

We do not learn from the petition very much as to the details of Jewish worship. It is noteworthy, however, that they make no mention of sacred images or symbols in enumerating the contents of the Jeb temple; and that they do not seem to have contributed to the maintenance of the temple of Jerusalem, or to have imitated it in structure or ritual, as already pointed out. In short, they might almost be regarded as protestant Jews.

Very different was the position taken by the Jew Onias, as related by Josephus, who obtained permission from Ptolemy VI, Philometer, (B.C. 181-146) and from Queen Cleopatra his wife and sister (not the Cleopatra of Shakespeare, who was also, at least nominally, married to her brother) to build a temple, of the size and form of that at Jerusalem, at Leontopolis. The object of Onias was, according to Josephus, to gain fame for himself; to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah; and to put an end to disputes among the Jews concerning the holy places. Some seem to have contended that contributions should be paid only to the tem-

ple of Jerusalem. This Egyptian temple was accordingly built at Leontopolis by Onias, but it was "poorer and smaller" than that at Jerusalem. This was at a period some 250 years later than the petition before us. How far the temple of Jeb may have been implicated in this dispute about holy places in the time of Ptolemy VI, and Cleopatra, it is impossible to say, for Jeb is not mentioned by Josephus, and it is doubtful that Onias knew anything about Jeb.

Jedoniah's letter cannot but raise in us high expectations of what may yet come from Elephantine. The probabilities are great that the Jews of Jeb possessed ancient versions of the Hebrew scriptures, and that these may be found, in many copies, and legible, like the Sayce-Cowley records, and the document we have been considering.

The one record dealt with in this paper, even of itself, affords, as far as it goes, some clear proof of the authenticity of the Books of Ezra and Nehemiah as they have come down to us.

