

#1588 The Yom Kippur War and the Abomination of Desolation – The series of 4’s (fours) from Alexander the Great to Antiochus IV Epiphanes, part 5I, Antiochus IV: Antiochus III and his Fourths and IV’s

Key Understanding #1: *Antiochus III and 4 (four) and IV.* Antiochus III *himself*, not just his son Antiochus IV Epiphanes, is connected to 4 (four) and IV, and abundantly so:

- Seleucus IV – Antiochus III’s first son was Seleucus IV.
- Antiochus IV – Antiochus III’s second son was Antiochus IV Epiphanes.
- Fourth Syrian War – The first war between Ptolemaic Egypt and the Syrian Seleucids after Antiochus III’s ascension to the Seleucid throne was the Fourth Syrian War.
- Ptolemy IV – Antiochus III fought the Fourth Syrian War against Ptolemy IV, and in fact the war was related directly to Ptolemy IV’s ascension to the throne.

Key Understanding #2: *The role of Antiochus III in Daniel 8:9.*

Through the fact that 4 (four) and IV are abundantly connected with Antiochus III, the Lord was/is making the point that Antiochus III – in addition to his son Antiochus IV – should be connected to Daniel 8:9 and its background of the Abomination of Desolation, prominently tied to the theme of 4 (four) (going back of Genesis 4:4).

An artist’s depiction shows a spirited battle between a Ptolemaic elephant on the left and a larger Seleucid Asian beast



Here is an article on **the Fourth Syrian War** explaining the situation.

Fourth Syrian War (219-217 B.C.)

Upon taking the Seleucid throne in 223 B.C., **Antiochus III** (241-187 B.C.) set himself the task of restoring the lost imperial possessions of Seleucus I Nicator, which extended from the Greco-Bactrian Kingdom to India in the east, the Hellespont in the north, and Syria in the south. By 221 B.C., he had re-established Seleucid control over the eastern provinces [waxing great toward the *east*] and taken Anatolia back from his rebellious uncle Achaeus. The ambitious king turned his eyes toward Egypt [toward the *south*].

Egypt had been significantly weakened by court intrigue and public unrest. The rule of the newly inaugurated **Ptolemy IV** Philopator (reigned 221-204 B.C.) began with the murder of queen-mother Berenice II. The young king quickly fell under the absolute influence of imperial courtiers. His ministers used their absolute power in their own self-interest, to the people's great chagrin.

Antiochus sought to take advantage of this chaotic situation. After an invasion in 221 B.C. failed to launch, he finally began the **Fourth Syrian War** in 219. He recaptured Seleucia Pieria as well as cities in Israel, amongst them Tyre. Rather than promptly invading Egypt, Antiochus waited in Israel for over a year, consolidating his new territories and listening to diplomatic proposals from the Ptolemaic kingdom.

Battle of Raphia	
Part of the Fourth Syrian War	
Date	22 June 217 BC
Location	Rafah, near Gaza
Result	Egyptian victory
Belligerents	
Ptolemaic Egypt	Seleucid Empire
Commanders	
Ptolemy IV of Egypt	Antiochus III the Great
Strength	
70,000 infantry, 5,000 cavalry, 73 elephants	62,000 infantry, 6,000 cavalry, 103 elephants
Casualties and losses	
1.500 foot, 700 horse and most elephants killed or taken	10.000 foot, 300 horse and 5 elephants killed, 4.000 foot taken

Meanwhile, Ptolemy's minister Sosibius began recruiting and training an army. He recruited not only from the local Greek population, as Hellenistic armies generally were, but also from the native Egyptians, enrolling at least thirty thousand natives as phalangites. This novel choice paid off, but it would eventually have dire consequences for Ptolemaic stability. **In the summer of 217, Ptolemy engaged and defeated the long-delayed Antiochus at the Battle of Raphia, the largest battle since the Battle of Ipsus.** [Note: The map in Unsealing [#1585](#) shows the location of the Battle of Raphia. It is worth looking at.]

Ptolemy's victory preserved his control over Coele-Syria [Antiochus III would later defeat the Ptolemies for control of Coele-Syria at the Battle of Panium], [but] the weak king declined to advance further into Antiochus' empire, even to retake Seleucia Pieria. The Ptolemaic kingdom would continue to weaken over the following years, suffering from economic problems and rebellion. Nationalist sentiment had developed among the native Egyptians who had fought at Raphia. Confident and well-trained, they broke from Ptolemy in what is known as the Egyptian Revolt, establishing their own kingdom in Upper Egypt which the Ptolemies finally reconquered around 185 B.C.

Antiochus III the Great

Daniel 8:9 (KJV) And OUT OF ONE OF THEM [the Syrian kingdom of Seleucus, or the Seleucid Empire] ***CAME FORTH A LITTLE HORN, which waxed EXCEEDING GREAT, toward THE SOUTH, and toward THE EAST, and toward THE PLEASANT LAND*** [Antiochus IV Epiphanes, but the verse should be viewed prophetically with his

father, Antiochus III the Great, prominently and powerfully in the foreground, with the name Antiochus III the *Great* even reflecting the words “*waxed exceeding great*”].

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