

Appendix 3A, VI, Attachment 1

CALENDAR YEAR COMPARISON TIMELINE

After the Death of Alexander III to the Assassination of High Priest Simon Matthes

Prefatory Notes:

Sources: Uncited data is drawn from cited internal segments, e.g. Detail A, further supplemented from the *Encyclopedia of World History*, pages 30-32 and 80-84, *Lempriere* (L), pages xviff. (chronological table); additional sources are noted. Personal details of familial relationships, dates of death, etc. for monarchs, dynastic relatives, and high priests are given in Appendix 3A, VI, Attachments 4, 5 and 6 and Appendix 3B, II, and those segments there referenced, all of which contain additional historical detail.

Associated internal references are (a) Appendix 3A, VI, Attachment 4 (E, Narrative) summarizes events related to Macedonian rule from the death of Alexander III the Great to the supravention of Macedonia by Rome; (b) primary historical events of the reigns of Seleucid and Ptolemaic rulers following Seleucus I and Ptolemy I are included here; (c) cf. Appendix 3A, VI, "Period of High Priests Onias I to the Assassination of Simon Matthes According to *Josephus* and *Maccabees*," from which data relative to this timeline also is drawn.

Sub-part B summarizes the different imperial calendars involved in dating events of the second century, b.c.

Sub-part C contains brief data on regional hegemony during the period of this calendar's timeline.

A. Calendar.

Commonly
Assigned
Year(s)
b.c./b,c,e,

MACEDONIAN
Years/Monarchs

SELEUCID
Years/Monarch

PTOLEMAIC
Years/Monarch

Commencement year of Greek Olympiad calendaring:

776 b.c.²

Commencement year of the A.U.C (Roman) calendaring:

753 b.c.³

317-298
(to 297)

Cassander/
Kassandros

307/5-280
(to 281)

Seleucus/Seleukos I
Nicator

c. 323⁴-284 Ptolemy I
Lagus/Soter
(to 282)

Cassander died of dropsy three years after the victory at Ipsus after a reign of 18 years.

Seleucus I secured Babylon; commencement of the "kingdom of the Seleucidae."

312 b.c.⁵

¹ It is worth reiterating that minor variations frequently are encountered in the standardly assigned years of events and monarchical tenures. (Some contrast is provided in the parenthetical dates from *Burstein*.)

² Refer to sub-part B concerning the use of this year to associate ancient dating references with current standard calendaring.

³ Follow preceding footnote.

⁴ This figure apparently includes his initial governorship.

Commonly
Assigned
Year(s)
b.c./b,c,e,

MACEDONIAN
Years/Monarchs

SELEUCID
Years/Monarch

PTOLEMAIC
Years/Monarch

Seleucus I is reported as benevolent and a founder of at least 34 cities throughout his empire (also as restoring to Athens its library and statues confiscated by Xerxes I). He "was murdered 280 years before the christian era, in the 32nd year of his reign, and the 78th, or according to others, the 73rd year of his age, as he was going to conquer Macedonia." L 554-555.

298/7

Philippus/Philip IV

298/7
296-294

Antipater [C]
Antipater [C] and
Alexander V

296/295
294

Demetrius I took Athens after a year siege. L xvi.
Either Alexander V or Demetrius I murdered Antipater [C].
Demetrius I murdered Alexander V and took Macedon.

294-c. 288 (to 287)

Demetrius I [-M⁶]

Seleucus I "about 291 b.c." had "built about 40 cities in Asia, which he peopled with different nations." L xvi.

288
286

A coalition of Lysimachus and the King of Pyrrhus of Epirus drove Demetrius out of Macedon.
"Pyrrhus was expelled from Macedon by Lysimachus." L xvi.

286 to ?

Lysimachus [#1]

? to 280

Seleucus I

Seleucus I gained the Macedonian throne for a brief time c. 281, after defeating Lysimachus (battle of Corupedium). ("Lysimachus defeated and killed by Seleucus [I]." L xvi.)
An attempted campaign in Asia Minor by Demetrius I failed. He was captured by Seleucus I and died in captivity in 283, leaving a son, Antigonus [III/Gonatas] in Greece.

280-279 ("18 mos.)

Ptolemy *Ceraunus*

280-261 Antiochus I
(281-261) *Soter*

285-246 Ptolemy II *Philadelphus*
(282-246)

Antiochus I fought and defeated the Galatians between 279 and 275 and finally defeated them; but Ptolemy II took Miletus, Phoenicia and western Cilicia from Antiochus I in the Damascene (280-279) and First Syrian (276-272) wars. *Ency.* 80-81.
Pyrrhus, king of Epirus, fought for the Tarentines in Italy after Rome broke its treaty.

277-c. 274
(283-...)

Antigonus II *Gonatas*

⁵ Follow fn. 2.

⁶ "M" = Macedonia, to distinguish from later Seleucid Demetrii.

Commonly
Assigned
Year(s)
b.c./b,c,e,

MACEDONIAN
Years/Monarchs

SELEUCID
Years/Monarc

PTOLEMAIC
Years/Monarch

c. 274-272
273

Pyrrhus (restored)

"An embassy from [Ptolemy II] *Philadelphus*...concluded] an alliance with Rome." "AUC 481" [= 271 b.c.]
"The foremost powers of the East at this time were Egypt, Macedonia, and the Seleucid empire; of the west, Carthage and Rome." *Botsford* 65.

272-243

Antigonus II *Gonatas*

268

"Athens taken by Antigonus Gonatas, who keeps it 12 years." L xvi.

264

"Commencement of the First [23-year] Punic War [Rome v. Carthage]." "AUC 490" [= 262 b.c.].

263

Pergamum under Eumenes I became "virtually independent" of the Seleucids.
Ptolemy II quelled a seditious revolt by his brother, Magas (Cyrene's dependent king), who had been encouraged by Antiochus I. After Magas was killed, Ptolemy II and Antiochus I entered into a treaty of alliance.

262

"Antiochus [I] Soter defeated at Sardis by Eumenes of Pergamus." L xvi.

261-246 Antiochus II *Theos/Theus*

Antiochus II had support of Antigonus II in the Second Syrian War against Egypt (260-255), which resulted in restoration to the Seleucids of Ionia including Miletus, Coele-Syria, and western Cilicia.⁷

256

"Athens restored to liberty by Antigonus [II]." L xvi.

c. 252

Antiochus II and Ptolemy II put an end to warring; Antiochus II accepted Ptolemy II's daughter, Berenice II, in marriage, requiring him to put aside wife Laodice [#2], "a marriage that appears to have been one of the conditions" for ending the war, as further detailed in Appendix 3A, VI, Attachment 6.

250

"The Parthians under Arsaces and Bactrians under Theodotus revolt from the Macedonians." L xvi.⁸

248(249)-247

Arsaces I of the nomad Pami established himself in the province of Parthia.⁸

Ptolemy II's reign in Egypt had coincided with that of High Priest **Eleazar**, who provided Ptolemy II with the Temple Code and scholars to produce its translation into Greek.⁹

High Priest **Manasseh** served after high priest Eleazar.

246-226 Seleucus II
(246-225) *Callinicus*

246-222/221 Ptolemy III
Euergetes I

⁷ See fn. 13.

⁸ Refer to Appendix 3A, VI, Attachment 3, Parthia.

⁹ Ptolemy II had "the 70" assemble on Pharos Island in Alexandria harbor. Translation proceeded under strict criteria. L 243-244.

Commonly
Assigned
Year(s)
b.c./b,c,e,

MACEDONIAN
Years/Monarchs

SELEUCID
Years/Monarch

PTOLEMAIC
Years/Monarch

High Priest **Onias II** succeeded Manasseh at some point.
(Tobias-) Joseph became primary liaison between the Jerusalem temple and
the suzerain; he served as such for 22 years.

Ptolemy III, Berenice II's brother, had early engaged in a war against Antiochus II ("The Third Syrian War"/"Laodicean War"/"War of Berenice"),
Ptolemy III invaded Asia and ultimately forced Seleucus II to surrender the coasts of Syria and southern Asia Minor. After conquering Syria and
Cilicia, Ptolemy III advanced as far as the Tigris."

"[T]he third of [the] Ptolemies, who was called Euergetes, when he had gotten possession of all Syria by force, did not offer his thank-offerings
to the Egyptian gods for his victory, but came to Jerusalem, and according to our own laws offered many sacrifices to God, and dedicated to Him
such gifts as were suitable to such a victory." *Josephus, Against Apion, II.5.*

"The last years of Ptolemy III's reign were passed in peace, if except[ed is] the refusal
of the Jews to continue to pay the tribute of twenty silver talents which their ancestors had
always paid to the Egyptian monarchs."

241 Seleucus II recognized Antiochus Hierax as ruler of Asia Minor..
Roman defeat of Carthage's fleet put it out of the first Punic war.

239-229 Demetrius II [-M¹⁰] *Gonatas*

c. 235 Arsaces II of the Parthi seized an opportunity, conquered Parthia and Hyrcania, and founded the Parthian kingdom." "An expedition of Seleucus II
against him was ineffective. Arsaces...converted Armenia into an independent kingdom."

229-228 Attalus I of Pergamum drove Antiochus Hierax out of Asia Minor.

227 Seleucus II in turn drove Attalus I to Thrace, where he died. *Ency. 81.*

Seleucus II, who had tried unsuccessfully to make war against Ptolemy III, was taken prisoner by one Arsaces--"an officer who made himself
powerful by the dissensions...between the two brothers, Seleucus and Antiochus."

229-221 Antigonus III¹¹ *Doson*
'regency' for Philip/Phillipus V

226-223 Seleucus III
(225-223) *Ceraunus*

¹⁰ See fn. 6.

¹¹ Referred to as "the Second" by *Lempriere*.

Commonly
Assigned
Year(s)¹²
b.c./b.c.e,

MACEDONIAN
Years/Monarchs

SELEUCID
Years/Monarch

PTOLEMAIC
Years/Monarch

224-221 Seleucus III was murdered "by two of his officers, after a reign of three years, B.C. 223 [L 555]." He died "in the early stages of a war of the Seleucids and Pergamum" ("during a war with Attalus I"). *Ency.* 81.
Antigonus III "Dodon conquered Cleomenes, king of Sparta...because he favored the Aetolians against the Greeks."

221-178
(221-179)

Philip V

223-187 Antiochus III
the Great
"King of Syria and Asia" L 53.

222/221 - 205/203 Ptolemy IV
Philopater

Ptolemy IV warred with Antiochus III, invaded his territory, and was victorious at "Rapeia"/"Raphia." L 53. On Antiochus III's return:
Antiochus III visited Jerusalem, "but the Jews prevented him forcibly from entering their temple." In retaliation, Antiochus III prepared to have an "immense number" trodden to death by elephants, but the animals turned...upon the Egyptian spectators," instead, which "circumstance terrified Philopater, who subsequently "behaved with more than common kindness to [that] nation." L 512.

220
218
214

"The Social war between the Aetolians and Achaeans, assisted by Philip [V]." L xvii.
Commencement of renewed war between Rome and Carthage (Second, 17-year Punic War). "AUC 536," L xvii and 167. (Time of Hannibal.)
"The Romans begin the auxiliary second war against Philip [V] in Epirus, which [continues] by intervals for 14 years." (This is referred to by some sources as the "First Macedonian War, and appears to have been settled c. 206 b.c.) L xvii.
Antiochus III and Ptolemy IV subsequently reconciled.
Although Antiochus III initially had regained most of the territory lost to Pergamum in preceding decades, all that the Seleucids retained on Syria's coast by the end of the Fourth Syrian War (221-217 b.c.) was Seleucia, the port of Antioch.

209-204

"Antiochus III reduced the Parthian Arsaces III/Priapatus to vassalship [and] made an alliance with [one] Euthydemus who had usurped the Bactrian throne of Diodotus II, and even secured the submission of the Indian rajah Sophagasenus. Thus he restored the Seleucid kingdom to its former extent." *Ency.* 81.
In 203 b.c. Philip V of Macedonia allied with Antiochus III against Egypt. In 201 b.c. Philip V began operations in the Aegean. Philip V sought league with Annibal/[Hannibal] against Rome but ultimately was forced into a humiliating peace.
Antiochus III made war against Persia and took Sardes. He conquered "the greatest part of Greece," but some cities obtained Roman aid. Antiochus was forced to abandon his quest and accept his boundary as east of mount Taurus, besides paying Rome a yearly fine." L 54.
Antiochus III had been defeated by Rome, but they had allowed him to retain Judea, which he had taken from the Ptolemies, and the Egyptians wanted it back." *Asimov*, vo. 2, p. 51.
Rome, weakened by its war with Carthage, renewed a treaty of alliance with Egypt toward the last of Ptolemy IV's reign.

202

Hannibal was defeated by Rome's Scipio at Zama in Carthagina; Spain was ceded to Rome.

¹² It is worth reiterating that minor variations frequently are encountered in the standardly assigned years of events and monarchical tenures. (Some contrast is provided in the parenthetical dates from *Burstein*.)

Commonly
Assigned
Year(s)
b.c./b,c,e,

MACEDONIAN
Years/Monarchs

SELEUCID
Years/Monarch

PTOLEMAIC
Years/Monarch

205/203 - 181 Ptolemy V
(204-180) *Epiphanes*

Antiochus III won a Fifth Syrian War (201-195), "victory of Panium."¹³

c. 200 "Letter of Antiochos III grant[ed] privileges to the Jews for their aid during the Fifth Syrian War."¹⁴

200 Rome declared war on Philip V. (This war, which continued some four years, *Lempriere* terms "the first Macedonian" war (L xvii); others, "the second.")
Eumenes II of Pergamum (197-159) convinced Roman general Flaminius to order Antiochus III out of Asia Minor; Antiochus ignored the order and instead confirmed his conquests by making peace with Egypt in 195 b.c.
After Ptolemy IV Philopater died. Antiochus III sought to conquer Egypt's then-weakened government/"endeavoured to crush" Philopater's infant son Epiphanes;" but guardians of the new child-king solicited Roman aid and Antiochus III was compelled to desist. L 53.

Circa this time, "Samaritans...in a flourishing condition" were making incursions into Judaeen territory. The party of Simon 'of Bilgah' overtly opposed Onias II, who was seen as abetting the Seleucids.

Antiochus III gave his daughter, Cleopatra [I] in marriage to Ptolemy V as part of a peace accord which included, by way of dowry, Phoenicia and Coele-Syria (including Judaea and Samaria).¹⁵ "This happened when **Onias II** was high priest."
(Appendix 3A, VI; *AJ* XII.IV.6.)

197 Rome defeated Philip V; by a treaty in 196 all of his Greek possessions were ceded to Rome.

192 "AUC 562, the war of Antiochus [III] the Great begins [the "Asiatic War"], and continues three years." L xvii.
Antiochus III invaded Greece and in 190 was defeated by the Romans, who took his son, young Antiochus IV, as a hostage to Rome to guarantee the effected peace treaty. ("The luxuries of Asia brought to Rome in the spoils of Antiochus." L xvii.) Antiochus III ceded all his possessions west of Mt. Taurus, part of which Rome bestowed on Pergamum and Rhodes. Rome's protectorate extended over all Asia Minor.

¹³"Panium, a place at Coele-Syria, where B.C. 198 Antiochus [III] defeated Scopas," "an Aetolian who raised some forces to assist Ptolemy [V] Epiphanes...against his enemies, Antiochus [III] and his allies." L 431, 551. *Koile Syria*: "That portion of 'southern Syria' and northern Palestine occupied by Ptolemais I in 301 [but] claimed by the Seleucids until re-conquest by Antiochus III following his victory at Panion in 200." *Burstein*, page 54, fn. 3; *see especially* fn. 20 here, regarding the term *Coele/Koile]-Syria*.

¹⁴The letter mentions a "Ptolemais. probably to be identified with Ptolemaios, son of Thraseas, a phalanx officer of Ptolemaios IV in 219...who later defected to Antiochus III and was rewarded with an appointment as general and high priest of Koile Syria." *Burstein*, p. 47, fn. 2, citing references.

¹⁵With regard to a Ptolemaic claim that Kleopatra/Cleopatra I's dowry when she married Ptolemy V included Koile Syria [Coele-Syria], *Josephus* reports that she received only its revenue [*i.e.* territorially it remained a Seleucid possession]. *Burstein*, page 54, n. 3.

Commonly
Assigned
Year(s)
b.c./b,c,e,

MACEDONIAN
Years/Monarchs

SELEUCID
Years/Monarch

PTOLEMAIC
Years/Monarch

"Converted" Year¹⁶
b.c./b,c,e,

188/187

Antiochus III's "revenues being unable to pay the [Roman] fine, he attempted to plunder the temple of Belus in Susiana, which so incensed the inhabitants, that they killed him with his followers, 187 b.c." L 54. ("AUC 566, Antiochus the Great defeated and killed in Media." L xviii.)

187-175 *Seleucus IV Philopator*
["Soter" per Josephus]

The Seleucid empire under Seleucus IV was weakened further by the heavy yearly tribute required by Rome.

180/179

Ptolemy V died "B.C. 180" after a reign of 24 years, being poisoned by ministers from whom he threatened to take funds for a war chest. Philip V died "in the 42nd year of his reign, 179 years before the Christian era." ("AUC 572 [=182 b.c.,] Death of Philip." L 168.)

175

"Seleucus IV was poisoned after a reign of 12 years, B.C. 175." His son, Demetrius I Soter, previously had been given by his father to be maintained as a hostage by Rome. Brother Antiochus [IV] Epiphanes "usurped" the throne. L 555.

175

"Perseus sends his ambassadors to Carthage." L xviii.

179-167 Perseus/Perses
(179-168)

175/174-163 Antiochus IV
(175-164) *Epiphanes*

181-146/145 Cleopatra I--during Ptolemy
(180-145) VI's minority; then
Ptolemy VI *Philomater/*
Philometor

During Ptolemy VI's minority, Cleopatra I governed. When she died, he was "under a eunuch who...was one of his favorites." As shown in what follows, Ptolemy Physcon assumed the reign briefly in this period, during a capture of Ptolemy VI.

Antiochus IV "became king in the year 137 of the kingdom of the Greeks." *1 Maccabees* 1:10.

174¹⁷

"Antiochus the Fourth,...destroyed Jerusalem [etc.], as is minutely recorded in the book of the Maccabees."

Onias II withdrew to a sanctuary near Antioch. Menelaus[/Onias III], in league with Andronicus, Antiochus IV's man in charge, lured out Onias II and Andronicus killed him. When Onias II died, "he left the priesthood to his son, **Simeon**."

One Hyrcanus,¹⁸ youngest son of (Tobias-) Joseph, had come to be established in, and ruled over territory east of, the Jordan, *circa* Heshbon. Hyrcanus--having built a "great castle"--ruled over the territory "seven years, even all the time" that Seleucus IV reigned. (Appendix 3A, VI at *AJ* XII.IV.11.)

¹⁶ See sub-part B for the methods of converting text year references to our standard b.c. dating.

¹⁷ This would have been the third year in the 151st olympiad (776 b.c. - [150 olympiads x 4 =] 600 = 176 b.c. as year one of the 151st).

¹⁸ See Appendix 3B, II, Attachment 5, fns. 13 and 14., and other references there given, concerning this name.

Commonly
Assigned
Year(s)
b.c./b,c,e,

MACEDONIAN
Years/Monarchs

SELEUCID
Years/Monarch

PTOLEMAIC
Years/Monarch

"Converted" Year¹⁹
b.c./b,c,e,

High priest "**Simon[/Simeon]**" appealed to the governor of Coele-Syria and Phoenicia, which caused Seleucus IV to send a minister to investigate and confiscate temple riches, which pilferage was prevented by a mysterious attack. (*Refer to Appendix 3A, VI, 2 Maccabees 3:1-14 and paragraph following.*) Although it is not clearly stated that "Simeon" and "Simon" were one and the same, it appears that high priest Simon's tenure was brief. (Tobias-) Joseph also died. The people "grew seditious," being divided between young Hyrcanus and the elder sons of Tobias who were supported by Simeon/Simon. "The elder sons made war on Hyrcanus [Tobias]." "[T]he greater part joined with the elders...as did Simon [*sic.*] the high priest, by reason he was kin to them."
At some point "they" gave the high priesthood to Onias II's "brother," **Jesus[/Jason]**, apparently as regent of Onias II's young son, Onias IV. *Josephus* reports it was when "Antiochus surnamed Epiphanes succeeded ["year 137" = 174 b.c. that] Onias' brother Jason obtained the high priesthood." c. 174
"Three years later" Jason was supplanted by **Onias III/Menelaus**, brother of (Bilgah-) Simon, who outbid Jason and "obtained the royal commission from Antiochus IV to be high priest," promising Antiochus IV large tribute. [Suggested: c. 171]

171

Rome declared war against Perseus, with whom some Greeks had begun to bond.

A "sedition" arose, in which Jason was supported by "the greater part of the people." The faction of the [elder] sons of Tobias took the part of Onias III/Menelaus, and Jason was driven out. Onias III/Menelaus had a brother [in-law?], Lysimachus; together, they had committed "many sacreligious thefts." Onias III, summoned to Antiochus IV, left Lysimachus in his place. During Onias III's absence a riot broke out; Lysimachus was killed "near the treasury." Onias III contrived to escape punishment by Antiochus IV and remained as high priest, but "those who had prosecuted the case for the city" suffered.

Ptolemy VI warred "against Antiochus Epiphanes, king of Syria, to recover the provinces of Palestine and Coelesyria."²⁰ "Ptolemy Philometer

¹⁹ See sub-part B for the methods of converting text year references to our standard b.c. dating.

²⁰ *Williamson* remarks that, "when Antiochus Epiphanes was disputing the control of Palestine ["literally, 'the control of all Syria'"] with Ptolemy VI," Palestine--"clearly meant--was one of the three areas at various times called *Koile* (Coele) 'hollow,' Syria. It appears that through similarity of sound *koile* was erroneously rendered into Aramaic as *kol*, 'whole,' which was then translated back into Greek as 'the whole of Syria.'" Page 33, fn. 2 at page 410.

Commonly
Assigned
Year(s)
b.c./b,c,e,

MACEDONIAN
Years/Monarchs

SELEUCID
Years/Monarch

PTOLEMAIC
Years/Monarch

"Converted" Year
b.c./b,c,e,

172/171
171

[sic.] and his wife Cleopatra [II]...committed their whole kingdom to the Jews, when Onias and Dositheus, both Jews...were the generals of their whole army." *Josephus*, Against Apion, II.5.
Antiochus IV made an expedition against Egypt. Ptolemy VI "fell into the hands of his enemy, who detained him in confinement."
Rome declared war against Perseus, "AUC 582.: L 168, ("The second [referenced by some as "Third"] Macedonian War." L xviii.)
"Ptolemy [VI]'s generals defeated by Antiochus in a battle [in the territory] between Pelusium and Mount Cassius." L xviii.
During Ptolemy VI's captivity, "the Egyptians raised to the throne his younger brother Ptolemy *Euergetes* or *Physcon*."

Ptolemy VIII *Physcon*

Ptolemy VIII "Physcon was expelled by Antiochus [IV], who restored Philometor but kept Pelusium ("the key to Egypt") for himself."
Ptolemy VI, wanting to free himself of Antiochus IV's rein, recalled Physcon, to reign conjointly and help repel Antiochus IV.

Ptolemy VI and Ptolemy VIII

(According to *Lempriere*, this joint reign lasted six years.)

Antiochus IV invaded Egypt; the Romans forced him to retire. Afterward, hostilities resurfaced between the two Ptolemies; Ptolemy VI banished Physcon, who "immediately repaired to Rome." The Romans separated them, "giving the government of Libya and Syrene to Physcon and confirming Philometor in...Egypt and the island of Cyprus." (*Lempriere* gives this date as 169 b.c.)

Ptolemy VI

A "great sedition fell among the men of power in Judea...about obtaining the government."
Onias III prevailed and cast out the Tobiads/"sons of Tobias." They then went to Antiochus IV "and besought him to make an expedition into Judea."

"About this time" Antiochus IV began a second expedition to Egypt.

Upon a false rumor that Antiochus IV was dead, Jason tried an attack²¹ but failed and retreated once again "to the country of the Ammonites."

Antiochus IV's attempt at Egypt was foiled, when "a Roman envoy from Alexandria faced the Seleucid monarch in front of his troops and ordered him to withdraw;" Antiochus IV was "utterly humiliated." *Asimov*, vol. 2, p. 52. (Antiochus IV "defeated Egypt in the year 143."²²) On his return²³ he "took the city [Jerusalem], "the 143rd year of the kingdom of the Seleucidae." *1 Maccabees* 1:20; *AJ XII.V.3.* 168

²¹ Which attack included the burning of gates referred to in one of the letters quoted in *2 Maccabees* 7ff.--see below at fn. 35.

²² Difficulty remains in fixing times of Antiochus IV's Egyptian endeavors.

²³ This would have been the first year of the 153rd olympiad.

Commonly
Assigned
Year(s)
b.c./b,c,e,

MACEDONIAN
Years/Monarchs

SELEUCID
Years/Monarch

PTOLEMAIC
Years/Monarch

"Converted" Year
b.c./b,c,e,

Antiochus IV, returning from his aborted Egypt invasion, heard of Jason's attack, and "enraged...made an expedition against the city Jerusalem in the year 143 of the Seleucidae." He took the city without a fight, "those of his own party opening the gates to him." He killed many of the Ptolemaic supporters and plundered the temple.

Antiochus IV left **Onias III** as high priest; "Philip, a Phrygian" as governor of Jerusalem and Andronicus at Mount Gerizzim."

Hyrchanus Tobias, seeing Antiochus IV's great army, feared being brought to punishment "for what he had done to the Arabians, [and] slew himself with his own hand." All of his substance was taken by Antiochus IV.

"Two years later [after Antiochus IV's sacking of Jerusalem]," in "the 145th year ...the 153rd olympiad [AJ XII.V.4]," Antiochus IV's army under a Mysian commander²⁴ entered Jerusalem feigning friendship, then unexpectedly attacked, destroyed many, took captives, and pillaged and plundered the city.

166²⁵

Antiochus' men then built up the "City of David" into massive-walled, towered citadel and installed a garrison (*Josephus* refers to it as "a garrison of Macedonians").

Antiochus IV proscribed all local customs, laws and circumcision. A general named Bacchides was sent to maintain the region's fortresses.

"But Judas Maccabeus and about nine others withdrew to the wilderness" and lived in caves.

168

Perseus, last of the Antigonid rulers, again marshalled himself against the Romans. "The battle of Pydna, and the fall of the Macedonian empire." L xviii. "Perseus fled from battle at Pydna "b.c. 168," He retreated to and was captured at Samothrace, was humiliated at Rome, and either died a natural death in prison or was put to death. ("AUC 586," Perseus was defeated and taken prisoner by co-consul Paulus. L 168.)

167

Rome made Macedon into four unrelated republics under moderate tributes.

An Athenian senator was sent by Antiochus IV to enforce the edicts and dedicate the Jerusalem and Mount Gerizzim temples to 'hellenistic' gods. Neighboring 'Greek- controlled ' cities had to enforce compliance, on pain of death for resisters. (Some persons discovered secretly observing sabbaths were burned to death, and other cruel events transpired.) (Asamoneus-Simon-John-) Mattathais, the father of Judas Maccabeus, was "a priest of the

²⁴ Josephus here differs from *Maccabees*, in that he reports Antiochus IV as heading this attack.

²⁵ This would have been the third year of the 153rd olympiad.

Commonly
Assigned
Year(s)
b.c./b,c,e,

MACEDONIAN
Years/Monarchs

SELEUCID
Years/Monarch

PTOLEMAIC
Years/Monarch

"Converted" Year
b.c./b,c,e,

order of Joiarib [and] a citizen of Jerusalem." He retreated to Modein, his hometown, about 17 miles northwest of Jerusalem. Mattathais refused to comply with the conqueror's edicts and openly rebelled; he and his sons killed one or more hegemon representatives and fled with other rebels to the mountains.

In the year following Antiochus IV's conquest unnamed ambassadors from Shechem secured Antiochus' recognition that they who lived in Shechem were originally of Sidonian stock, and not liable for the behavior of the "Jews." In return, the temple at Mount Gerizzim was renamed "the Temple of Jupiter Hellenius."

Derivable is year 146: 165

Before Mattathais died, he directed Judas to take "upon him the administration of public affairs" and command of the army and ordained another son, Simon Matthes, to be patriarch. Judas' ultimate army was collected from "all those who were fleeing from the disaster, joined also by a group of Hasideans."

Mattathais died that same "year 146." *1 Maccabees* 2:69. 165

Antiochus IV intended to go against the Maccabaeans the next spring, but his depleted treasury decided him to undertake a Persian expedition. He left one "Lysias" in charge at Antioch "in the year 147." 164

Based on their successes, Judas and his followers moved into Jerusalem and refurbished the deserted temple. Judas held a dedication of the temple "on the 148th year, and on the 154th olympiad"--"three months to the day" and "three years after" "its desolation by Antiochus IV." *AJ* XII.VII.6; *1 Maccabees* 4:52. 163²⁶

Judas and his people fortified "Mount Zion" with high walls and established their garrison there; meanwhile, the Seleucid's garrison still occupied the Jerusalem citadel. Antiochus IV in Persia heard "that the armies sent into the land of Judah had been put to flight [and]...Lysias driven back, etc." *1 Maccabees* 6:5ff. Language and sequencing here indicates that news reached Antiochus IV in the year of his death, "149."

Antiochus IV was routed at Persepolis. Word of Maccabean victories reached him on his retreat, but illness aborted his intent to proceed immediately to Judaea. Lysias negotiated a settlement with Judas, confirmed in writing by "the king," which rescinded all prior proscriptions, "in the year 148." *2 Maccabees* II:21ff. 163

²⁶ This would have been the second year of the 154th olympiad. ("Three years" after desolation by Antiochus IV in the "145th year:" 166 - 3 = 163 b.c.)

Commonly
Assigned
Year(s)
b.c./b,c,e,

<u>MACEDONIAN</u> <u>Years/Monarchs</u>	<u>SELEUCID</u> <u>Years/Monarch</u>	<u>PTOLEMAIC</u> <u>Years/Monarch</u>	<u>"Converted" Year</u> b.c./b,c,e,
Antiochus IV died "in Persia" "in the 149th year." <i>1 Maccabees</i> 6:14; <i>AJ XII.IX.2.</i>			162
Lysias seized power over the Seleucid kingdom, keeping control of young Antiochus V Eupator, and assuming command over Coele-Syria and Phoenicia.	164/3-162 (163-162)	Antiochus V <i>Eupator</i> with Lysias as Regent	
In the "year 149 Judas...learned that Antiochus [V] Eupator was invading Judea... with Lysias, his guardian, who was in charge of the government." <i>2 Maccabees</i> 13:1.			162
<i>Note: Refer to Appendix 3A, VI for details of battles in which Judas' forces thwarted opposing generals and went on to capture strategic positions.</i>			
The dying Antiochus IV, whose successor-son still was a child, had given his signet ring to one "Philip," his companion/foster brother." Philip solicited the aid of a Ptolemy. Said Ptolemy sent (Patroclus-) Nicanor and Gorgias against Judas. (A parallel says Lysias sent generals (Dorymenes-) Ptolemy, Gorgias and Nicanor). ²⁷			
Regional "nations...uneasy at the revival of their [the Maccabaeans] power]" marshalled forces against them, including local rulers of Ptolemais/Acco; gentile Gileadites, and Ammonites, under one Timotheus/Timothy (joined by Bacchides); and "the posterity of Esau" in Idumaea. Judas split his army into three forces, one under (Zechariah-) Joseph and Azariah left to guard Judaea, one under Simon into the Galilee, while he and Jonathan crossed the Jordan east into Gilead, from which particular appeal for aid had come from the Tobiads/Toubiani.			
<i>Note: Again, refer to Appendix 3A, VI, for details of their battles and successes.</i>			
In "the 150th year of the dominion of the Seleucidae" Judas resolved to take out the opponent garrison in the Jerusalem citadel; he "called all the people together" and prepared to besiege it "in the year 150." <i>AJ XII.IX.3, 1 Maccabees</i> 6:20.			161
Informants alerted Antiochus V and Lysias, who formed an enormous mercenary army. Joined by Onias III/Menelaus they marched into Idumaea, where they fought the Maccabean force many days at Bethsur.			
In Jerusalem, the siege of the citadel was begun as Judas took his force out to meet the			

²⁷ Philip (at some point), having settled matters in Persia and brought Antiochus IV's body home, and "fearing Antiochus' son...withdrew into Egypt, to Ptolemy Philometor [VI]."

Commonly
Assigned
Year(s)
b.c./b,c,e,

MACEDONIAN
Years/Monarchs

SELEUCID/'SYRIA'
Years/Monarch

PTOLEMAIC
Years/Monarch

"Converted" Year
b.c./b,c,e,

foe head-on. Two battles later, and after brother Eleazar had been killed, Judas "retired to Jerusalem" to endure a siege there, while the Seleucid force took Beth-sur and continued a siege against hold-outs in the sanctuary there.

News reached the Seleucid camp that Philip was again at Antioch, heading a rebellion.

"Dismayed," general Lysias was forced to abandon a siege at Jerusalem, "parleyed with the Jews," and an agreement was effected, in which "Judas Maccabeus [was] left as military and civil governor of the territory from Ptolemais to the region of the Gerrenes." (The people of Ptolemais were angered over the peace treaty, but Lydias won them over "by persuasion.")

High priest **Onias III/Menelaus** was carried away by Lysias, et al. Lysias counseled Antiochus V that Onias III had been "the origin of all the mischief" by his persuading Antiochus IV to proscribe the Hebrews their religion. Onias III was executed at "Berea, a city of Syria... when he had been high priest ten years." *AJ* XII.IX.7. Suggested year: [c. 161]

Antiochus V put one **Jacimus/Alcimus** in the high priest position²⁸ and returned "in haste... to Antioch, took control of the city from Philip and killed him.

Judas "learned that Demetrius [I Soter], son of Seleucus [IV], "was returning" (*2 Maccabees* 14:1)--"In the year 151, Demetrius, son of Seleucus, set out from Rome" to 'Syria,' to halt usurpation of what he claimed to be his rightful dominions. The soldiers received him as their lawful sovereign. 160

"AUC 592, Demetrius [I] [flew] from Rome and was made king of Syria." L 168.

Demetrius I apprehended Lysias and Antiochus V and put them to death, "in the year 151." 160

162-150 Demetrius I [-S²⁹] Soter

Subsequently, high priest Jacimus/Alcimus with "wicked runagates" courted king Demetrius I; eventually (abetted by some of the king's "friends") he accused, specifically, Judas, his kin, and those "called Hasideans, led by Judas Maccabeus," and the "whole nation" In general, as seditious warmongers who deprived him of his high priesthood dignity and

²⁸ Jacimus "was indeed of the stock of Aaron, but not of that family of Onias." "[A]s to Onias [IV], son of the high priest [Onias II]... when he saw that the king had slain his uncle, Menelaus/[Onias III], and given the high priesthood to Alcimus/[Jacimus]..., [having been] induced by Lysias to translate that dignity...to another house..., he [Onias IV] fled to Ptolemy [VI], King of Egypt...."

²⁹ Distinguishing 'Seleucid' Demetrii from 'Macedonian.'

Commonly
Assigned
Year(s)
b.c./b,c,e,

MACEDONIAN
Years/Monarchs

SELEUCID/'SYRIA'
Years/Monarch

PTOLEMAIC
Years/Monarch

"Converted" Year
b.c./b,c,e,

hindered peace.
Demetrius I Soter sent a force under general Bacchides with Jacimus/Alcimus, to enforce Jacimus as high priest. Judas distrusted and rejected a Bacchides' offer to negotiate. (A group of scribes/Hasideans "were the first among the Israelites to seek peace," and voluntarily went over; sixty of them, however, were killed in one day.)
Bacchides searched out and punished partisans around the countryside, attempting to gain their submission to Jacimus/Alcimus, and then retired from the region. Judas retaliated by killing all he found of the opposing party.
Jacimus/Alcimus returned to Demetrius I with new accusations; Demetrius appointed his general Nicanor as governor of Judaea and sent him with a force believed sufficient to destroy Judas and "to set up Alcimus as high priest of the great temple." "The gentiles of Judaea, who would have Judas banished, came flocking to Nicanor."
Simon suffered a slight repulse in a first engagement with Nicanor, who was indisposed to forcing the issue by bloodshed and sent an embassy instead. Formal proceedings were held and an agreed peace established, in which, apparently, Jacimus/Alcimus was accepted. ("Nicanor stayed on in Jerusalem...did nothing out of place...always kept Judas in his company, for he had cordial affection for the man. He urged him to marry and have children; so Judas married, settled down, and [apparently temporarily] shared the common life."
At some point, Judas sent ambassadors to solicit a league with Rome.
Meanwhile, Jacimus went again to Demetrius I, alleging that Nicanor was plotting against the state, in that he had designated Judas to be Jacimus' successor as high priest.
Demetrius I ordered that Nicanor arrest Judas and forcing him to turn on Judas.
Judas, noting the change in Nicanor's attitude, gathered a large number of men and went into hiding. After the temple priests denied knowing Judas' whereabouts when Nicanor demanded his surrender, Nicanor learned that the Maccabaeans were in Samaria territory. In an ensuing major battle, in which Nicanor was killed, Judas' forces emerged victorious. On hearing on Nicanor's defeat, Demetrius I again sent out Bacchides, who first invaded and did battle in the Galilee.
Bacchides encamped at Jerusalem in "the year 152." *1 Maccabees* 9:3. 159
Alcimus ordered the tearing down of the sanctuary wall, then suffered a stroke, in the "year 153" (*1 Maccabees* 9:54). Both a three-year (*Maccabees*) and four-year (*AJ XII.X.6*) tenure is given for Alcimus. c. 158
When Alcimus was dead, "*the people bestowed the high priesthood on Judas.*"
Suggested: 158

Commonly
Assigned
Year(s)
b.c./b,c,e,

MACEDONIAN
Years/Monarchs

SELEUCID/'SYRIA'
Years/Monarch

PTOLEMAIC
Years/Monarch

"Converted" Year³⁰
b.c./b,c,e,

Judas entered the Roman League, "when [he]/Judas was high priest of the nation and Simon his brother was general of the army."

Bacchides finally conquered the Maccabaeans in a day-long battle at "Bethzetho" that ended when Judas was killed and his remaining forces fled.

Judas had "retained the high priesthood three years" before he died.

155

Dissension in Judaea continued; a famine induced some to "apostatize" and assist Bacchides, while resisters gravitated to Judas' brother, Jonathan, as their general. Bacchides supervised in their battle, following which he proceeded to restore Jerusalem's walls and placed garrisons in several Judaeian cities. Jonathan and his brother Simon had escaped; but Bacchides shut up the sons of "principal Jews...in the citadel. After securing Judaea with garrisons, Bacchides "returned to the king; and...the affairs of Judea were quiet for two years."

Opponents of Jonathan caused Demetrius I to send out Bacchides again. Instead of the easy capture of Jonathan that had been intimated, Jonathan and his men wasted Bacchides' camp in a surprise night attack. Bacchides proposed that he and Jonathan strike a truce and returned to Antioch. Jonathan went to live in Mishmash "and there governed the multitude."

In "the year 160," Alexander Balas, son of Antiochus IV Epiphanes, laid claim to the Seleucid crown, and Ptolemais/[Acco] was given over to him by 'the soldiers...for they were at enmity with Demetrius I.'" ("Four years after the death of...Judas...[and] no high priest [yet] had been made.") 151

Both contenders for the Seleucid throne--Demetrius I and Alexander Balas--courted

Jonathan for his support; Jonathan accepted Balas' offer. Balas recognized **Jonathan** as high priest in the "year 160;" Jonathan "put on the pontifical robe/sacred vestments in the year 160," "four years after the death of brother Judas."³¹ *1 Maccabees* 10:20-21; *AJ* XIII.II.1. 151

Jonathan's appointment made him "able to take up residence in Jerusalem [from Mishmash] and suppress the pro-Seleucid faction which had been in power since the death of Judas...."

Asimov, vol. 2, p. 79.

152

In Macedonia, one Andriscus, "pretending to be" son of Perseus, began the "Fourth Macedonian War." ("Andriscus the Pseudophilip assumes the royalty of Macedonia." L xviii.)

Demetrius I was defeated and killed in battle by Balas in the 12th year of his reign.

150

³⁰ Blank.

³¹ This agrees with the time stated by Josephus--that, after Alcimus, "the city continued seven years without a high priest"--if meant was an official high priest, not including Judas' tenure of appointment by the people.

<u>Commonly Assigned Year(s)</u> b.c./b,c,e,	<u>MACEDONIAN Years/Monarchs</u>	<u>SELEUCID/'SYRIA' Years/Monarch</u>	<u>PTOLEMAIC Years/Monarch</u>	<u>"Converted" Year</u> b.c./b,c,e,
		150-146/145 Alexander Balas (150-145)		
149-148 148			Ptolemy VI gave his daughter, Cleopatra III, to Bala; the wedding took place at Ptolemais "in the year 162." <i>1 Maccabees</i> 5:57. On Andriscus' defeat, Macedonia was changed into a Roman province. Rome made war against the Achaeans. L xviii.	149
			"AUC 605," Rome declared new war on Carthage (the "Third Punic War"), declaring, "Carthage must be destroyed." L 168. "In the year 165," Demetrius [II] son of Demetrius [I] , came from Crete to Cilicia with a mercenary army, to repossess his homelands. "[I]n the hundred threescore and fifth year came Demetrius son of Demetrius out of Crete into the land of his fathers." <i>AJ</i> XIII.IV.3, <i>1 Maccabees</i> 10:67.	147
147/146			In the Seleucid contention, Balas was supported by Ptolemy VI of Egypt, Attalus II Philadelphus of Pergamum, and Rome. Ptolemy VI had sealed a treaty with Balas by giving his daughter, Cleopatra III, in marriage to Balas, Ptolemy VI led an army to Ptolemais ostensibly to support Balas against Demetrius II. There, however, he discerned that Balas was party to a plot against his life. Civil warring had begun anew, and the Jews were deeply involved. While Balas hastened to confront Demetrius II at Antioch, general Apollonius, Balas'governor of Coele-Syria, challenged Jonathan. The Maccabaeen force under Jonathan and brother Simon won a resounding victory. Balas claimed Apollonius' actions had been unauthorized, honored Jonathan, and increased his tribute. Ptolemy VI easily persuaded the people of Antioch to reject Balas (who meanwhile was dealing with revolt in Cilicia). Seleucia's leaders and army declared Ptolemy VI king of Antioch; however, Ptolemy VI--wary of Roman envy should he wear Asia's crown as well as Egypt's--persuaded them to receive Demetrius II, and pledged not to permit him to usurp his rule. Ptolemy VI 'divorced' Cleopatra III from Balas and gave her to Demetrius II.	146
			"Carthage destroyed by Scipio, and Corinth by Mummius." L xviii. The Romans (under Mummius) defeated the Achaean army, entered Corinth, and destroyed it. Rome became master of Greece via partisan aristocracies; "politically the Greeks were dead." "AUC 608," [L 168], a Roman army under Scipio Aemilianus forced passage into Carthage, utterly destroyed it, and exterminated its populace. (Carthage surrendered all of its armor and hundreds of hostages. When Rome further ordered its citizens to abandon the city, they dug in and had continued to defend it, "like heroes," another three years.) Carthage's territory became the Roman province of Africa.	144
		146/145-141 Demetrius II [-S] <i>Nicanor</i> ³² (145-140) (First tenure)	Became king "in the year 167." <i>1 Maccabees</i> 9:18.	144
			Although Demetrius II established peace around himself, his failure to support Ptolemaic soldiers to the same extent as his predecessors lost their loyalty and they returned to Alexandria. Diodorus Tryphon, a pretended- or pretender-son of Balas, retrieved young Antiochus VI/ <i>Entheus</i> from the Arabian Imalkue/Malchus, who had been rearing him, with the intent to raise Antiochus VI to the Seleucid throne in opposition to Demetrius II.	

³² See fn. 29; the use of *Nicaṭor* also has been seen.

Commonly
Assigned
Year(s)
b.c./b,c,e,

MACEDONIAN
Years/Monarchs

SELEUCID/'SYRIA'
Years/Monarch

PTOLEMAIC
Years/Monarch

"Converted" Year
b.c./b,c,e,

Tryphon emerged from Arabia with Antiochus VI (joined by "the whole forces that had left Demetrius, because they had no pay") and made war upon Demetrius II. While Demetrius won several victories over Mithridates I of Parthia, Tryphon occupied Antioch; Demetrius retired into Cilicia.

145 Antiochus VI *Entheus*
with Tryphon, at Antioch

Ptolemy Physcon (secretly supported by the Romans, who wanted Egypt's power lessened) made a claim on Cyprus. In return, Ptolemy VI had seeded a rebellion in Cyrene to draw off Physcon's advances.

In and about this time, "the Alexandrian Jews, and those...who paid their worship to the temple...at Mount Gerizzim, did now make a sedition one against another, and disputed ...before Ptolemy [VI] himself,"³³ the Jews/[Judaeans] saying that, according to the laws of Moses, the [main] temple was to be built at Jerusalem; and the [Hebrew] Samaritans saying that it was to be built at Gerizzim." Ptolemy VI decreed that the temple be restored at Jerusalem.

Onias IV solicited and obtained approval from Ptolemy VI to build a temple in Egypt at Heliopolis. Onias IV assured Ptolemy VI that it would cause the Jews to be "so much readier to fight" against the Seleucids and that they "would then come to Ptolemy with greater good will." "Onias [IV] had a mind to contend with the Jews at Jerusalem...[and] thought by building this temple he should draw away a great number from them to himself."³⁴

Jonathan meanwhile appealed to Demetrius II to clear the Jerusalem citadel and other garrisons in his territory. Demetrius II, knowing that Jonathan was levying an army, called a meeting at Ptolemais. Jonathan, with "elders of the people and the priests," bestowed splendid gifts on Demetrius II. Jonathan's high priesthood was confirmed and he received written confirmation of his dominion: Judaea, Peraea, Galilee and three toparchies/ prefectures in Samaria territory.

Demetrius II's troops revolted and confined him to his castle. Jonathan and his army responded, suppressed the riotous uprising, freed Demetrius and restored peace. Once restored, however, Demetrius II "broke all his promises and became estranged from Jonathan," threatening to make war if tribute was not paid as required in the past.

³³ As hegemon?--the seemingly mixed 'authorities' of Ptolemy VI and Demetrius II in the Palestine/Coele-Syria regions during this period is not altogether clear; see sub-part C.

³⁴ It now being some 17 years since he went in exile to Ptolemy VI, following the murder of his uncle Onias III (see Converted Year c. 161; refer to Appendix 3A, VI, Attachment 3, Heliopolis, and Appendix 3B, II, sub-part VI, for additional detail.)

Commonly
Assigned
Year(s)
b.c./b,c,e,

MACEDONIAN
Years/Monarchs

SELEUCID/'SYRIA'
Years/Monarch

PTOLEMAIC
Years/Monarch

"Converted" Year
b.c./b,c,e,

The Roman Senate ordered its general Mummius in Greece "to abolish the leagues, substitute oligarchies for all democracies, sack Corinth, and place Greece under the supervision of the governor of Macedon. This marked the end of Greek and Macedonian independence, though some Greek states retained autonomy for a long time." *Ency.* p. 80.

The Tryphon regime sent Jonathan an epistle reconfirming him as high priest, and Jonathan pledged allegiance. Jonathan's "governorship" appears to date from this point.

Antiochus VI gave Jonathan leave to assemble a large army out of Syria and Phoenicia to war against Demetrius II's generals. Jonathan scoured the Coele-Syrian cities, traveling "through West-of-Euphrates and its cities" "as far as Damascus," exhorting support for Antiochus VI. (He met with varying success--*refer to* Appendix 3A, VI narrative.)

Jonathan and his generals battled Demetrian forces (primarily at Kadesh/Cadesh in the region of the Galilaeans who, when war was made on them, he "would not overlook [as they] were his own people"), and at the Bethsura garrison where Simon installed one of his own--*refer to* Appendix 3A, VI.

Jonathan sent selected men to Rome to confirm and renew Roman friendship and also sent diplomatic regards to the Spartans and Lacedemonians.

"At this time there were three sects...Pharisees...Sadducees and...Essens."

Jonathan with his force routed a large Demetrian army in the country of Hamoth; fought against the Nabataeans in Arabia and at Damascus sold off captives and confiscated goods. At the same time, Simon took Joppa and fortified strongholds "over all Judea and Palestine, as far as Askelon."

Returning to Jerusalem, Jonathan and Simon organized restoration of Jerusalem's walls and towers, and the building of a wall in the middle of the city to cut off supplies to the opponent garrison in the citadel.

Balas re-entered 'Syria' from Cilicia with another army and battled Ptolemy VI and Demetrius II. Ptolemy Philometor conquered Alexander Balas "in the plain of the Antiocheians...on the banks of the Oenoparas River," but Ptolemy received a serious wounding. Balas finally was forced to flee to Arabia, where he soon met death at the hands of an Arabian prince, who sent his head to Ptolemy VI.

Ptolemy VI died of wounds received in the final battle with Balas. "Three days later [from when exactly is not said], king Ptolemy [VI] himself died, and his men in the fortified cities were killed by the inhabitants of the strongholds." *1 Maccabees* 11:18. Year 167 is inferred: 144

"The Jews that be at Jerusalem and in the land of Judea" in "what time as Demetrius [II] reigned, in the hundred and threescore and ninth year ["169th year"] wrote to "the Jews

Commonly
Assigned
Year(s)
b.c./b,c,e,

MACEDONIAN
Years/Monarchs

SELEUCID/'SYRIA'
Years/Monarch

PTOLEMAIC
Years/Monarch

"Converted" Year
b.c./b,c,e,

...throughout Egypt” about that “trouble...in those years, from all time that Jason and his company revolted, and burned the porch, etc.”³⁵ *2 Maccabees* 1:7. 142

Cleopatra II (supported by the ‘Jews’) laid claim to the Egyptian crown for Ptolemy VII, her son by Ptolemy VI; Ptolemy Physcon of Cyrene became a contender.

146/145 Cleopatra II
(145/144) as regent for
Ptolemy VII³⁶
Neos Philopater

“Ptolemy [VI] Philometer and his wife Cleopatra [II]...[had] committed their whole kingdom to the Jews, when [an] Onias and Dositheus, both Jews...were the generals of their whole army,” who ought to be returned “thanks for saving Alexandria....; for when these [unspecified] Alexandrians were making with with Cleopatra the queen, and were in danger of being utterly ruined, these Jews brought them to terms of agreement, and freed them from the miseries of a civil war.” And when “Onias brought a small army afterward upon the city at the time when Thermus the Roman ambassador was there...he did rightly...; for that Ptolemy who was called Physco[n], upon the death of...Philometer came from Cyrene, and would have ejected Cleopatra [II] as well as her sons³⁷ out of their kingdom...it was that Onias undertook a war against him on Cleopatra’s account.” *Josephus*, Against Apion, II.II.5.

“[W]hen Ptolemy Physco had the presumption to fight against Onias’ army and had caught all the Jews that were in the city [Alexandria],” he partially was prevented from causing further harm by the supplication of his concubine, Ithaca/Irene.” *Against Apion*, II.II.5.³⁸

Ptolemy Physcon fled to Cyprus; and, fearing “the Alexandrians should...place the crown on the head of his son, by his sister [a] Cleopatra, he sent for young prince Memphitis “and murdered him as soon as he reached the shore.”

“Alexandrians abandoned their habitations, and fled” from his [Physcon’s] barbarism. (Finally, “all Egypt revolted when the king [Ptolemy Physcon] had basely murdered all the young men of Alexandria.”)

It was “at last agreed that Cleopatra [II] would marry Physcon,” on condition that at his death her son Ptolemy VII would be heir; but after the ceremony Physcon “murdered Cleopatra’s son in her arms,” that very day.

³⁵ (a) This writing is referenced in the introductory paragraphs of the later-written *2 Maccabees* epistle bidding remembrance of the 25th day of the ninth month, Chasleu/Casleu (date of the Jason attack/burning at the temple-- fn. 20). Referenced also is another earlier writing, of the “188th” year (*refer to* Appendix 4A timeline at converted year 125 b.c.). *2 Maccabees* itself proceeds to submit a summary of the five books of “Jason of Cyrene,” relating events from Onias II to Judas Maccabeus’ victory.

³⁶ Confusion related to the numbering of Ptolemies VII and VIII has resulted in VII generally being omitted from charts; however, “sometimes” (as *Asimov* remarked) VII is reserved *as it is here*, for the young son of Ptolemy VI.

³⁷ This is as unclear as is Ptolemy Physcon’s son, Memphitis, “by his sister, Cleopatra;” *refer to* Appendix 3A, VI, Attachment 6.

³⁸ See preceding footnote.

Commonly
Assigned
Year(s)
b.c./b,c,e,

MACEDONIAN
Years/Monarchs

SELEUCID/'SYRIA'
Years/Monarch

PTOLEMAIC
Years/Monarch

"Converted" Year
b.c./b,c,e,

Physcon "repudiated Cleopatra [II]" and "married her daughter by Philometor, called also Cleopatra [IV] ... Soon after this he invaded Egypt with an army, and obtained a victory over the forces of Cleopatra [II] ...[who] fled to her eldest daughter Cleopatra [III], who [was] married [to] Demetrius, king of Syria."

146/5-116³⁹ Ptolemy VIII
Physcon

Demetrius II was in alliance with the Jews.

Tryphon, in occupation and having taken title of king at Antioch--"determined to become king of [all] Asia"--laid a plot to first eradicate Jonathan, an ally of Antiochus VI, before doing away with Antiochus VI,

Tryphon succeeded in duping Jonathan with an offer to give him Ptolemais; when Jonathan arrived with only a small force Tryphon annihilated it and took Jonathan captive.

In Jerusalem, Simon (a supporter of Demetrius II) held an assembly, was appointed governor/commander by the people, and immediately began preparations for war...

Tryphon extracted money and sons of Jonathan, as hostages, on promise to free Jonathan; but Tryphon retained Jonathan and embarked on entering Judaea from Idumaea. Snow caused Tryphon to change course; he removed to Coele-Syria and fell on Gilead, where he killed Jonathan.

Jonathan had been high priest and governor "four years" (taken from Jonathan's later appointment as governor.)

141

Simon (a) drove the last opponents out of Jerusalem; (b) sent a large force to Joppa under "Jonathan, son of Absalom," who drove out the occupants and remained there;" (c) received capitulation of and fortified Gazara (where he built himself a residence); (d) granted Gadara peace under John as governor/commander; (e) received condolences (for Jonathan's death) from Rome and Sparta, who reaffirmed pacts established under Judas Maccabeus and Jonathan; and (f) sent a great shield of gold to Rome in confirmation of his alliance.

Demetrius II granted **Simon** independence and confirmed Simon as high priest--

"In the year 170,..the people began to write in their records and contracts, 'In the first year of Simon, High Priest, Governor, and Leader of the Jews'."

1 *Maccabees* 13:41.

141⁴⁰

³⁹ 146-127 b.c. per *Strabo* index.

⁴⁰ Simon, "when he had been conqueror, he was made high priest; and also freed the Jews from the dominion of the Macedonians, after 170 years of the empire ["of Seleucus" is added by *Josephus* editors]." *BJ* I.II.2. "...which liberty and freedom...they obtained

Commonly
Assigned
Year(s)
b.c./b,c,e,

MACEDONIAN
Years/Monarchs

SELEUCID/'SYRIA'
Years/Monarch

PTOLEMAIC
Years/Monarch

"Converted" Year
b.c./b,c,e,

"In the year 171," "the very first year of his high priesthood," Simon "set his people free...from the Macedonians,...[with] liberty and freedom from tribute...after 170 years;" he besieged and starved the last resisters out of the citadel, and afterward caused the people to demolish it and the hill upon which it stood." 140

"Greeks and Macedonians dwelling in the Mesopotamia/Media/Babylon regions sent word to Demetrius II pledging support if he aided them against king Arsaces [and/or Phraates] (per *Maccabees*, "king of Persia and Media"). Looking for resources to fight Tryphon, Demetrius II marched east, where he was taken captive by Phraates/Arsaces "king of Parthia"/"king of Persia and Media;"⁴¹ "in the year 172." 141
"Before Antiochus VI had been a year on the throne, Tryphon murdered him and reigned in his place for three years." (Antiochus VI's death occurred "a little after Demetrius II had been captured.")

To 139 Tryphon

Tryphon sent a force against Judaea under a general Cendebeus. Simon, advanced in years, envoyed Rome for regional authority and turned over command of defenses to his eldest sons, John Hyrcanus I and Judas [#2], whose forces prevailed (*refer to Appendix 3A, VI, narrative, for details*).

"In the year 172," "the third year under **Simon**, the high priest...who Demetrius [II] had "confirmed in the high priesthood," a proclamation was issued and a tablet erected decreeing Simon "as high priest, governor general and ethnarch...to exercise supreme authority over all." 139

Trypho's soldiery revolted from him to Demetrius II's wife, Cleopatra III.

Cleopatra III sent to Antiochus VII *Sidetes* "and invited him to marry her, and to take the [Seleucid] kingdom."

Antiochus VII in "the year 174" wrote to Simon of his intent to come from "the islands of the sea" to reclaim his ancestral kingdom. Among promises for a mutual assistance league he offered Simon cancellation of debts and authority to strike coinage. Simon accepted and provided 2000 elite troops and much gold, silver and equipment. 137

At first, afraid of Tryphon, Antiochus VII "concealed himself; but he soon obtained the means of destroying his enemy, invaded the land of his ancestors ["Syria"] and marched against Tryphon, "in the year 174." 137

Tryphon, "hemmed up in a certain place by Antiochus [VII]...[was] forced to kill himself."

170 years of the kingdom of the Assyrians, which was after Seleucus...Nicator got the dominion over Syria." *AJ XIII.VI.7.*

⁴¹ Due to year discrepancies, it is unclear which Parthian ruler(s) had possession of Demetrius II; e.g., per *Ency.*, p. 82, "Mithridates...captured Demetrius [II] by treachery in 139 b.c."

Commonly
Assigned
Year(s)
b.c./b,c,e,

MACEDONIAN
Years/Monarchs

SELEUCID/'SYRIA'
Years/Monarch

PTOLEMAIC
Years/Monarch

"Converted" Year
b.c./b,c,e,

139/8-128/7 Antiochus VII
(138-129) *Sidetes*

After Antiochus VII had "ejected Tryphon from Upper Syria into Phoenicia," and while he had him blockaded, Antiochus VII refused further aid from Simon. Antiochus VII "in fact broke all agreements" and threatened war on Simon, unless Simon returned Joppa and Gazara to him and made restitution of all tributes received from "districts outside of the territory of Judaea."

Simon refused to comply.

Simon called upon his league of assistance with Rome; Rome returned a directive that any troublemakers in the region were to be handed over to Simon.

136

"The famous embassy of Scipio, Metellus, Mummius, and Panaetius, into Egypt, Syria and Greece." L xviii.

134

High priest Simon and two of his sons (Mattathais [#2] and Judas [#2]) were deceived and treacherously assassinated by Simon's son-in-law, one "Ptolemy, son of Abubus," the "governor of the plain of Jericho," while ostensibly being feasted by him during a tour of their cities, "in the year 177." 134

Ptolemy Abubus captured and imprisoned Simon's [unnamed] wife and two others of his sons, and then sent a report to Antiochus VII, requesting troops to secure the country. He also sent some men to kill John Hyrcanus I at Gazara and sent others to seize Jerusalem and temple mount.

Hyrcanus I, forewarned, saved himself with the aid of the people of Gazara and put Antiochus VII's agents to death.

-----Timeline resumes in Appendix 4A-----

B. Calendrical Conversions.

1. Ancient Calendar References.

Josephus and *Maccabees* date events according to years "of the Seleucidae" and Greece's olympiads. Where possible, b.c./b,c,e, conversions to our current calendar have been reconciled with years of Rome.

(a) Years “of the kingdom of the Seleucidae.”

Year One of this primary reference used by *Josephus* and *Maccabees* is 312 b.c., which has been scholastically fixed as the date that Seleucus I secured Babylon following the death of Alexander III the Great. Reckoning relative years of the Seleucidae is not a matter of simple subtraction--our 300 b.c. would not be the 12th year of the Seleucidae (312 -12 = 300) but would be the “13th,” as follows: Year 1, 312; 2, 311; 3, 310; 4, 309; 5, 308; 6, 307; 7, 306; 8, 305; 9, 304; 10, 303; 11, 302; 12, 301, 13, 300. An additional one, therefore, is required in the subtraction, e.g. the “143rd year of the Seleucidae” converts to (312 - 144 =) 168 b.c.

Josephus supplies the “143rd year of the kingdom of the Seleucidae” at *AJ* XII.V.3; in the next paragraph 4, “the 145th year” is given without the same designation; in paragraph 6, “the 148th year,” etc. Consequently, *Josephus* references for the period all are understood as to the years “of the kingdom of the Seleucidae.”

(b) “Years of the Greeks.”

Scholarship has fixed 776 b.c. as the year of the first olympiad of the ensuing epoch.⁴² However, actual references to individual “Greek” years do not appear, except for a *1 Maccabees* “year 137 of the *kingdom of Greeks*,” which in the overall reckoning fits year 137 of the Seleucidae.⁴³ All references are to *olympiad periods*, e.g. “the 145th year [understood, ‘of the kingdom of the Seleucidae’]...*in the 153rd olympiad*.” *AJ* XII.V.4, 6.

An *olympiad* was equal to “A period of four years reckoned from one to another of great national festivals celebrated on the plain of Olympia in Peloponnesus, by which periods ancient Greek time has been computed from the...Olympiad of 776 b.c.”⁴⁴ *Josephus* relates years to olympiads, but does not designate *which year* of the given olympiad. For example, *AJ* XII.V.4 mentioned above at (a) gives the year 145 simply “*in the 153rd olympiad*.” The “145th year” of the Seleucidae converts to (312 - 146 [see above at (a)] =) 166 b.c., or *year three* of the 153rd olympiad, as follows:

First year of first olympiad	776
Olympiads preceding the “153rd,”	
152 x 4 =	<u>-608</u>
First year of 153rd olympiad	168 b.c.

⁴² According to some, the first Olympiad was observed in 1453 b.c., but “more probable,” 1222 b.c. The olympiads were reinstated in 884 b.c. after a first lapse and re-reinstated in 776 b.c. after a second lapse. (L, page 410.)

⁴³ The term “of the Greeks” may have been employed with reference to the Seleucidae in the same general sense that, in describing high priest Simon’s expulsion of the last resisters from the Jerusalem citadel, etc., the term “Macedonians” appears, *i.e.* reflecting on legacies following Alexander III.

⁴⁴ *New Webster Encyclopedia Dictionary*, page 580.

Second	“	“	“	167
Third	“	“	“	166
Fourth	“	“	“	165
First year of 154th olympiad				164 ⁴⁵
Second	“	“		163
Third	“	“	“	162
Fourth	“	“	“	161
First year of 155th olympiad				160
Second				159
Third				158
Fourth				157
First year of 156th olympiad				156
Second				155
Third				154
Fourth				153
etc.				

(c) Roman “A.U.C.” (*Anno Urbis Condita*) Years.

The “traditional founding date of Rome, 753 b.c. [L 532]” is taken as Year One AUC. The same manner of conversion subtraction utilized is as described above for the years of the Seleucidae, e.g. AUC year 490 converts (753 - 491 =) 262 b.c. The AUC dates appearing in the timeline all are from *Lempriere*, pages 162ff. and are given for comparison purposes. (It will be noted, if calculations are made, that the supplied AUC dating may be off by one or two years. Also noted is that the AUC year roster in *Lempriere* does not agree always with *Lempriere*’s chronological table.)

C. Regional Hegemony Briefly Summarized--

From the Death of Alexander III to Commencement of the Maccabean Rebellion.⁴⁶

Initially in the division of the provinces of Alexander III’s (the Great’s) empire, Ptolemy [I] received as his share “Egypt, Libya and part of the neighboring territories of Arabia”⁴⁷ (the Palestine region is not mentioned specifically there). However, in “the division of spoils [following the battle of Ipsus, 301 b.c.]...Ptolemy [I]...seized Coele-Syria.”

⁴⁵ It should be noted that *AJ* XII.VII.6 *Josephus* states, “on [not in] the 154th olympiad; however, as that follows the use, “ on [not in] the 148th year” (312 - 149 = 163 b.c.), it need not be taken that intended was the year of that olympiad’s commencement (164 b.c.).

⁴⁶ Sources: Sub-part A of this appendix and Appendix 3A, VI, Attachment 4, or as otherwise noted.

⁴⁷ Refer to Appendix 3A, VI, Attachment 4, (E).

(It is not altogether clear what constituted “Coele-Syria” at all times.⁴⁸)

“Coele-Syria” was restored to the Seleucids (Antiochus II) as a result of the Second Syrian War (260-255) against Egypt (Ptolemy II).

“Egypt...lost control of Palestine when Syrian king Antiochus III defeated the army of Ptolemy V.” *Aid*, page 499.

C. 200 b.c. Antiochus III was defeated by Rome but they had allowed him to retain Judea. (Antiochus III granted privileges to the ‘Jews’ in return for their aid during the Fifth Syrian War.)

Antiochus III gave his daughter, Cleopatra [#1] in marriage to Ptolemy V as part of a peace accord, which included, by way of dowry, Phoenicia and Coele-Syria, including Judaea and Samaria (but according to *Josephus*, Cleopatra [#1] was granted their revenues only).

Ptolemy VI warred with Antiochus IV to recover the provinces of Palestine and Coelesyria, marked by power struggles between regional factions and a “great sedition...among the men of power in Judea...about obtaining the government [Onias III vs. sons of Tobias].”

Antiochus IV took Jerusalem in 170 b.c., killing many Ptolemaic supporters. By 168 b.c. he had a garrison in the citadel, proscribed all local customs and laws, etc., and appointed his governors for Jerusalem and Mount Gerizzim, with general Bacchides in the field to enforce compliance.

The Maccabaeen (Mattathais’) rebellion occurred the following year, 167 b.c.

Dates under the various hegemony, as standardly given, are as follows:⁴⁹

<u>b.c./b.c.e.</u>	
586 - 538	Babylonian rule
538 - 332	Persian rule
332 - 323	Rule of Alexander III/Macedonia
323 - 198	Rule of Ptolemies
198 - 168	Seleucid rule
168 - 164	Maccabaeen rebellion
164	Religious freedom achieved
143	Political freedom attained, under leaderships of Jonathan (161)/[151] and Simon (143)/[141]. [Bracketed dates are according to the within calendar’s converted dates.]

⁴⁸ See fns. 13 and 20.

⁴⁹ According to *Ency.* page 32.