

PROPHECY FULFILLMENT

God gave Daniel a detailed prophecy in Daniel 11. History tells us the events and names of these kings God would use to His purposes.

verse 2—Xerxes was the fourth king to follow Cyrus. He was the richest of the Persian kings and tried to conquer Greece. He was the king who chose young Esther as his queen (Esther 1:1).

vv.3-4—The mighty king was Alexander the Great. When he died, his sons or his half-brother should have taken the throne. But instead, Alexander's four generals divided up the land among themselves—just like God planned.

v. 5—The southern king was Ptolemy I in Egypt. Seleucus, who served under Ptolemy, later took control of more land in Syria, creating a kingdom larger than Ptolemy's kingdom.

v.6—Ptolemy II ruled the south and Antiochus II ruled the north. Ptolemy's daughter Berenice was sent to Egypt to marry Antiochus II, who divorced his wife Laodice to make the alliance with Egypt. Within two years, Antiochus brought back his wife Laodice, who arranged the murder of Antiochus and Berenice.

v. 7-8—Berenice's brother, Ptolemy III, took the throne and avenged his sister's death when he invaded Egypt and had Laodice murdered.

v. 9-10—Seleucus II attempted to take Egypt, but he and his two sons failed.

vv. 11-12—Ptolemy (IV) Philopater took the Egyptian throne and was successful against Antiochus III from the north.

vv. 13-15—Ptolemy IV died and his little son, Ptolemy V, became king. Antiochus III seized the opportunity and invaded Egypt.

vv. 16-17—Antiochus III wanted control of Egypt, so he tried to make an alliance by sending his daughter, Cleopatra (an earlier Cleopatra—not Cleopatra VII of Egypt made famous by Shakespeare's play), to marry the seven year old Egyptian king, Ptolemy V.

vv. 18-19—Antiochus III tried to conquer Greece, but was murdered.

v. 20—Seleucus IV was the Seleucid successor, and he surrendered to Rome. In order to pay the Roman taxes, he hired Heliodorus to collect taxes from the Jews. Seleucus IV died mysteriously.

v. 21—When Seleucus IV died, neither of his two sons came to power because their uncle, Antiochus (IV) Epiphanes, seized the throne by having one son murdered. (This is the same ruler represented by the little horn on the goat in Daniel 8).

vv. 22-24—Antiochus IV broke a covenant when he had Onias, Israel's high priest, murdered. He stole wealth from Jerusalem and oppressed the Jews.

vv. 25-28—Many treaties were made between the north and south, but peace didn't come. Antiochus continued to take wealth from Egypt and Jerusalem.

vv. 29-35—When Antiochus tried to invade Egypt, he found Rome had taken control. On his return to Syria, he took his anger out on Jerusalem. The Jews finally revolted even though many were killed, sold as slaves, and carried off as captives.