



## **Lesson 17**

### **The Hidden History**

#### **WW3 part 1**

- **Pyrrhus in Macedonia**
  - **The fourth Diadochi War**
- **Pyrrhus in Italy**
  - **The Pyrrhic War**

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In Daniel 11 Gabriel tells us of Alexander the Great, his death, and his kingdom being split into four pieces. But the history is not as simple as that. After Alexander the Great died his kingdom was split into many pieces and it took four wars, the four Diadochi wars, to become just four pieces. In the fourth Diadochi War Alexander the Great's kingdom is finally split into the north, south, east, and west. In this lesson we will cover that war. We will then look at the history of Pyrrhus, king of Epirus, who fought in the fourth Diadochi War. His history can be split into two parts: the first in Macedonia (his interactions with another king, Demetrius), and the second, his interactions with the Romans in his time in Italy. This is the *Hidden History*.

You can see the symbols: King of the North and King of the South, in many places. They can have different applications, not just the Seleucids and the Ptolemies; who the King of the North and King of the South are depends on your story. In the fourth Diadochi War Demetrius can be the King of the North and Pyrrhus can be the King of the South. In the subsequent events in Macedonia Demetrius the KON and Pyrrhus is the KOS. But in the history of Italy, Rome is the King of the North and Pyrrhus is the King of the South.

## **Pyrrhus in Macedonia- The Fourth Diadochi War**

### **Cassander sets up a Dictator in Athens 317 BC**

In 317 BC, while Cassander was waging war with Polyperchon (the successor to his father's throne), he took control of Athens, a Greek city. While he himself did not sit on the throne, he appointed the Athenian Demetrius Phalereus to rule. Demetrius Phalereus was a dictator, but the Athenians were so pleased with him that they set up 360 statues in his honor. He remained in power for ten years.

### **Demetrius frees Athens 307 BC**

Cassander had placed the dictator Demetrius Phalereus in power to rule over Athens, so, when in 307 BC Demetrius I of Macedon besieged Athens and freed it from the dictator, Cassander took it as a threat against himself. He went into an alliance with Lysimachus, Ptolemy I Soter, and Seleucus I Nicator against Demetrius and his father Antigonus I Monophthalmus (the one-eyed). The fourth Diadochi War began.

### **Demetrius and Pyrrhus make an Alliance 303 BC**

In 303 BC, another figure got involved in the Macedonian squabbles. His name was Pyrrhus I. He had a rough road to the throne of Epirus but, for now, he was the sole ruler. He decided to go into an alliance with one of the opposing sides. He went into alliance with Demetrius I of Macedon, sealing it through the marriage of Demetrius and his [Pyrrhus'] older sister, Deidamia I.

### **The Battle of Ipsus 301 BC**

Pyrrhus and Demetrius' alliance was soon tested two years later. Pyrrhus fought alongside Demetrius in the Battle of Ipsus in 301 BC. Along with them was Demetrius' father Antigonus- the most powerful general of the time. In this battle Antigonus and his forces were fighting against the allies. At the beginning of the battle though only Lysimachus and Cassander were there and Antigonus and his forces were winning. It was during this time that Ptolemy was on his way to the battle, when he heard a false report that the battle was already fought and over and Lysimachus and Cassander had lost. At once he turned and headed home. Then

Seleucus arrived on the battlefield with more than 400 of his war elephants. He had just finished conquering the east. With his elephants he cut Antigonus off from his own army so that Demetrius could not get through to help him. Antigonus, who was 81 years old at this time, went down fighting. Demetrius and Pyrrhus escaped. The allies- Seleucus, Lysimachus, and Cassander, had won. After the battle, the much coveted land of Coele-Syria was given to Seleucus despite the fact that it was informally owned by Ptolemy. This area, and the conflict over who was the rightful owner, would be the object of contention between the Ptolemaic and Seleucid dynasties for years to come; all because of the battle of Ipsus (see *The Kingdom of Brass*).

### **Cassander dies 298 BC and his kingdom is divided**

The four allies: Lysimachus, Seleucus, Ptolemy, and Cassander, soon went down to three. In 298 BC, Cassander died, leaving the kingdom to his eldest son Philip. Philip soon after died, leaving the kingdom to be fought over between his two younger brothers Antipater and Alexander. Antipater killed his mother because she wanted Alexander to be king. Alexander, seeing that Antipater would stop at nothing until he obtained the throne, asked for help from Pyrrhus and Demetrius. Pyrrhus arrived first. He established Alexander on the throne and was granted land in exchange, afterward he returned home. Then Demetrius arrived. Alexander informed him that his help was no longer needed, but Demetrius had other plans. He had Alexander killed. He then convinced the Macedonians that he would be a better king than Antipater who basely murdered his mother. Antipater fled to his father-in-law Lysimachus who soon after had him killed. Thus the kingdom of Cassander fell under the rule of Demetrius.

### **Pyrrhus invades Thessaly 291 BC**

Demetrius began to build up his kingdom. He went down to Thebes and began besieging it; this was the way he liked to fight. In 291 BC, Pyrrhus was bored because he didn't have anybody to fight so he decided to be a bit mischievous. He marched his army into Thessaly and ravaged some parts of it. This cut Demetrius off from his supplies, and without constant supplies, he couldn't carry out a siege. He postponed the siege then marched his army north to confront Pyrrhus. Pyrrhus wasn't actually looking for war so he took his army and returned to Epirus. When Demetrius saw this he returned and finished besieging Thebes.

### **Demetrius ravages Epirus 289-288 BC**

Displeased by his ally's (Pyrrhus') actions, Demetrius decided on revenge. In 289 BC, he marched a portion of his army though Epirus and plundered it as he went. This was partly due to the fact that his and Pyrrhus' alliance was deteriorating. Pyrrhus went out to meet him but their two armies missed each other. Pyrrhus ended up outside Epirus while Demetrius had freedom to ravage it. Pyrrhus did, however, come across one of Demetrius' generals and a portion of his army that he left behind. Pyrrhus and the general fought one-on-one and Pyrrhus nearly killed him. Still, his country was being destroyed.

### **Demetrius builds up his army 288-287 BC**

After ravaging Epirus, Demetrius began to build up an enormous army and navy. This began to worry the remaining three generals: Lysimachus, Seleucus, and Ptolemy.

## Pyrrhus and Lysimachus defeat Demetrius 287BC

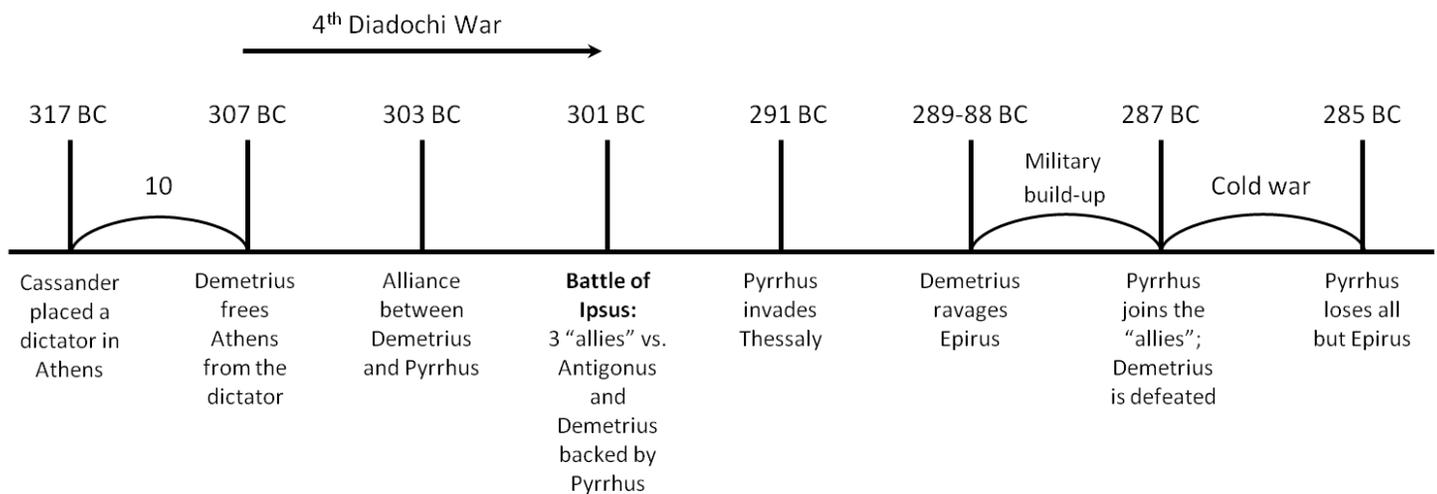
Ptolemy, Lysimachus, and Seleucus realized that if they let Demetrius build back up and become as powerful as his father Antigonus had been, their lives and kingdoms would be at risk. They knew they had to do something- quick. They sent a request to Pyrrhus, asking him to break his alliance with Demetrius and join them. Pyrrhus knew that his alliance with Demetrius was barely holding up, and that Demetrius would break it anyhow once he was finished with his military buildup, so he agreed to break it first. In 287 BC, he went into alliance with Ptolemy, Lysimachus, and Seleucus. He and Lysimachus, that same year, attacked Demetrius from the West and East, respectively. Demetrius' army hated him so they quickly and gladly defected to Pyrrhus. Demetrius escaped but was soon captured by Seleucus. He lived under house arrest for a few years until he died. After Demetrius was defeated, Lysimachus and Pyrrhus split up his land between themselves.

## Lysimachus incites distrust in Pyrrhus' new subjects 287-285 BC

Lysimachus and Pyrrhus had split Demetrius' land but Lysimachus wasn't satisfied. He sent spies into Pyrrhus' camp and they began mocking the Macedonian soldiers, saying they chose an Epirot as their king instead of a Macedonian. Lysimachus used the tactics of a cold war to instill distrust and uncertainty into their minds.

## Lysimachus takes all of Pyrrhus' land except for Epirus 285 BC

The spies from Lysimachus succeeded in turning Pyrrhus' newly acquired army against him. The soldiers who of late had gone from Demetrius to Pyrrhus went from Pyrrhus to Lysimachus. Only Pyrrhus' original soldiers remained with him. He lost all he had gained except Epirus in 285 BC.



# **Pyrrhus in Italy- The Pyrrhic War**

## **Thurri (Thurii) appeals to Rome for help 285 BC**

In Italy, a nation was slowly rising in power. That nation was Rome. Rome had conquered the northern part of Italy, not through war but through treaties. In Southern Italy there were many still independent Greek cities. The most powerful of these was Tarentum. In 285 BC, a smaller city-Thurri was being battered by the Lucanians. Thurri appealed to Rome for help rather than its more powerful neighbor Tarentum, who was the premiere Greek city in Southern Italy.

## **Rome helps Thurri and Tarentum attacks Thurri 282 BC**

Rome did not heed the first appeal of Thurri so Thurri appealed again in 282 BC. This time, Rome sent down troops to help. They expelled the Lucanians and stationed a garrison in Thurri. This angered Tarentum for two reasons. The first reason was because Thurri had not asked for their help, but instead enlisted the aid of a foreign power. The second reason was that Rome had sailed its ships into the gulf of Tarentum. In 303 BC, Rome and Tarentum had signed a treaty saying Rome would never sail ships into their gulf. When they did so in 282 BC they directly broke the treaty. In response to these two reasons, Tarentum attacked the ships and sank several of them then marched to Thurri expelled the garrison, and sacked the city. In response to Tarentum's actions Rome declared war on them.

## **Pyrrhus arrives in Tarentum 280 BC**

At this point, Tarentum realized that they were no match for Rome. They decided to enlist the aid of another general; they asked for the help of Pyrrhus. He accepted their request in 280 BC and arrived the same year. At once he began to prepare the city for war.

## **The Battle of Heraclea 280 BC**

Pyrrhus thought he'd have some time to prepare but that same year Rome marched down to Tarentum. Pyrrhus went out to meet them; and the battle of Heraclea was fought. The turning point in that battle was when Pyrrhus unleashed his 20 war elephants he had brought with him- Rome had never seen elephants and they were terrified. Pyrrhus won the battle. Both sides then retreated for the winter and prepared to fight again.

## **The Battle of Asculum 279 BC**

The year after Heraclea, Rome and Pyrrhus fought another battle: the battle of Asculum. The battle was fought in 279 BC for two days and this time, Rome came prepared with three hundred anti-elephant carts. These carts were equipped with all kinds of weapons to destroy the beast but they were crushed. Pyrrhus again won the battle. After the battle of Asculum, Pyrrhus secured an armistice with Rome. This gave him time to prepare for any upcoming battle.

It was at this time that Pyrrhus got a request for help from the island of Sicily. They were being attacked by the Carthaginians. He agreed and sailed to Sicily. But after being there a while, he showed his dictatorial side. The Sicilians were so disgusted with him that they went into a league with the Carthaginians against Pyrrhus. He realized that there was no hope left for him there so he prepared to leave, also he heard that Rome was marching on Tarentum again. Before leaving though, he sacked a temple because he was low on money. But the ships that the treasure was on were destroyed in a storm and Pyrrhus barely made it back to Italy himself.

### The Battle of Beneventum 275 BC

Rome had been preparing for war all this time and in 275 BC, the final battle was fought. Because Pyrrhus had gone to Sicily, there was much less support for him in Italy. This battle is called the battle of Beneventum. Here Pyrrhus was ultimately defeated due to his own war elephants. During the battle they turned around and charged through his own ranks.

### Egypt sends Ambassadors to Rome 273 BC

Pyrrhus was one of the greatest generals at that time, so, when a new power defeated him, the world took notice. In 273 BC, the King of Egypt, Ptolemy II Philadelphus (see *The Kingdom of Brass*) sent ambassadors to Rome to solicit their friendship.

### Rome sends Ambassadors back to Egypt 272 BC

In 272 BC, Rome sent ambassadors to Egypt to return Ptolemy Philadelphus' kindness. Meanwhile, Pyrrhus was on another campaign. He was attacking the city of Argos, and in this battle his eldest son was killed. This greatly upset him and, not thinking straight, he charged his army into the city. He soon realized that was a bad choice. His war elephants were so large they were blocking the only exit. Pyrrhus got in a hand-to-hand combat with a soldier inside the city. The soldier's mother saw this and threw a tile out of a window onto Pyrrhus' head, injuring him. He was knocked off his horse and the soldier killed him. Pyrrhus died in 272 BC when he was 46 years old.

