

HANDOUT – KINGS OF CH 11

<p>Kings of the Persian Empire Cyrus II (539-530 BC)</p>	<p>In 539 BC he issued the decree to rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem. The people around Jerusalem “hired counselors to work against them and frustrate their plans during the entire reign of Cyrus king of Persia and down to the reign of Darius king of Persia” (Ezra 4:5) Daniel presumably died sometime during his reign.</p>
<p><i>Dan 11:2 (NIV)</i> “Now then, I tell you the truth: Three more kings will appear in Persia, and then a fourth, who will be far richer than all the others. When he has gained power by his wealth, he will stir up everyone against the kingdom of Greece.”</p>	
<p>(#1) Cambyses II (529-522 BC)</p>	<p>Conquered Egypt in 525 BC and carried off their idols as the ultimate act of insult and subjugation.</p>
<p>(#2) Pseudo-Smerdis (522-521 BC)</p>	<p>Cambyses secretly killed his own brother, Smerdis. A ‘magi’ named Gaumata usurped the throne, claiming to be Smerdis (hence the name Pseudo-Smerdis) and convinced the people to switch allegiance from Cambyses, who died shortly thereafter. He only ruled 6 months and is often skipped in history books due to brevity of his reign.</p>
<p>(#3) Darius I Hystaspes (521-486 BC)</p>	<p>Darius the Great. Military genius of royal blood who succeeded in gaining the throne. Not to be confused with Darius the Mede who was apparently a king-governor appointed by Cyrus to rule over Babylon in 539 BC. During his reign, the prophets Haggai and Zechariah exhorted the people to speed the rebuilding of the Temple. (Ezra 5:1) The people around Jerusalem send a letter to the king telling him what the Jews were up to and asking him to check the archives to see if Cyrus really had authorized this. (Ezra 5:8-17). Darius found the original decree by Cyrus and issued a new decree that re-authorized and funded the rebuilding of the Temple. (Ezra 6:1-12) The Temple was completed on March 12, 516 BC. (Ezra 6:15)</p>
<p>(#4) Xerxes I (486-465 BC)</p>	<p>Esther’s husband. Also known as Ahasuerus. According to Esther 1:1-2, he reigned from Ethiopia to India and laid tribute on the land and on the coastlands of the sea. He attempted to conquer Greece in 480 BC and experienced initial success. Four months later, however, he was soundly defeated in a series of naval battles and withdrew his forces. His reign was marked by rebellions throughout the realm, including Egypt and Babylonia. People surrounding Jerusalem lodged a complaint with him against Judah and Jerusalem. (Ezra 4:6) Famous contemporaries include the historian Herodotus who lived from the time of Xerxes I to Darius II.</p>
<p>Artaxerxes I Longimanus (465-425 BC)</p>	<p>The Jews apparently tried to make unauthorized attempts to rebuild Jerusalem resulting in a letter from peoples surrounding Jerusalem warning the king that the Jews had a history of being troublemakers and rebels. The king issued a decree to stop the rebuilding of the city. (Ezra 4:7-24) This was a temporary halt. In 458 BC, the king allowed Ezra to take a band of exiles back to resume worship in the Temple. In 445 BC, the king issued the decree to rebuild Jerusalem and sent Nehemiah to oversee the effort. (Neh 2:1-8)</p>

Darius II Nothus (423-404 BC)	Other famous contemporaries around this time period include Hippocrates, the father of medicine, and Socrates, the great philosopher.
Artaxerxes II Mnemon (404-359 BC)	Famous contemporaries include Plato.
Artaxerxes III Ochus (359-338 BC)	Famous contemporaries include Aristotle.
Dan 11:3 (NIV) ³ Then a mighty king will appear, who will rule with great power and do as he pleases.	
Darius III Codamannus (338-330 BC)	Persia falls to Alexander the Great in 330 BC.

Kings of the Syrian and Egyptian portions of the Greek Empire after Alexander the Great

Dan 11:4 (NIV) ⁴ After he has appeared, his empire will be broken up and parceled out toward the four winds of heaven. It will not go to his descendants, nor will it have the power he exercised, because his empire will be uprooted and given to others.

KINGS OF THE NORTH (Seleucids)		KINGS OF THE SOUTH (Ptolemies)	
Dan 11:5 - Dan 11:6 (NIV) ^{5,6} The king of the South will become strong, but one of his commanders will become even stronger than he and will rule his own kingdom with great power. ⁶ After some years, they will become allies.			
Seleucus I Nicator (321-282 BC)	<p>One of the generals of Alexander the Great. After Alexander's death in 323 BC, he gradually made himself king over Syria, including Palestine.</p> <p>In 321 BC, he declared himself king over Babylon, but in 316 BC Antigonus (a very powerful Greek general) drove him out.</p> <p>Seleucus took refuge under the protection of Ptolemy of Egypt and assisted Ptolemy in defeating Antigonus in the battle of Gaza in 312 BC.</p> <p>Seleucus then re-established himself as king over Syria and eventually expanded his kingdom to include much of Asia Minor, becoming much stronger than Ptolemy. His greed and lust for the rest of Alexander's empire resulted in his assassination in 282 BC.</p>	Ptolemy I Soter (323-283 BC)	<p>One of the generals of Alexander the Great. King of Egypt. Extremely powerful. Hotly contested Seleucus' right to Palestine. In 312 BC, Seleucus helped Ptolemy defeat their common enemy, Antigonus. Seleucus eventually broke away and took the territory of Syria, including Palestine. Though Ptolemy invaded and occupied Palestine several times, he was never able to hold it permanently.</p> <p>His eldest son, Ptolemy Keraunos, resented the fact that the younger son, Ptolemy II, was the heir apparent. Ptolemy Keraunos migrated to the court of Lysimachus. He became embroiled in a court intrigue and solicited the help of Seleucus I Nicator in the overthrow of Lysimachus. After the success of this strategy, Ptolemy Keraunos murdered Seleucus I Nicator and married Lysimachus' widow, his half-sister Arsinoe II. He then murdered her children and she fled to Egypt where she married another of her brothers, Ptolemy II Philadelphus.</p>

<p>Dan 11:6 (NIV) The daughter of the king of the South will go to the king of the North to make an alliance, but she will not retain her power, and he and his power will not last. In those days she will be handed over, together with her royal escort and her father and the one who supported her.</p>			
Antiochus I Soter (282-261 BC)	Fought Ptolemy Philadelphus over Palestine in the First Syrian War, but lost. Was eventually killed in battle in Galatia.	Ptolemy II Philadelphus (283-246 BC)	The Bible was translated into Greek under his rule ("Septuagint" translation). In this translation, the phrase "king of the South" in Daniel is actually translated as "Egypt". Finally succeeded in wresting Palestine from the Seleucids in the First Syrian War. Demanded that Antiochus II Theos divorce Laodice and marry his daughter, Berenice.
Antiochus II Theos (261-246 BC)	Married to his half-sister, Laodice. Apparently was a degenerate – drunken, immoral and awarded power based on favoritism. He was attacked by Ptolemy II Philadelphus in the Second Syrian War. As a condition of peace, he was forced to divorce Laodice and marry the Egyptian princess, Berenice, to cement an alliance between the two kingdoms. When Ptolemy II Philadelphus died, he took back Laodice as his wife. Laodice, however, had never forgiven him for divorcing her. She murdered him, Berenice and their infant son and placed her own son on the throne.		
<p>Dan 11:7 - Dan 11:9 (NIV) ⁷“One from her family line will arise to take her place. He will attack the forces of the king of the North and enter his fortress; he will fight against them and be victorious. ⁸He will also seize their gods, their metal images and their valuable articles of silver and gold and carry them off to Egypt. For some years he will leave the king of the North alone. ⁹Then the king of the North will invade the realm of the king of the South but will retreat to his own country.</p>			
Seleucus II Callinicus (246-226 BC)	Laodice's son. Lost much of his empire to Ptolemy III Evergetes. When he tried to retaliate, he was defeated and forced to retreat. (Some historians ascribe victory to Seleucus and some to Ptolemy. Ptolemy retained control of Judea, and presumably this is the perspective taken in the Bible.) Died after falling from his horse.	Ptolemy III Evergetes (246-221 BC)	Berenice's brother. In revenge for the death of Berenice, he attacked Syria in the Third Syrian War and succeeded in capturing the major port of Seleucia and the capital city of Antioch. According to Jerome, he took 40,000 talents of silver (43,725,123 troy ounces worth more than half a billion dollars today). He also took 2,500 precious vessels and idols, including the ones Cambyses had taken from them in 525 BC. This earned him the surname Evergetes, which means Benefactor. Murdered by his son, Ptolemy IV Philopater.

<p>Dan 11:10 - Dan 11:13 (NIV) ¹⁰His sons will prepare for war and assemble a great army, which will sweep on like an irresistible flood and carry the battle as far as his fortress. ¹¹^{14c}Then the king of the South will march out in a rage and fight against the king of the North, who will raise a large army, but it will be defeated. ¹²When the army is carried off, the king of the South will be filled with pride and will slaughter many thousands, yet he will not remain triumphant. ¹³For the king of the North will muster another army, larger than the first; and after several years, he will advance with a huge army fully equipped. ¹⁴^{14c}In those times many will rise against the king of the South. The violent men among your own people will rebel in fulfillment of the vision, but without success. ¹⁵Then the king of the North will come and build up siege ramps and will capture a fortified city. The forces of the South will be powerless to resist; even their best troops will not have the strength to stand. ¹⁶The invader will do as he pleases; no one will be able to stand against him. He will establish himself in the Beautiful Land and will have the power to destroy it. ¹⁷He will determine to come with the might of his entire kingdom and will make an alliance with the king of the South. And he will give him a daughter in marriage in order to overthrow the kingdom, but his plans will not succeed or help him. ¹⁸Then he will turn his attention to the coastlands and will take many of them, but a commander will put an end to his insolence and will turn his insolence back upon him. ¹⁹After this, he will turn back toward the fortresses of his own country but will stumble and fall, to be seen no more.</p>	<p>Elder son of Seleucus II Callinicus. Succeeded to the throne upon the death of his father, Seleucus II Callinicus. Invaded Asia Minor and where he was assassinated.</p> <p>Younger son of Seleucus II Callinicus and brother of Seleucus III Soter. Came to the throne at the age of 20. He declared war on Egypt in 220 BC and was able to push the borders of Syria all the way to Gaza, on the very borders of Egypt. This finally roused Ptolemy to action. According to Jerome, Antiochus lost his entire army and was almost captured by the Egyptians as he fled into the desert. He spent the next several years conquering lands eastward as far as India. The passing of Egypt into the hands of an infant king incited Antiochus and Philip V of Macedon to begin another series of attacks on Egypt. They were helped in this by Judeans. In 198 BC, Antiochus finally gained control of Palestine for good, to the future detriment of the Jews who had been treated with tolerance by the Ptolemies. He then turned his attention to Greece and the Mediterranean coast which was now controlled almost entirely by Rome. The Romans routed him in several battles and in 190 BC, he was completely defeated by the Roman general Scipio Asiaticus. His younger son, Antiochus IV, was taken to Rome as hostage for heavy tributes agreed to in his defeat. He ultimately died while attempting to rob a temple in Persia.</p>	<p>Ptolemy IV Philopater (221-203 BC)</p> <p>The surname "Philopater" means father-loving. He apparently murdered several family members. He was always under the control of those who catered to his vices and took advantage of his indolence. When Syrian army finally got his attention in 217 BC, he raised an army and marched to Rafa near Gaza. Though evenly matched (about 70,000 troops each), the Egyptians won a decisive victory. Nevertheless, he had no heart for war and did not press his advantage. This was a huge mistake, for it allowed Antiochus to regroup and gather strength. He died mysteriously in 203 BC and was succeeded by his infant son.</p>	<p>Ptolemy V Epiphanes (203-181 BC)</p> <p>Forced to give control of Palestine to Antiochus III The Great. Was given Antiochus' daughter, Cleopatra, as part of the peace treaty.</p>
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Dan 11:19 - Dan 11:20 (NIV) ²⁰“His successor will send out a tax collector to maintain the royal splendor. In a few years, however, he will be destroyed, yet not in anger or in battle.

<p>Seleucus IV Philopator (187-175 BC)</p>	<p>Son of Antiochus III The Great and brother of Antiochus IV Epiphanes. Because of his father's defeat by Rome, he was forced to pay heavy tribute to the Romans of 1,000 talents each year (about \$13 million annually). According to 2 Macc 3:7, he sent a representative, Heliodorus, to rob the Temple, but Heliodorus was unsuccessful due to divine intervention. Seleucus was eventually murdered by Heliodorus, the very man he had sent to rob the Temple. Just before his death, his son and heir, Demetrius, was taken by Rome as hostage and Rome released Antiochus IV who had been held hostage for 14 years. This made Seleucus' infant son, also named Antiochus, next in line for the throne.</p>	<p>Ptolemy VI Philometor (180-146 BC)</p>	<p>Became king at the age of 12.</p>
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Dan 11:20 - Dan 11:21 (NIV) ²¹“He will be succeeded by a contemptible person who has not been given the honor of royalty. He will invade the kingdom when its people feel secure, and he will seize it through intrigue.