

[home](#) : [ancient Persia](#) : [ancient Greece](#) : [Seleucids](#) : [index](#) : article by Jona Lendering

source:

http://www.livius.org/se-sg/seleucids/seleucus_iv_philopator.html

Seleucus IV Philopator



Seleucus IV Philopator

Seleucus IV Philopator ('father lover'): name of a [Seleucid](#) king, ruled from 187 to 175.

Successor of: [Antiochus III the Great](#)

Relatives:

- Father: [Antiochus III the Great](#)
- Mother: [Laodice III](#) (daughter of Mithradates II of Pontus)
- Wife: his sister (?) [Laodice IV](#)
- Children:
 - Antiochus (murdered in 170)
 - [Demetrius I Soter](#)
 - [Laodice V](#) (married to [Perseus](#) of [Macedonia](#))

Main deeds:

- Born after 220
- 196: Thrace added to the Seleucid Empire; Seleucus is governor
- 192-188: [Syrian War](#) between the Seleucids and Rome.
- 190: Seleucus besieges Rome's ally Pergamon, captures the Roman commander Lucius Cornelius Scipio, takes part in the Battle of Magnesia (Roman victory)
- 189: Co-ruler of his father
- 188: Peace of Apamea; Seleucid empire has to abandon all land north of the [Taurus](#) and pay an indemnity
- 3 July 187: death of Antiochus III; Seleucus becomes king and tries to restore the Seleucid Empire by diplomatic means
- 178: Marries his daughter Laodice V to the [Macedonian](#) king [Perseus](#), which is regarded by king [Eumenes II Soter](#) of Pergamon as an anti-Roman act; Seleucus has to send his son [Demetrius](#) as hostage to Rome; in return, his brother [Antiochus](#) returns
- 175: To pay the Roman indemnity, Seleucus orders his commander Heliodorus to obtain money in the temple of Jerusalem, but he encounters opposition. Heliodorus returns.
- 3 September 175: Heliodorus kills Seleucus; his wife Laodice V appears to have married Antiochus IV Epiphanes, who succeeds his brother

Succeeded by: his brother [Antiochus IV Epiphanes](#)

Seleucus IV Philopator

Succeeded by: his son [Antiochus IV Epiphanes](#)

Sources:

- [2 Maccabees, 3-4](#)
- [Appian of Alexandria, Syrian Wars, 45](#)
- [Livy, History of Rome, 37](#)
- [Livy, Periochae, 46](#)
- [Polybius of Megalopolis, World History, 18.51](#)

This brief article has been written to offer background information to the real articles on [Livius.Org](#). One day, this webpage will be improved. A list of completed articles can be found [here](#).

[home](#) : [ancient Persia](#) : [ancient Greece](#) : [Seleucids](#) : [index](#)

[home](#) : [ancient Persia](#) : [ancient Greece](#) : [Seleucids](#) : [index](#) : article by Jona Lendering

Antiochus IV Epiphanes



Antiochus IV Epiphanes

Antiochus IV Epiphanes ('manifestation of the god'): name of a [Seleucid](#) king, ruled from 175 to 164.

Successor of: his elder brother [Seleucus IV Philopator](#)

Relatives:

- Father: [Antiochus III the Great](#)
- Mother: [Laodice III](#) (daughter of Mithradates II of Pontus)
- Wife: his sister [Laodice IV](#) (widow of Seleucus IV Philopator?)
 - Son: [Antiochus V Eupator](#)
 - Daughter: [Laodice VI](#)
 - Son: [Alexander I Balas](#) (spurious)
- Concubine: Antiochis

Main deeds:

- Original name: Mithradates
- 188: After the [Syrian War](#), Rome and the Seleucid Empire conclude the Peace of Apamea; the Seleucids are to pay an indemnity and Antiochus is held captive in Rome
- 187: Accession of [Seleucus IV Philopator](#)
- 178: Antiochus is replaced as hostage by Seleucus' son [Demetrius](#)
- 3 September 175: the Seleucid commander Heliodorus kills Seleucus IV, who is succeeded by his son Antiochus, who is too young to rule
- With support of king [Eumenes II Soter](#) of Pergamon, Antiochus becomes king; Heliodorus killed
- 174: Jason appointed as high priest in Jerusalem

Seleucus IV Philopator

- 174: Jason appointed as high priest in Jerusalem
- 173 Refoundation of [Babylon](#) as a Greek community
- 173 or 172: visit to Jerusalem
- 172/171: Antiochus' stepdaughter (from his wife's first marriage) Nysa marries Pharnaces of Pontus
- 171: Revolt in [Cilicia](#)
- 171: Jason replaced as high priest by Menelaus
- 170: On behalf of Antiochus IV, Andronicus kills the young king Antiochus
- 170-168: [Sixth Syrian War: Ptolemy VI Philometor](#) -who is too young to rule- attacks the Seleucid Empire. Antiochus IV builds a navy (against the terms of the Peace of Apamea) and conquers Cyprus and large parts of Egypt and presents himself as protector of Ptolemy VI against his relatives [Ptolemy VIII Euergetes Physcon](#) and [Cleopatra II](#)
- 168: Roman pressure forces Antiochus to retire from [Alexandria](#) in Egypt
- 167: Unsuccessful attempt of general Eucratides to reconquer [Parthia](#) and [Aria](#), which have been occupied by the [Parni](#)
- 167: Intervention in Judah (6 December: rededication of the temple in Jerusalem)
- 166: Outbreak of the Maccabean Revolt
- 165: Antiochus goes to the east; he captures Artaxias, capital of [Armenia](#)
- 164: Antiochus in [Babylonia](#) and Elam
- 15 December 164: Judas defeats Gorgias, captures Jerusalem, and restores the Jewish cult in the temple
- November/December 164: failed attack on [Susa](#); death

Buildings: in [Antioch](#) a temple to the Roman Jupiter Capitolinus ([Livy, Periochae, 41.6](#))

Succeeded by: [Antiochus V Eupator](#)

Sources:

- [Politai Chronicle](#) (BCHP 13)
- [Greek Community Chronicle](#) (BCHP 14)
- [1 Maccabees, 1-6](#)
- [2 Maccabees, 3-10](#)
- alluded to in the visions of *Daniel* ([7.8-25](#); 8.9-25)
- [Appian of Alexandria, Syrian Wars, 39, 45, 66](#)
- [Cassius Dio, Roman History, 20](#)
- [Diodorus of Sicily, Library of World History, 29.32, 30.2, 30.14-18, 31.1-2, 31.16-18, 34/35.1](#)
- [Flavius Josephus, Jewish War, 1.31-40](#)
- Flavius Josephus, [Jewish Antiquities](#), 12.234ff, 15.41
- Flavius Josephus, [Against the Greeks](#), 2.80ff
- Livy, *History of Rome*, 41.24-25, 42.6, 45.11-13
- [Polybius of Megalopolis, World History, 3.3, 26, 27.19, 28.1, 28.17-23, 29.2, 29.22-27, 30.25-27](#)

Seleucus IV Philopator

[40.11-23](#), [47.4](#), [47.43-44](#), [59.43-44](#)

This brief article has been written to offer background information to the real articles on [Livius.Org](#). One day, this webpage will be improved. A list of completed articles can be found [here](#).

[home](#) : [ancient Persia](#) : [ancient Greece](#) : [Seleucids](#) : [index](#)

[home](#) : [ancient Persia](#) : [ancient Greece](#) : [Seleucids](#) : [index](#) : article by Jona Lendering

Antiochus V Eupator



Antiochus V Eupator

Antiochus V Eupator ('of a noble father'): name of a [Seleucid](#) king, ruled from 164 to 161.

Successor of: [Antiochus IV Epiphanes](#)

Relatives:

- Father: [Antiochus IV Epiphanes](#)
- Mother: [Laodice IV](#)

Main deeds:

- 173: Born
- Spring 164: Appointed as co-regent by [Antiochus IV Epiphanes](#), before he leaves for his Iranian campaign
- November/December 164: death of Antiochus IV; Antiochus V becomes king; Lysias acts as regent and Philip as adviser
- 163: the Romans recognize Antiochus V, against his uncle [Demetrius](#), who is living as a hostage in Rome
- Revolt of [Timarchus of Miletus](#), governor of [Media](#)
- 162: Successful war against the rebellious Judaeans: Antiochus and Lysias defeat Judas Maccabaeus at Beth-Zechariah
- Revolt of Philip in [Antioch](#)
- 162: Peace treaty between the Seleucid Empire and Judah; favorable terms for the latter because the Seleucid forces are needed in Antioch and Media
- 162: A Roman ambassador, Octavius, demands that the Seleucid navy is disbanded because its existence is a violation of the terms of the Peace of Apamea; the Antiochene mob kills Octavius; the [Senate](#) states that Antiochus V is responsible; several senators help Demetrius escape
- after 29 October 162: Antiochus and Lysias are overthrown and killed by Demetrius (probably in the summer of 161)

Succeeded by: [Demetrius I Soter](#)

Summary

Sources:

- [Gold Theft Chronicle](#) (BCHP 15)
- [1 Maccabees, 6-7](#)
- [2 Maccabees, 10-13](#)
- [Appian of Alexandria, *Syrian Wars*, 46](#)
- [Cassius Dio, *Roman History*, 20](#)
- [Flavius Josephus, *Jewish War*, 1.40-47](#)
- [Flavius Josephus, *Jewish Antiquities*, 12.296, 12.360ff, 20.234-235](#)
- [Livy, *Periochae*, 46](#)
- [Polybius of Megalopolis, *World History*, 31.2, 31.11](#)

This brief article has been written to offer background information to the real articles on [Livius.Org](#). One day, this webpage will be improved. A list of completed articles can be found [here](#).

[home](#) : [ancient Persia](#) : [ancient Greece](#) : [Seleucids](#) : [index](#)

[home](#) : [ancient Persia](#) : [ancient Greece](#) : [Seleucids](#) : [index](#) : article by Jona Lendering

Demetrius I Soter



Demetrius I Soter

Demetrius I Soter ('the savior'): name of a [Seleucid](#) king, ruled from 161 to 150.

Successor of: [Antiochus V Eupator](#)

Relatives:

- Father: [Seleucus IV Philopator](#)
- Mother: [Laodice IV](#)
- Wife: [Laodice V?](#)
- Children: [Demetrius II Nicator](#)

Main deeds:

- 188: Peace of Apamea; [Antiochus III the Great](#) is forced to pay tribute to Rome, and to give his son [Antiochus IV Epiphanes](#) as hostage
- 187: [Seleucus IV Philopator](#) succeeds Antiochus III
- 178: Antiochus III is replaced as hostage by Seleucus' son Demetrius
- 175: When Seleucus is killed, Antiochus IV Epiphanes succeeds; Demetrius is left in Rome
- November/December 164: death of Antiochus IV, who is succeeded by his son [Antiochus V Eupator](#); Lysias acts as regent; in [Media](#), revolt of [Timarchus of Miletus](#)
- 162: A Roman ambassador, Gnaeus Octavius, demands that the Seleucid king is killed because for assistance in

Seleucus IV Philopator

that the Seleucid navy is disbanded because its existence is a violation of the terms of the Peace of Apamea; the [Antiochene](#) mob kills Octavius; the [Senate](#) states that Antiochus V is responsible; several senators help Demetrius escape ([Ptolemy VI Philometor](#) and [Polybius of Megalopolis](#) were involved too)

- after 29 October 162 and before September 161: Antiochus is overthrown and killed by Demetrius; Rome accepts the *fait accompli* and recognizes Demetrius; Timarchus proclaims himself king and invades [Babylonia](#)
- Operations against the Maccabean rebels in Judaea
- 161: Alcimus made high priest in Jerusalem
- 27 March 160: Judas the Maccabean defeats Nicanor at Adasa
- April/May 160: Bacchides defeats Judas, who is killed in action; Jonathan succeeds his brother
- 160: Demetrius overthrows Timarchus and accepts the title *Soter*, 'savior', from the grateful [Babylonians](#)
- May 159: Death of Alcimus
- 158: Civil war in [Cappadocia](#); Demetrius supports [Orophernes II](#) against [Ariarathes V Philopator](#), who has refused the hand of Antiochus' sister [Laodice V](#) (widow of the [Macedonian](#) king [Perseus](#)); perhaps, king Demetrius married Laodice himself
- 156: End of the Cappadocian war; Orophernes defeated by Ariarathes, who is supported by [Attalus II Philadelphus](#) of Pergamon
- Summer 152: Revolt of [Alexander I Balas](#), who is supported by Rome, the Seleucid princess [Laodice VI](#), Attalus II, Ariarathes V of Cappadocia, and the Egyptian king Ptolemy VI Philometor
- Jonathan also supports Alexander and is recognized as high priest (recognition of the [Hasmonaeans](#)); Judaeans play a role in this civil war; after this, several quiet years in Judaea
- June 150: Demetrius is defeated near Antioch

Succeeded by: [Alexander I Balas](#)

Sources:

- [1 Maccabees](#), 7-10;
- [2 Maccabees](#), 14-15
- [Appian of Alexandria](#), *Syrian Wars*, 46-47
- [Diodorus of Sicily](#), *Library of World History*, 31.27a, 31.32
- [Flavius Josephus](#), *Jewish Antiquities*, 12.389ff, 13.1ff, 13.35ff, 13.58ff
- [Livy](#), *Periochae*, 46, 47, 48, 52
- [Polybius of Megalopolis](#), *World History*, 31.2, 31.11-15, 32.2, 32.10, 33.19

This brief article has been written to offer background information to the real articles on [Livius.Org](#). One day, this webpage will be improved. A list of completed articles can be found [here](#).

[home](#) : [ancient Persia](#) : [ancient Greece](#) : [Seleucids](#) : [index](#)

[home](#) : [ancient Persia](#) : [ancient Greece](#) : [Seleucids](#) : [index](#) : article by Jona Lendering

Alexander I Balas



Alexander I Balas

Alexander I Balas (from Bel, Semitic for 'lord'): name of a [Seleucid](#) king, ruled from 152 to 145.

Successor of: [Demetrius I Soter](#)

Relatives:

- Father: [Antiochus IV Epiphanes](#) (spurious)
- Mother: [Laodice IV](#) (spurious)
- Wife: [Cleopatra Thea](#) (daughter of [Ptolemy VI Philometor](#))
- Son: [Antiochus VI Dionysus \(or Epiphanes\)](#); perhaps [Alexander II Zabinas](#)

Main deeds:

- Summer 152: Insurrection against [Demetrius I Soter](#), supported by Rome, the Seleucid princess [Laodice VI](#), [Attalus II Philadelphus](#), [Ariarathes V Philopator](#) of [Cappadocia](#), and [Ptolemy VI Philometor](#)
- In Judaea, the [Hasmonaean](#) leader Jonathan also supports Alexander and is recognized as high priest; Judaeans play a role in this civil war
- June 150: Demetrius is defeated near [Antioch](#); one of his officers, [Diodotus](#), makes sure that Alexander can capture the capital; the victorious king starts to call himself *Epiphanes*, 'manifestation of the god', like his (presumed) father [Antiochus IV](#)
- 150: Marriage to [Cleopatra Thea](#) (daughter of [Ptolemy VI Philometor](#)) in Ptolemais
- 147: Cleopatra gives birth to Alexander's son [Antiochus VI](#)

Seleucus IV Philopator



Bust of Ptolemy VI Philometor, from Aegina (National Archaeological Museum, Athens)

147: Cleopatra gives birth to Alexander's son [Antiochus VI Dionysus](#)

- 146: Revolt of [Demetrius II Nicator](#); Jonathan defeats Demetrius' general Apollonius
- 146: [Cilician](#) revolt
- 146: Ptolemy supports Demetrius' claim to the throne; Cleopatra leaves her husband and remarries with Demetrius; her father captures Antioch, but is killed
- Beginning of August 145: Alexander Balas flees but is killed by the [Nabataean Arabs](#)
- Alexander's supporter Diodotus saves Alexander's son Antiochus, who is now two years old

Succeeded by: [Demetrius II Nicator](#), who inherits a civil war against Diodotus and Alexander' son [Antiochus VI Dionysus](#)

Contemporary events:

- The reign of Alexander Balas created a great disturbance, which resulted in the take-over of the eastern part of the empire by the [Parthians](#) and the rise of [Cilician pirates](#)

Sources:

- [1 Maccabees, 10-11](#)
- [Diodorus of Sicily, Library of World History, 31-33](#)
- [Flavius Josephus, Jewish Antiquities, 13.35ff](#)
- [Livy, Periochae, 52](#)
- [Polybius of Megalopolis, World History, 33.15, 18](#)

This brief article has been written to offer background information to the real articles on [Livius.Org](#). One day, this webpage will be improved. A list of completed articles can be found [here](#).

[home](#) : [ancient Persia](#) : [ancient Greece](#) : [Seleucids](#) : [index](#)

[home](#) : [ancient Persia](#) : [ancient Greece](#) : [Seleucids](#) : [index](#) : article by Jona Lendering

Demetrius II Nicator



Demetrius II Nicator

Demetrius II Nicator ('victor'): name of a [Seleucid](#) king, ruled from 145 to 138 and from 129 to 125.

Successor of: [Alexander I Balas](#)

Relatives:

- Father: [Demetrius I Soter](#)

Seleucus IV Philopator

- Mother: [Laodice V](#)
- Wives:
 1. [Cleopatra Thea](#) (daughter of [Ptolemy VI Philometor](#); former wife of [Alexander I Balas](#))
 2. Rhodogyne (daughter of Mithradates I of Parthia) (no children)
- Children:
 - [Seleucus V](#)
 - daughter, married to Phraates II, son of Mithradates of Parthia
 - [Antiochus VIII Grypus](#)

Main deeds, first reign:

- c.160: born
- c.152: sent to Cnidus by his father, [Demetrius I Soter](#), because of the uncertainties of war against [Alexander I Balas](#)
- 150: Alexander Balas defeats and succeeds Demetrius; [Antioch](#) is betrayed by an officer named [Diodotus](#)
- 147: Revolt of Demetrius II Nicator; Jonathan defeats Demetrius' general Apollonius
- 146: Ptolemy supports Demetrius' claim to the throne; Alexander's wife, queen [Cleopatra Thea](#), leaves her husband and remarries with Demetrius; her father Ptolemy VI Philometor captures Antioch
- July 145: Ptolemy brings Demetrius to Antioch; Ptolemy is mortally wounded during the fights, but Alexander is defeated
- Demetrius is recognized as king before 8 September 145; he immediately attacks the Egyptian army
- Diodotus, still an adherent of Alexander Balas, proclaims Alexander's son [Antiochus VI Dionysus](#) king; the boy, who is two years old, is recognized in Antioch; Demetrius' life is saved by soldiers from Judah; he flees to [Seleucia](#)
- 143: Diodotus executes the [Hasmonaean](#) leader Jonathan
- Benefitting from the troubles, the [Parthian](#) king Mithradates I the Great conquers [Media](#)
- 142: Demetrius recognizes the Hasmonaean Simon as high priest in Jerusalem, which is evacuated by a Seleucid garrison (de facto independence of Judaea)
- July 141: Mithradates conquers Seleucia, the Seleucid capital in [Babylonia](#)
- October 141: Uruk captured by the Parthians
- Summer 140: Demetrius' rival, the boy king Antiochus VI, killed by his tutor Diodotus, who proclaims himself king, calling himself Tryphon; he is not recognized by Rome
- 139: Mithradates conquers [Susa](#) in Elam
- July/August 138: Demetrius taken captive by the Parthians

Reign of Antiochus VII

- After August 138: Demetrius' brother [Antiochus VII Sidetes](#), supported by several parties, attacks and overcomes Diodotus

Seleucus IV Philopator

supported by several parties, attacks and overcomes Diodotus Tryphon, who commits suicide in Apamea; Antiochus marries Cleopatra Thea, wife of his brother

- 134: Antiochus invades Judaea, besieges Jerusalem, and makes John Hyrcanus high priest in the [Hasmonaean](#) kingdom; he does not interfere with the Jewish religion (and is therefore sometimes called *Euergetes*, 'benefactor').
- 132: Death of the Parthian king Mithradates; he is succeeded by Phraates II
- November 132: Outbreak of civil war in Egypt between [Ptolemy VIII Euergetes Physcon](#) and his sister [Cleopatra II](#)
- 130: Antiochus successfully fights a war against the Parthians, who are expelled from Babylonia and Media
- 129: Antiochus demands full restoration of all Seleucid territories in Iran; the Parthians defeat him
- After 20 May 129: suicide

Main deeds, second reign:

- The Parthians reconquer Media and Babylonia, add [Mesopotamia](#), and reach the [Euphrates](#). Demetrius II, who is still held in captivity, is allowed to return to his old kingdom, which has by now been reduced to Syria and [Cilicia](#)
- Demetrius concludes a marriage alliance with Parthia: his daughter marries to Phraates, he himself marries Phraates' sister Rhodogyne
- 128: Demetrius tries to intervene in the Egyptian civil war, supporting Cleopatra II, the mother of his first wife [Cleopatra Thea](#); he is defeated near Pelusium
- Ptolemy VIII supports [Alexander II Zabinas](#), a rebel in the Seleucid Empire
- After March 125: When Demetrius wages war against Alexander II Zabinas, he is killed near Damascus.

Succeeded by: after some time by [Antiochus VIII Grypus](#)

Sources:

- [1 Maccabees, 10-15](#)
- [Astronomical Diaries](#), -144, obv.35-37 (for the attack on Egypt in 145)
- [Appian of Alexandria, Syrian Wars, 67-68](#)
- [Diodorus of Sicily, Library of World History](#), 32.9c-d, 33.4a
- [Flavius Josephus, Jewish Antiquities](#), 13.109, 219ff
- [Livy, Periochae, 52, 60](#)

This brief article has been written to offer background information to the real articles on [Livius.Org](#). One day, this webpage will be improved. A list of completed articles can be found [here](#).

[home](#) : [ancient Persia](#) : [ancient Greece](#) : [Seleucids](#) : [index](#)

Seleucus IV Philopator