

Daniel & Revelation End-time Prophecies Sermon Series
Study # 17: Rise of Roman Empire
Daniel 11:14 – 22
 Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

Fourth Vision – Daniel 10 – 12 literal language (not symbolic)

Review

Daniel 11:2 - Revealed that there would be four kings after King Cyrus of Persia and the fourth king will be far richer than other three. These riches will stir up Greece.

The four “official” kings of Persia that came after King Cyrus were:

- 1) **Cambyses II**
- 2) **Bardiya** – also known as **Smerdis**.
- 3) **Darius I**
- 4) **Xerxes I (Ahaseurus)**

Xerxes I was far richer. He used his wealth to build up his military strength and had many battles to try to overthrow Greece. After his death his son Artaxerxes used his riches to fund the enemies of Greece in attempt to overthrow them but the attempt was unsuccessful.

Daniel 11:3 – Describes Alexander the Great as the “**mighty king**,” the king of the Greece Empire that conquered the Media-Persian Kingdom.

Daniel 11:4 – Describes how Alexander the Great’s Grecian Empire divided into four among the four generals of Greece after his death.

| 4 Generals | Direction | Territory |
|------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Ptolemy | South | Egypt and North Africa |
| Seleucus | Northeast | Syria and middle east area |
| Lysimachus | Northwest | Asia minor |
| Cassander | Greece | Greece and the area east of it |

Daniel 11:5 – 13 gives more significant details of the Grecian kingdom that split. It specifically describes the actions between the Ptolemy (territory of ancient Egypt) (king of the south) and Seleucus / Antiochus (territory of Syria) (king of the north). The years of war between these two set up the stage for the dominance and rule of Rome. **Remember that Israel, God’s people, was in the middle of the fighting for several years.**

Because of the constant family feud within the Empire of Greece mainly between Ptolemy (king of the south) and Seleucus (king of the north) became weak, brittle, and venerable to be conquered!

Based on our previous studies in Daniel, who is prophesied to conquer Greece?
Pagan Roman Empire

More details of how Pagan Rome rose to power over Greece is described in Daniel 11:14 – 22.

How is Pagan Rome described in Daniel 11:14?

Daniel 11:14

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.

Remember Ptolemy – king of the South was in the territory of Egypt and Seleucus (Antiochus) was in the territory of Syria. History reveals that both Egypt (South) and Syria (North) wanted to over take all of the Grecian kingdom and become the fourth Empire. They both built up their military strength, but years of fighting between the two had weakened both of them.

Verse 14 says that “shall many stand up against the king of the south”:

What caused many to stand up against the king of the south (Ptolemy – Egypt)?

History reveals that after Ptolemy IV Philopator of Egypt dies (king of the south) his son, Ptolemy V Epiphanes reigns. The major problem that the new king of the south had was that he was very young, only five years old! The kingdom was very vulnerable. As a result, many stood up against the king of the south, especially their old enemies Syria (king of the north).

Verse 14 says that “the robbers of thy people shall exalt themselves to establish the vision:

At the time when the five year old Ptolemy Epiphanes was Pharaoh of Egypt, the rising power of Rome became allies with Egypt, to protect the boy king. They were about to fend off all the others who were trying to overthrow, Ptolemy.

Rome eventually took control of Egypt, king of the south and the king of the north, Syria.

The Roman Empire is identified as the “robbers of thy people”

“Robber” (Hebrew) perîyts means 1) violent one, breaker - BDB Definition

How does the fourth kingdom the Pagan Roman Empire described as “robbers of thy people” or “breakers” compare to Daniel 2:40 and Daniel 7:7 & 19?

Daniel 2:40

40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron **breaketh in pieces** and subdueth all things: and as iron that **breaketh** all these, shall it break in peices and bruise.

Daniel 7:7, 19

7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it **devoured and brake in pieces**, and **stamped** the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

19 Then I would know the **truth of the fourth beast**, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass; which devoured, **brake in pieces**, and **stamped** the residue with his feet.

The Romans were “robbers” or “breakers” of the people! They were known to heavily tax their subjects and forced many into slavery to build their imperial infrastructure such as roads, buildings, aqueducts, and entertainment venues.

Also in Daniel 11:14 Pagan Roman Empire “established the vision” as revealed in Daniel chapters 2, 7, and 8.

New King of the North

After Pagan Roman Empire overthrew Syria in 65 B.C. (old Seleucid kingdom) they are the new king of the north described Daniel 11:15 that continued to expand its Empire as robbers or breakers of the people.

Daniel 11:15

15 So the king of the north [robbers / breakers] 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.

Who are the “chosen people” that were not able to withstand Rome?

Deuteronomy 7:6

6 For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God: the LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.

Israel was God’s chosen people.

Rome gained power over the territory of Israel and their beloved city of Jerusalem in 63 B.C. How is this described in Daniel 11:16?

Daniel 11:16

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.

Israel was the “glorious land” that was suppose to be a witness to bless all nations about the Creator God and the coming Messiah. They were to glorify God by reflecting the character of God. This was the same “glorious land” in which the Messiah, Jesus Christ, came as our sacrificial Lamb and example of how to have victory over sin.

Egypt and Rome’s Julius Caesar

“Julius Caesar, was a Roman politician and military general who played a critical role in the events that led to the demise of the Roman Republic and the rise of the Roman Empire.” -

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julius_Caesar

How is Julius Caesar described in Daniel 11:17?

Daniel 11:17

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.

Who were the “upright ones”?

In 60 BC, Julius Caesar, **Marcus Licinius Crassus** and **Pompey the Great** formed a military and political alliance that dominated Roman political years known as the First Triumvirate (a group association of three).

Pompey was married to Julius Caesar's daughter, Julia.

Politically Julius won the confidence of the people by using entertainment and his own news propaganda of his military conquests. He was VERY popular.

- Julius goal was to become a dictatorship instead of a republic
- Victories in Gallic Wars extended Rome's territory by 51 BC, this is the territory of modern Britain, Germany, and France.
- One of the first Triumvirate, Marcus Crassus died
- Pompey's wife Julia dies and seeing Julius Caesar's rising power Pompey realigns himself with the Senate of Rome
- Senate orders Julius Caesar to step down from his military command. He refused.
- Civil war resulted. Julius Caesar and Pompey contended for political power of Rome.
- Julius defeats Pompey in civil war. Pompey went to Egypt for refuge but was later killed.
- Julius Caesar eventually assumes control of Roman government

Julius Caesar implemented social and governmental reforms including the creation of the Julian calendar. "July" on the calendar was named after himself. He centralized the bureaucracy of the Republic and was eventually proclaimed "dictator in perpetuity".

Going back to Daniel 11:17, it says "he shall give him the daughter of women, corrupting her: but she shall not stand on his side, neither be for him."

How was this fulfilled by Julius Caesar?

-During a civil war in Egypt after an assassin killed Pompey, Julius Caesar supported the queen Cleopatra and defeated the others contending for power in Egypt. Caesar gave Cleopatra the rulership in Egypt.

-Julius and Cleopatra had an adulteress relationship. He was over 50 years old and she was around 22. Out of this relationship they had a child together. The child's name was **Ptolemy Caesar**, also known as **Caesarion or Little Caesar**". He later became the last "Pharaoh" of Egypt.

Cleopatra was "not able to stand on his side, neither be for him."

-Cleopatra and Julius never married to form an alliance through marriage.

-Cleopatra was not able to stand and help Julius Caesar when he was assassinated by the Senate in Rome on March 15, 44 BC

Daniel 11:18 reveals Julius Caesar's other major conquests and expansion of Rome before his assassination?

Daniel 11:18

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.

Isles are coast, island, or shore regions

Julius Caesar before he was assassinated conquered remaining coastlands of North Africa, Syria, Asia Minor, and Spain.

How does Daniel 11:18 (last part) and 19 describe Julius Caesar's assassination?

Daniel 11:18, 19

18(last part)...but a prince for his (Julius Caesar) own behalf shall cause the reproach [rebuke / shame] offered by him to cease; without his own reproach he shall cause it to turn upon him.

19 Then he shall turn his face toward the fort of his own land: **but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found (assassinated).**

Who was the “prince” (chief, ruler, or commander)?

-Marcus Junius Brutus was close to Julius.

-Brutus disagreed with Julius course of action in becoming a dictatorship, moving Rome from a republic.

-Brutus sided with Pompey the Great in the civil war against Julius in which Pompey was later defeated.

-Brutus asked Julius for forgiveness. Julius granted it to him and brought Brutus in his inner circle

-Julius made Brutus governor of Gaul Region in 46 B.C.

-In 45 BC Julius also made Brutus a prominent leader within the Roman government, “praetor.”

What did Brutus do that led to Julius Caesar's assassination?

-Many senators known as the “Liberators”, conspired to assassinate Julius.

-Brutus betrayed Julius and was persuaded to join the conspiracy.

What happened on the day of assassination?

-Brutus and the “liberators” set up a fake sporting gladiator event at Pompey’s theater.

-The senators met at the theater for a senator meeting hoping Julius would attend

-On March 15, 44 BC more than 60 men including Brutus assassinated Julius with knives and daggers

-Julius was stabbed at least 23 times

-Julius attempted to get away. Blood blinded his eyes. He stumbled and fell dead.

The matter in the way Julius Caesar died fulfilled Daniel 11:19

19 Then he shall turn his face toward the fort of his own land: **but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found (assassinated).**

Julius turned his face toward the one he trusted as his protector and confidant, Brutus saying “You, too, my child!” He could not believe that Brutus was part of the conspiracy!

Julius was killed in the same theater that was built and name after his arch enemy Pompey! Some historians say that Julius died at the foot of the statue of Pompey.

The assassination and conspiracy of Julius Caesar backfired! What happened as a result?

-Julius Caesar may not have been popular among the Senators but he was hailed as a hero and was very popular among the people.

-Mark Anthony, Julius Caesar's close friend, army general, and administrator. He gave a very passionate speech during the Julius' funeral.

-A civil war broke out for many years. Many of the conspirators went into hiding. Brutus killed himself.

-The Roman Imperial Power was given to Julius Caesar's great nephew and adopted son Gaius Octavius Thurinus also known Augustus Caesar.

-Augustus Caesar along with [Mark Antony](#), and [Marcus Lepidus](#) formed the [Second Triumvirate](#) to defeat the assassins of Caesar. - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Augustus>

-They won the civil Roman war and divided the kingdom among themselves as military dictators but, overtime the second triumvirate was broken up because of disagreement.

- "After the demise of the Second Triumvirate, Augustus restored the outward façade of the free Republic, with governmental power vested in the [Roman Senate](#), the [executive magistrates](#), and the [legislative assemblies](#). In reality, however, he retained his autocratic power over the Republic as a military dictator." - ibid

How is Augustus Caesar described in Daniel 11:20?

Daniel 11:20

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**.

Augustus Caesar was the emperor of Rome at the time of the birth of Jesus. He was known as a "raiser of taxes." He took people census for the purpose of taxation.

Before Jesus was born why did Mary and Joseph have to go to Bethlehem?

Luke 2:1-5

1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

2 (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.)

3 And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

4 And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

5 To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

Fulfilled: **Raiser of taxes (Augustus Caesar) stood in the glory of the kingdom of Rome.**

-Augustus taxation system made the Roman Empire very wealthy. He brought the Roman kingdom to great prominence during his reign.

The last part of Daniel 11:20 says but within a "few days he [Augustus Caesar] shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle." How was this fulfilled?

-Few days or certain days, in other words the glory of the kingdom won't last forever. Our few years of life compared to eternity is truly described as "few days."

What happened to Augustus Caesar who reigned 40 years?

Even though Augustus was involved in many wars, he died at the age of 75 from a long illness on August 19, 14 A.D., not in battle nor wrath.

Who reigned the Roman Empire after the death of Augustus Caesar?

Tiberius Caesar

-Step-son of Augustus Caesar. Tiberius' mother divorced her husband, Nero, and married Augustus. Augustus adopted Tiberius as his son.

How is Tiberius Caesar described in Daniel 11:21?

Daniel 11:21

21 And in his estate shall stand up **a vile person**, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

Tiberius Caesar was emperor during the time of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ:

Luke 3:1-2

1 Now in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judaea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanias the tetrarch of Abilene,

2 Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness.

-“Tiberius was a ‘vile person.’ Although he ‘inherited’ the throne and therefore ‘came in peaceably’ he was morally “vile” and conducted savage campaigns with much bloodshed.” - Marian Berry, Daniel Workbook, p. 56

-Tiberius expanded the territory of Rome with military campaigns and successes, but was known as a “dark” and “sombre” ruler - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiberius>

-As a “vile person” Tiberius used flatteries and deceit to expand the Pagan Roman Empire.

-Augustus Caesar wanted to make the transition to Tiberius smooth so that the Senate would not have to do anything else for Tiberius to continue to reign after his death. Tiberius was given proconsular imperium by Augustus Caesar in 13AD which made Tiberius co-ruler and equal to Augustus Caesar. When Augustus Caesar died in 14 AD, Tiberius continued to reign to 37 AD. Counting the time from 13 AD to the beginning of the 15th year of the reign of Tiberius is 27 AD just as prophesied in Luke 3:1 in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar.

- Appointed Pontius Pilate as the governor of who had Jesus nailed to the cross in 31 AD.

What was the description of Tiberius' military and what happen to him at the end of his reign?

Daniel 11:22

22 And with the arms of a flood shall they be overflown from before him, and shall be broken; yea, also the prince of the covenant.

Tiberius was a great general with many military campaigns whose military overwhelmed their enemies like a flood. He was “broken” and killed at the end of his reign.

“Tiberius died in Misenum on 16 March AD 37, in his seventy eighth year. Tacitus relates that the emperor appeared to have stopped breathing, and that Caligula, who was at Tiberius' villa, was being congratulated on his succession to the empire, when news arrived that the emperor had revived and was recovering his faculties. Those who had moments before recognized Caligula as Augustus fled in fear of the emperor's wrath, while Macro took advantage of the chaos to have Tiberius smothered with his own bedclothes. Suetonius reports several rumours, including that the emperor had been poisoned by Caligula, starved, and smothered with a pillow; that recovering, and finding himself deserted by his attendants, he attempted to rise from his couch, but fell dead.” - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiberius>

Who else shalt be broken during the reign of Tiberius?

Last part of Daniel 11:22 “also the prince of the covenant.”

Who is the prince of the covenant? Jesus.

During the time of the reign of Tiberius Jesus ratified the everlasting covenant with His blood in 31 AD as prophesied in Daniel 9:25 – 27

Daniel 9:25-27

25 Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the **Prince** shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

26 And after threescore and two weeks shall **Messiah be cut** off, but not for himself: and the people of the **prince** that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined.

27 And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.

(show chart)

Prophetic Outline Alignment of Daniel 11:20-22 with Daniel 9:25 – 27

| | | | |
|-------------------|--|--|------------------------------------|
| Daniel 9:25 - 27 | 27 AD: 69 weeks (483 years) to Jesus Baptism | 31 AD: Midst of the week (3 ½ years) “cut off” | To 34 AD: Confirms covenant |
| Daniel 11:20 - 22 | 4 BC: Jesus born in Bethlehem | 31 AD: “Broken”- crucified | To 34 AD: “Prince of the covenant” |

How did Papal Rome become the fifth empire as prophesied as the little horn in Daniel chapters 7 and 8? More details found in Daniel chapter 11! To be continued...

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