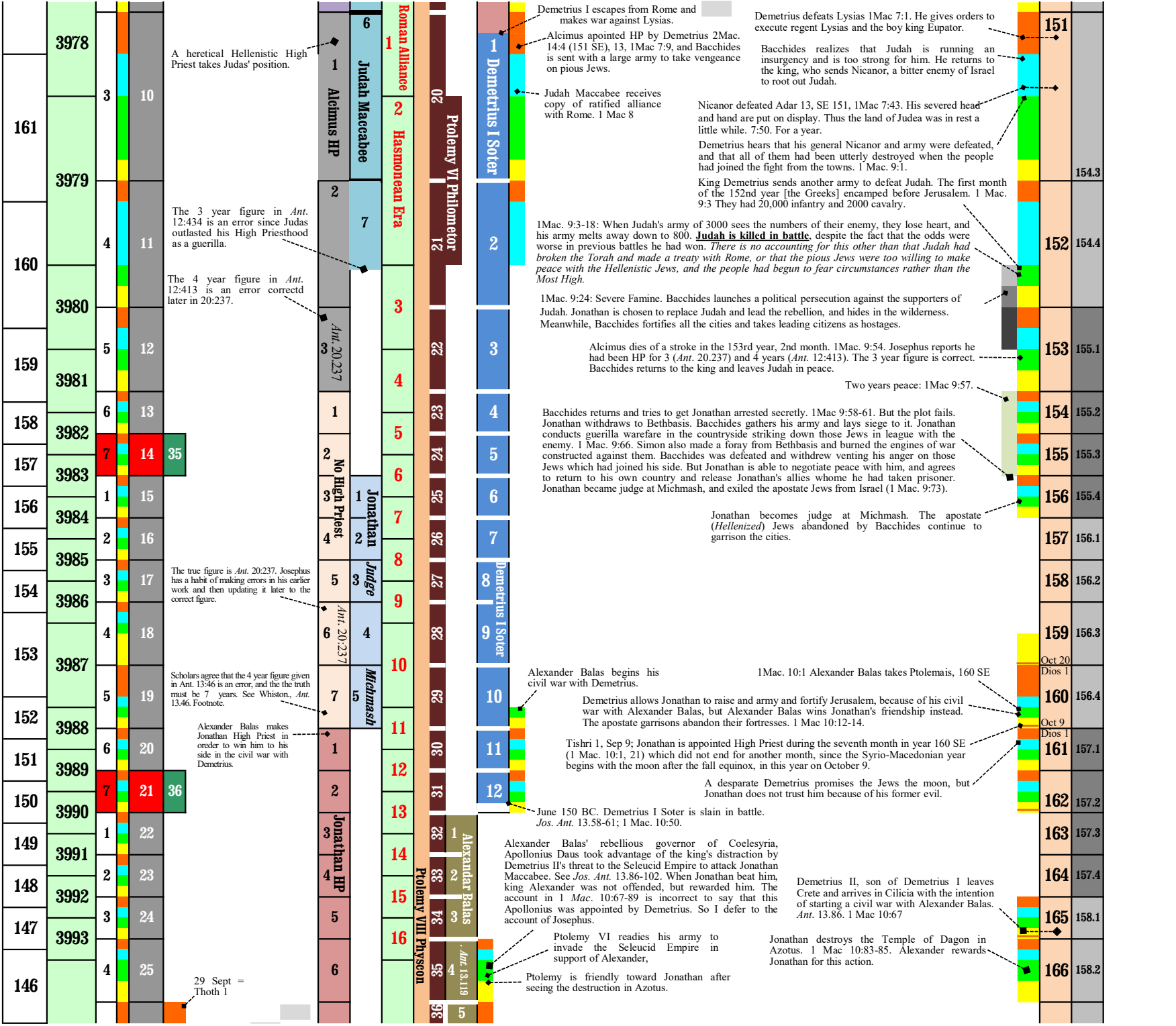
Roman Alliance
Hasmonean Era
Alcimus HP
Judah Maccabee
No High Priest
Jonathan Judge Michmash
Jonathan HP
Ptolemy VI Philometor
Ptolemy VIII Physcon
Demetrius I Soter
Alexander Balas
Demetrius I escapes from Rome and makes war against Lysias.
Alcimus apointed HP by Demetrius 2Mac. 14:4 (151 SE), 13, 1Mac 7:9, and Bacchides is sent with a large army to take vengeance on pious Jews.
Judah Maccabee receives copy of ratified alliance with Rome. 1 Mac 8
A heretical Hellenistic High Priest takes Judas' position.
The 3 year figure in Ant. 12:434 is an error since Judas outlasted his High Priesthood as a guerilla.
The 4 year figure in Ant. 12:413 is an error correctd later in 20:237.
The true figure is Ant. 20:237. Josephus has a habit of making errors in his earlier work and then updating it later to the correct figure.
Scholars agree that the 4 year figure given in Ant. 13:46 is an error, and the the truth must be 7 years. See Whiston., Ant. 13.46. Footnote.
Alexander Balas makes Jonathan High Priest in oreder to win him to his side in the civil war with Demetrius.
29 Sept = Thoth 1
Demetrius defeats Lysias 1Mac 7:1. He gives orders to execute regent Lysias and the boy king Eupator.
Bacchides realizes that Judah is running an insurgency and is too strong for him. He returns to the king, who sends Nicanor, a bitter enemy of Israel to root out Judah.
Nicanor defeated Adar 13, SE 151, 1Mac 7:43. His severed head and hand are put on display. Thus the land of Judea was in rest a little while. 7:50. For a year.
Demetrius hears that his general Nicanor and army were defeated, and that all of them had been utterly destroyed when the people had joined the fight from the towns. 1 Mac. 9:1.
King Demetrius sends another army to defeat Judah. The first month of the 152nd year [the Greeks] encamped before Jerusalem. 1 Mac. 9:3 They had 20,000 infantry and 2000 cavalry.
1Mac. 9:3-18: When Judah's army of 3000 sees the numbers of their enemy, they lose heart, and his army melts away down to 800. Judah is killed in battle, despite the fact that the odds were worse in previous battles he had won. There is no accounting for this other than that Judah had broken the Torah and made a treaty with Rome, or that the pious Jews were too willing to make peace with the Hellenistic Jews, and the people had begun to fear circumstances rather than the Most High.
1Mac. 9:24: Severe Famine. Bacchides launches a political persecution against the supporters of Judah. Jonathan is chosen to replace Judah and lead the rebellion, and hides in the wilderness. Meanwhile, Bacchides fortifies all the cities and takes leading citizens as hostages.
Alcimus dies of a stroke in the 153rd year, 2nd month. 1Mac. 9:54. Josephus reports he had been HP for 3 (Ant. 20.237) and 4 years (Ant. 12:413). The 3 year figure is correct. Bacchides returns to the king and leaves Judah in peace.
Two years peace: 1Mac 9:57.
Bacchides returns and tries to get Jonathan arrested secretly. 1Mac 9:58-61. But the plot fails. Jonathan withdraws to Bethbasis. Bacchides gathers his army and lays siege to it. Jonathan conducts guerilla warfare in the countryside striking down those Jews in league with the enemy. 1 Mac. 9:66. Simon also made a foray from Bethbasis and burned the engines of war constructed against them. Bacchides was defeated and withdrew venting his anger on those Jews which had joined his side. But Jonathan is able to negotiate peace with him, and agrees to return to his own country and release Jonathan's allies whome he had taken prisoner. Jonathan became judge at Michmash, and exiled the apostate Jews from Israel (1 Mac. 9:73).
Jonathan becomes judge at Michmash. The apostate (Hellenized) Jews abandoned by Bacchides continue to garrison the cities.
Alexander Balas begins his civil war with Demetrius.
1Mac. 10:1 Alexander Balas takes Ptolemais, 160 SE
Demetrius allows Jonathan to raise and army and fortify Jerusalem, because of his civil war with Alexander Balas, but Alexander Balas wins Jonathan's friendship instead. The apostate garrisons abandon their fortresses. 1 Mac 10:12-14.
Tishri 1, Sep 9; Jonathan is appointed High Priest during the seventh month in year 160 SE (1 Mac. 10:1, 21) which did not end for another month, since the Syrio-Macedonian year begins with the moon after the fall equinox, in this year on October 9.
A desparate Demetrius promises the Jews the moon, but Jonathan does not trust him because of his former evil.
June 150 BC. Demetrius I Soter is slain in battle. Jos. Ant. 13.58-61; 1 Mac. 10:50.
Alexander Balas' rebellious governor of Coelesyria, Apollonius Daus took advantage of the king's distraction by Demetrius II's threat to the Seleucid Empire to attack Jonathan Maccabee. See Jos. Ant. 13.86-102. When Jonathan beat him, king Alexander was not offended, but rewarded him. The account in 1 Mac. 10:67-89 is incorrect to say that this Apollonius was appointed by Demetrius. So I defer to the account of Josephus.
Ptolemy VI readies his army to invade the Seleucid Empire in support of Alexander,
Ptolemy is friendly toward Jonathan after seeing the destruction in Azotus.
Demetrius II, son of Demetrius I leaves Crete and arrives in Cilicia with the intention of starting a civil war with Alexander Balas. Ant. 13.86. 1 Mac 10:67
Jonathan destroys the Temple of Dagon in Azotus. 1 Mac 10:83-85. Alexander rewards Jonathan for this action.
Oct 20 Dios 1
Oct 9 Dios 1