



Lesson 19

The Master of Asia

World War III part 3

- **The Third Diadochi War**
 - Pre 3rd Diadochi War
 - The 3rd Diadochi War
 - The Babylonian War

We previously looked at the 4th Diadochi War. The players in that war were Antigonos, Demetrius, and Pyrrhus versus the three allies: Lysimachus, Seleucus, and Cassander (although Ptolemy was on their side he was not in the battle of Ipsus). These were the same players that fought in the 3rd Diadochi War- excluding Pyrrhus. In that war it was Antigonos and Demetrius versus the three allies: Lysimachus, Ptolemy, and Cassander. Ptolemy replaced Seleucus as the “3rd” ally because Seleucus, as we will see, had lost all of his power. Since the 3rd Diadochi War had the same players as the 4th we can see that it can also be put on a line like 4th Diadochi War.

Pre Third Diadochi War

Antigonos & Eumenes

Antigonos I Monophthalmus was a very powerful general but he had a rival: Eumenes, who also was very powerful. Antigonos attacked Eumenes whenever he could, but then Eumenes went east. He tried to get Seleucus and Peithon -two leaders in the east, to join him but they refused (other leaders did not). Peithon became one of Antigonos’ generals in his fight against Eumenes, while Seleucus just helped weaken Eumenes when he could. With the help of Peithon and Seleucus Antigonos tried to defeat Eumenes.

316 BC the Battle of Gabiene- the end of the Second Diadochi War

Antigonos and Eumenes were the two strongest generals left of Alexander the Great, but they both wanted to be the most powerful general. In the winter of 316 BC, Antigonos tried to surprise attack Eumenes in Persia, but Eumenes gathered some troops and had each soldier start a campfire at night. Since several soldiers usually shared one campfire, Antigonos, who just has a portion of his army, believed Eumenes had his whole army, so he abandoned the attack and waited for the rest of his army. Days later, when Antigonos’ army arrived, the two armies camped about five miles apart on a loose salty dirt plain. Antigonos began organizing his army to fight by placing his cavalry, elephants, and light infantry on the right, his infantry in the center, and his light horses on the left. When Eumenes saw this, he placed his cavalry, elephants, and light infantry on the left to face Antigonos’ and his Silver Shields in the middle. The Silver Shields were his elite fighting force. They were old because they had fought in Alexander the Great’s army, but they were so experienced- they were invincible. Eumenes’ plan was to hold Antigonos’ cavalry, elephants, and light infantry in check, while his Silver Shields could easily conquer the middle of Antigonos’ army. The battle started with an elephant charge, and since they were on a dusty plain, a big dust cloud was created. Antigonos used this thick cover to his advantage and sent some of his army around the battlefield to Eumenes’ camp. They took Eumenes’ baggage train, which was all of his soldiers’ families and possessions, and returned to Antigonos unseen. After the battle, which had sort of been won by Antigonos, Eumenes’ army refused to fight any more seeing all their stuff was gone. The Silver Shields were so upset that they took matters into their own hands. They secretly made a deal with Antigonos, in which they promised to hand over Eumenes in exchange for their stuff. Antigonos agreed and the Silver Shields betrayed Eumenes, who Antigonos had killed. This made Antigonos the most powerful remaining general of Alexander and ended the 2nd Diadochi War.

316 BC Antigonus- a dictator

By 316 BC, Antigonus I Monophthalmus had become extremely powerful. His main enemy, Eumenes, was dead, so he was the most powerful general at that time. He began removing the less powerful generals and calling himself the Master of Asia. This included his ally Peithon. In 316 BC, he had him killed. Another one of his allies, Seleucus I Nicator, narrowly escaped certain death by fleeing to Ptolemy I Soter, king of Egypt. Now Antigonus began acting unilaterally, like a dictator.

The Third Diadochi War

314 BC an Ultimatum

Seleucus I Nicator fled to Egypt and told Ptolemy I Soter how Antigonus was acting like a dictator; he also sent that message to Lysimachus and Cassander. This made them scared so they made a league against Antigonus. Ptolemy, Lysimachus, and Cassander were the three allies in the 3rd Diadochi War. Seleucus didn't have an army or territory; he was just a general for Ptolemy (Daniel 11:5) so he isn't one of the three allies. Antigonus had sent a peaceful message to the three allies but in 314 BC they sent him back an ultimatum where they told him to stop acting like a dictator and share his power and territory. He did not want to do this so he prepared to fight against them and sent messages to the three allies telling them to prepare for war. The 3rd Diadochi War was about to begin.

314 BC Antigonus invades Coele-Syria

Around 314 BC, Antigonus I Monophthalmus invaded the land of Coele-Syria and took control of it. Coele-Syria had been under the sphere of influence of Ptolemy I Soter. After taking control of Coele-Syria, Antigonus left it under the command of his son Demetrius I. Antigonus, himself, went north-west.

312 BC the Battle of Gaza

The battle of Gaza was fought in 312 BC between Ptolemy I Soter, who was aided by Seleucus I Nicator, and Demetrius I, the son of Antigonus I Monophthalmus. In late 312 BC, Ptolemy marched his army out of Egypt and up north to confront Demetrius. Demetrius' advisors told him not to fight the experienced Ptolemy and Seleucus but he didn't listen, and instead concentrated his troops at Gaza. The battle between them was hard-fought. The turning point in Ptolemy's favor happened when his army captured or killed most of Demetrius' elephants. This caused his army to panic and many of them retreated. Eventually, Demetrius' forces threw down their arms and fled. Ptolemy and Seleucus won the battle; after this Seleucus went to recapture Babylon with the aid of some of Ptolemy's soldiers.

311 BC Peace of the Dynast

Ptolemy's victory over Demetrius at Gaza was short lived. In 312 BC, Demetrius defeated one of Ptolemy's generals and when Antigonus returned they retook all the land that Ptolemy had gained in and after the battle of Gaza up to the borders of Egypt. Around this time Antigonus heard that Seleucus had re-conquered Babylon (which was part of his [Antigonus'] territory); he also began to have to deal with the Nabataeans, descendents of Ishmael from Arabia- these two things diverted his attention from Ptolemy in Egypt. So in 311 BC, Antigonus made a peace treaty: the Peace of the Dynasts, with Ptolemy, Lysimachus, and Cassander. He did not include Seleucus in this treaty because he wanted to fight him to try to get Babylon back.

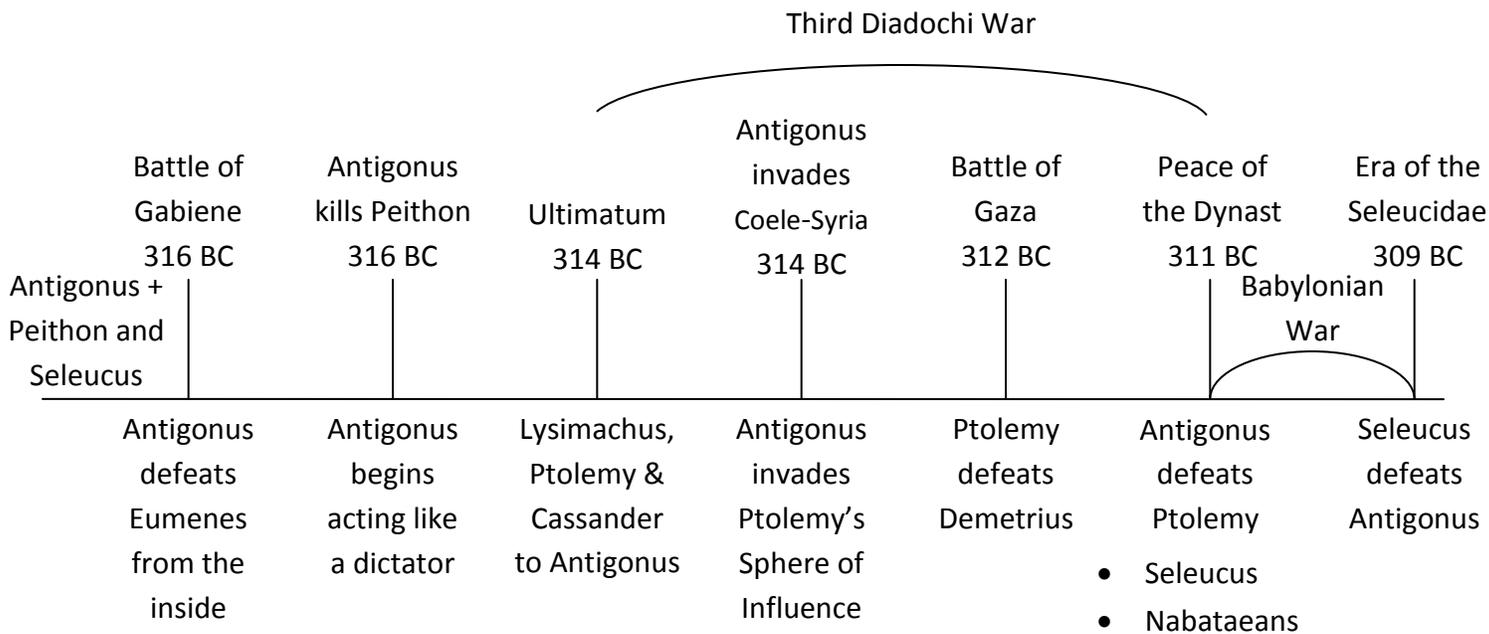
The Babylonian War

311-309 BC the Babylonian War

Seleucus had quickly become the new leader of Babylon. The only opposition to him was a garrison of Antigonus' soldiers. To defeat the garrison, Seleucus built a dam in the Euphrates, creating a lake, and then he broke it down, creating a flood, that destroyed the garrison's fortress. When the governors of other provinces heard this, they gathered a 17,000 strong army and went to fight Seleucus who had a 3,500 strong army. However, Seleucus staged a surprise night attack on them, and they were defeated. In late 311 BC, Antigonus heard of their defeat. He then sent Demetrius (his son) to re-conquer Babylon. Demetrius took an army, and even entered Babylon, but Seleucus' supporters inside put up too much resistance, and Demetrius had to leave. Antigonus attempted to conquer Babylon again in 310 BC, but just like before, the resistance inside the city was too strong and he had to leave in 309 BC. While Antigonus was heading back from Babylon, he found Seleucus and his army. Seleucus had his army eat their breakfast at night, and then they attacked Antigonus' army the next morning while they were eating breakfast. This was the battle of Abu, and Antigonus was defeated. Antigonus then left, leaving Seleucus to control Babylon and the area around it. The three year long Babylonian war (311- 309 BC) between Antigonus and Seleucus had finally ended.

309 BC the Seleucid Dynasty

Now that no one, mainly Antigonus, was trying to take it away from him, Seleucus Nicator had official control of Babylon and the other areas close by it. Even though Seleucus had been controlling Babylon since 311 BC, the official Era of the Seleucidae (Seleucus and his successors) began in 309 BC.



For questions or comments on any of the material contact us (YPG) at:

youthprophecygroup@gmail.com