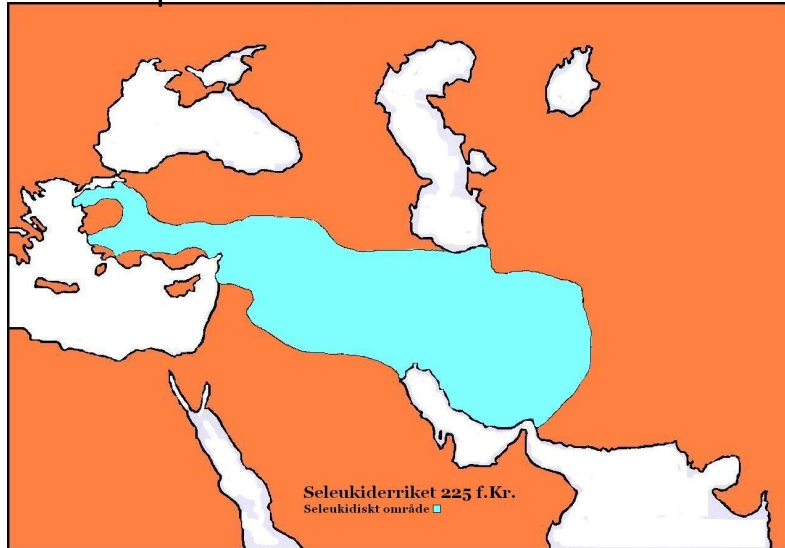


Biblical  
Prophecy  
Bible Study  
Are we in the  
End Times?

Lesson 8a: Antiochus Epiphanes and  
Lesson 8b: The False Prophet  
November 14, 2022 8:00 PM

# Antiochus Epiphanes

## Seleucid Empire 222 BC



## Antiochus III

222-187

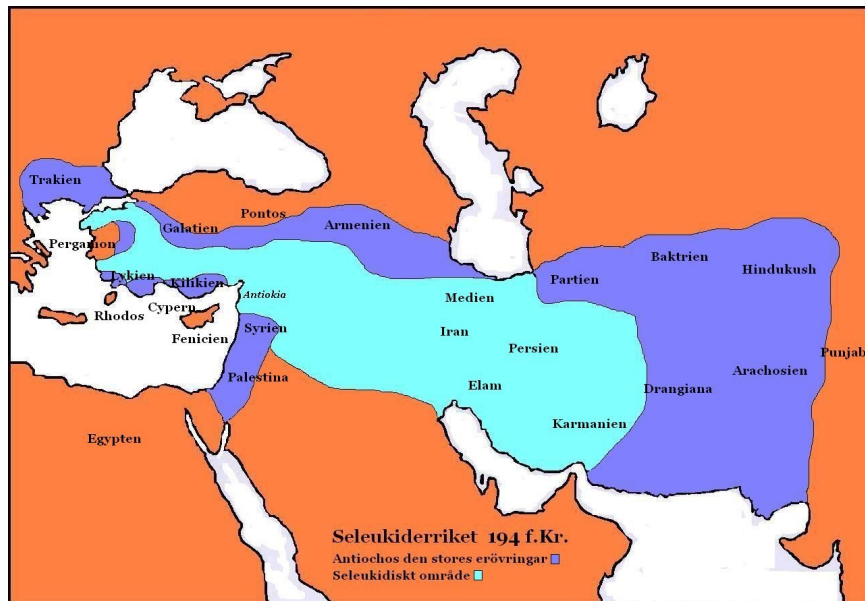
- Heir to the Seleucid Kingdom
- Inherited a much smaller kingdom
- Fought against Egypt (Ptolemaic dynasty) and Bactria, expanding his kingdom
- Married his daughter, Kleopatra to Ptolemy V of Egypt
- Fought a four-year war with Rome and was ultimately defeated
- Killed during a military campaign in Iran after he raided a temple of Bel

Alexander the Great died 323 BC



Antiochus III  
222-187 BC

- The Great
- Son of Seleucus III
- 6<sup>th</sup> Rule of the Seleucid kingdom



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## Antiochus IV Theos Epiphanes 175-164 BC

- Antiochus "God Manifest"
- Third son of Antiochus III
- Sent to Rome as a hostage as part of peace settlement

## Rise of Antiochus IV

- Seleucid IV (2<sup>nd</sup> son of Antiochus III) ascended to the throne 187 BC
- Married his sister, Laodike
- Ptolemy V of Egypt is murdered in 180 BC, Cleopatra become regent
- Demetrius, son of Seleucid IV is exchanged for Antiochus IV as hostage in Rome
- Cleopatra died in 176 BC
- Seleucid IV is killed in 175 BC
- Antiochus IV returns to Antioch and seizes power (married Laodike)

Antiochus adopts the son of his dead brother, Antiochus  
Later murdered him when his own son was old enough



## Antiochus IV and Israel

- Replaced Onias III as High Priest with his brother Jason (Jesus)
- Later replaced Jason with Menelaos
  - Not a descendant of Aaron
  - Menelaos has Onias murdered

Then pro-Hellenistic faction of Israel petitioned Antiochus for support

## Antiochus IV and Ptolemaic Egypt

- 170 BC Ptolemy VI leaves Egypt (Pelusium) and marches on Antiochus
- Antiochus defeats the Egyptian army soon after and seized Pelusium
- Invades Egypt and captures Ptolemy VI
- Leaves Ptolemy VI in power in Alexandria and returns to Syria
  - Ptolemy VII remains in power in Memphis

## Antiochus IV and Ptolemaic Egypt

- 168 BC Antiochus returns to Egypt
- Met by Gaius Popillius Laenas of Rome
  - Draws a line in the sand
- Antiochus retreats, and learns that Jason has deposed Menelaus as High Priest

## 1 Maccabees 1: 20-22

"After subduing Egypt, Antiochus returned in the one hundred and forty-third year. He went up against Israel and came to Jerusalem with a strong force. He arrogantly entered the sanctuary and took the golden altar, the lampstand for the light, and all its utensils. He took also the table for the bread of the Presence, the cups for drink offerings, the bowls, the golden censers, the curtain, the crowns, and the gold decoration on the front of the temple; he stripped it all off."

## 1 Maccabees 1: 23-24

"He took the silver and the gold, and the costly vessels; he took also the hidden treasures which he found. Taking them all, he departed to his own land. He committed deeds of murder, and spoke with great arrogance."

## 1 Maccabees 1: 29-31

"Two years later the king sent to the cities of Judah a chief collector of tribute, and he came to Jerusalem with a large force. Deceitfully he spoke peaceable words to them, and they believed him; but suddenly fell upon the city, dealt it a severe blow, and destroyed many people of Israel. He plundered the city, burned it with fire, and tore down its houses and its surrounding walls."

## 1 Maccabees 1: 32-35

“And they took captive the women and children, and seized the cattle. Then they fortified the city of David with a great strong wall and strong towers, and it become their citadel. And they stationed there a sinful people, lawless men. These strengthened their position; they stored up arms and food, and collecting the spoils of Jerusalem they stored them there, and became a great snare.”

## 1 Maccabees 1: 36-37

“It became an ambush against the sanctuary, an evil adversary of Israel continually. On every side of the sanctuary they shed innocent blood; they even defiled the sanctuary.”



## 1 Maccabees 1: 41-43

“Then the king wrote to his whole kingdom that all should be one people, and that each should give up his customs. All the Gentiles accepted the command of the king. Many even from Israel gladly adopted his religion; they sacrificed to idols and profaned the sabbath.”

## 1 Maccabees 1: 44-48

“And the king sent letters by messengers to Jerusalem and the cities of Judah; he directed them to follow customs strange to the land, to forbid burnt offerings and sacrifices and drink offerings in the sanctuary, to profane sabbaths and feasts, to defile the sanctuary and the priests, to build altars and sacred precincts and shrines for idols, to sacrifice swine and unclean animals, and to leave their sons uncircumcised.”

## 1 Maccabees 1: 49-51

“They were to make themselves abominable by everything unclean and profane, so that they should forget the law and change all the ordinances. ‘And whoever does not obey the command of the king shall die.’ In such words he wrote to his whole kingdom. And he appointed inspectors over all the people and commanded the cities of Judah to offer sacrifice, city by city.”

## 1 Maccabees 1: 52-55

“Many of the people, every one who forsook the law, joined them, and they did evil in the land; they drove Israel into hiding in every place of refuge they had. Now on the fifteenth day of Chislev, in the one hundred and forty-fifth year, they erected a desolating sacrilege upon the altar of burnt offering. They also built altars in the surrounding cities of Judah, and burned incense at the doors of the houses and in the streets.”

## 1 Maccabees 1: 56-58

“The books of the law which they found they tore to pieces and burned with fire. Where the book of the covenant was found in the possession of any one, or if any one adhered to the law, the decree of the king condemned him to death. They kept using violence against Israel, against those found month after month in the cities.”

## 1 Maccabees 1: 59-

“And on the twenty-fifth day of the month they offered sacrifice on the altar which was upon the altar of burnt offering. According to the decree, they put to death the women who had their children circumcised, and their families and those who circumcised them, and they hung the infants from their mothers’ necks.”

## 1 Maccabees 2: 52-

“Early in the morning on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month, which is the month of Chislev, in the one hundred and forty eighth year, they rose and offered sacrifice, as the law directs, on the new altar of burnt offering which they had built. At the very season and on the very day that the Gentiles had profaned it, it was dedicated with songs and harps and lutes and cymbals.”

## Antiquities of the Jews Flavius Josephus

“King Antiochus returning out of Egypt for fear of the Romans, made an expedition against the city Jerusalem; and when he was there, in the hundred and forty-third year of the kingdom of the Seleucidse, he took the city without fighting, those of his own part opening the gates to him. And when he had gotten possession of Jerusalem, he slew many of the opposite party’ and when he had plundered it of a great deal of money, he returned to Antioch.”

Antiquities of the Jews XII.5.2



## Antiquities of the Jews Flavius Josephus

“And when the king had built an idol altar upon God’s altar, he slew swine upon it, and so offered a sacrifice neither according to the law, nor the Jewish religious worship in that country. He also compelled them to forsake the worship which they paid their own God, and to adore those whom he took to be gods; and made them build temples, and raise idol altars in every city and village, and offer swine upon them every day.”

Antiquities of the Jews XII.5.4

## Antiquities of the Jews Flavius Josephus

“He also commanded them not to circumcise their sons, and threatened to punish any that should be found to have transgressed his injunction. He also appointed overseers, who should compel them to do what he commanded. And indeed many Jews there were who complied with the king’s commands, either voluntarily, or out of fear of the penalty that was denounced.”

Antiquities of the Jews XII.5.4

## Antiquities of the Jews Flavius Josephus

“But the best men, and those of the noblest souls, did not regard him, but did pay a greater respect to the customs of their country than concern as to the punishment which he threatened to the disobedient; on which account they every day underwent great miseries and bitter torments; for they were whipped with rods, and their bodies were torn to pieces, and were crucified, while they were still alive, and breathed.”

Antiquities of the Jews XII.5.4

## Antiquities of the Jews Flavius Josephus

“They also strangled those women and their sons whom they had circumcised, as the king had appointed, hanging their sons about their necks as they were upon the crosses. And if there were any sacred book of law found, it was destroyed, and those with whom they were found miserably perished also.”

Antiquities of the Jews XII.5.4

## Antiochus IV

- Dies in 164, while on campaign in the East

## Antiochus IV and the Antichrist

- Picture type of the Antichrist
- Outlawed practice of the Jewish faith
- Persecuted the Jews
- Set up an altar in the Temple

# The False Prophet

## Revelation 13: 11-12

“Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a dragon. He exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence. And he makes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose fatal wound was healed. “



## Revelation 13: 13-14

“He performs great signs, so that he even makes fire come down out of heaven to the earth in the presence of men. And he deceives those who dwell on the earth because of the signs which it was given him to perform in the presence of the beast, telling those who dwell on the earth to make an image to the beast who had the wound of the sword and has come to life.”

## Revelation 13: 15-17

“And it was given to him to give breath to the image of the beast, so that the image of the beast would speak and cause as many as do not worship the image of the beast to be killed. And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand or on their forehead, and he provides that no one will be able to buy or to sell, except the one who the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name.”

## Revelation 13: 18

“Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for the number is that of a man; and his number is six hundred and sixty-six.”

## Revelation 19: 20-21

“And the beast was seized, and with him the false prophet who performed the signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who had receive the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image; these two were thrown alive into the lake of fire which burns with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which came from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse, and all the birds were filled with their flesh.”



## Questions and Discussion

## Acts 17:10-11

“The brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.”

Don't trust anything I say. Please go and look it up for yourself. Challenge me when I am wrong. Discuss when you disagree.

## References

[Josephus, Flavius: Complete Works and Historical Background](#)

Annotated Classics

[The Books of Maccabees: Containing the Books of 1, 2, 3, and 4 Maccabees](#)

Compiled by Joseph Lumpkin, Fifth Estae Publishers, Blountsville AL.  
2019.

## Suggested Resources

[Antiochus Epiphanes and the Maccabees](#)

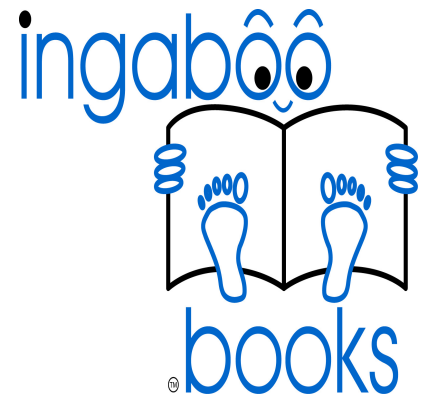
Bruce Gore

Youtube lecture on Antiochus IV from a Christian perspective.



Lecture Notes are  
Posted at...

Ingaboo Books website  
[www.ingaboobooks.com](http://www.ingaboobooks.com)



Biblical  
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Bible Study  
Are we in the  
End Times?

Lesson 9: The Millennial Kingdom  
November 21, 2022 8:00 PM

