Notes

1 This fear has spawned the so-called open theism.
2 The authorship and dating of the book of Daniel cannot be addressed here, but they were covered by the author in his article “Who Wrote Daniel?” in Bible and Spade 28, no. 1 (Winter 2015): 4–11.
3 There was of course no 24-hour news coverage. The intrigues of royal courts were probably not public knowledge, but news of battles and conquests would eventually have filtered through.
4 Called Yāwān in the Hebrew text, a word from which the name of one particular group of Greeks—“Ionian”—is derived.
5 Heb. hak-kol, “the all.”
6 Also known as Ahasuerus of the Authorized Version.
7 Herodotus was born ca. 485 BC and died ca. 424 BC.
9 Xerxes’s debacle in Greece fits into the gap recorded in the book of Esther between Xerxes’s giving a banquet for all his nobles and officials in the third year of his reign (483 BC; Est 1:3a) and the tenth month of the seventh year (479 BC), when the Jewess Esther wins a beauty competition and becomes queen (2:16).
10 The Revised English Bible with the Apocrypha (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1989). These events are also recorded by the historians Quintus Curtius Rufus (The History of Alexander 10.5.5–6) and Plutarch (The Life of Alexander 76).
11 Ptolemy II was responsible for commissioning a translation of the Hebrew scriptures, or at least of the first five books, into Greek, a translation known as the Septuagint, which is frequently quoted in the New Testament.
12 The Heb. wē hayyōēḏāh is somewhat cryptic; it is often rendered “and her begetter,” but some take it as “and her child.”
13 Heb. has kannō, “his place” (i.e., “his father’s place”).
14 Polybius was born before 199 BC and died ca. 120 BC.
15 Gk. Αἰγύπτος = Libyan.
18 Heb. yārūm Īḥāḇō, “his heart will be exalted.”
21 Ptolemy V’s main claim to fame is that in 196 BC he commissioned the trilingual text now known as the Rosetta Stone, which Jean-François Champollion used in 1824 to decipher the Egyptian hieroglyphic script.
22 The Greek Septuagint translation, extant only in Chester Beatty Papyrus 9 (first half of the third century) and the Chigi Manuscript (tenth century), has a different understanding of 11:14: “And in those times plots shall rise up against the king of Egypt, and he shall rebuild the ruins of your people, and he shall stand up in order to realise the prophecy, and they shall stumble.” This rendering may be an example of the Septuagint’s pro-Egyptian bias.

Bibliography
