200 BC: The Battle of Panium (The Fifth Syrian War)</b>	<b>Vs. 13</b> - 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.	Antiochus III strategically timed this war against the King of the South as Ptolemy IV had recently died and his heir Ptolemy V was just a child. Ultimately Antiochus would be victorious at the conclusion of this war.



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<b>205 -186 BC: The Great Egyptian Revolt</b>	<b>Vs. 14</b> - 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.	Not only was the north attacking Egypt, but the Egyptian locals would also rise up against their Greek colonizers. This 20-year conflict ended in 186 BC
<b>175-164 BC: Antiochus Epiphanes and the Revolt of Judas Maccabeus</b>	<b>Vs. 15</b> - 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.	Antiochus captured the most fenced (fortified) cities. History confirms that Antiochus' campaign against the south was most successful. He would conquer almost the whole territory with the exception of Alexandria. However, in his attempt to Hellenize (spread Greek culture) the nation of Israel, a conflict would arise in Jerusalem. As a result of this conflict, Antiochus persecuted God's people and forced them into Pagan worship.

### STUDY AND DISCUSSION

**Which empires are represented as the King of the North and the King of the South?**

**Who did Seleucus beat in order to become the King of the North?**

**Why do you think Antiochus' three-year persecution of the Jews overshadows the Roman's persecution of the Jews and the destruction of Jerusalem?**