

The People who Know their God  
Stand Firm

Daniel 11:2-35

# Serving God Faithfully in Pagan World

By the waters of Babylon, there we sat down and wept, when we remembered Zion. On the willows there we hung up our lyres. For there our captors required of us songs, and our tormentors, mirth, saying, “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!” How shall we sing the LORD's song in a foreign land?

Psalm 137.1-4

# Stories of Faithfulness – Chs 1-6

## Visions of Troubled Times 7-12

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, “O Nebuchadnezzar... our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up.” Daniel 3.16-18

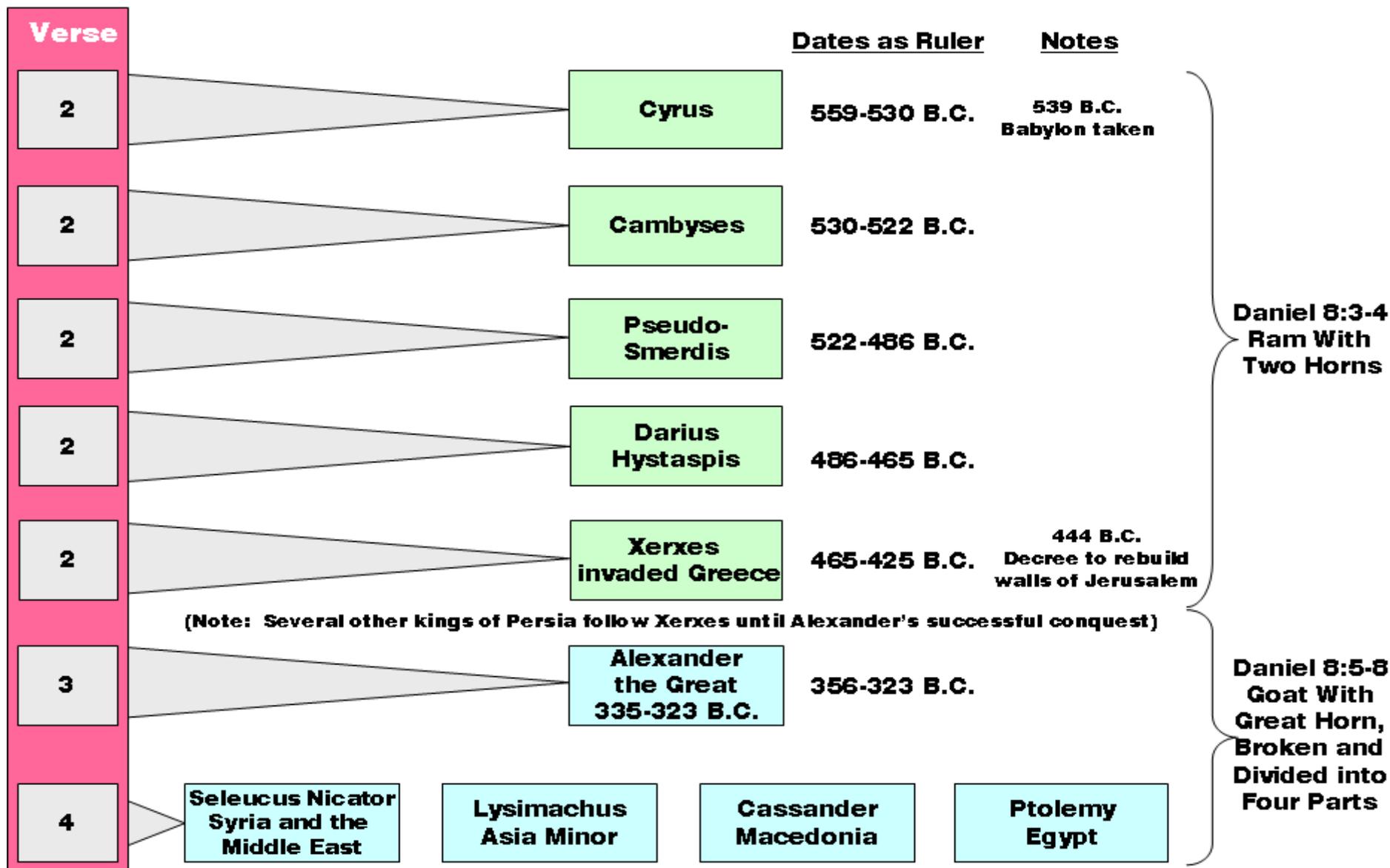
# 8 Generations of Rulers

Daniel 11 – More specific historical prophecies than in any other chapter of Bible

Revealed by God to Daniel hundreds of years before their occurrence.

Descriptions confirmed by many historians, but those who deny God's Word / ability to reveal prophecy / claim this was written after events occurred.

# Timeline of the Persian Rulers, Daniel Chapter 11

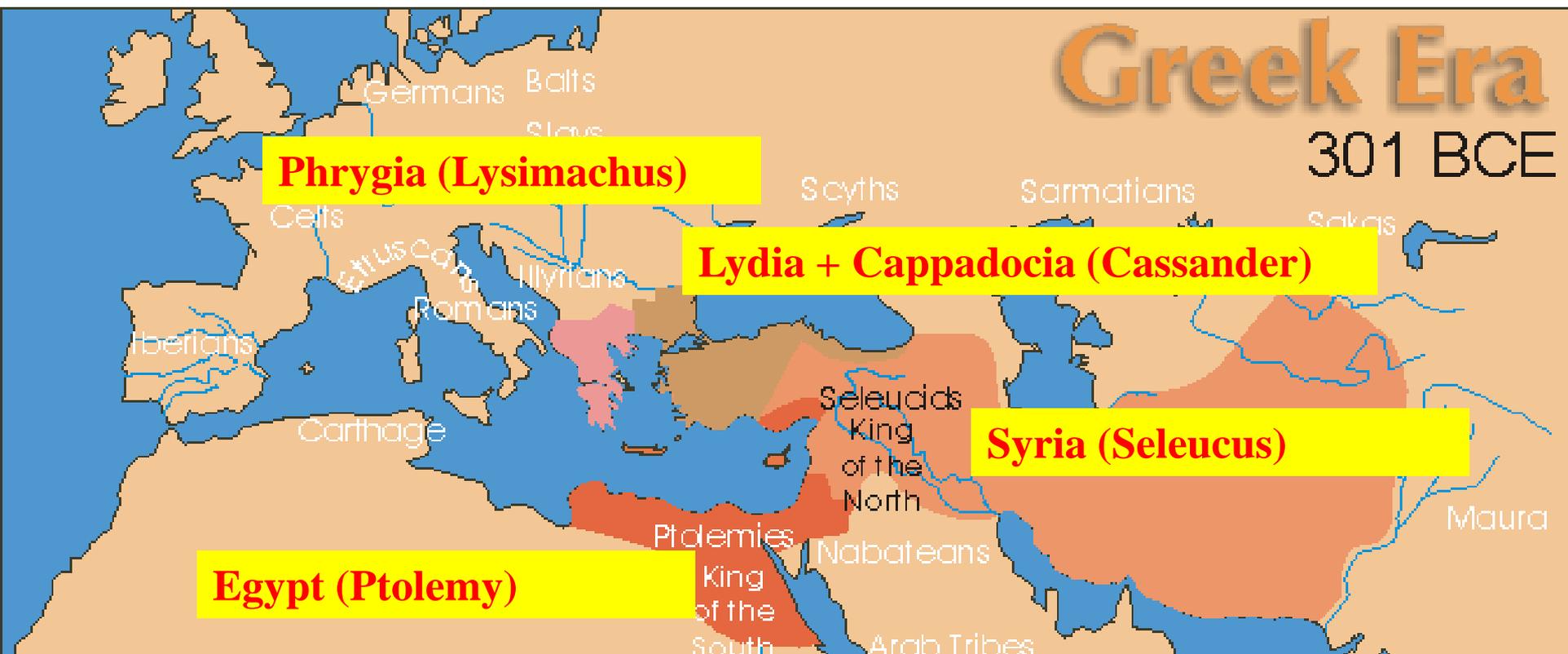


Daniel 11: 2 “Now then, I tell you the truth:  
Three more kings will arise in Persia, and then  
a fourth, who will be far richer than all the  
others. When he has gained power by his  
wealth, he will stir up everyone against the  
kingdom of Greece.

- 11:3 “Then a **mighty king** will appear, who will rule with great power and do as he pleases.”
- **Historical fulfillment:**
  - Alexander the Great is this **mighty king**



- 11:4a“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”
- **Historical fulfillment:**
  - After Alexander’s death, **his generals divided up his empire**
  - After decades of war, **4 empires were formed:**



# Timeline of Alexander's Divided Kingdom, Daniel Chapter 11

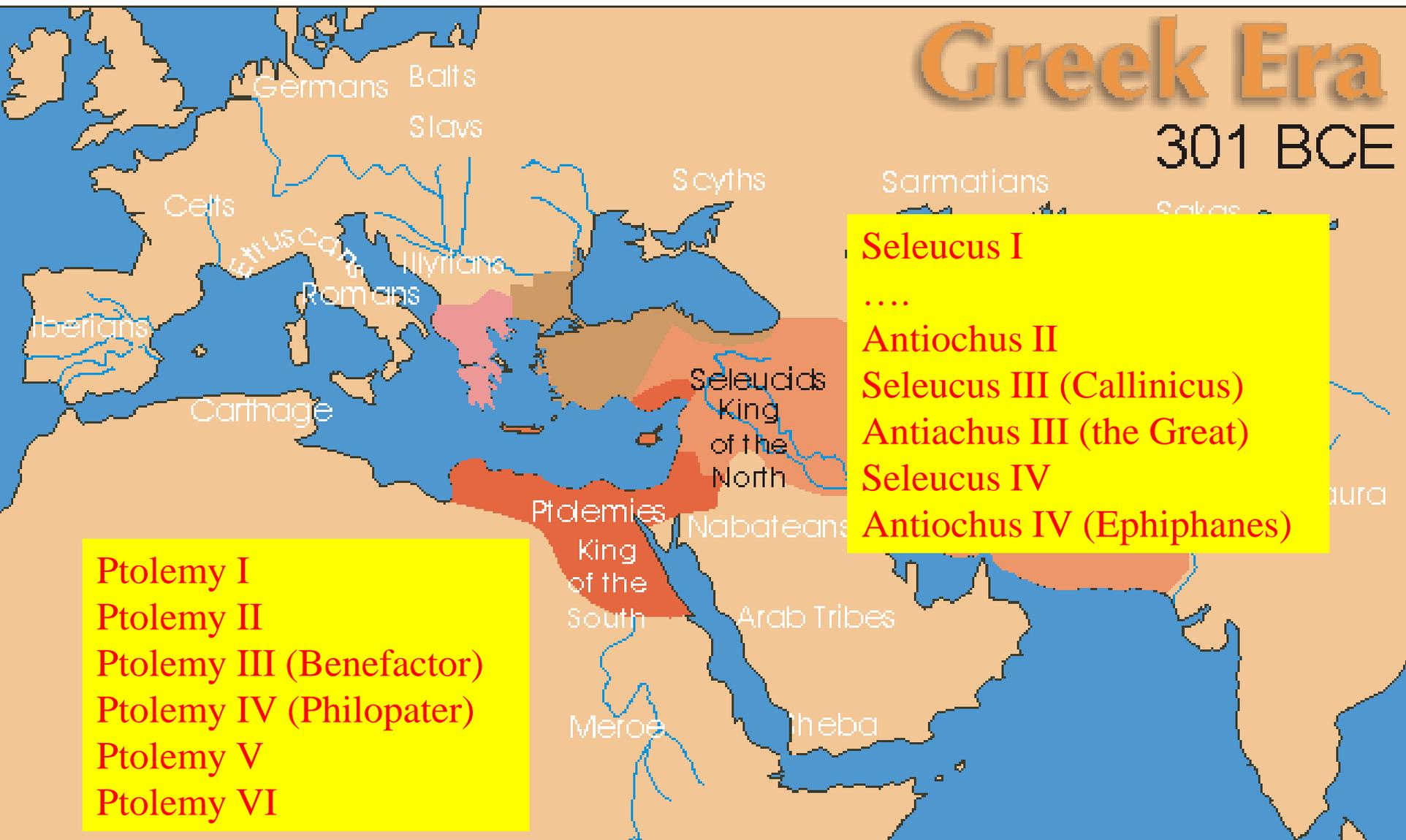
Verse	Northern Kingdom	Western Kingdoms	Southern Kingdom	
4	Seleucus Nicator Syria and the Middle East	Lysimachus Asia Minor	Cassander Macedonia	Ptolemy Egypt
5	Seleucus Nicator	A General (southern kingdom) will rule his own kingdom (north) and become stronger		Ptolemy
6	Antiochus II Theos	An alliance by marriage Berenice (southern kingdom) to Antiochus (north)		Ptolemy II Philadelphus
7-9	Seleucus II Callinicus	Ptolemy Euergetes, brother of Berenice will conquer the northern kingdom		Ptolemy III Euergetes
10-14	Seleucus III Ceraunus and Antiochus the Great	Continual warfare between the kings of the north and south, with Israel in the middle, and suffering		Ptolemy IV Philppator
15-16	Antiochus the Great	Defeats Egypt, and will overtake the land of Israel		Ptolemy Epiphanes
17	Antiochus the Great	Antiochus gives Cleopatra in marriage for an alliance with Egypt		Ptolemy Epiphanes
18-19	Antiochus the Great	Antiochus will war on the western kingdom, but will be turned back by the rise of the Roman Empire		
20	Seleucus IV Philopator	He will impose taxes on Israel, but in a few days he will be destroyed		
21 - 35	Antiochus IV Epiphanes	Rise of the "little horn," who will war on the southern kingdom, but will be turned back by the rise of the Roman Empire and will turn on Israel		

↑

Warring actions of the kingdom of Alexander divided toward the four winds, but not to the prosperity of Alexander's

↓

# The Syrian Wars: Overview of kings



11:5a “The **king of the South** will become strong”



**Ptolemy I** is the king of the South – he established his kingdom first

**Seleucus I** was at first a general of **Ptolemy I**

11:5b “but **one of his commanders** will become even stronger than he and will rule his own kingdom with great power.”



## Greek Era

**Seleucus I** conquered Syria for himself

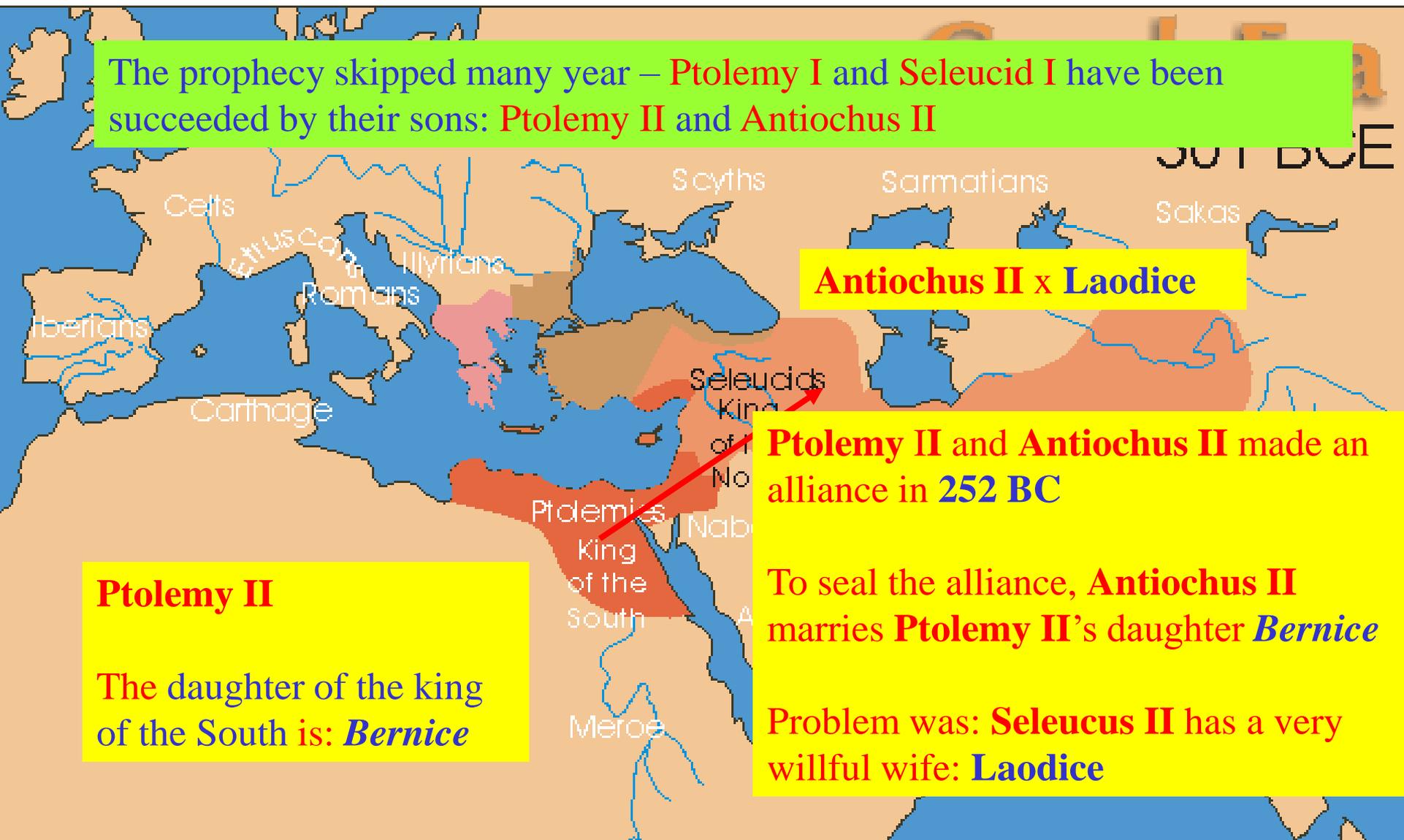
At first, **Seleucus I** and **Ptolemy I** were friends... That will change when their children started a war that last generations...

**Ptolemy I** is king over Egypt

**Seleucid I** is “one of this commanders” – he was **Ptolemy I**’s general and led an army to fight against Syria

11:6a “After some years, they will become allies. The daughter of the king of the South will go to the king of the North to make an alliance”

The prophecy skipped many year – **Ptolemy I** and **Seleucid I** have been succeeded by their sons: **Ptolemy II** and **Antiochus II**



**Antiochus II x Laodice**

**Ptolemy II** and **Antiochus II** made an alliance in **252 BC**

To seal the alliance, **Antiochus II** marries **Ptolemy II's** daughter **Bernice**

Problem was: **Seleucus II** has a very willful wife: **Laodice**

**Ptolemy II**

The daughter of the king of the South is: **Bernice**

11:6b “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*.”

Bernice will not retain her power

Ptolemy II will not last

Antiochus II's power will not last

Bernice, Ptolemy II and Antiochus II will be handed over (= die)

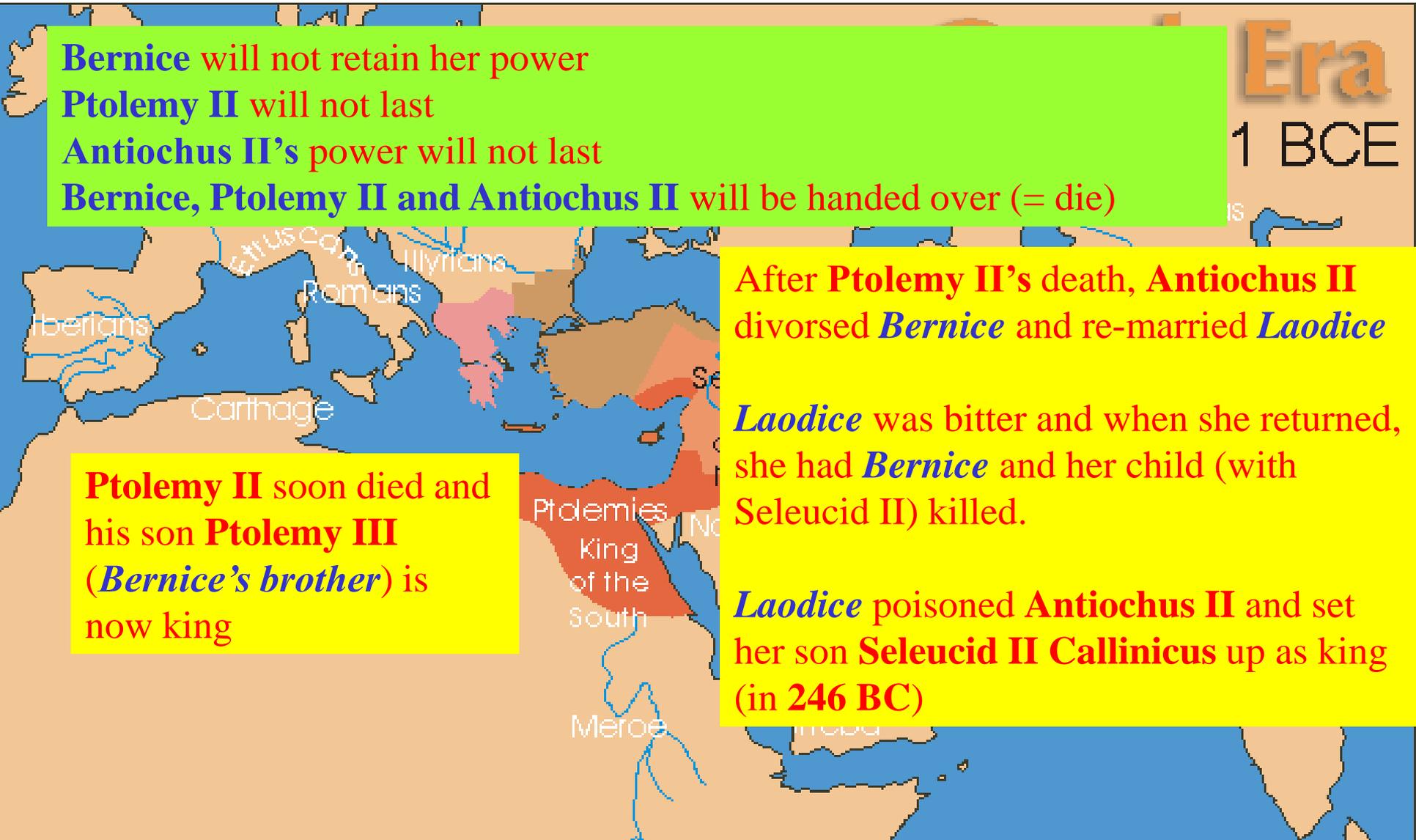
Era  
1 BCE

After Ptolemy II's death, Antiochus II divorced *Bernice* and re-married *Laodice*

*Laodice* was bitter and when she returned, she had *Bernice* and her child (with Seleucid II) killed.

*Laodice* poisoned Antiochus II and set her son Seleucid II Callinicus up as king (in 246 BC)

Ptolemy II soon died and his son Ptolemy III (*Bernice's brother*) is now king

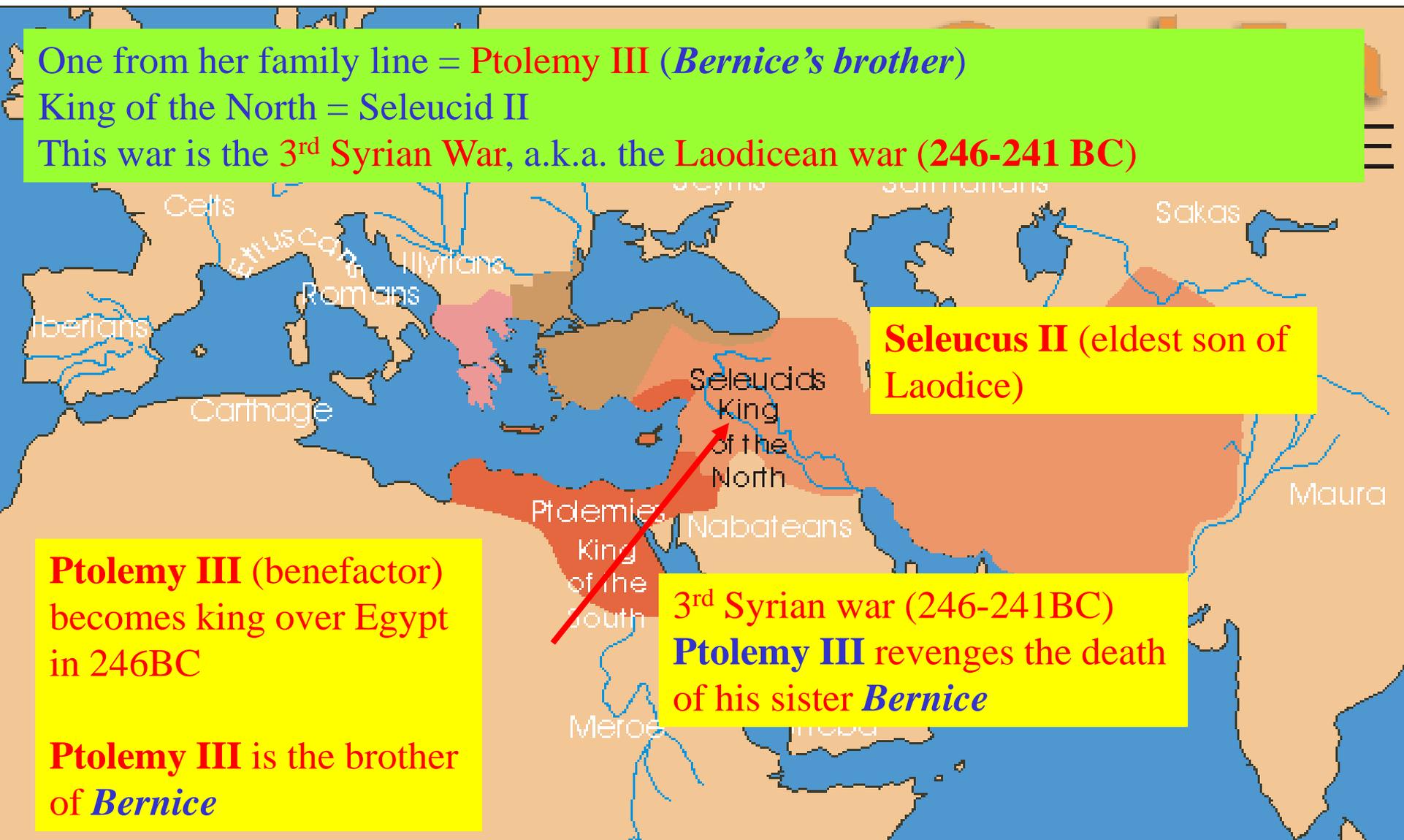


11:7 One from her family line will arise to take her place. He will attack the forces of the king of the North and enter his fortress; he will fight against them and be victorious.

One from her family line = **Ptolemy III** (*Bernice's brother*)

King of the North = Seleucid II

This war is the **3<sup>rd</sup> Syrian War**, a.k.a. the **Laodicean war (246-241 BC)**



**Seleucus II** (eldest son of Laodice)

**Ptolemy III** (benefactor) becomes king over Egypt in 246BC

**Ptolemy III** is the brother of *Bernice*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Syrian war (246-241BC)**  
**Ptolemy III** revenges the death of his sister *Bernice*

11:8 He 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.

**Seleucid II** was a weak leader

**Ptolemy III** was victorious over **Seleucid II**

Also, Iran and Afganistan broke away in **247 BC** from the Seleucid Empire and formed the **Parthian Empire** (which will be later conquered by the Islamic Empire)



**Seleucus II**

Ptolemy III took a lot of loot from Syria back to Egypt (war trophy).

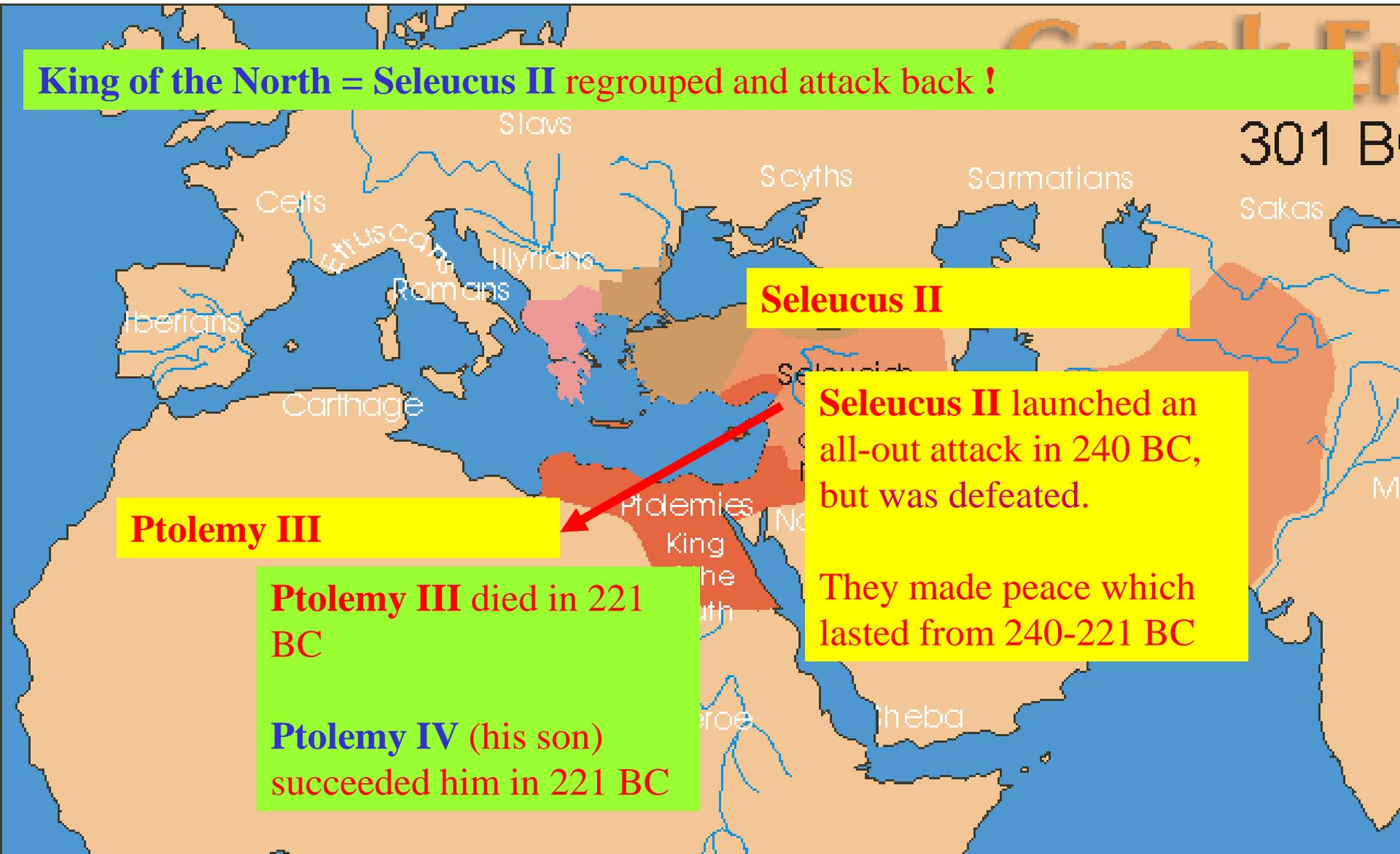
**Ptolemy III**

In the midst of the campaign, Egypt had domestic troubles and Ptolemy III had to go back to take care of business

11:9 Then the **king of the North** will invade the realm of the king of the South but **will retreat** to his own country.

**King of the North = Seleucus II regrouped and attack back !**

301 B



**Seleucus II**

**Seleucus II** launched an all-out attack in 240 BC, but was defeated. They made peace which lasted from 240-221 BC

**Ptolemy III**

**Ptolemy III** died in 221 BC

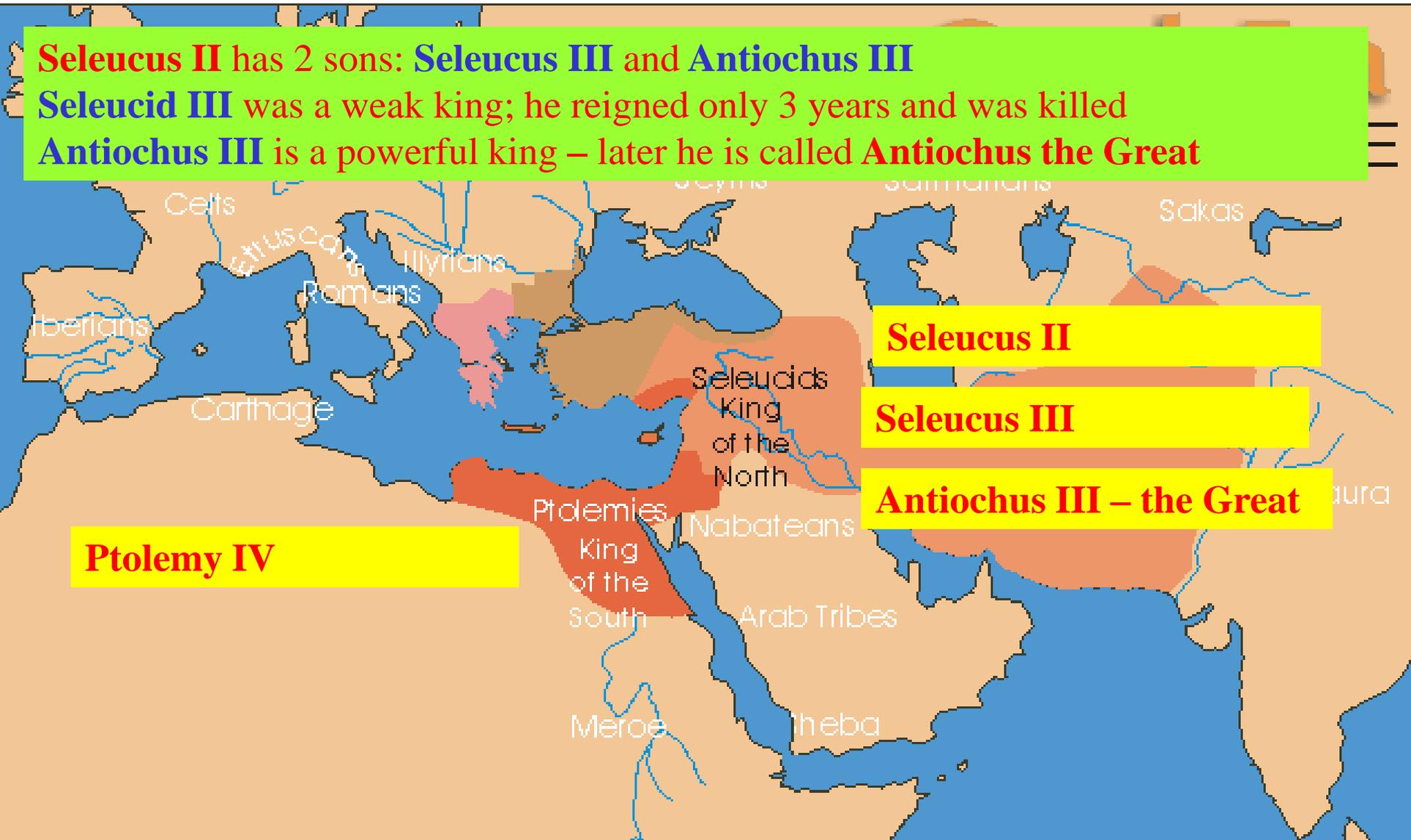
**Ptolemy IV** (his son) succeeded him in 221 BC

11:10 His 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.

**Seleucus II** has 2 sons: **Seleucus III** and **Antiochus III**

**Seleucid III** was a weak king; he reigned only 3 years and was killed

**Antiochus III** is a powerful king – later he is called **Antiochus the Great**

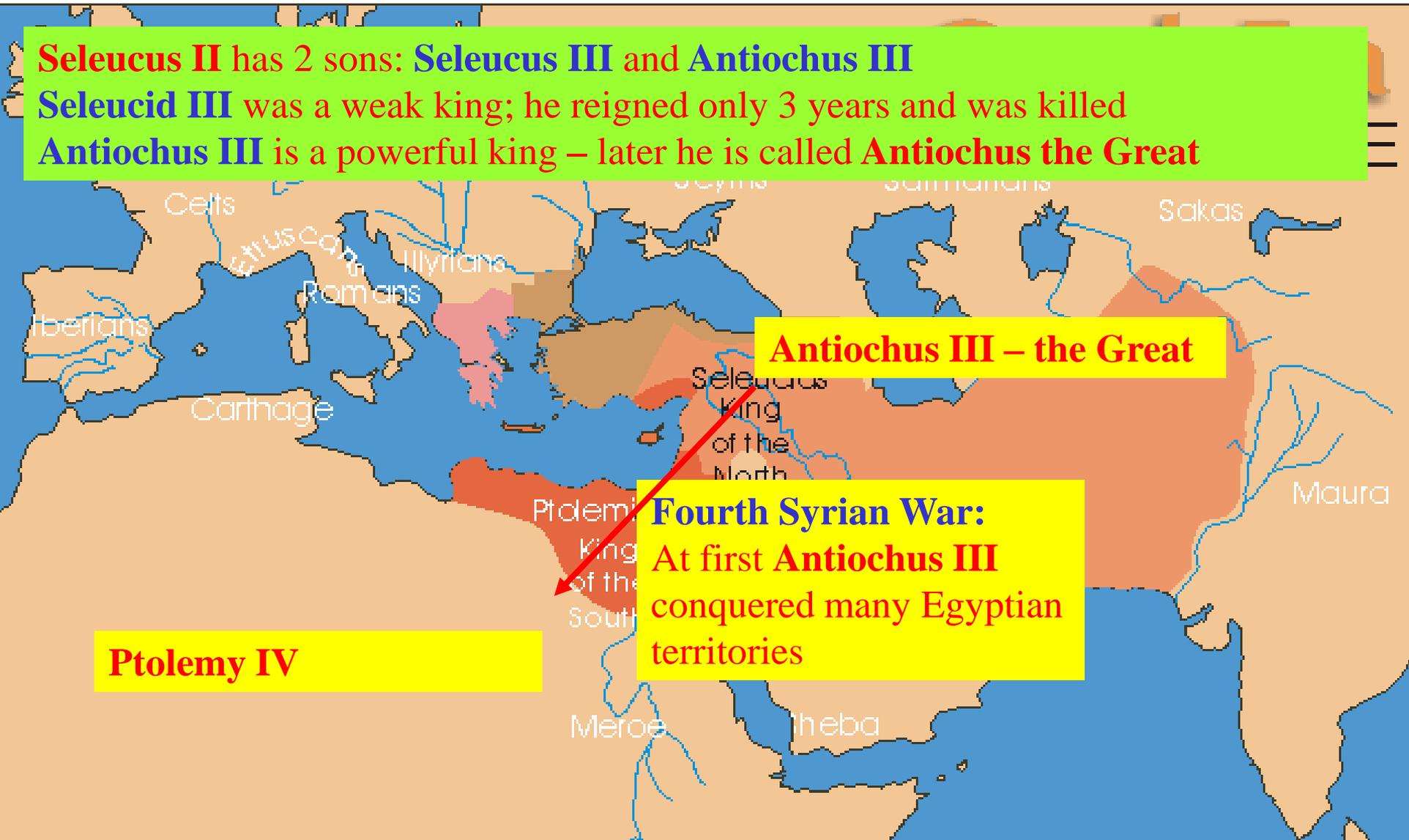


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**Antiochus III – the Great**

**Fourth Syrian War:**  
At first **Antiochus III**  
conquered many Egyptian  
territories

**Ptolemy IV**

11:11 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** . .

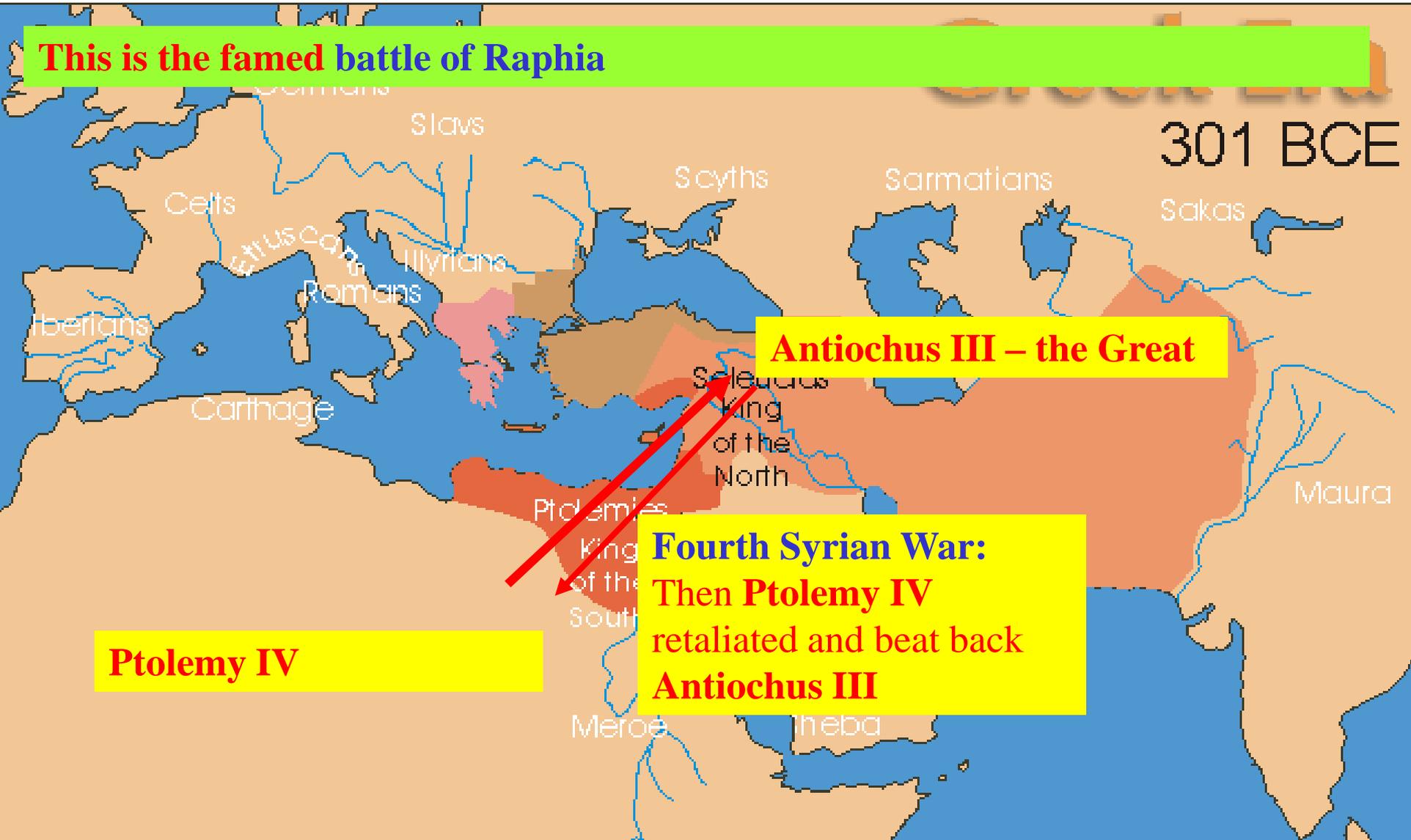
**This is the famed battle of Raphia**

301 BCE

**Antiochus III – the Great**

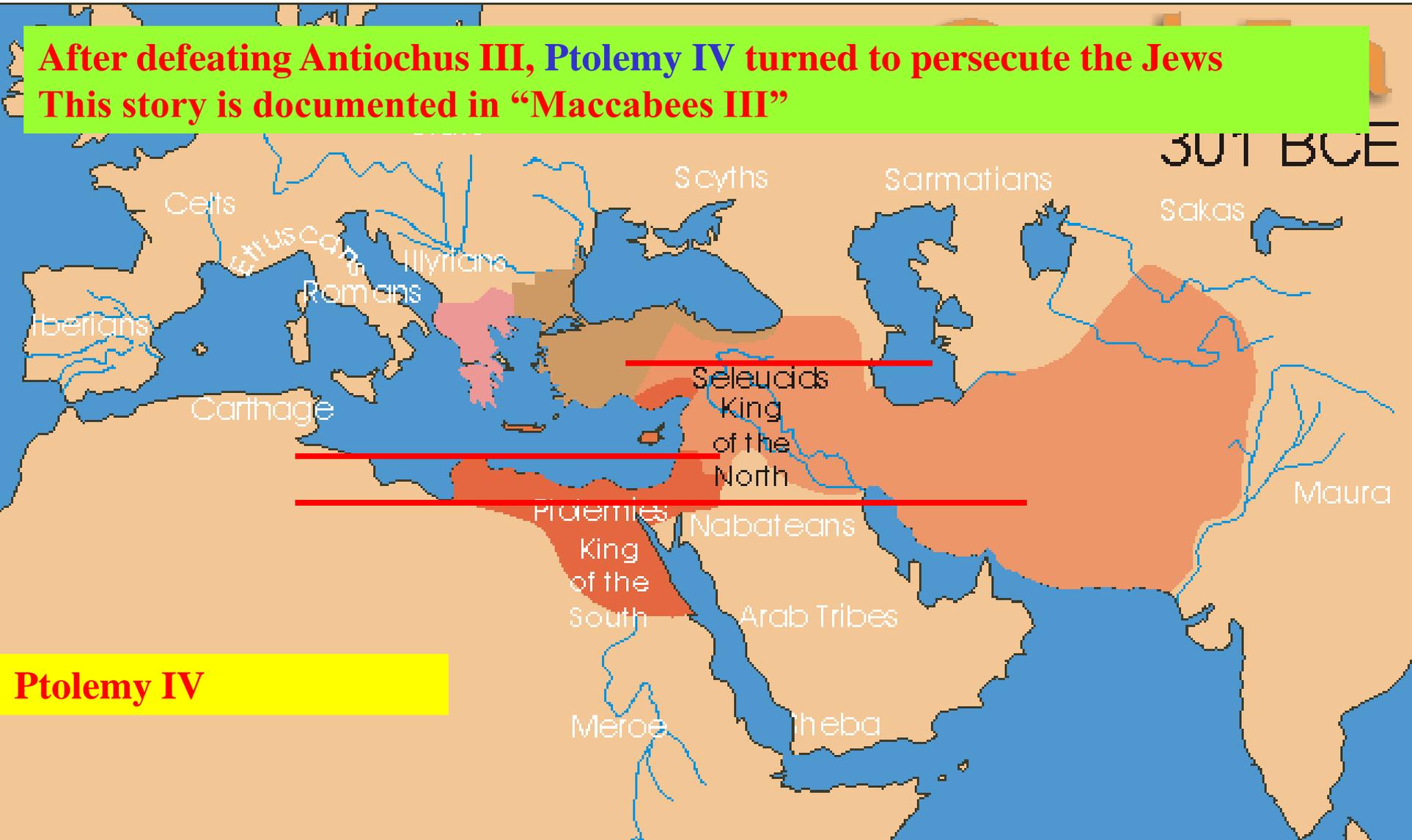
**Fourth Syrian War:**  
Then **Ptolemy IV**  
retaliated and beat back  
**Antiochus III**

**Ptolemy IV**



11:12 When 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.

**After defeating Antiochus III, Ptolemy IV turned to persecute the Jews**  
**This story is documented in "Maccabees III"**



11:12 When 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.



11:13 For 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.

**Ptolemy IV** suddenly died under mysterious circumstances (murder ?)

His son (**Ptolemy V**) is still a kid.

**Antiochus III** formed new allegiance with **Philip V of Macedonia**

Together they marched against **Ptolemy V** – the **Fifth Syrian War**



**Antiochus III – the Great**

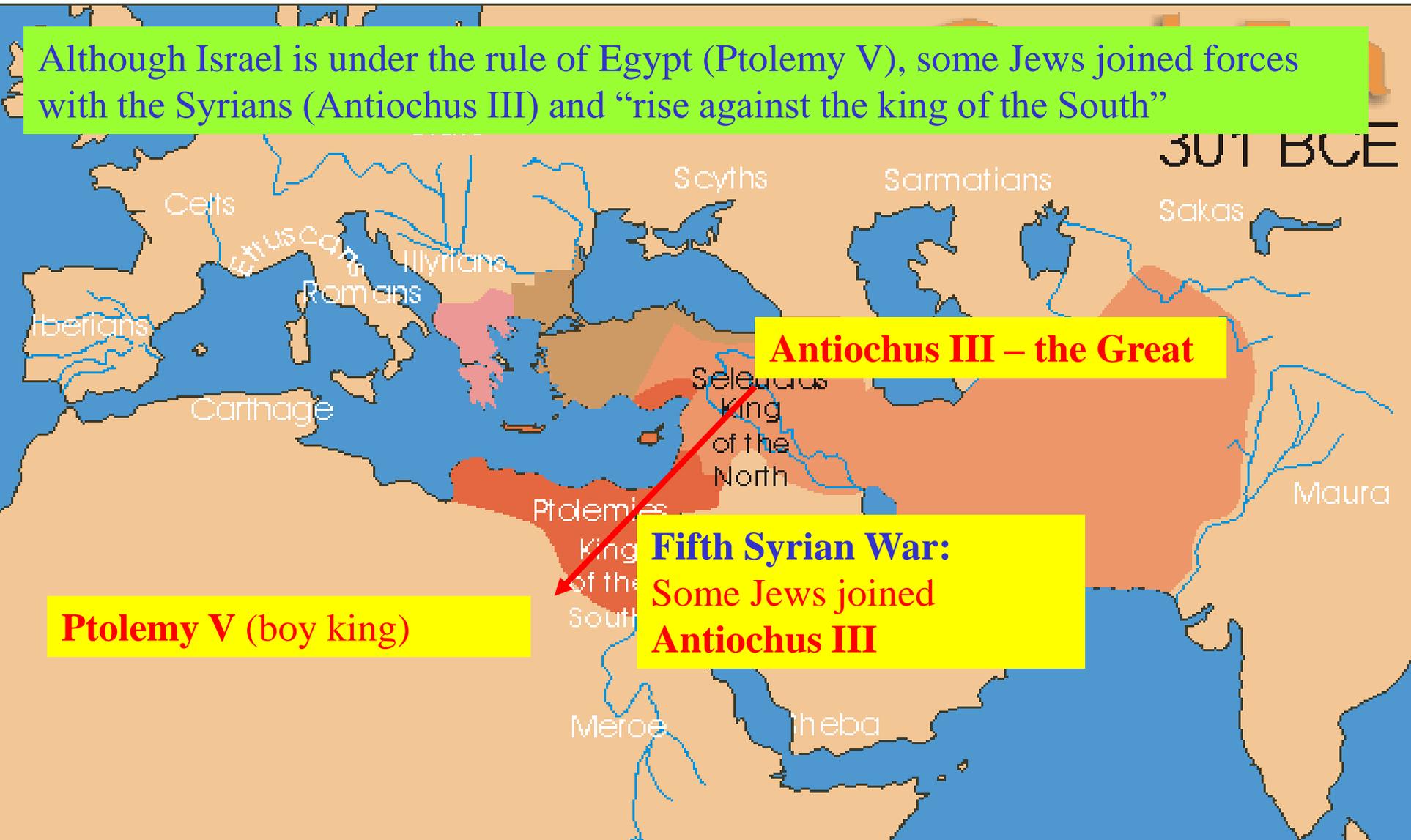
**Fifth Syrian War:**  
**Antiochus III bullies a kid**

**Ptolemy IV** died under mysterious circumstances

**Ptolemy V** (a boy) become king

11:14 "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.

Although Israel is under the rule of Egypt (Ptolemy V), some Jews joined forces with the Syrians (Antiochus III) and "rise against the king of the South"



**Antiochus III – the Great**

**Ptolemy V (boy king)**

**Fifth Syrian War:  
Some Jews joined  
Antiochus III**

11:15 Then 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.

**Sidon** was a very important port and was the strongest fortress in those days



301 BCE

**Antiochus III – the Great**

**Ptolemy V (boy king)**

**Fifth Syrian War:**  
Ptolemy V's general Scopas retreated to Sidon  
But **Antiochus III** besieged and took **Sidon**



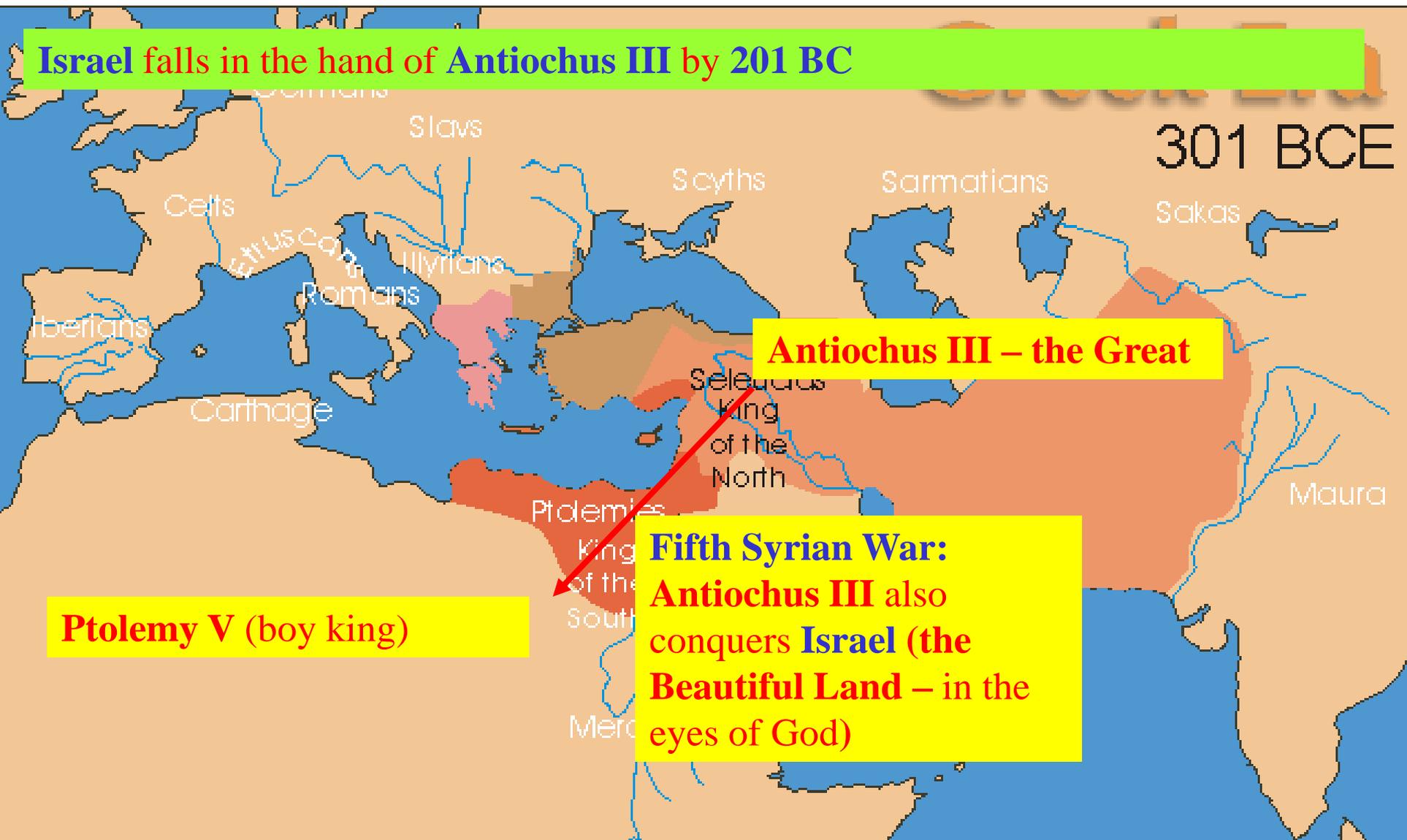
## Sidon صيدا



View of the new city the Sea Castle. Part of the Sea Castle in front.



11:16 The 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.



Israel falls in the hand of Antiochus III by 201 BC

301 BCE

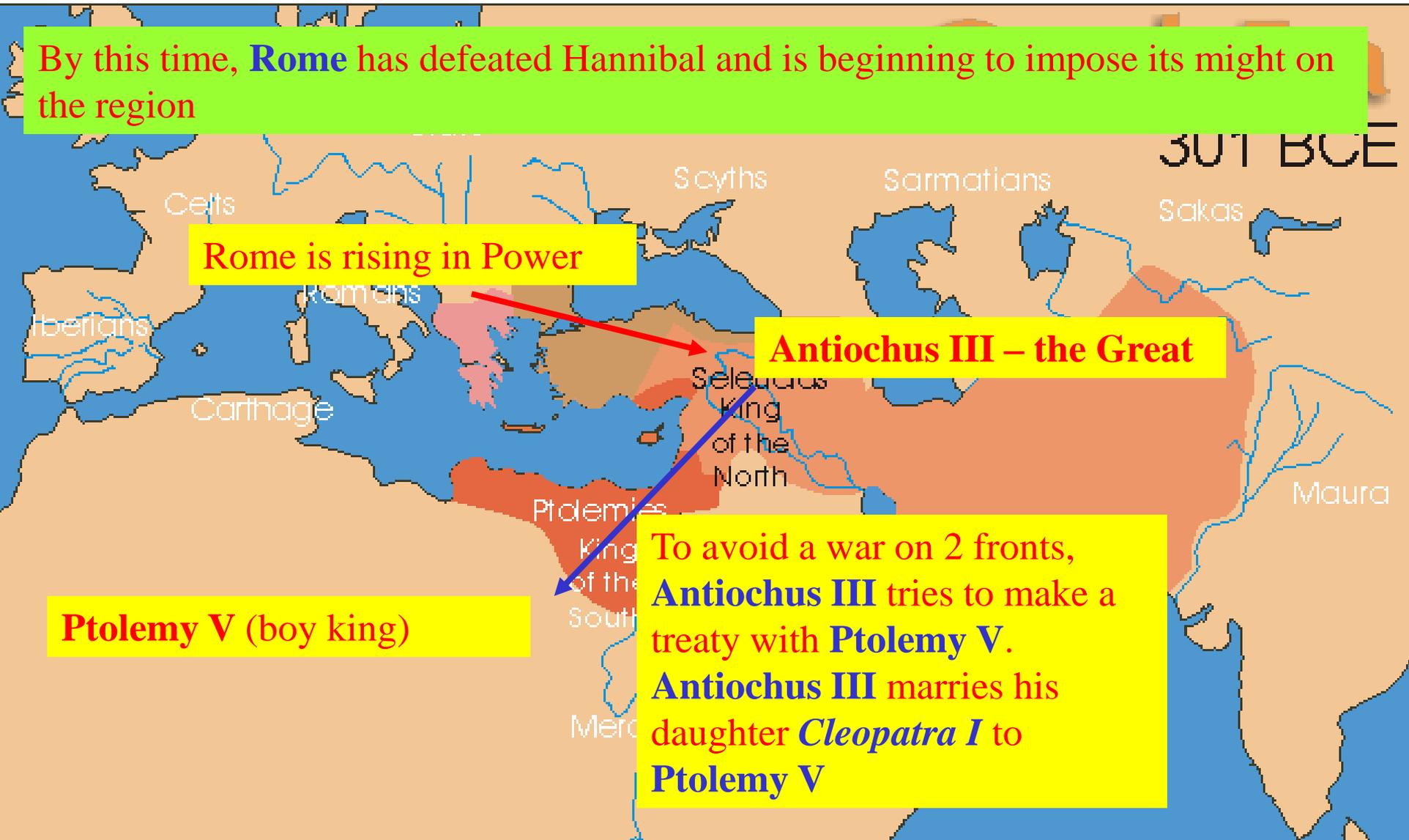
Antiochus III – the Great

Ptolemy V (boy king)

Fifth Syrian War:  
Antiochus III also  
conquers Israel (the  
Beautiful Land – in the  
eyes of God)

11:17 He 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

By this time, Rome has defeated Hannibal and is beginning to impose its might on the region



Rome is rising in Power

Antiochus III – the Great

Ptolemy V (boy king)

To avoid a war on 2 fronts, Antiochus III tries to make a treaty with Ptolemy V. Antiochus III marries his daughter *Cleopatra I* to Ptolemy V

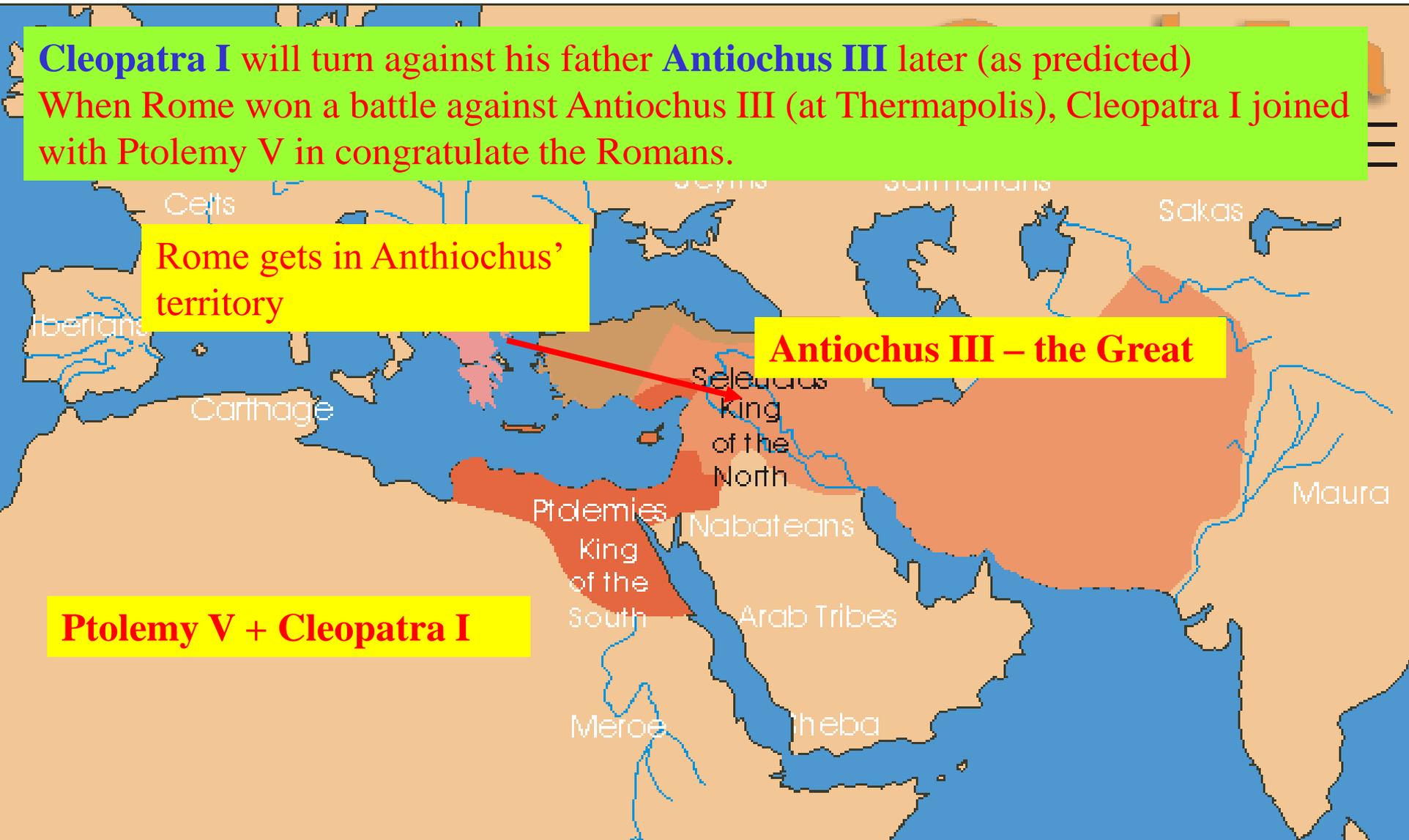
11:17.... but his plans will not succeed or help him.

**Cleopatra I** will turn against his father **Antiochus III** later (as predicted)  
When Rome won a battle against Antiochus III (at Thermapolis), Cleopatra I joined with Ptolemy V in congratulate the Romans.

Rome gets in Anthiochus' territory

**Antiochus III – the Great**

**Ptolemy V + Cleopatra I**



11:18 Then 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.

**Antiochus III** attacked the Greek Islands (that were part of Roman territory)

**Antiochus III** is defeated in the Battle of Thermopylae

The **commander** in verse 18 may be **Scipio** – the Roman commander who defeated Hannibal also defeated Antiochus III

Rome gets in Antiochus' territory

**Antiochus III – the Great**

**Ptolemy V + Cleopatra I**



11:19 After this, he will turn back toward the fortresses of his own country but will stumble and fall, to be seen no more.

After Rome defeated **Antiochus III**, Rome forced Antiochus to:

- retreat back
- pay a huge sum of penalty
- give up his navy
- give Rome his younger son **Antiochus IV** as *ransom*

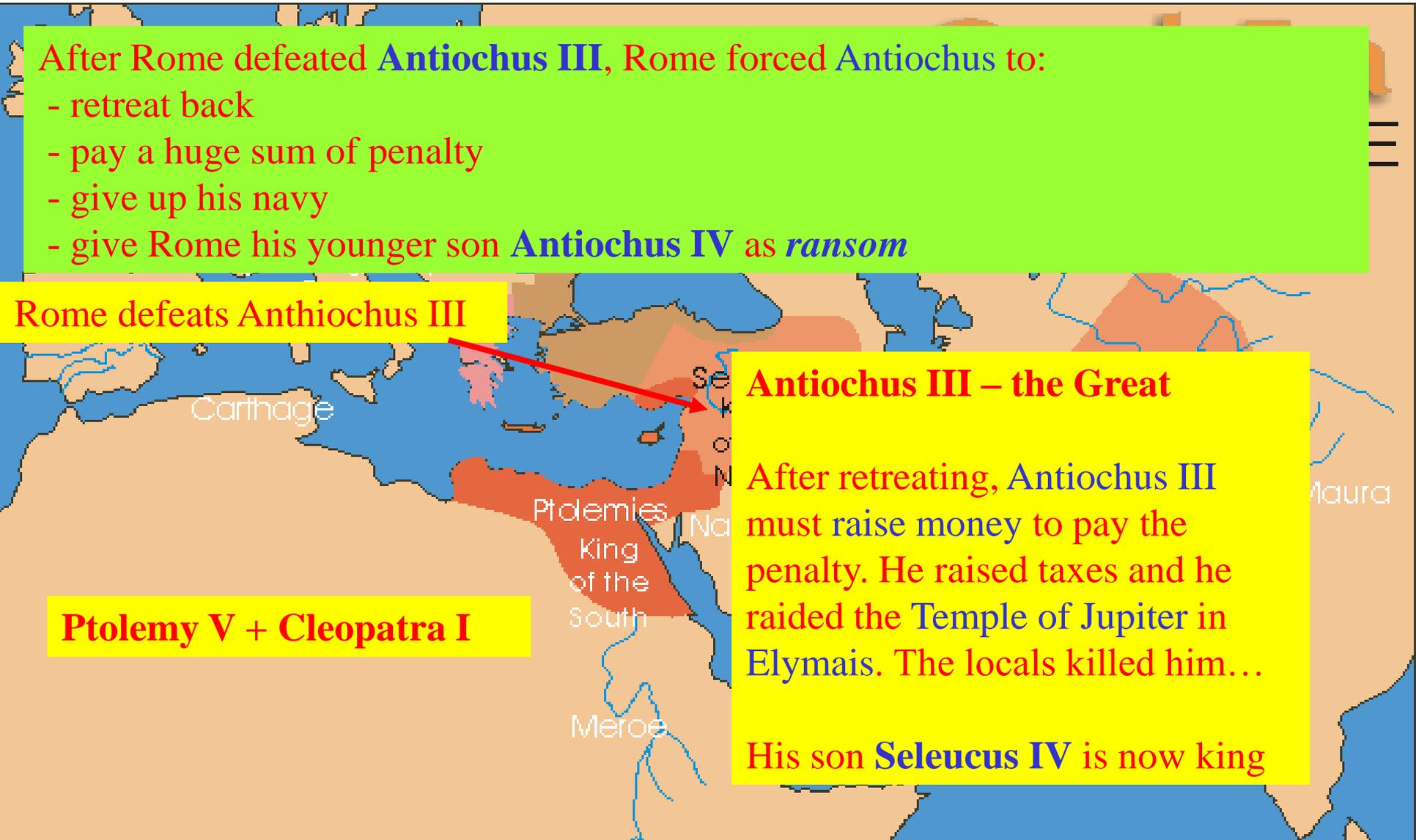
Rome defeats Anthiochus III

**Ptolemy V + Cleopatra I**

**Antiochus III – the Great**

After retreating, Antiochus III must raise money to pay the penalty. He raised taxes and he raided the Temple of Jupiter in Elymais. The locals killed him...

His son **Seleucus IV** is now king

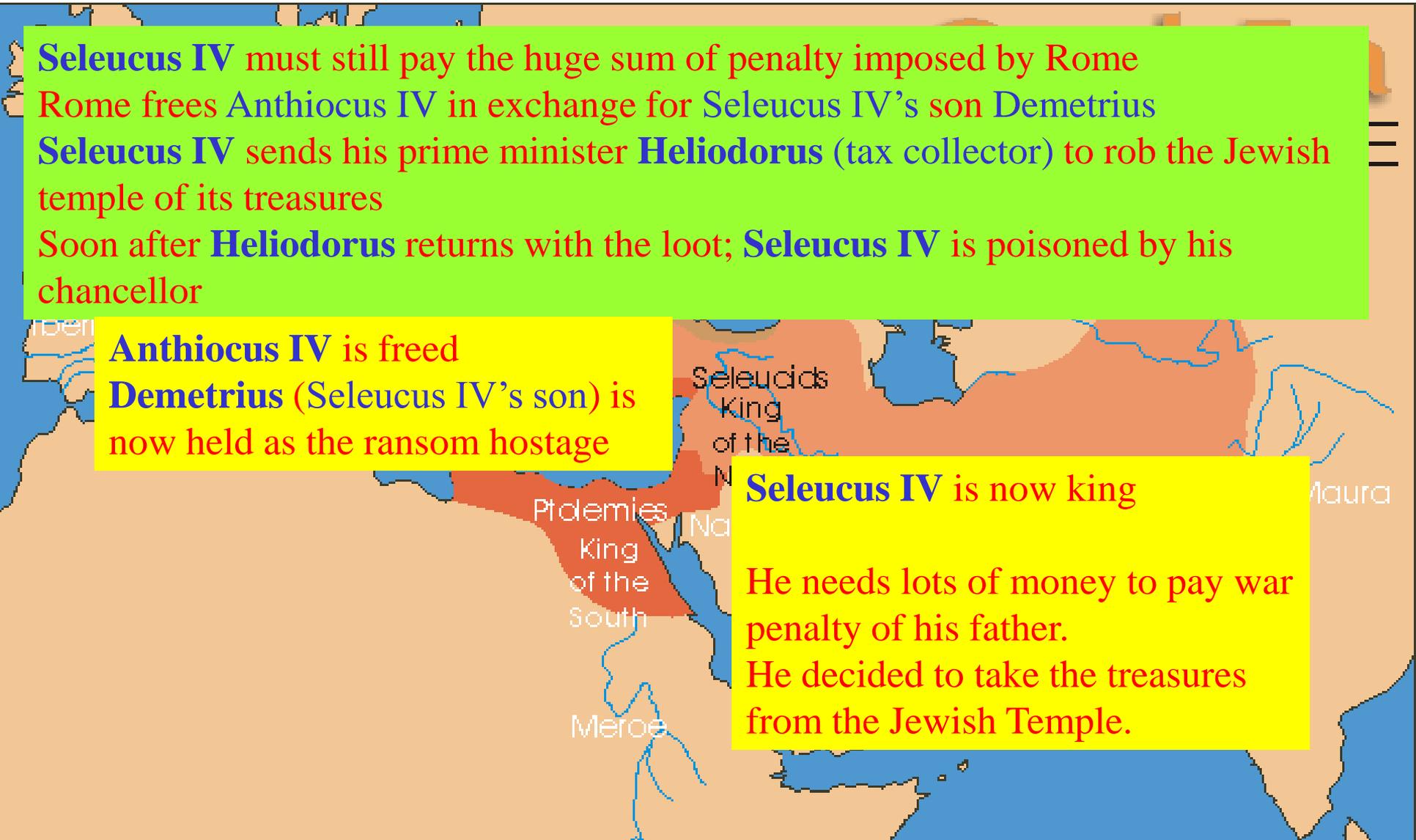


11:20 "His successor will send out a **tax collector** to maintain the royal splendor. In a few years, however, he will be destroyed, yet not in anger or in battle.

**Seleucus IV** must still pay the huge sum of penalty imposed by Rome  
Rome frees **Antiochus IV** in exchange for **Seleucus IV's** son **Demetrius**  
**Seleucus IV** sends his prime minister **Heliodorus** (tax collector) to rob the Jewish temple of its treasures  
Soon after **Heliodorus** returns with the loot; **Seleucus IV** is poisoned by his chancellor

**Antiochus IV** is freed  
**Demetrius** (**Seleucus IV's** son) is now held as the ransom hostage

**Seleucus IV** is now king  
He needs lots of money to pay war penalty of his father.  
He decided to take the treasures from the Jewish Temple.



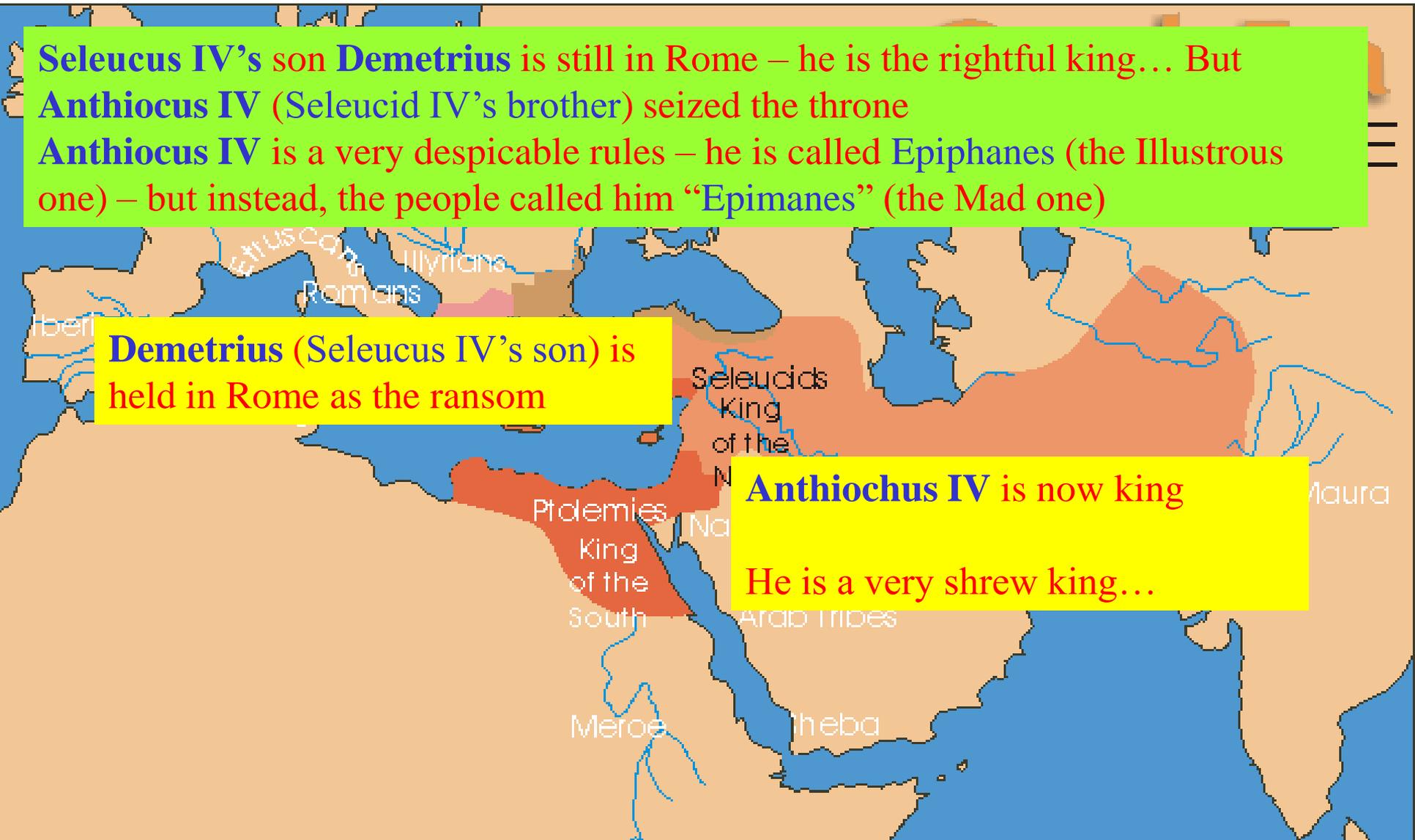
11:21 "He will be succeeded by a contemptible person who has not been given the honor of royalty.

**Seleucus IV's son Demetrius** is still in Rome – he is the rightful king... But **Antiochus IV** (Seleucid IV's brother) seized the throne  
**Antiochus IV** is a very despicable ruler – he is called Epiphanes (the Illustrious one) – but instead, the people called him “Epimanes” (the Mad one)

**Demetrius** (Seleucus IV's son) is held in Rome as the ransom

**Antiochus IV** is now king

He is a very shrewd king...



11:21...He will invade the kingdom when its people feel secure, and he will seize it through intrigue.

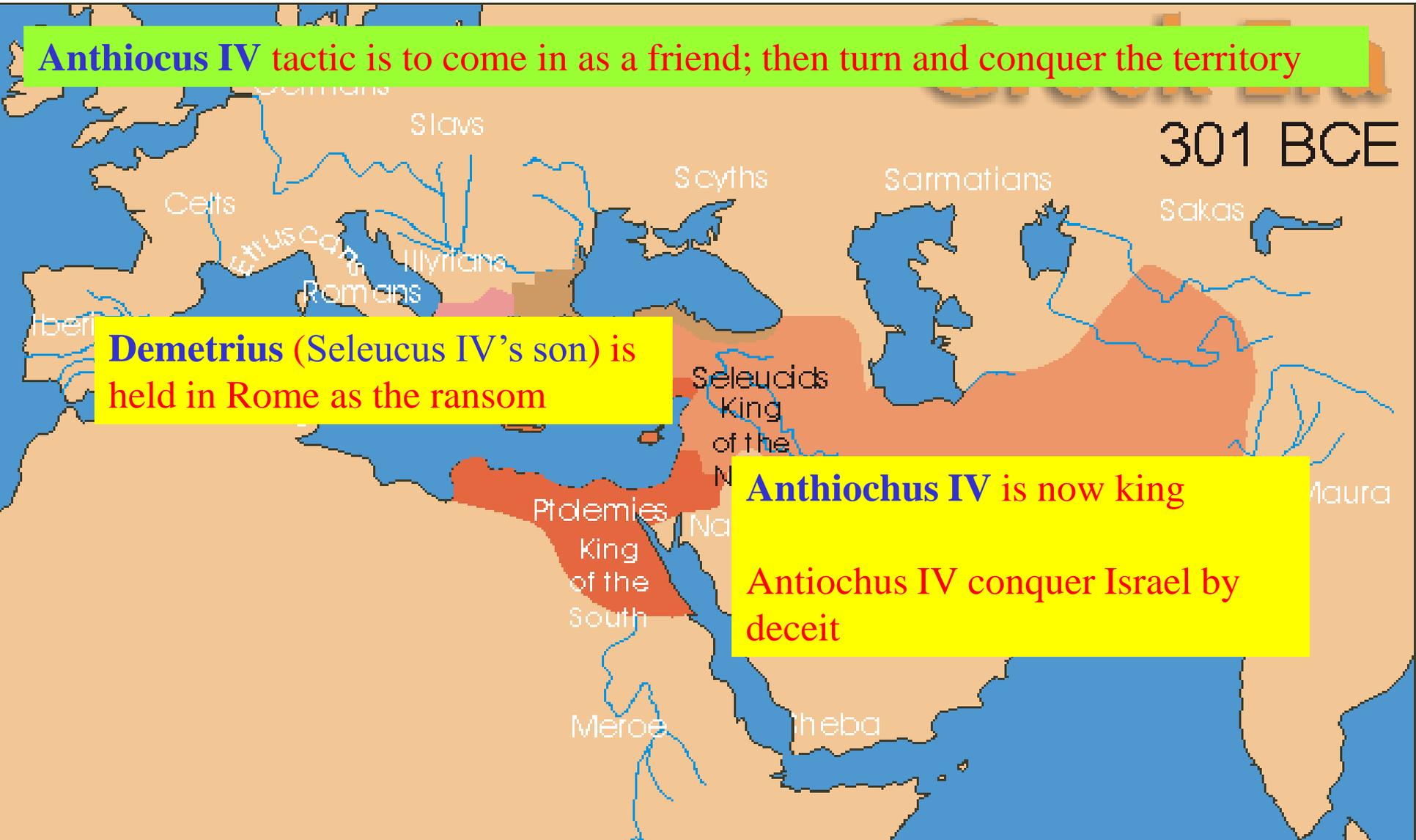
**Antiochus IV** tactic is to come in as a friend; then turn and conquer the territory

**Demetrius (Seleucus IV's son) is held in Rome as the ransom**

**Antiochus IV is now king**

**Antiochus IV conquer Israel by deceit**

301 BCE



11:22 Then an overwhelming army will be swept away before him; both it and a **prince of the covenant** will be destroyed.

At that time, **Onias** is the *high priest* in Israel.

**Onias** is against Hellenization of the Jews

But Onias' brother **Jason** is much more in favor to Hellenize the Jews

**Antiochus IV** helped **Jason** depose his brother to become the *high priest*



**Antiochus IV** is now king

**Antiochus IV** conquer Israel by  
deceit

11:23 After coming to an agreement with him, he will act deceitfully, and with only a few people he will rise to power.

**Antiochus IV** now wants to expand his empire

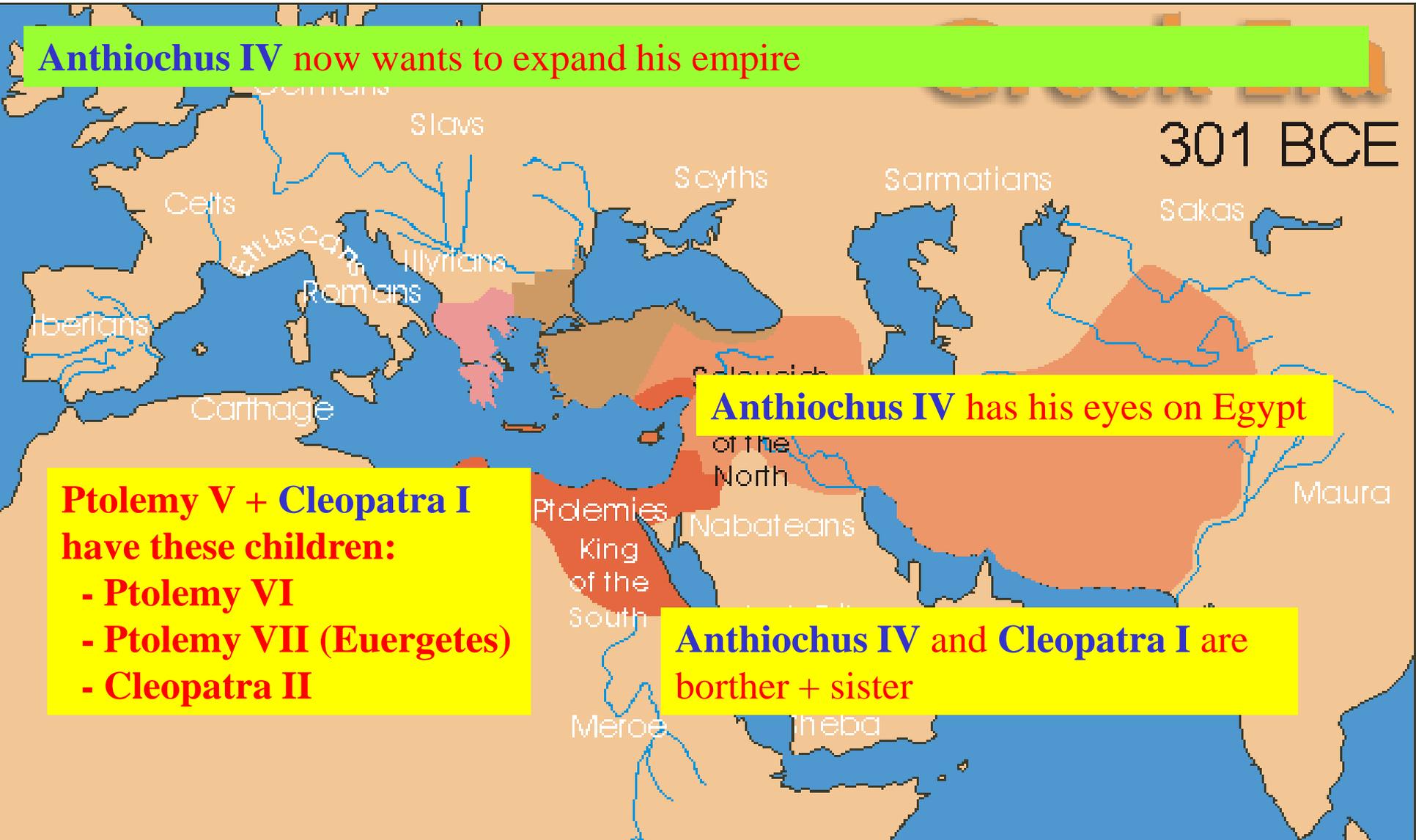
301 BCE

**Antiochus IV** has his eyes on Egypt

**Ptolemy V + Cleopatra I**  
have these children:

- Ptolemy VI
- Ptolemy VII (Euergetes)
- Cleopatra II

**Antiochus IV** and **Cleopatra I** are  
brother + sister



11:23 After coming to an agreement with him, he will act deceitfully, and with only a few people he will rise to power.

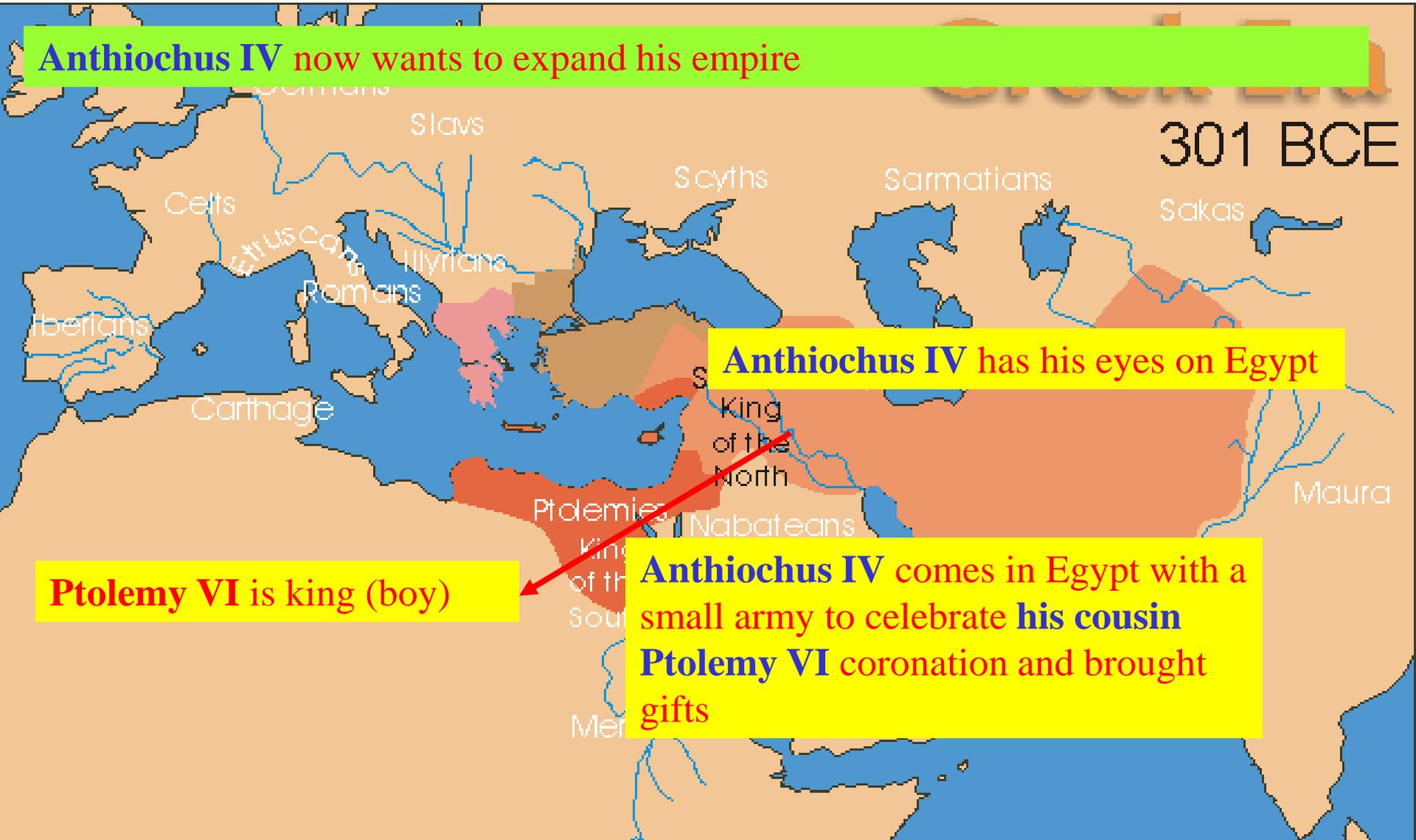
**Antiochus IV** now wants to expand his empire

301 BCE

**Antiochus IV** has his eyes on Egypt

**Ptolemy VI** is king (boy)

**Antiochus IV** comes in Egypt with a small army to celebrate **his cousin Ptolemy VI** coronation and brought gifts



11:24 When the richest provinces feel secure, he will invade them and will achieve what neither his fathers nor his forefathers did. He will distribute plunder, loot and wealth among his followers. He will plot the overthrow of fortresses—but only for a time.



**Anthiochus IV** now wants to expand his empire

301 BCE

**Anthiochus IV** has his eyes on Egypt

**Ptolemy VI** is king (boy)

**Anthiochus IV** bribes the officials of Egypt

11:25 "With a large army he will stir up his strength and courage against the king of the South. The king of the South will wage war with a large and very powerful army, but he will not be able to stand because of the plots devised against him.



11:26 Those who eat from the king's provisions will try to destroy him; his army will be swept away, and many will fall in battle.



**Antiochus IV** now wants to expand his empire

301 BCE

**Antiochus IV** has his eyes on Egypt

**Ptolemy VI**

**Ptolemy VI's** counsellors bribed by **Antiochus IV**, betrayed **Ptolemy**

11:27 The two kings, with their hearts bent on evil, will sit at the same table and lie to each other, but to no avail, because an end will still come at the appointed time.

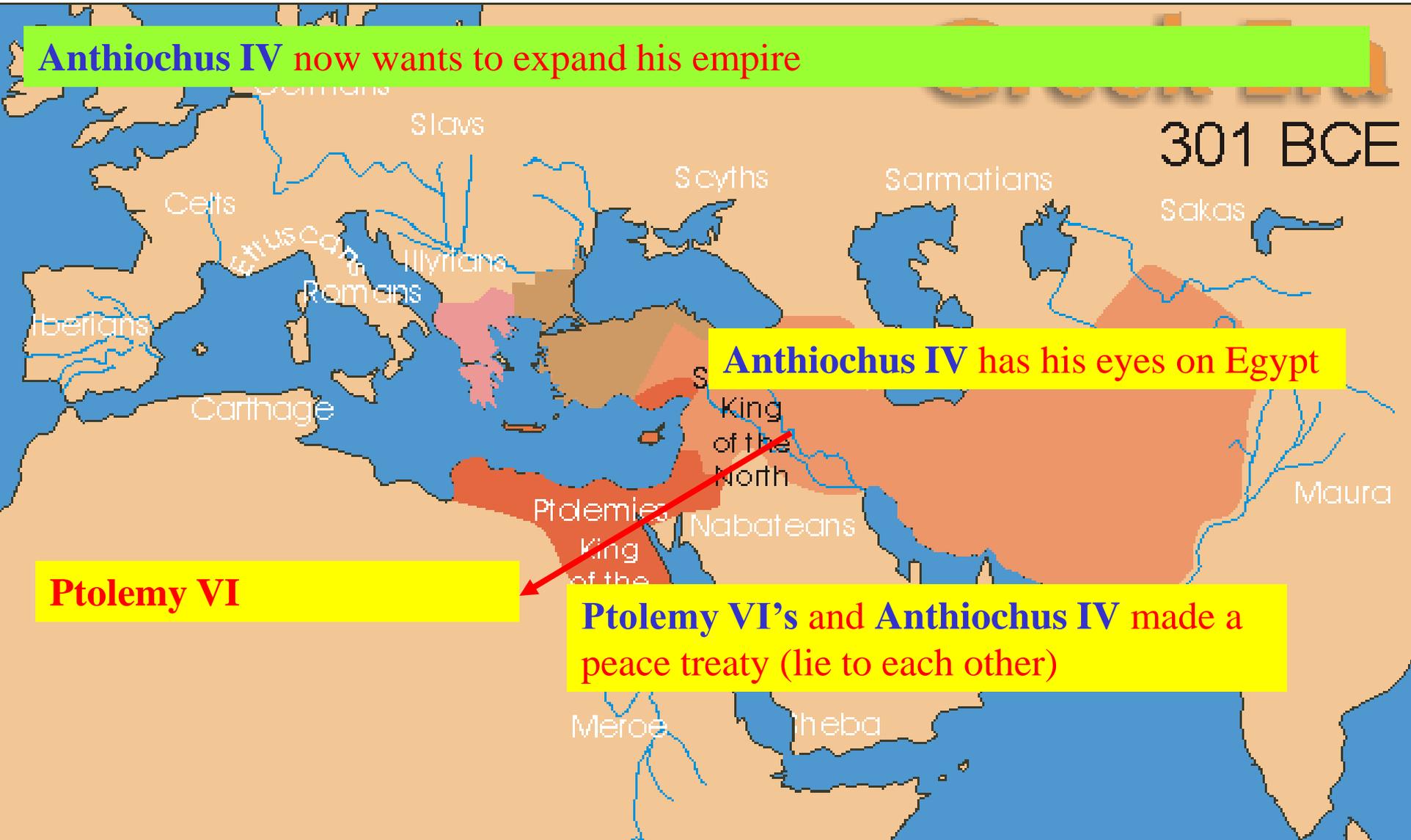
**Antiochus IV** now wants to expand his empire

301 BCE

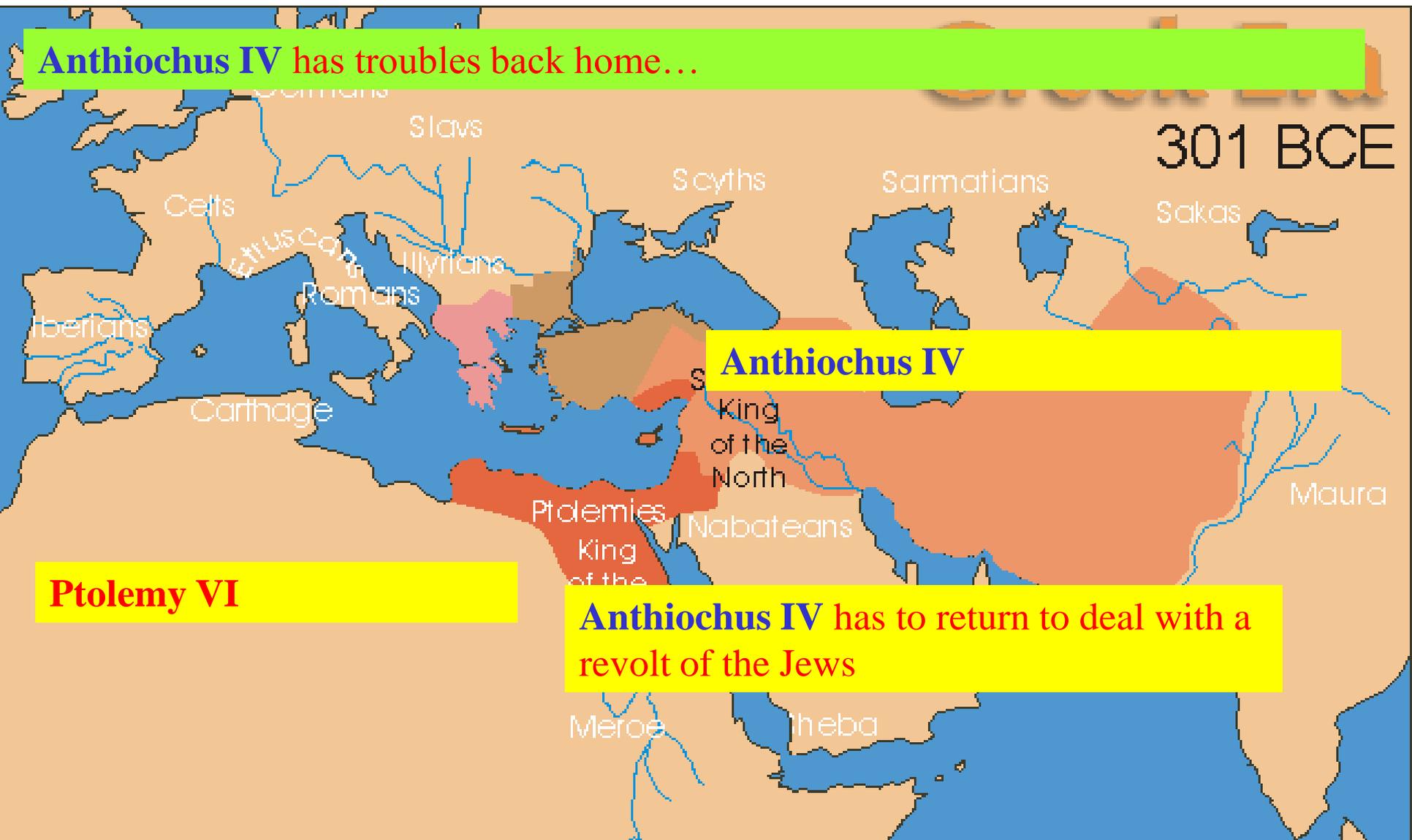
**Antiochus IV** has his eyes on Egypt

**Ptolemy VI**

**Ptolemy VI's and Antiochus IV** made a peace treaty (lie to each other)



11:28 The king of the North will return to his own country with great wealth, but **his heart will be set against the holy covenant**. He will take action against it and then return to his own country.



**Antiochus IV has troubles back home...**

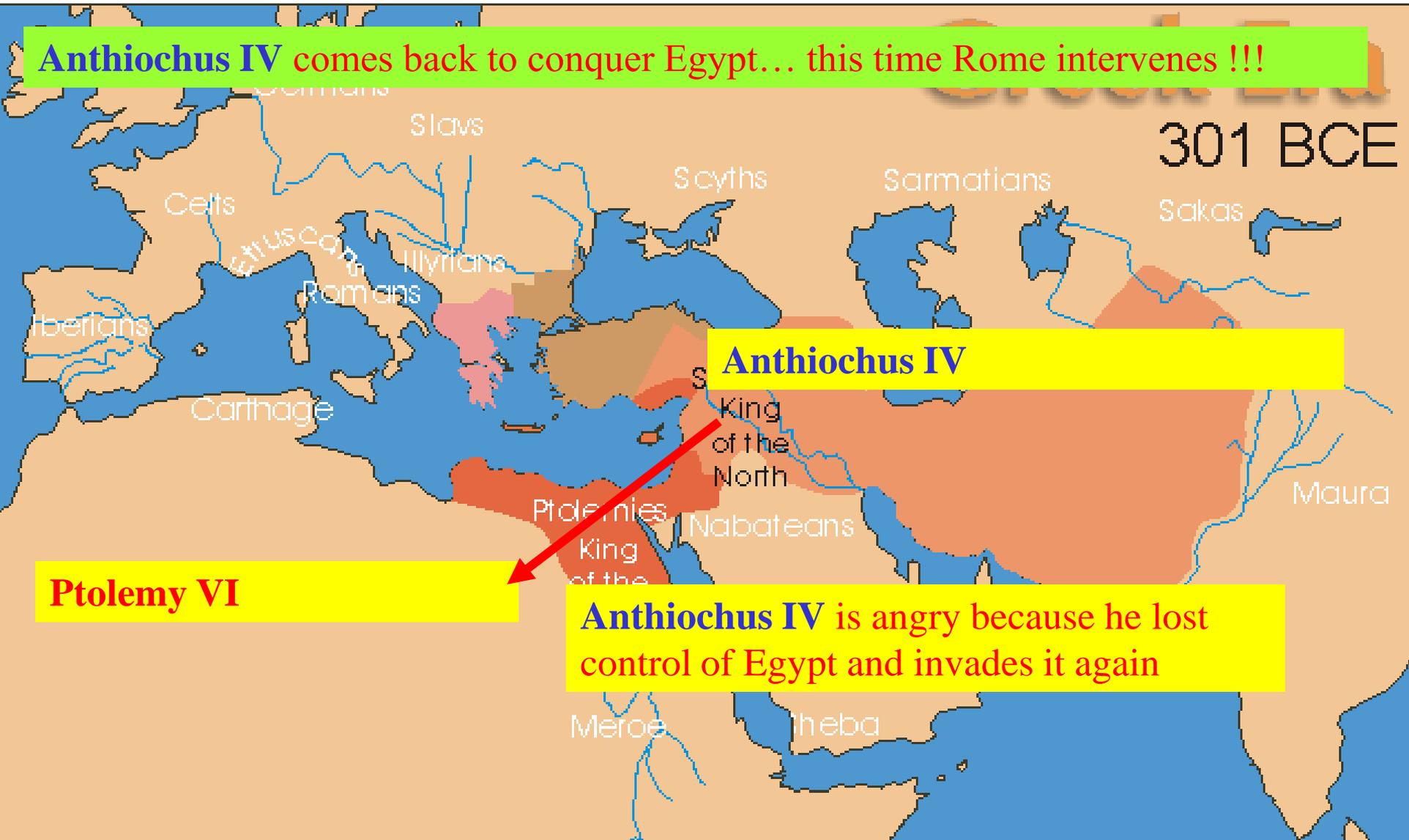
301 BCE

**Antiochus IV**

**Ptolemy VI**

**Antiochus IV has to return to deal with a revolt of the Jews**

11:29 "At the appointed time he will invade the South again, but this time the outcome will be different from what it was before.



11:30 Ships of the western coastlands (Kittim) will oppose him, and he will lose heart.

**Kittim is the ancient name for Rome...**

301 BCE

**Antiochus IV**

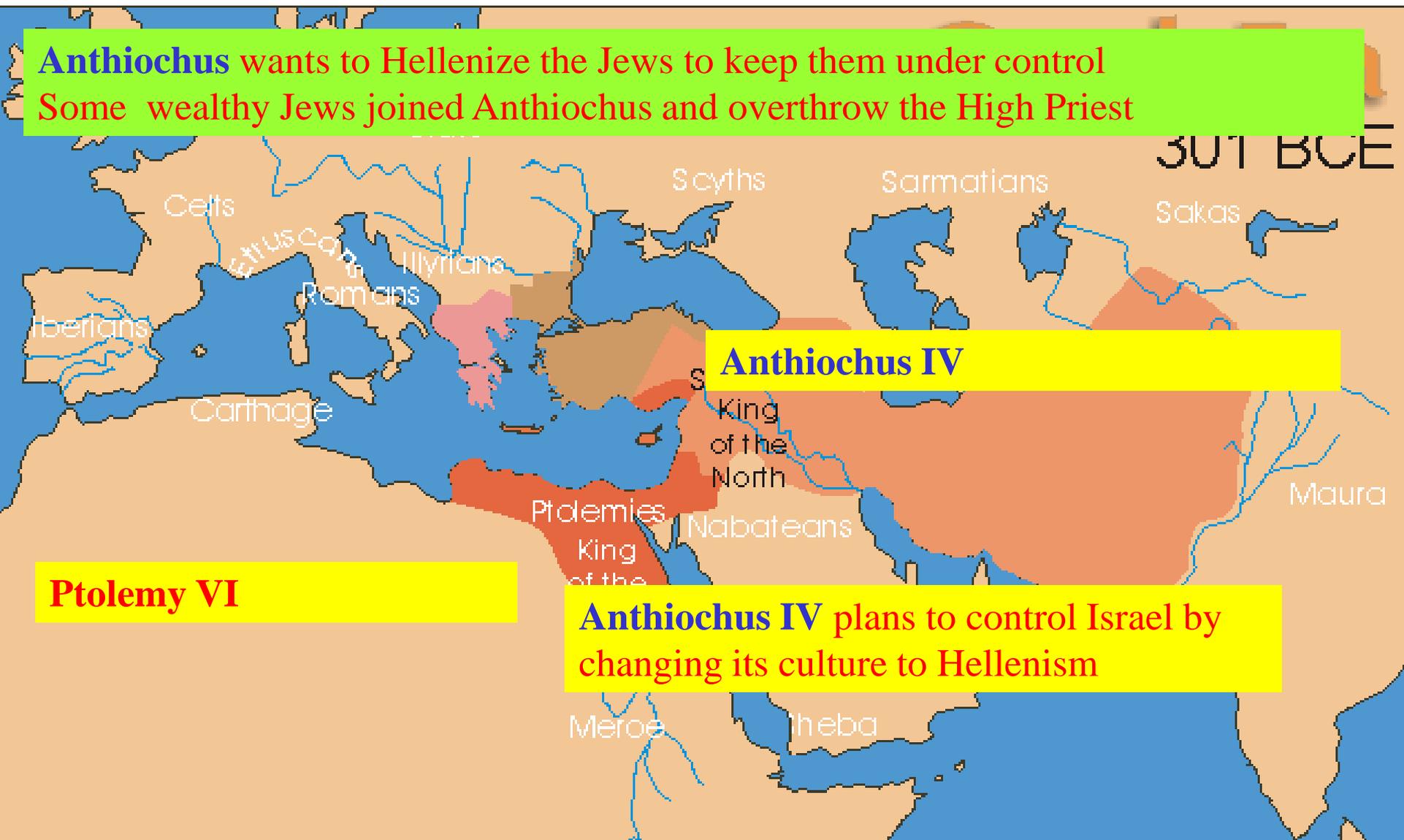
**Ptolemy VI**

**Antiochus IV is stopped by Rome...**



11:30 ...Then he will turn back and vent his fury against the holy covenant. He will return and show favor to those who forsake the holy covenant.

**Antiochus** wants to Hellenize the Jews to keep them under control  
Some wealthy Jews joined Antiochus and overthrow the High Priest



301 BCE

**Antiochus IV**

**Ptolemy VI**

**Antiochus IV** plans to control Israel by changing its culture to Hellenism

11:31 "His armed forces will rise up to **desecrate the temple fortress** and will **abolish the daily sacrifice**. Then they will **set up the abomination that causes desolation**.

**Antiochus'** effort to Hellenize the Jews went so far that:

- He set up a statue of Zeus in the Jewish Temple (abomination in God's sight)
- He told the Jews to worship Zeus
- He sacrificed a pig (not kosher) to Zeus on the Temple's Alter

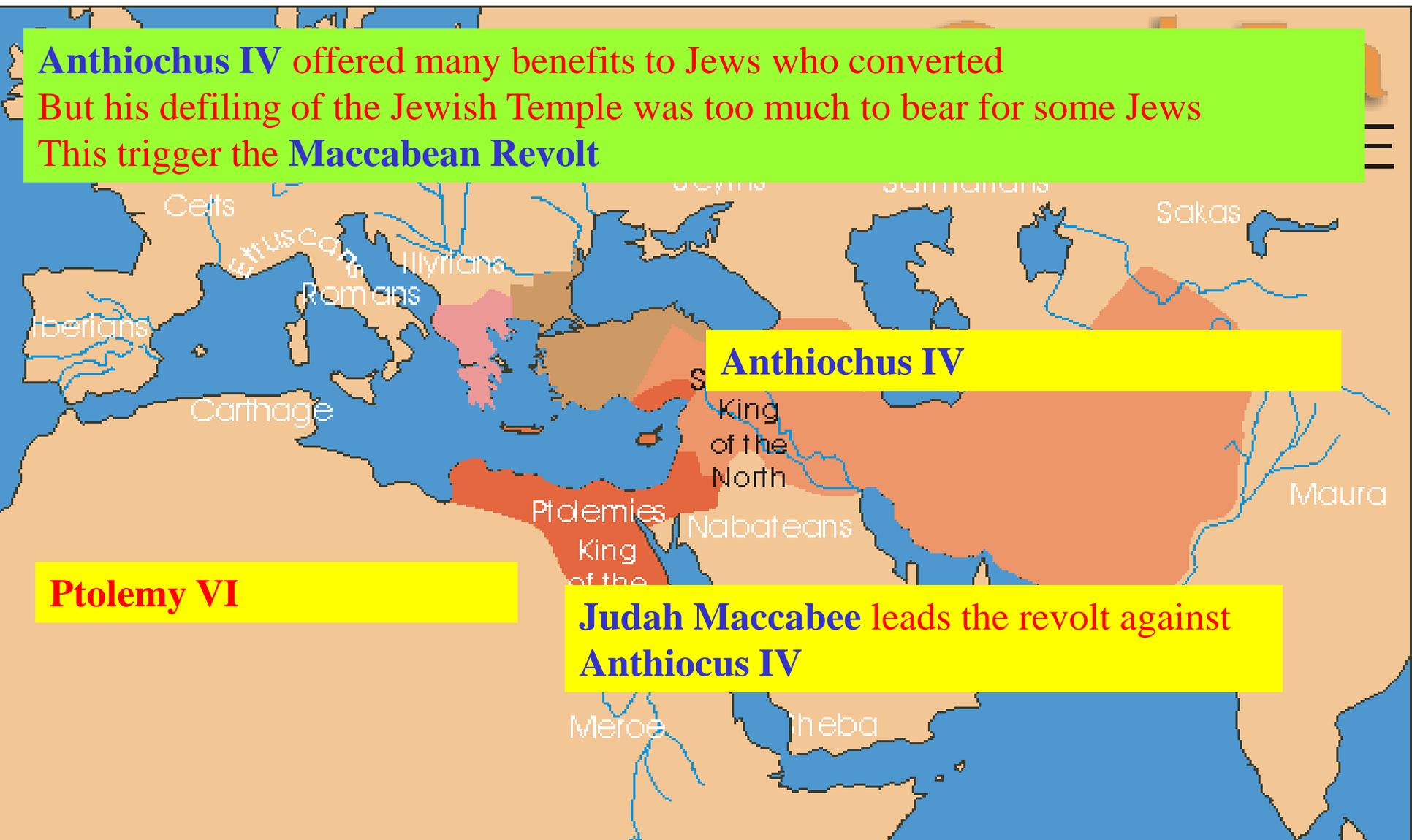


**Ptolemy VI**

**Antiochus IV** desecrates the Jewish temple in 168 BC

11:32 With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant, but the people who know their God will firmly resist him.

**Antiochus IV** offered many benefits to Jews who converted  
But his defiling of the Jewish Temple was too much to bear for some Jews  
This trigger the **Maccabean Revolt**



**Ptolemy VI**

**Antiochus IV**

**Judah Maccabee** leads the revolt against **Antiochus IV**

v. 33 "Those who are wise will instruct many, though for a time they will fall by the sword or be burned or captured or plundered.

- Pious Jews instruct many not to take advantage of the Hellenists favors; and for this, they are being persecuted

v. 34 When they fall, they will receive a little help,

- There is no active resistance in the first months. The people of Israel simply lay down and die. Their martyrdoms inspire many, and Hellenism still is having trouble catching on, so
- Antiochus decides it will be good to make examples of more key figures.
- Like Eleazar for example, a priest, an expert in the law. This old saint is told to eat pork. He refused. So he is tortured and beaten, burned and stretched.
- Then comes Judas Maccabee and the others are angered and come to the rescue.

v. 34... and many who are not sincere will join them.

- Judas Maccabee begins to drive out the Syrian troops
- The Hellenistic Jews are now in trouble
- They faced a choice: join the revolt or die – they joined

v. 35 Some of the wise will stumble, so that they may be refined, purified and made spotless until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time.

- The revolt cost the lives of more than 80,000 pious Jews
- E.g.: 1 Maccabees records the painful deaths of all the sons of Mattathias.

## Courage to Stand

<sup>32</sup> With flattery he will corrupt those who have violated the covenant, but the people who know their God will firmly resist him.

## Courage to Speak

<sup>33</sup> “Those who are wise will instruct many, though for a time they will fall by the sword or be burned or captured or plundered.

## Courage to Suffer

<sup>34</sup> When they fall, they will receive a little help, and many who are not sincere will join them. <sup>35</sup> Some of the wise will stumble, so that they may be refined, purified and made spotless until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time.