

DANIEL CHAPTER 11; VERSE 17

Verses 14-29 = Pagan Rome

Julius Caesar & Cleopatra

11:17 He [Rome generally, and Julius Caesar specifically, who followed Pompey the Great as the ruler of Rome] shall also set his [Julius Caesar's] face to enter with the strength of his [Julius Caesar's] whole kingdom, [Rome conquered Macedon in 168 B.C., Syria/Thrace in 65 B.C., and Egypt in 31 B.C., having obtained victory over all of Alexander's divided empire by this time] and upright ones [Jews-Antipater the Idumean, BC 457, helped Julius Caesar conquer Egypt] with him [Julius Caesar]; thus shall he [Julius Caesar] do: and he [Julius Caesar] shall give him [Julius Caesar] the daughter of women, [Cleopatra VII, ruler of Egypt. Julius Caesar took 18-year old Cleopatra, as his concubine][Ptolemy Auletes, the father of Cleopatra, died in B.C. 51] corrupting her [Cleopatra]: but she [Cleopatra] shall not stand on his [Rome's generally, and Julius Caesar's side specifically] side, neither be for him [Rome generally, and specifically Julius Caesar; Cleopatra flirted with Julius Caesar and then with Mark Anthony in order to retain the independence of Egypt and did not act in the interest of Rome].

How did Rome gain all of Alexander's divided kingdom? Up to this verse, Rome had 75% of Alexander's territory, but was only the guardian of Egypt; Rome doesn't rule and control Egypt just yet.

Auletes (father of Cleopatra) died in BC 51. He left the crown and kingdom of Egypt to his eldest son and daughter, Ptolemy and Cleopatra. His will stated they should marry and reign jointly and should be placed under Roman guardianship because they were young. Pompey was chosen as guardian. Pompey was murdered by Ptolemy, so Caesar assumed the guardianship and went to Egypt to settle quarrel between Ptolemy and Cleopatra. Cleopatra had joined herself to Antony the enemy of Augustus Caesar, and exerted her whole power against Rome. Rome had previously conquered Macedon and Thrace. Egypt was now all that remained of the "whole kingdom" of Alexander, not brought into subjection to the Roman power, which power now set its face to enter by force into that country.

Cleopatra stood not on Rome's side. She stood by Caesar only as long as she felt it to her interest to do so but readily turned to Antony, and with him later fought Rome.

11:17 Julius Caesar shall also set his face by force the whole kingdom, and Antipater the Idumean with him; thus shall he do: and Caesar shall give himself Cleopatra, corrupting her: but she shall not stand on his side, neither be for him.

Ptolemy XII Auletes (boy king)



Cleopatra VII



Julius Caesar



Pompey



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The prophetic story now runs on into Roman history for many years, stating the main points so clearly that it is impossible to deny the positive and accurate application of the angel's words. That Roman power, first pagan, then papal, was to reach to our own day, and it is well to meditate upon the concise way in which God made known to Daniel and to us what was to take place; that when we find where we are in the great chain of events we may with confidence look forward to the things yet to take place.

One of the first things Rome undertook to do after reaching the height of power indicated above was to finish the conquest of the world. If we take the expression "The whole kingdom" to mean the universal kingdom of Alexander, we may conclude that when the Seleucid power was thoroughly broken it only remained for the fourth part called the "King of the South" to be brought under her sway.

The occasion of Rome's entry into actual rulership in Egypt was when Caesar was called in to settle the quarrel between Cleopatra and Ptolemy Auletes, her brother, over who should be ruler. "He summoned the rival sovereigns before him, and offered to decide their disputes in the name of the republic. Ptolemy left his camp at Pelusium, and gave Caesar a meeting in the palace of Alexandria, where he soon found himself watched and detained as a hostage. Cleopatra had already implored the consul's mediation, and now, when her brother or his ministers obstructed her approach to his presence, she caused herself to be carried by stratagem into his chamber. The fame of Cleopatra's beauty, which was destined to become second only to Helen's in renown, was already bruited widely abroad. She had been seen by Mark Antony during the brief inroad of Gabinius into Egypt; and grave legates of the republic had brought back to Rome glowing reports of the girlish charms of the Ligid Princess. She was indeed, at the time of her introduction to Caesar, not twenty years old, and her wit and genius in the arts of female conquest were yet unknown. Perhaps it was fortunate for their celebrity that the man upon whom she was first to prove their power was already predisposed to submit. Caesar forthwith undertook the championship of the distressed beauty, for it suited his purpose to play off her claims against the haughty minions of her rival. In devoting himself to her cause he did not deny himself the reward of his gallantry; but while he indulged in the luxuries and dissipations of the most sensual of capitals, he kept his eye steadily fixed on his main object, and at the same time carefully guarded his own person from the machinations of his unscrupulous enemies." H. H., v. 5, pp. 546, 547.

When Caesar set his face to enter with strength the whole kingdom, he received very valuable assistance from the Jews, and we here offer the account of Josephus in support of the prophecy that some of God's chosen people would help the Romans at this time.

"Now after Pompey was dead, and after that victory Caesar had gained over him, Antipater, who managed the Jewish affairs, became very useful to Caesar when he made war against Egypt, and that by order of Hyrcanus; for when Mithridates of Pergamus was bringing his auxiliaries, and was not able to continue his march through Pelusium, but obliged to stay at Askelon, Antipater came to him, conducting three thousand of the Jews, armed men: he had also taken care the principal men of the Arabians should come to his assistance; and on his account it was that all the Syrians assisted him also, as not willing to appear behindhand in their alacrity for Caesar, viz. Jamblicus the ruler, and Ptolemy his son, and Tholomy the son of Sohemus, who dwelt at Mount Libanus, and almost all the cities. So Mithridates marched out of Syria, and came to Pelusium; and when its inhabitants would not admit him, he besieged the city. Now Antipater signalized himself here, and was the first who plucked down part of the wall, and so opened a way to the rest, whereby they might enter the city, and by this means Pelusium was taken. But it happened that the Egyptian Jews, who dwelt in the country called Onion, would not let Antipater and Mithridates, with their soldiers pass to Caesar; but Antipater persuaded them to come over to their party, because he was of the same people with them, and that chiefly by showing them the epistles of Hyrcanus the high-priest, wherein he exhorted them to cultivate friendship with Caesar; and to supply his army with money, and all sorts of provisions which they wanted; and accordingly, when they saw Antipater and the high-priest of the same sentiments, they did as they were desired. And when the Jews about Memphis heard that

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these Jews were come over to Caesar, they also invited Mithridates to come to them; so he came and received them also into his army.

"And when Mithridates had gone over all Delta, as the place is called, he came to a pitched battle with the enemy, near the place called the Jewish camp. Now Mithridates had the right wing, and Antipater the left; and when it came to a fight that wing where Mithridates was gave way, and was likely to suffer extremely, unless Antipater had come running to him with his own soldiers along the shore, when he had already beaten the enemy that opposed him; so he delivered Mithridates, and put those Egyptians who had been too hard for him to flight. He also took their camp, and continued in the pursuit of them. He also recalled Mithridates, who had been worsted, and retired a great way off; of whose soldiers eight hundred fell; but of Antipater's fifty. So Mithridates sent an account of this battle to Caesar, and openly declared that Antipater was the author of this victory, and of his own preservation; insomuch that Caesar commended Antipater then, and made use of him all the rest of that war in the most hazardous undertakings: he happened also to be wounded in one of those engagements." Antiquities, b. 14, c. 8, paragraphs 1, 2.

Again the prophecy says that this daughter of women whom the Roman was to corrupt, should not stand on his side neither be for him. We may then look for events in which Cleopatra, after Caesar's personal influence was removed, would turn against the Roman side and work on the side of the enemies of the Roman state. This forecast is more clearly brought out in later verses so the historical account will be presented there.

["The Eleventh of Daniel Narrated" pg. 28-31 by J. Grant Lamson 1909; archive from G.C. Library]

Myers General History 266, P 385

Barnes' General History 249

upright ones- Antipater the Idumean (the 3,000 Jews who aided Caesar. *Historians' History of the World v.2 p. 163*

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Notes

He shall give him the daughter of women

1. Ptolemy Auletes, the father of Cleopatra, died in B.C. 51
2. In his will, Rome was made the guardians of Cleopatra and her brother Ptolemy Dionysius
3. Pompey of Rome was the original guardian, but was murdered by Cleopatra's brother, making Julius the new guardian
4. Julius fell in love with Cleopatra

Corrupting her

1. Her = **Cleopatra**
2. Julius was seduced by her beauty and had a child with her out of wedlock
3. The child's name was Caesarion, who was later murdered by Augustus Caesar

She shall not stand on his side, neither be for him

His/him = Rome

Although Rome protected Cleopatra, she herself did not stand on the side of Rome

When Julius Caesar died, Marc Antony was sent to Egypt by Rome, but he fell in love with Cleopatra and stood on the side of Egypt

When he and Cleopatra went to war against Rome/Octavian/Augustus in the Battle of Actium (see vs: 25-27), Cleopatra retreated, leaving Antony to Battle alone

See also → DAR 260.2-264.2; PREX2 28.3-33.2

DAR 260.2-264.2

"VERSE 17. He shall also set his face to enter with the strength of his whole kingdom, and upright ones with him; thus shall he do: and he shall give him the daughter of women, corrupting her: but she shall not stand on his side, neither be for him." {1897 UrS, DAR 260.2}

Bishop Newton furnishes another reading for this verse, which seems more clearly to express the sense, as follows: "He shall also set his face to enter by force the whole kingdom." Verse 16 brought us down to the conquest of Syria and Judea by the Romans. Rome had previously conquered Macedon and Thrace. Egypt was now all that remained of the "whole kingdom" of Alexander, not brought into subjection to the Roman power, which power now set its face to enter by force into that country. {1897 UrS, DAR 260.3}

Ptolemy Auletes died B.C.51. He left the crown and kingdom of Egypt to his eldest son and daughter, Ptolemy and Cleopatra. It was provided in his will that they should marry together, and reign jointly; and because they were young, they were placed under the guardianship of the Romans. The Roman people accepted the charge, and appointed Pompey as guardian of the young heirs of Egypt. {1897 UrS, DAR 260.4}

A quarrel having not long after broken out between Pompey and Caesar, the famous battle of Pharsalia was fought between the two generals. Pompey, being defeated, fled into Egypt. Caesar immediately followed him thither; but before his arrival, Pompey was basely murdered by Ptolemy, whose guardian he had been appointed. Caesar therefore assumed the appointment which had been given to Pompey, as guardian of Ptolemy and Cleopatra. He found Egypt in commotion from internal disturbances, Ptolemy and Cleopatra having become hostile to each other, and she being deprived of her share in the government. Notwithstanding this, he did not hesitate to land at Alexandria with his small force, 800 horse and 3200 foot, take cognizance of the quarrel, and undertake its settlement. The troubles daily increasing, Caesar found his small force insufficient to maintain his position, and being unable to leave Egypt on account of the north wind which blew at that season, he sent into Asia, ordering all the troops he had in that quarter to come to his assistance as soon as possible. {1897 UrS, DAR 260.5}

In the most haughty manner he decreed that Ptolemy and Cleopatra should disband their armies, appear before him for a settlement of their differences, and abide by his decision. Egypt being an independent kingdom, this haughty decree was considered an affront to its royal dignity, at which the Egyptians, highly incensed, flew to arms. Caesar replied that he acted by virtue of the will of their father, Auletes, who had put his children under the guardianship of the senate and people of Rome, the whole authority of which was now vested in his person as consul; and that, as guardian, he had the right to arbitrate between them. {1897 UrS, DAR 261.1}

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The matter was finally brought before him, and advocates appointed to plead the cause of the respective parties. Cleopatra, aware of the foible of the great Roman conqueror, judged that the beauty of her presence would be more effectual in securing judgment in her favor than any advocate she could employ. To reach his presence undetected, she had recourse to the following stratagem: Laying herself at full length in a bundle of clothes, Apollodorus, her Sicilian servant, wrapped it up in a cloth, tied it with a thong, and raising it upon his Herculean shoulders, sought the apartments of Caesar. Claiming to have a present for the Roman general, he was admitted through the gate of the citadel, entered into the presence of Caesar, and deposited the burden at his feet. When Caesar had unbound this animated bundle, lo! the beautiful Cleopatra stood before him. He was far from being displeased with the stratagem, and being of a character described in 2Pet.2:14, the first sight of so beautiful a person, says Rollin, had all the effect upon him she had desired. {1897 UrS, DAR 261.2}

Caesar at length decreed that the brother and sister should occupy the throne jointly, according to the intent of the will. Pothinus, the chief minister of state, having been principally instrumental in expelling Cleopatra from the throne, feared the result of her restoration. He therefore began to excite jealousy and hostility against Caesar, by insinuating among the populace that he designed eventually to give Cleopatra the sole power. Open sedition soon followed. Achilles, at the head of 20,000 men, advanced to drive Caesar from Alexandria. Skillfully disposing his small body of men in the streets and alleys of the city, Caesar found no difficulty in repelling the attack. The Egyptians undertook to destroy his fleet. He retorted by burning theirs. Some of the burning vessels being driven near the quay, several of the buildings of the city took fire, and the famous Alexandrian library, containing nearly 400,000 volumes, was destroyed. {1897 UrS, DAR 262.1}

The war growing more threatening, Caesar sent into all the neighboring countries for help. A large fleet came from Asia Minor to his assistance. Mithridates set out for Egypt with an army raised in Syria and Cilicia. Antipater the Idumean joined him with 3,000 Jews. The Jews, who held the passes into Egypt, permitted the army to pass on without interruption. Without this co-operation on their part, the whole plan must have failed. The arrival of this army decided the contest. A decisive battle was fought near the Nile, resulting in a complete victory for Caesar. Ptolemy, attempting to escape, was drowned in the river. Alexandria and all Egypt then submitted to the victor. Rome had now entered into and absorbed the whole of the original kingdom of Alexander. {1897 UrS, DAR 262.2}

By the "upright ones" of the text are doubtless meant the Jews, who gave him the assistance already mentioned. Without this, he must have failed; with it, he completely subdued Egypt to his power, B.C.47. {1897 UrS, DAR 262.3}

"The daughter of women, corrupting her." The passion which Caesar had conceived for Cleopatra, by whom he had one son is assigned by the historian as the sole reason of his undertaking so dangerous a campaign as the Egyptian war. This kept him much longer in Egypt than his affairs required, he spending whole nights in feasting and carousing with the dissolute queen. "But," said the prophet, "she shall not stand on his side, neither be for him." Cleopatra afterward joined herself to Antony, the enemy of Augustus Caesar, and exerted her whole power against Rome. {1897 UrS, DAR 264.1}

"VERSE 18. After this shall he turn his face unto the isles, and shall take many: but a prince for his own behalf shall cause the reproach offered by him to cease; without his own reproach he shall cause it to turn upon him." {1897 UrS, DAR 264.2}

PREX2 28.3-33.2

Verse 17: "He shall also set his face to enter with the strength of his whole kingdom, and upright ones with him; thus shall he do: and he shall give him the daughter of women, corrupting her; but she shall not stand on his side, neither be for him." {1842 JoL, PREX2 28.3}

Having previously conquered Macedon and Thrace, and now also Syria and Judea, only Egypt remained of all the empire of Alexander, before the Romans would be left in possession of universal empire. {1842 JoL, PREX2 28.4}

"To enter with the strength of his whole kingdom;" "or rather," says Bp. Newton, "he shall also set his face to enter by force, the whole kingdom." The whole kingdom of Alexander, which the possession of Egypt would give him; that being all that remained unconquered by Rome. {1842 JoL, PREX2 28.5}

After the death of Ptolemy Auletes, which happened B. C. 51, having left his crown and kingdom to his eldest son and daughter, and ordered by his will that they should marry together, and govern jointly; and because they were both young, he left them under the guardianship of the Romans, Pompey, the Roman general, was appointed by the people the young king's guardian. {1842 JoL, PREX2 29.1}

Not long after, a quarrel having broken out between Julius Cæsar and Pompey, the great battle of Pharsalia was fought between the two generals. Cæsar was victorious, and Pompey fled to Egypt, where he was basely murdered by the order of Ptolemy, whose guardian he had been appointed. Cæsar followed him into Egypt, and found him dead. He

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went to Egypt with a small army, 800 horse and 3200 foot; but confiding in his reputation and success at Pharsalia, he made no scruple of landing at Alexandria with what few men he had. But Egypt was in commotion from intestine wars, Ptolemy and Cleopatra having fallen, out, and Cleopatra was deprived of her share in the government. Cæsar took cognizance of the quarrel, and undertook its settlement. The troubles of Egypt every day increasing, Cæsar found his small number of troops to be insufficient; and being unable to leave Egypt, on account of the north winds which blew at that season, sent immediately for all the troops he had in Asia, to march thither as soon as possible. The Egyptians were finally incensed and took arms against him, by the haughtiness with which he ordered both Ptolemy and Cleopatra to appear before him, for the settlement of their difficulty. He decreed that both should disband their armies and appear before him for an adjudication of the difficulty, and submit to his sentence. This was an affront to Egypt, as being an interference with the royal dignity of Egypt, an independent kingdom. But Cæsar replied that he only acted by virtue of their father, Auletes, who had, by his will, put his children under the guardianship of the senate and people of Rome, the whole authority of which was vested in his person, as consul; that, as guardian, he had a right to arbitrate between them. {1842 JoL, PREX2 29.2}

The affair was brought before him, and advocates appointed to plead the cause. {1842 JoL, PREX2 30.1}

"But Cleopatra, who knew Cæsar's foible, believed that her presence would be more persuasive than any advocate she could employ with her judge. She caused him to be told, that she perceived that those whom she employed in her behalf betrayed her, and demanded his permission to appear in person. Plutarch says it was Cæsar him self who pressed her to come and plead her cause. {1842 JoL, PREX2 30.2}

"That princess took nobody with her, of all her friends, but Apollodorus the Sicilian; got into a little boat, and arrived at the bottom of the walls of the citadel of Alexandria, when it was quite dark night. Finding that there were no means of entering without being known, she thought of this stratagem. She laid herself at length in the midst of a bundle of clothes. Apollodorus wrapped it up in a cloth, tied up with a thong, and in that manner carried it through the gate of the citadel to Cæsar's apartment, who was far from being displeased with the stratagem. The first sight of so beautiful a person, had all the effect upon him she had desired."-[Rollin, vol. VIII., pp. 118, 119.] {1842 JoL, PREX2 30.3}

Being thus charmed with Cleopatra, he at length decreed, as guardian and abitrator, that Ptolemy and Cleopatra should reign jointly, according to the intent of the will. Pothinus, the chief minister of state, and who had been the principal agent in expelling Cleopatra from the throne, fearing the result of her restoration, began at once to excite jealousy in the public mind, and renewed hostilities against Cæsar; alleging that the Romans had only placed the brother and sister on the throne through fear of the populace, but that the true design was, as soon as it could be done, to set Cleopatra alone on the throne. Achilles, at the head of 20,000 men, advanced to drive Cæsar out of Alexandria. But Cæsar so disposed his small body of men in the streets and avenues, that he found no difficulty in resisting the attack. The Egyptians then attempted to take his fleet; but he defeated them by burning theirs, and possessing himself of the tower of Pharos and garrisoning it. By this conflagration of the fleet, the vessels driving so near the quay, some of the houses took fire, and the famous Alexandrian library was burned, containing near 400,000 volumes. {1842 JoL, PREX2 31.1}

Cæsar, seeing so dangerous a war on his hands, sent into all the neighboring countries for help. A large fleet came from Asia Minor, an army under Mithridates, which had been raised by him in Syria and Cilicia; Antipater, the Idumean, joined him with 3000 Jews, [upright ones] and had engaged several neighboring cities to send him help. The Jews, who had possession of the passes into Egypt, gave them up for the passage of the army without interruption, without which the whole plan must have miscarried. The arrival of this army decided the contest. A battle was fought near the Nile, which proved decisive; the victory turning in favor of Cæsar. Ptolemy, attempting to escape in an open boat, was drowned in the Nile. Alexandria and all Egypt submitted to the victor. {1842 JoL, PREX2 31.2}

"And upright ones with him." The Jews, without whose assistance Cæsar must have fallen; but by whose assistance, Egypt fell into his hands, B. C. 47. {1842 JoL, PREX2 32.1}

"He shall give him the daughter of women, corrupting her." Cleopatra, after being corrupted by Cæsar, was placed alone, virtually, on the throne of Egypt; as the creature of Cæsar. {1842 JoL, PREX2 32.2}

"Cæsar returned to Alexandria about the middle of our January; and not finding any further opposition to his orders, gave the crown of Egypt to Cleopatra, in conjunction with Ptolemy her other brother. This was, in effect, giving it to Cleopatra alone; for that young prince was only eleven years old. The passion which Cæsar had conceived for that princess, was properly the sole cause of his embarking in so dangerous a war. He had by her one son, called Cæsarion, whom Augustus caused to be put to death when he became master of Alexandria. His affection for Cleopatra kept him much longer in Egypt than his affairs required. For though everything was settled in that kingdom by the end of January, he did not leave it till the end of April, according to Appian, who says he stayed there nine months. Now he had arrived there only about the end of July the year before. {1842 JoL, PREX2 32.3}

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"Cæsar passed whole nights in feasting with Cleopatra. Having embarked with her upon the Nile, he carried her through the whole country with a numerous fleet, and would have penetrated into Ethiopia, if his army had not refused to follow him. He had resolved to bring her to Rome, and to marry her; and intended to have caused a law to pass in the assembly of the people, by which the citizens of Rome should be permitted to marry such and as many wives as they thought fit. Helvius Cinna, the tribune of the people, declared, after his death, that he had prepared a harangue, in order to propose that law to the people, not being able to refuse his assistance upon the earnest solicitation of Cæsar."- [Rollin, vol. VIII., p. 124.] {1842 JoL, PREX2 33.1}

"She shall not stand, neither be for him." She afterwards devoted herself to Antony, the enemy of Augustus Cæsar, and lent her whole power against Rome, as we shall see hereafter. {1842 JoL, PREX2 33.2}