

DANIEL 11: 1-19

The following study was prepared in an effort to better understand these verses from Daniel and their fulfillment on the pages of history. The primary resource for consideration was the third volume – on pages 24 thru 32. There (p. 27), Br. Russell only alludes to verses 5-16 – saying that they refer to the conflicts between Egypt (King of the South) and the King of the North – the Grecian empire and later the Romans. On the top of page 28 he states, “And since all are agreed thus far (thru vs. 16), we need go no farther into the past.” However, my desire was to understand these verses – to see the stately steppings of our Father as a stir to my faith and zeal. For this portion, I consulted a commentary by Matthew Poole, first published in 1685 A.D. Since Br. Russell suggests that all bible scholars are agreed on these verses – and because I have found the Poole commentary helpful in many ways – I used this as my primary resource. However, I did research on all of the history to confirm the facts and their application to these verses. I have prepared separate files with a list of the rulers of the Seleucid kingdom – the North (“KingsOfNorth”), and those of the Egyptian kingdom – the South (“KingsOfSouth”). As rulers were named similarly in a particular line of inheritance (e.g. several Ptolemies and several Antiochuses) – I found it helpful to list the names of these rulers and their period of reign.

With regard to verses 17-19, Br. Russell states (pp. 28-29): “Proceeding, then, we understand verses 17-19 to apply to the times and incidents in which Mark Antony and Cleopatra figured, when Antony fell, and Egypt (“King of the South”) was swallowed up in the Roman empire.” However, he does not review these verses nor demonstrate how they were fulfilled in history. This was the next part of my study – and certainly the most challenging! In an effort to apply these verses, I reviewed the history of this period – consulting the historical reviews available on Wikipedia. The articles reviewed were on Julius Caesar, Cleopatra (VII), and Marc Antony. By far the most extensive was that of Marc Antony – I had no idea he was such a key figure in the transfer of the power and control of Egypt to Rome! He is also accredited with being the main influence in transforming the Roman Republic to the Roman Empire – certainly a key step in the progress of God’s plan. In a separate document (“Marc Antony”), I list the events of this period and their date of occurrence. After reviewing this history, my goal was to identify those events that were most notable in this transfer of power to Rome. On page 31 Br. Russell states, “The end to be accomplished is to mark the time of transfer of universal dominion, from Greece to Rome, from the four generals of Alexander the Great, representing four divisions of that empire, ... to the Roman empire which was at that time and previously a part of Grecia.” In seeking to apply these verses to historical facts, therefore, my goal was to identify those events most prominent in that process of transfer and which also fit best to the scriptural account. Given below are the results of my study and I am anxious for any further insight into these verses that might be offered. Please be assured that this is not my effort to teach – but to simply be a good student of my Father’s word.

May the Lord add his blessings!

Please note that the primary translation given is that of KJV; however, I have also added the ESV translation for most verses. The ESV translation is always given in bold italic font. Moffat's translation is also provided – for verses 17-19 – and so noted.

Dan 11:1 Also I in the first year of Darius the Mede, *even I*, stood to confirm and to strengthen him.

Matthew Poole and NIV translation suggest that this verse should have been the last verse of the 10th chapter.

Dan 11:2 And now will I shew thee the truth. Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings in Persia; and the fourth shall be far richer than *they* all: and by his strength through his riches he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia.

There were more than 4 Persian kings, but only these four affected God's people

- 1) Cyrus (II) the Great, BC 550-530 (Ezra 1:1)
- 2) Darius the Persian, BC 521-486 (Hagg 1:1)
- 3) Xerxes the Great (Ahasuerus), BC 485-465 (Esther)
- 4) Darius III Codomannus, BC 336-300 (battled with Alexander the Great)

Dan 11:3 And a mighty king shall stand up, that shall rule with great dominion, and do according to his will.

Alexander the Great, 336-323 BC

Dan 11:4 And when he shall stand up, his kingdom shall be broken, and shall be divided toward the four winds of heaven; and not to his posterity,

Alexander's kingdom was divided by his four generals after his death: 1) Antipater, and later his son, Cassander, got Macedonia or Greece; 2) Antigonus got Asia*; 3) Ptolemy got Egypt; and 4) Seleucus got Upper Asia & Syria.

*Br. Russell's history source suggests that Lysimachus got Thrace and Asian Minor – but Antigonus ruled a larger territory. C31-32

...nor according to his dominion which he ruled: for his kingdom shall be plucked up, even for others beside those.

These did not reign as kings at first, but only as captains or regents; some lesser commanders shared several parts of the empire.

Dan 11:5 And the king of the south shall be strong, and *one* of his princes; and he shall be strong above him, and have dominion; his dominion *shall be* a great dominion.

ESV: Then the king of the south shall be strong,

This king of the south is Ptolemy I Soter (321-289 BC) – who added Cyprus, Phoenicia, and other countries to Egypt and left a great treasure and invincible army to his son (Ptolemy II).

...but one of his princes shall be stronger than he and shall rule, and his authority shall be a great authority.

This evidently refers to Seleucus I Nicator – one of the princes of Alexander – originally appointed over Babylon & Syria. He was forced out of Babylon by Antigonus (general over Asia) but returned in 312 BC with help from Ptolemy. He expanded his lands to include much of Asia – the most extensive empire since Alexander the Great. He established the Seleucid empire and dynasty.

Dan 11:6 And in the end of years they shall join themselves together; for the king's daughter of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement: but she shall not retain the power of the arm; neither shall he stand, nor his arm: but she shall be given up, and they that brought her, and he that begat her, and he that strengthened her in *these* times.

ESV: After some years they shall make an alliance, and the daughter of the king of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement.

The first alliance was between the king of the north (Antiochus I Soter) and the king of south (Ptolemy I Soter). The alliance referred to in this verse is that concluded between Ptolemy II Philadelphus (son of Ptolemy I) and Antiochus II Theos (son of Antiochus I Soter). Ptolemy II gives his daughter, Berenice, to Antiochus in order to seal the alliance (238 BC). Antiochus put away his wife, Laodice I, in order to do so – exiling her to Ephesus. A large sum of gold and silver was given as dowry.

But she shall not retain the strength of her arm, and he and his arm shall not endure, but she shall be given up, and her attendants, he who fathered her, and he who supported her in those times.

Antiochus left Berenice and their son in Antioch to return to Laodice in Asia Minor. Laodice, who had been instigating intrigues in order to regain power, poisoned her husband and installed her son – Seleucus II Callinicus – as king (246 BC). She also had Berenice and her son slain.

Dan 11:7 But out of a branch of her roots shall *one* stand up in his estate, which shall come with an army, and shall enter into the fortress of the king of the north, and shall deal against them, and shall prevail:

And from a branch from her roots one shall arise in his place. He shall come against the army and enter the fortress of the king of the north, and he shall deal with them and shall prevail.

Ptolemy III Euergetes inherits the throne of Egypt after the death of his father, Ptolemy II (246 BC). He invades Syria (246-241 BC) – occupying Antioch and even reaching Babylon. He avenges the death of his sister, Berenice, by slaying Laodice and her son-king – Seleucus II Callinicus.

Dan 11:8 And shall also carry captives into Egypt their gods, with their princes, *and* with their precious vessels of silver and of gold; and he shall continue *more* years than the king of the north.

He shall also carry off to Egypt their gods with their metal images and their precious vessels of silver and gold, and for some years he shall refrain from attacking the king of the north.

In exchange for peace, Ptolemy III was awarded new territories on the north coast of Syria and 1500 talents of silver. During his involvement in the Third Syrian War, he managed to regain many Egyptian works of art that had been stolen when the Persians conquered Egypt. Poole mentions that he recovered images which Cambyses had long before carried from Egypt into Persia.

Dan 11:9 So the king of the south shall come into *his* kingdom, and shall return into his own land.

Then the latter shall come into the realm of the king of the south but shall return to his own land.

Ptolemy returned to Egypt without fear or danger, and with great treasure.

Dan 11:10 But his sons shall be stirred up, and shall assemble a multitude of great forces: and *one* shall certainly come, and overflow, and pass through: then shall he return, and be stirred up, *even* to his fortress.

His sons shall wage war and assemble a multitude of great forces, which shall keep coming and overflow and pass through, and again shall carry the war as far as his fortress.

These are the sons of the king of the north – Seleucus II Callinicus – the king slain by Ptolemy III. His two sons were Seleucus III Ceraunus, who ruled BC 225-223, and Antiochus III the Great, who ruled 223-187 BC. Antiochus III recovered what Ptolemy took from his father in the 4th Syrian War of 218-217 BC – almost to the confines of the Ptolemaic Kingdom. He was defeated in the Battle of Raphia by Ptolemy IV Philopater (son of Ptolemy III)

Dan 11:11 And the king of the south shall be moved with choler, and shall come forth and fight with him, *even* with the king of the north: and he shall set forth a great multitude; but the multitude shall be given into his hand.

Then the king of the south, moved with rage, shall come out and fight against the king of the north. And he shall raise a great multitude, but it shall be given into his hand.

This refers to the Battle of Raphia (217 BC) – between Ptolemy IV (king of the south) and Antiochus III (king of north). Both had impressively large armies – and used war elephants in the battle.

“According to Polybius, the Seleucids suffered a little under 10,000 infantry dead, about 300 horse and 5 elephants, 4,000 men were taken prisoner. The Ptolemaic losses were 1,500 infantry, 700 horse and 16 elephants. Most of the Seleucids' elephants were taken by the Ptolemies.” *Wikipedia*

Dan 11:12 And when he hath taken away the multitude, his heart shall be lifted up; and he shall cast down *many* ten thousands: but he shall not be strengthened by it.

And when the multitude is taken away, his heart shall be exalted, and he shall cast down tens of thousands, but he shall not prevail.

Wikipedia:

Ptolemy IV's reign was inaugurated by the murder of his mother, and he was always under the dominion of favourites, male and female, who indulged his vices and conducted the government as they pleased. Self-interest led his ministers to make serious preparations to meet the attacks of [Antiochus III the Great](#) on [Coele-Syria](#) including [Judea](#), and Ptolemy himself was present at the great Egyptian victory of [Raphia](#) (217 BC) which secured the northern borders of the kingdom for the remainder of his reign.

The arming of [Egyptians](#) in this campaign had a disturbing effect upon the native population of Egypt, leading to the secession of Upper Egypt under pharaohs Harmachis (also known as [Hugronaphor](#)) and [Ankmachis](#) (also known as Chaonnophris), thus creating a kingdom that occupied much of the country and lasted nearly twenty years.

Philopator was devoted to orgiastic forms of religion and literary dilettantism. He built a temple to [Homer](#) and composed a tragedy, to which his favourite [Agathocles](#) added a commentary. He married his sister [Arsinoë III](#) (about 220 BC), but continued to be ruled by his mistress [Agathoclea](#), sister of Agathocles. In late c. 210 BC, Agathoclea may have given birth to a son from her affair with Ptolemy IV, who may have died shortly after his birth.

Ptolemy is said to have built a giant ship known as the [tessarakonteres](#) ("forty"), a huge [galley](#) and possibly the largest human-powered vessel ever built. This showpiece galley was described by [Callixenus of Rhodes](#), writing in the 3rd century BC, and quoted by [Athenaeus](#) in the 2nd century AD. Plutarch also mentions that Ptolemy Philopator owned this immense vessel in his *Life of Demetrios*. The current theory is that Ptolemy's ship was an oversized catamaran galley, measuring 128 m 420 ft.

Ptolemy IV is a major antagonist of the [apocryphal 3 Maccabees](#), which describes purported events following the Battle of Raphia, in both [Jerusalem](#) and [Alexandria](#).

Dan 11:13 For the king of the north shall return, and shall set forth a multitude greater than the former, and shall certainly come after certain years with a great army and with much riches.

For the king of the north shall again raise a multitude, greater than the first. And after some years he shall come on with a great army and abundant supplies.

This refers to the Fifth Syrian War, 202-195 BC – another attack on the Ptolemaic Kingdom by Antiochus III the Great. Ptolemy V Epiphanes ascended the throne in 204 BC at the death of his father – while only an infant (5 years old). Egypt was ruled at this time by Agathocles – acting as viceroy for the child.

Dan 11:14 And in those times there shall many stand up against the king of the south: also the robbers of thy people shall exalt themselves to establish the vision; but they shall fall.

In those times many shall rise against the king of the south, and the violent among your own people shall lift themselves up in order to fulfill the vision,.

Many of the Grecians, Arabians, Edomites, etc. – and many apostate Jews – joined as mercenaries for plunder and spoil (Poole).

After a brief setback at Gaza, he delivered a crushing blow to the Ptolemies at the Battle of Panium (200 BC) near the head of the River Jordan, which earned him the important port of Sidon. (Wikipedia)

...but they shall fail

Antiochus would have invaded Egypt but for the intervention of Rome – who wanted no disruption of grain import.

Dan 11:15 So the king of the north shall come, and cast up a mount, and take the most fenced cities: and the arms of the south shall not withstand, neither his chosen people, neither *shall there be any* strength to withstand.

Dan 11:16 But he that cometh against him shall do according to his own will, and none shall stand before him: and he shall stand in the glorious land, which by his hand shall be consumed.

Then the king of the north shall come and throw up siegeworks and take a well-fortified city. And the forces of the south shall not stand, or even his best troops, for there shall be no strength to stand.

But he who comes against him shall do as he wills, and none shall stand before him. And he shall stand in the glorious land, with destruction in his hand.

Antiochus III was succeeded by his son, Seleucus IV Philopater. In order to pay the heavy war tax imposed by Rome, Seleucus IV had his minister Heliodorus seize the treasury of the Jewish temple. Upon his return in 175 BC, Heliodorus assassinated Seleucus IV and his brother Antiochus IV Epiphanes assumed control (the son of Seleucus IV was being held in Rome). It is Antiochus IV that is evidently referred to in this verse as taking fenced cities and strongholds. He fought against Egypt in 170 BC and took Alexandria – capturing King Ptolemy VI Philometor. When he withdrew from Alexandria to appease Rome, the city chose a new king – Ptolemy VIII Euergetes. Antiochus IV led another attack on Egypt in 168 BC – but eventually withdrew again – at the instance of Rome. All of the previous rulers of Judea – both Seleucid and Ptolemaic – respected Jewish culture and institutions. In contrast, Antiochus IV persecuted the Jews severely – leading to the Maccabean revolt (167-160 BC).

Moffatt, Dan 17-19: He shall plan to advance against Egypt with the entire strength of his army. But he must come to terms and attempt to master Egypt by marrying the princess of Egypt; the plan will fail, and he shall not succeed. Thereafter he will turn to the coast-lands of the West and capture many of them, but a certain Roman general shall put a stop to his defiant insults and pay him back for them. He shall then retire to the fortresses of his own land, only to meet trouble and to disappear.

Dan 11:17 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.

He shall set his face to come with the strength of his whole kingdom, and he shall bring terms of an agreement and perform them. He shall give him the daughter of women to destroy the kingdom, but it shall not stand or be to his advantage.

“He” refers to the king of the north – as in verses 15-16. However the identity of this king of the north is obscured and could be easily interpreted as the same king referred to in those earlier verses. As a result of this interpretation – as Br. Russell so clearly points out (below) – all men were in expectation of the Messiah at the time of our Lord’s first appearance. Following the same pattern set by earlier verses, and interpreting the king of the north as Antiochus IV Epiphanes, they match the events of history with the same level of detail – missing the significance of the real abomination of desolation and the Prince of the Covenant referred to in verse 22.

C28: At verse 18 those who claim that verse 31 applies to Antiochus Epiphanes continue to apply the prophecy to the little squabbles and battles between Seleucus, Philopater, Antiochus Epiphanes and Ptolemeus Philomater down to the end of the chapter--as the Jews were evidently accustomed to apply it. The Jews, continuing this interpretation into chapter xii, would have strong grounds for expecting deliverance by Messiah speedily; and so we read that at the time of our Lord's birth "all men were in expectation" of him, and through him, of their deliverance from the Roman yoke. But from verse 18 onward, we who see the real "abomination," part company from them, and understand the prophecy merely to touch prominent characters down to Papacy; and then, touching and identifying it, to pass on to the end of its power to persecute, and to mark that date by a detailed account of one of the most noted characters of history--Napoleon Bonaparte.

But it may be asked, why this change of the particular method of the preceding verses, to touch only prominent features of history? We answer, that this has been part of God's method of sealing and closing the prophecy. Besides, everything in prophecy was so arranged as not to stumble Israel at the first advent. Had the minutiae and detail of twenty centuries been spread out as is that prophecy contained in verses 3 to 17 of this chapter, it would have been long, tedious and beyond comprehension; and it would have given the Jews and the early Christian church an idea of the length of time before the Kingdom of God should come; and this was not God's purpose.

By reasoning backward from what we know of these facts as they have occurred on the pages of history, we know that verse 20 must refer to Augustus. Verses 21-22 mentions a character that follows the king of verse 20 and is responsible for the death of the Prince of the Covenant. This can be none other than our Lord – who was slain during the reign of Tiberius Caesar. This means that the king he follows was Augustus Caesar – who is so well described in verse 20. Since that verse indicates that he took the place of another – the “he” in this verse (17) – this King of the North – must refer to Marc Antony (see note below vs. 20). Br. Russell also makes this point in the quote below.

*C28-29: Proceeding, then, we understand verses 17-19 to apply to the times and incidents in which Mark Antony and Cleopatra figured, when Antony fell, and Egypt ("King of the South") was swallowed up in the Roman Empire. Verse 20 we apply to Augustus Caesar, who was noted for his systematic collection of large taxes from all tributary nations, and whose exactions of taxes, in Judea and throughout the then civilized world, are noted in Scripture in connection with the birth of our Lord. (Luke 2:1) The statement, "Caesar Augustus sent forth a decree that all the world should be taxed," corresponds faithfully to the description--"There shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes in the glory of the kingdom." This latter part of the description also fits exactly; for the period of Augustus Caesar's reign is noted in history as the **most glorious** epoch of the great Roman empire, and is called "the golden age of Rome."*

It is difficult to interpret the historical events involving the struggle for power between Octavius and Marc Antony in harmony with these verses of scripture. As there were multiple battles in different territories, as well as multiple intrigues between these parties and Cleopatra, it is difficult to ascertain which specific events are being referred to in this prophecy. The following comments are therefore only suggestions of possible fulfillments – consistent with the known facts.

The formation of the Second Triumvirate – between Octavius, Marc Antony, and Lepidus – occurs in 43 BC. When the territory is divided among these three in 42 BC, Antony retains the largest share. He would therefore be appropriately represented as coming “with the strength of his whole kingdom” to the “King of the South.” He comes with the express purpose of solidifying and extending his control, as subsequent facts prove. His “marriage” to Cleopatra is certainly a political calculation – an “agreement” with “the daughter of women” (41 BC) – a woman renowned for both beauty and power (influence). She was certainly the wealthiest woman in the world at this time. He does fulfill his agreement – by awarding her control of Cyprus. The intent on his part is certainly to master Egypt and the world – and the plan certainly fails. Although he begins a campaign to invade Parthia – a plan envisioned by Julius Caesar – he plans are soon frustrated by Fulvia’s civil war (see below) and he must return to Rome. The agreement also fails to benefit Cleopatra – because it all but ensures that she will lose control of Egypt to Antony’s opponent, Octavius. Thus, her father’s plan to establish her as the ruling monarch of Egypt, fails.

From Keil & Delitzsch: **הָיָה הָשָׁ** means only *to destroy, to ruin*, hence “to destroy her” (Kran.). This, it is true, was not the object of the marriage, but only its consequence; but the consequence is set forth as had in view, so as forcibly to express the thought that the marriage could lead, according to a higher direction, only to the destruction of the daughter. The last clauses of the verse express the failure of the measure adopted. The verbs are fem., not neut.; thus the meaning is not: “it shall neither stand, nor succeed to him” (v. Leng., Maurer, Hitzig), but: “she (the daughter) shall not stand,” **not be able to carry out the plan contemplated by her father**. The words **וְלֹא תִהְיֶה** do not stand for **לֹא** (<) **תִּהְיֶה**: “she shall not be to him” or “for him.” In this case **לֹא** must be connected with the verb. According to the text, **לֹא-לֹא** forms one idea, as **לֹא כֹחַ**, *impotent* (cf. Ewald, §270): “she shall be a *not for him*” (*ein Nichtihm*), i.e., he shall have nothing at all from her.

Dan 11:18 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.

Afterward he shall turn his face to the coastlands and shall capture many of them, but a commander shall put an end to his insolence.

Isles: H339: אֵי 'יֵי ee

From **H1183**; properly a *habitable* spot (as *desirable*); *dry land, a coast, an island*: - country, isle, island.

According to Wilson’s Old Testament Word Studies it refers to coasts and islands far remote, “especially those of the Mediterranean.”

Take: H3920 לָכַד *lâkad law-kad'*

A primitive root; to *catch* (in a net, trap or pit); generally to *capture* or occupy; also to *choose* (by lot); figuratively to *cohere*: - X at all, catch (self), be frozen, be holden, stick together, take.

Following the formation of the Second Triumvirate and the apportioning of territories, Antony winters in Greece in order to garner the support of the Greeks. He engages in religious festivals and ceremonies and is actually worshipped in Ephesus as the god Dionysus born anew. He requests a meeting with Cleopatra in Tarsus in 41 BC and forms an alliance and relationship with her. She bears him twin sons at this time. Having gained the support of the Greeks and now Egypt, Antony solidifies his control by raising money, reorganizing troops, and securing alliances with Rome’s client kingdoms. In 40 BC, Antony gives Cleopatra control of Cyprus. This seems the most likely interpretation of this verse – the time when he was consolidating his control and power (“taking many”) thru his negotiations in the “isles.” Note that this follows his alliance with Cleopatra – evidently referred to in verse 17.*

As Antony’s power and influence grew during his stay in Greece (42-41 BC), Octavius becomes increasingly antagonistic and circulates propaganda against him in Rome. Antony leaves for Syria in 40 BC in order to repel an invasion of the Parthians into Roman territory. Octavius confiscates the lands of Roman citizens in order to give them to Caesar’s veterans. This leads to hostilities between Octavius and the Senate. At this time, Antony’s wife Fulvia

was the most powerful woman in Rome. She helps to solicit support for Antony among the Senate and encourages them to oppose these land policies. Octavius then divorces his wife – Fulvia’s daughter – and this prompts her to raise an army against Octavius. This civil war causes considerable political and social unrest throughout Italy. She is successfully defeated and flees to Greece – but the conflict draws Antony back to Rome (this conflict was not his idea).

However, the triumvirs (Octavius, Antony, Lepidus) reconcile following the death of Fulvia. It is not until Antony’s second attempt at a Parthian invasion that Octavius becomes his implacable opponent. In 38 BC, Antony returns to Athens with Octavia – still intent on his Parthian campaign. Unable to obtain troops from Octavius (part of their treaty) – he turns to Cleopatra for support and garners the largest Roman army ever assembled in the East. During the time of Antony’s failed attempt at the Parthian invasion (37-36 BC), Octavius ousts Lepidus and takes over Rome. He solicits the support of the Roman aristocracy and circulates propaganda against Antony – who is accused of a man of low morals for leaving his wife and children in Rome to be with the promiscuous queen of Egypt. The most heinous crime, however, was “going native” – an unforgivable offense to the proud Romans. This could be the fulfillment of the phrase that a “commander shall put an end to his insolence.” Note that although Antony was forced back to Rome due to Fulvia’s war – that conflict was not at his instigation and the two opponents thereafter reconciled. It was not until this last rupture of the triumvirs that his insolence was brought to an end – with no further reconciliation. (See note following Dan 11:19.)

Dan 11:19 Then he shall turn his face toward the fort of his own land: but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found.

Then he shall turn his face back toward the fortresses of his own land, but he shall stumble and fall, and shall not be found.

Fort: H4581 מְעֹז מְעֹז מְעֹז מְעֹז mā'ôz mā'ûz mā'ôz mā'ûz
maw-oze', maw-ooz', maw-oze', maw-ooz'

From [H5810](#); a fortified place; figuratively a defence: - force, fort (-ress), rock, strength (-en), (X most) strong (hold).

With regard to Dan 11:18-19, Keil & Delitzsch commentary states: “The statement of the last clause introduces us to the announcement, mentioned in [Dan 11:19](#), of the overthrow of the king of the north, who wished to spread his power also over the west. Since the chiefs (princes) of the islands rendered back to him his reproach, i.e., required to him his attack against them, he was under the necessity of returning to the fortresses of his own land. With that begins his fall, which ends with his complete destruction.”

There could be two senses in which Antony returns to the fortress of his own land. The first sense relates to the fact that Alexandria became his base following his alliance with Cleopatra. Following his failed attempt at the Parthian invasion, he retreats to Syria and eventually returns to Alexandria. In 35-34 BC he successfully invades Armenia and returns to Alexandria for a celebration of the victory. On this occasion he formally severs his alliance with Octavius and distributes the kingdom among his children. Most notable, however, is his declaration that Caesarion (Cleopatra’s son by Caesar) is the legitimate heir of Julius Caesar.

This was the greatest threat to Octavius. Marcus Agrippa – a talented general of Octavius – captures the naval port of Methone and gains the support of those who were previously loyal to Antony. Perhaps in this way, the leaders of those islands that had been his supporters now required that he return to fight against them. This would be consistent with the comment by Keil & Delitzsch and would also fit the facts of history. This is the second sense in which he returns to the fortresses of his own lands – when he returns to battle with those who were formerly his supporters. These events led to the Battle of Actium in 31 BC, where Antony's and Cleopatra's navy was destroyed – forcing their retreat to Egypt. Only months later (30 BC), Octavius invades Egypt with Agrippa and both Antony and Cleopatra eventually commit suicide. Now Egypt is part of the Roman Empire and it is ruled solely by Octavius – who later (27 BC) takes the name of Augustus Caesar.

Dan 11:20 Then shall stand up in his estate a raiser of taxes *in* the glory of the kingdom: but within few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle.

Caesar Augustus sent forth a decree that all the world should be taxed." ([Luk 2:1](#)) Augustus was the first ruler to introduce to the world a systematized taxation – during the most glorious epoch, Rome's "Golden Age." Another translation reads, "the glorious land of the kingdom," applying specially to Palestine and fitting in exactly with the record in [Luk 2:1](#). Within a few years after he reached the zenith of his power, Augustus died a quiet death, whereas his predecessor and his seven successors in imperial power died violent deaths. C29

Julius Caesar was assassinated in 44 BC. The years following his assassination involve a struggle for power between Marc Antony and Octavius (Augustus Caesar). This struggle ends with the defeat of the combined naval forces of Antony and Cleopatra by Octavius at the Battle of Actium in 31 BC. Octavius then joins forces with Agrippa and invades Egypt in 30 BC. A defeated Marc Antony commits suicide and Cleopatra is captured by Octavius. After failed attempts at suicide, due to the intervention of Octavius, she soon ends her life. In 30 BC, Octavius becomes the sole ruler of the Roman Empire. He takes the name Augustus in 27 BC. From these events and those outlined by Br. Russell, it would seem that the "raiser of taxes" is indeed Augustus and that he "stands in the estate" of his former nemesis – Marc Antony. This would mean that it is Antony that is being referred to as the "he" in verses 17-19 – who attempts to establish himself as ruler of the Roman Empire thru alliance with Egypt.

*There was another sequence of events that occurred in 38 BC – closer to his final end. At that time, he was stationed in Athens with the intention of resuming his campaign for the invasion of the Parthian kingdom to the east. It was Cleopatra that backed his army, giving him the largest army ever assembled in the East. However, he did nothing at this time to capture or occupy the "isles" of the Mediterranean – that having already been accomplished. The campaign against Parthia was a failure, but he did later success in conquering Armenia. Note that none of these campaigns were against coastlands or islands – they were east of the Mediterranean.

KINGS OF EGYPT

Years (BC)	Ruler
321-289	Ptolemy I Soter
289-283	Ptolemy I Soter & Ptolemy II Philadelphus
283-246	Ptolemy II Philadelphus
246-222	Ptolemy III Euergetes
221-204	Ptolemy IV Philopater
204-181	Ptolemy V Epiphanes
180-169	Ptolemy VI Philometer
169-164	Ptolemy VI + Cleopatra II (wife) + Ptolemy VIII Physcon (brother)
164-163	Ptolemy VIII
163-145	Ptolemy VI
145-144	Ptolemy VII Neos Philopater
144-131	Ptolemy VIII Physcon
131-126	Cleopatra II
126-116	Ptolemy VIII Physcon
116-110	Ptolemy IX Soter II
110-109	Ptolemy X Alexander
109-107	Ptolemy IX Soter II
107-88	Ptolemy X Alexander
88-81	Ptolemy IX Soter II
81-80	Berenice III (wife of Ptolemy X)
80	Ptolemy XI Alexander II
80-58	Ptolemy XII Auletes (wife, Cleopatra V)
58-57	Cleopatra VI (aka Cleopatra V)
57-55	Berenice IV (daughter of Cleopatra V)
55-51	Ptolemy XII Auletes (wife, Cleopatra V)
51-47	Ptolemy XIII Theos Philopator + Cleopatra VII (sister)
51-30	Cleopatra VII

KINGS OF NORTH

Years (BC)	Ruler
323	Seleucus I Nicator supports Perdiccas; later assassinates him
321	Seleucus I Nicator, Satrap of Babylon
312-305	Seleucus I Nicator building dynasty
305-281	Seleucus I Nicator, Seleucid King
281-261	Antiochus I Soter (son of Seleucus I)
261-246	Antiochus II Theos
246-225	Seleucus II Callinicus
225-223	Seleucus III Ceraunus
223-187	Antiochus III the Great (son of Seleucus II)
187-175	Seleucus IV Philopater
175-164	Antiochus IV Epiphanes
163-161	Antiochus V Eupator
161-150	Demetrius I Soter (son of Seleucus IV)
150-146	Alexander Balas (son of Antiochus IV)
149-139	Demetrius II Nicator (son of Demetrius I)
138-129	Antiochus VII Sidetes (brother of Demetrius II)
129-126	Demetrius II Nicator)
125-121	Cleopatra Thea (daughter of Ptolemy VI)
125-96	Antiochus VIII Grypus (son of Demetrius II and Cleopatra Thea)

HISTORY OF MARC ANTONY

Date (BC)	Event
83	Birth – mother was distant cousin of Julius Caesar
	-- in debt by age 20 – gambling, drinking, love affairs
60	Rome under control of First Triumvirate: Caesar, Pompey, Crassus
57	Joins cavalry under Aulus Gabinius, as chief of cavalry
55	Antony convinces Gabinius to intervene to restore Ptolemy XII to throne of Egypt (bribe from Ptolemy helped)
	Antony first meets Cleopatra (VII) – she is age 14.
54	Clodius was Antony's patron and Crassus (one of triumvirs) was Clodius' benefactor; Clodius gets Antony on Caesar's military staff during his conquest of Gaul
53	Antony sent to Rome by Caesar to begin his political career
52	Antony elected as Quaestor (financial supervisor)
	Returns to help Caesar with conquest of Gaul – then promoted to Legate (general officer) by Caesar and given 2 legions (~7500 soldiers)
	Caesar's daughter Julia (wife of Pompey) dies; Pompey jealous of Caesar's success; Triumvirate breaks down
	Riots in Rome between opposing supporters of Caesar and Pompey – anarchy follows
	Senate looks to Pompey for order (Caesar in Gaul)
50	Caesar sends Antony back to Rome to defend Caesar's interests
	Caesar is Pontifex Maximus and appoints Antony to College of Augurs – they interpret the will of Roman gods, based on the flight of birds; all public actions need a favorable sign – so this is an influential position
49	Antony becomes one of 10 People's Tribunes – they act as check on Senate; he can veto anything unfavorable to Caesar
	Consuls of Rome in opposition to Caesar; Pompey in Rome but also acts as governor of Spain
	Antony summons Senate to resolve conflict between Caesar and Pompey – suggests two options but Consuls resist; Antony flees Rome and returns to Caesar on banks of Rubicon River

HISTORY OF MARC ANTONY

Date (BC)	Event
49	Senate strips Caesar of his command and orders him back to Rome to stand trial for war crimes – branded a traitor if he doesn't
	Caesar charges Senate with unlawfully expelling Antony – since he was elected Tribune; used as pretext for Caesar to march on Rome
	Civil war erupts as soon as Caesar crosses the Rubicon
	Caesar advances rapidly; Pompey & others flee to Greece
	Caesar pursues followers of Pompey in Spain (not Greece); Antony left in Rome as Proprætor (leader) – now he is governor of Italy and commander of army
End of 49	Caesar controls Gaul, Italy, Spain, Sicily, Sardinia
48	Caesar heads for Greece to fight Pompey with 2 legions
	Antony in S. Italy with 5 legions; conquers there and then joins Caesar in Greece
	Pompey defeated at Battle of Pharsalus; he then flees to Alexandria where he is beheaded by Ptolemy XIII (Cleopatra's brother)
	Caesar returns to Rome; becomes Dictator and makes Antony the Master of the Horse (2 nd in command)
47	Caesar goes to Egypt; angry with Ptolemy for assassinating a Consul; puts Cleopatra on throne; begins affair with her (she is 22 years old)
	Instability in Rome develops due to conflict over debt forgiveness – Antony is against it
46	Caesar angry with Antony over instability he caused; Antony is stripped of positions
45	Caesar defeats last of opposition in Spain – end of civil war
44	Antony demonstrates his loyalty in his refusal to participate in assassination plot against Caesar – breach between them healed; Antony elected as Consul so that he can remain in charge while Caesar invades & conquers Parthia
	Caesar assassinated; Antony fears for life and leaves Rome – but soon returns
	Since Antony is the sole Consul, he seizes the treasury; the widow of Caesar gives him Caesar's personal papers and property – marking him as heir

HISTORY OF MARC ANTONY

Date (BC)	Event
44	Antony mediates compromise between Caesarians, Senate, and Liberatores – feather in his cap
	Caesar’s will opened and read – Octavius adopted as son and named his legal heir
	Antony still acts as leader – ignoring Octavius and his claim; appropriates part of his inheritance
	Octavius arrives in Rome to claim inheritance – Antony refuses; Octavius borrows money in order to fill bequests of Caesar – thereby garnering supporters; also, Senate views Antony as potential tyrant (threat)
	Octavius stirs people against Antony – but he has no military authority
	Antony wants Gaul but it is given to Decimus (one of Caesar’s assassins); marches on Gaul to take it by force; Senate sends Octavius after him and Antony is defeated at the Battle of Mutina (northern Italy); he retreats to Gaul and Octavius now controls 8 legions
	Antony joins forces with Lepidus, who controlled parts of Gaul & Spain; Lepidus goes to Rome to broker deal for Antony, since he still is favorable to Senate; thanks to Lepidus, Antony now controls 17 legions (largest army in west)
	Octavius now seeks alliance with Antony (too powerful to be ignored or challenged); requests that Senate rescind order declaring Antony a public enemy; they refuse so he marches to Rome & takes control
43	Octavius now goes to Gaul – he, Lepidus, and Antony meet and form 2 nd Triumvirate; main goal is to avenge Caesar; first killed enemies in Rome thru process of proscription – way to make money (confiscated property)
42	Octavius & Antony sail to Macedonia to face Liberatores (behind Caesar’s assassination) there; Lepidus left at Rome; only remaining enemy now is son of Pompey – Sextus – in Sicily
	Roman Republic divided; Antony gets largest share; he winters in Athens to garner support of Greeks

HISTORY OF MARC ANTONY

Date (BC)	Event
41	Antony requests meeting with Cleopatra in Tarsus; spends winter with her in Alexandria; she bears him twin sons
	Antony solidifies his control by raising money, reorganizing troops, and securing alliances with Rome's client kingdoms
40	Antony gives Cleopatra control of Cyprus; as Antony gained more power and support – Octavius was increasingly against him and circulates propaganda against him
	Parthians invade Roman territory and Antony leaves for Syria to battle them
40	Octavius confiscates lands of Roman citizens to give to Caesar's veterans; this led to hostile attitude among Senate – led by Fulvia, Antony's wife; most powerful woman in Rome at this time; she solicited support for Antony among Senate and encouraged them to oppose land policies
	Octavius divorces his wife (Fulvia's daughter) – prompts her to raise army to fight against Octavius for Antony (motivation most likely a jealousy of Cleopatra and a desire to get Antony back to Rome)
	Fulvia and army march on Rome – but successfully resisted by Octavius; she flees to Greece; Antony must now return to Rome from intended Parthian invasion to sort out the problems she caused; Octavius now in control of Rome
	Centurions of Octavius and Antony refuse to fight each other – they shared service under Caesar; Fluvia dies, so triumvirs reconcile
	Roman Republic re-divided; Antony in east; Octavius in west; Lepidus in Africa; Antony marries Octavia (Octavius' sister) to seal the deal
40-39	Conflict with Sextus Pompey in Sicily; treaty signed that gives him control over that area, with Sardinia and parts of Greece
39	Antony sails to Greece with Octavia and lives extravagantly; still intent on Parthian campaign

HISTORY OF MARC ANTONY

Date (BC)	Event
39	Antony demands money from Sextus to fund the Parthian campaign; he refuses and resumes his blockades of Italy; Octavius therefore unable to send promised troops to Antony – causing them to quarrel
39-38	Negotiations with Octavius with regard to military support and renewing Triumvirate
38	Antony returns to Athens with Octavia; still intent on Parthian invasion; clear that Octavius is not going to send troops
	Cleopatra backs his army – now he has the largest Roman army ever in the East
37-36	Antony attempts the invasion of Parthian kingdom but fails; retreats to Syria
	Octavius ousts Lepidus and takes over Rome; gets aristocracy on his side; outspoken against Antony for his alliance with Cleopatra (abandoned his wife)
	Antony is summoned back to Rome but stays in Alexandria with Cleopatra
35-34	Antony successfully invades Armenia
33	Celebration of victory in Alexandria; severs alliance with Octavius; declares Caesarion (Cleopatra's son by Caesar) heir of Julius Caesar (threat to Octavius); distributes kingdoms among his children
33-32	Antony divorces Octavia and accuses Octavius of being a usurper; Octavius accuses Antony of treason
31	Marcus Agrippa, talented general of Octavius, captures naval port of Methone, which had been loyal to Antony
	Battle of Actium – Antony and Cleopatra's navy destroyed – they retreat to Egypt
30	Octavius invades Egypt with Agrippa; Antony thinks Cleopatra killed herself so stabs himself with sword; then dies in her arms
	Cleopatra captured by Octavius – commits suicide after several attempts aborted by Octavius

HISTORY OF MARC ANTONY

Date (BC)	Event
30	Octavius is now the sole ruler of the Roman Empire
27	Takes the name Augustus Caesar
***	Through his daughters by Octavia, A becomes the ancestor to Caligula, Claudius, and Nero