Daniel & Revelation End-time Prophecies Sermon Series Study # 18: Rise of the 5th Empire Daniel 11:23 – 35 Bible Sermon Study Notes by Cary Rodgers, pastor

Rev 13:15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

"In the movements now in progress in the United States to secure for the institutions and usages of the church the support of the state, Protestants are following in the steps of papists. Nay, more, they are opening the door for the papacy to regain in Protestant America the supremacy which she has lost in the Old World. And that which gives greater significance to this movement is the fact that the principal object contemplated is the enforcement of Sunday observance--a custom which originated with Rome, and which she claims as the sign of her authority." Ellen White, Great Controversy, p. 573

"President Trump signed an executive order Thursday creating a White House office on faith initiatives that will help to ensure religious groups have access to government funding." By Dave Boyer - The Washington Times - Thursday, May 3, 2018

At a Rose Garden event on the National Day of Prayer, Mr. Trump signed the order that he called an "historic action to promote religious freedom."

"This office will also help ensure that faith-based organizations have equal access to government funding and the equal right to exercise their deeply held beliefs," Mr. Trump said. "We take this step because we know that in solving the many, many problems and our great challenges, faith is more powerful than government, and nothing is more powerful than God."

Previous administrations have established faith-based offices in the White House; Mr. Trump said his new office will provide recommendations on policy with a special aim of delivering more effective solutions to poverty.

"The faith initiative will help design new policies that recognize the vital role of faith in our families, our communities and our great country," he said.

https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2018/may/3/donald-trump-signs-executive-order-establishing-fa/

Review

<u>Daniel chapter 11 Overview 4th</u> Historical-prophetic Outline that repeats the three Historical-prophetic Outlines in Dan. 2, 7, and 8–9 with more detail.

Forward Progressive Movement from Babylon until the end of time (Repeat & Enlarge)

	Daniel 11	3 other Prophetic			
Daniel 11	Historical Summary	Daniel 2	Daniel 7	Daniel 8	Kingdoms
Verse 1	Babylon fell and Medes and Persian take control as the 2 nd kingdom.	Head of Gold	Lion with eagle's wings	N/A	1st -Babylon 606 BC – 539 BC 67 years

Verse 2	Persian kingdom stronger at the end of the Medes and Persian kingdom. The Persian king Xerxes stirred up Greece building up his wealth and military might.	Breast & Arms of Silver	Bear with three ribs in his month lifted higher on one side	Ram with two horns one higher than the other.	2 nd -Medes & Persians 539 BC – 331 BC 207 years
Verse 3	The "mighty" king, Alexander the Great, conquers the Medo- Persian kingdom.	Belly & Thighs of Brass	Four Headed Leopard with four wings of a bird.	He-goat one great horn = Alexander the Great	3 rd -Greece 331 BC – 168 BC 163 years
Verse 4	Alexander the Great was "broken" (died) at age 32 at the peak of his greatness. He had no children or family ("posterity") to take his dominion. It was divided among his four generals.			He-goat's great horn broken – Four grow in place.	Greece divides 4 Generals Ptolemy Seleucus Lysimachus Cassander
Verse 5	Ptolemy was the area of Egypt. Built up a strong military with the aspirations to be the next superpower. It wanted to expand its power by taking over the north, Seleucus. History reveals that there were wars between the two for many years but neither one prevailed, so they tried to join by marriage.				Ptolemy/Egypt – King of the South Seleucus/Syria – King of the North
Verse 6	"Daughter of the south shall come to the king of the north to make an agreement				

Verses 7 – 9 Verses 10 – 13	(marriage)" Berenice Ptolemy of Egypt (daughter of the king of the south) married Antiochus Theos, third king of Syria [the Selucid kingdom-king of the north]: They had a child together. But there was a major problem. Antiochus was already married to Queen Laodice before he married Berenice. She poisoned King Antiochus and had both Berenice, her child (heir to the throne) and Berenice's Egyptian supporters killed. "The branch of her roots" refers to Berenice's brother, Ptolemy Euergetes. He took revenge for his sister's death! The continuing feud between king of the south (Ptolemy/Egypt) and king of the north (Seleucus)				
Verse 14	Many other kings saw an opportunity to take over the king of the south – Egypt because a 5 year boy king, Ptolemy Epiphanus. Rome protected king from destruction & then overtime Rome took control of Egypt. Robbers of thy people is Rome. Crushed victims with an "iron	Legs of Iron	ous Beast 10 horns	Little horn phase = pa	4 th – Rome 168 BC – AD 476 644 years! New King of the North Daniel 11:14 - 22

	fist." They destroyed king of the north (Syria- and became the new king of the north Rome "establish" the vision of Daniel 2, 7, and 8				
Verse 15	New king of North, Rome, came conquered king of south – Egypt.				
Verse 16	63 B.C. Roman occupation of Israel. This fulfilled the prophecy of Dan. 2 and 7 that Rome should become the fourth empire to affect the lives of the people of God. "Glorious land" = Israel.				
Verse 17	Rome under Julius Caesar's leadership. He wanted to strengthen the allegiance of Egypt to Rome by having a relationship with the young queen, Cleopatra, "corrupting her". He was over 30 years older than her. They had a child together, but never married. This did not work in strengthening allegiance either politically or nationally.				
Verse 18	Further conquests by Julius Caesar.				
Verse 19	When Julius returned home to Rome he was betrayed and murdered by the senate led by his friend Brutus who put a dagger through his heart.				
Verse 20	Augustus Caesar takes leadership of Rome after Julius' death. He was the				

	"raiser of the taxes" around 4 BC at the time of the birth of Jesus			E		
	Christ. Augustus died of sickness not battle nor conflict in AD 14.					
Verse 21	Tiberius Caesar began to co-reign before the death of Caesar Augustus in order to have a peaceable transition. He was a "vile person".					
Verse 22	The arms (army) of Tiberius took their enemy like a flood & broke them. Also, he was on the throne of Rome when Christ, the Prince of the covenant was crucified in 31 AD.					

Reminder: The sequential forward movement of the historical-prophetic outline for Daniel Chapter 11 places the time for all verses after the death of Christ (verse 22) into the Christian era. After the stoning of Stephen, Israel as God's chosen people ended. Now we must look at prophecy in terms of how it affects the christian church as a whole.

Who is the fifth empire? Papal Rome! Daniel 7 & 8 characteristic found.



Daniel 11: 23 – 35 historical prophetic outline aligns with the outlines of Daniel 7 and 8 but gives us greater details of how pagan Rome fell and how Papal Rome became the fifth kingdom.

Remember Paul's warning to the NT church:

Acts 20:29-30

- 29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.
- 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4

- 3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;
- 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

The Church Leadership in Rome Compromised to stop persecution

After Rome destroyed Israel's beloved temple in AD 70 in Jerusalem, the hatred and battle between Israel (Jews) and Rome deepened for many years to come. In the midst of this, many people accepted Jesus - both Jews and Gentiles. These Christians where caught up in the cross fire. Not only were they persecuted by the Jewish nation, but they were also persecuted by Rome. Rome had a hard time knowing who was Christian or Jews since many Jews became Christians. Over the years the persecution of the Christian church got worst. As a result, many of the Christian leaders in Rome began to compromise with pagan Rome's leadership in order to stop Rome's persecution of the church. Over time the bishops of the church in Rome began to gain the favor of the pagan Roman Empire during the time when the empire was declining.

As prophesied by Paul and Peter decades after their death, many from the NT Church split from its purity and established a new corrupt church known as Papal Roman. The leaders of this new organization did not MAKE an official decree that they had split from the truth of God's word. They deny that there was a split. They believed then and still believe now that they are the true church of the NT led by God. **They still call themselves "Christian." Matter of fact they claim to be the "catholic" church, "catholic", meaning "universal" church of God.**

Alexandria and Rome

Two of the greatest and wealthiest cities in the Roman empire were Alexandria, Egypt and Rome, Italy. Christianity grew in both cities.

202 AD: Seminary in Alexandria!

One of the greatest catalyst that helped established compromise and move toward setting up a counterfeit NT church was the seminary at Alexandria, Egypt. In around 202 AD Alexandria was the largest Christian seminary that trained many ministers. The seminary in Alexandria was the pride of the church especially in Alexandria and Rome. They prided themselves in worldly philosophies and man-made ideals rather than the Word of God. The mixture of worldliness and pagan beliefs and practices were interwoven in the training of the seminary students. After graduation many of these would go to other churches and spread the compromised doctrine.

The head pastor in Rome gladly adopted these false doctrines and demanded that other Christians churches would do the same. Because of their governmental influence and wealth, the church leadership in Rome took it upon themselves to be the authority of the Christian church worldwide.

Before in the book of ACTS the leadership of the church were workers not kings, leaders not lords. They did not have a worldly kingdom structure in which they were the rulers over the membership. The NT church structure was designed to have ALL the church membership involved in the work of Christ.

At the time of a compromising church in Rome, they took on the character of the Roman government. They literally bullied other NT churches that opposed them. In Rome the compromised leadership established a new counterfeit church. They adopted the pagan ways and Christianized it to grow the church in numbers. Over time they identified themselves as the mother universal church with its headquarters in Rome.

How did Papal grow into power while pagan Rome lost its power over time?

Pagan Rome grew too big over time. The empire became fragile. Nations within began to rebel against the

empire.

Pagan to Papal Rome Highlights:

- 1) In 313 AD Roman Emperor Constantine made Christianity an official religion of the Roman Empire, led by the papacy. The papacy was also given the right to receive gifts from the citizens of Rome in which Constantine personally donated large sums of money and land that greatly enriched the papacy.
- 2) Constantine also officially enforced a Sunday law that brought pagans and apostate Christians (Papal Rome) together.
- 3) Constantine moved HQ to the eastern part of the Pagan Roman Empire to Constantinople. This left a political power vacancy for Papal Rome in Rome on the western part of the empire. Papal Rome worked for political power from this position for over 200 years!
- 4) 476 AD: The power to rule and great authority was taken away from the Roman Emperors. The Bishop of Rome became a "Pope", by establishing his throne and taking to himself the titles of the Emperor, such as: "Pontius Maximus." ("Chief Bridge Builder")
- 5) In 508 AD King Clovis of the Kingdom of the Franks, later known as France on the western part of the Roman Empire that was mainly Europe, made Roman Catholicism the official religion. Pagan Rome, at this time, was basically collapsing in the west. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/508).
- 6) Six kings in Europe followed King Clovis example, but 3 resisted and refused to submit to the rising Papal authority. As a result, as prophecy foretold in Daniel 7, three of the 10 horns were plucked up Heruli in 493 AD, the Vandals in 534 AD, and the Ostrogoths in 538 AD.
- 7) In 533 AD the Roman Emperor Justinian (in eastern Rome) declared the Bishop of Rome Supreme bishop of all the churches.
- 8) 538 AD marks Papal Rome's Empire establishment with the defeat of the Ostrogoths (1260 year reign: 538 1798)

How did Papal Rome grow into power while pagan Rome lost its power over time starts in Daniel 11:23

What did the church leaders in Rome do to gain more influence and power while the Roman Empire was crumbling? Over 600 years of power!

Daniel 11:23

23 And after the <u>league</u> made with him he shall <u>work deceitfully</u>: for <u>he shall come up</u>, and shall become <u>strong with a small people</u>.

League (Hebrew) = châbar [khaw-bar']: **to join** (literally or figuratively); **specifically (by means of spells) to fascinate**: **- charm** (-er), be compact, couple (together), have fellowship with, heap up, join (self, together). - Strong's Hebrew Dictionary

This passage of scripture matches perfectly with how the bishops of the Christian church deceitfully worked to assume power from Pagan Rome. At this time the pagan Roman Empire was imploding because of its massive size and factions.

5th Century (400's AD)

In the 5th Century the Roman Empire was crumbling and Rome was getting desparate in trying to hold on to power. They reasoned that this **league between them and the church bishops of Rome could help**. Emperor Justinian decrees the bishop of Rome to be the head of the church and the corrector of those who opposed

Rome.

The bishop of the church had a lot of influence over the people of the church. The bishop of Rome was used by the empire to try to keep the empire together since he had so much power over the Christians.

How did the bishops work after they had an agreement with pagan Rome? Deceitfully! Papal Rome has a history of deceit and secrecy. The Roman church worked deceitfully to bring in compromise in the church.

How does this compromising church compare to Daniel 8:11?

Daniel 8:11, 12

- 11 Yea, **he magnified himself** even to the prince of the host, and by him the daily sacrifice was taken away, and the place of his sanctuary was cast down.
- 12 And an host was given him against the daily sacrifice by reason of transgression, and it <u>cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered.</u>

The bishops of the church "magnified himself" and compromised truth by casting it to the ground in order to gain power and influence throughout the empire.

For Example:

Easter Controversy

The Easter Compromise was one of the first major compromises that eventually led to the formation of Papal Rome.

In the early Christian Church they did not honor nor recognize Easter. They remembered the Passover as a memorial of God's covenant and the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Passover is on the 14th day of Nisan according the Bible and the Hebrew calendar. It is the date that is important, like a birthday, it can be on any day of the week. But the bishops of Roman were determined to honor and celebrate Pagan Rome's Easter instead which was on the "first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinx." They wanted to substitute Passover for Easter and advertise it to those they deceived as the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Easter is named after the pagan goddess of fertility, Ishtar, Astarte, or Estra. This is where the female hormone Estrogen gets its name.

"In the second century the aims of the sun worshipping emperors and those of the theologians [bishops of Rome] ran parallel. There was an ambitious scheme on foot to blend all religions into one of which the sun was to become the central object of adoration. The bishops of Rome decided to eclipse any public attraction which pagan festivals could offer. They determined to bring together Easter, a yearly festival, and Sunday, a weekly holiday sacred to the sun, to make the greatest church festival of the year. - Truth Triumphant by B. G. Wilkerson.

Victor I, through the Easter Controversy, exalted himself and the Roman office over all Christian churches. This was the first step toward Papal power.

Was there a true bishop who was directly opposed to the Easter Compromise?

Yes, his name was Polycarp. Polycarp means much fruit. Polycarp was a disciple of John the Revelator and later ordained as bishop of the church of Smyrna. Polycarp was directly opposed to the Easter compromise. He did "cry aloud" and spared nothing to reason with the Roman bishop. He was soon after martyred for refusing to burn incense unto Caesar. He was stabbed and burned at the stake.

The bishops of Rome progressive compromise of truth brought wealth and riches to the church and the bishops.

How is this described in Daniel 11:24 and what did the bishop do to those who opposed them?

Daniel 11:24

24 He shall enter **peaceably** even upon the fattest [rich/fertile] places of the province; and he shall do that which his fathers have not done, nor his fathers' fathers; he shall scatter among them the **prey**, **and spoil**, **and riches**: yea, and he shall **forecast** his devices against the **strong holds**, **even for a time**.

Peaceably (Hebrew) = shalvâh [shal-vaw'] security (genuine or false): - abundance, peace (-ably), prosperity, quietness. - Strong's Hebrew Dictionary

Forecast (Hebrew) = properly to plait or interpenetrate, that is, (literally) to weave or (generally) to fabricate; figuratively to plot or contrive (usually in a malicious sense) – Strong's Hebrew Dictionary

"...Victor I [The bishop at Rome]...issued a decree ordering the clergy everywhere to observe Easter on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the spring equinox. [The eastern bishops refused worship on a Pagan Sun Day.] They had observed Passover according to the moon calendar. Never before Victor I, had any bishop dared to...command the clergy to obey his decrees... "doing what his fathers had not" [The Churches of the East resisted Rome, which caused the formation of the Eastern Orthodox Churches. They were anathematized, and excommunicated.] This was the first assay of "Papal" usurpation [the bishop of Rome taking supreme power as "Head" over all Christian churches]..." - Truth Triumphant by B. G. Wilkerson.

As the Papacy grew in influence, power, and wealth, what was a major controversy that eventually gave Papal Rome its empire status?

The Arianism Controversy: This controversy came from doctrines by Arius, a priest of the Christian church in Alexandria, Egypt; which declared that Christ was a created being. Arius' doctrines were embraced by the Heruli, Vandals, and Ostrogoths; tribal kingdoms located in several areas of the Roman Empire. These three where among the ten in Daniel 7:8

Daniel 7:8

8 I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things. (Also Daniel 7:24)

The bishop of Rome was determined to get rid of Arianism by force. Details of Daniel 7:8 in Daniel 11:25

<u>Very Important Note:</u> Daniel 11:25 – 30 highlights the war between the league of bishop of Rome and Roman Empire vs. the 3 Christian nations that embraced Arianism (Heruli, Vandals, and Ostrogoths)

Daniel 11:25

25 And he [bishop of Rome] shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the south [Egypt territory] with a great army; and the king of the south shall be stirred up to battle with a very great and mighty army; but he shall not stand: for they[bishop of Rome and Roman Empire] shall forecast **devices** [plan or scheme] against him.

Bishop of Rome used the armies of the Roman Empire. Verse 26 reveals how this was revealed...

Daniel 11:26

26 Yea, they [Roman Empire] that feed of the portion of his meat shall destroy him, and his army shall overflow [Enemy - Arianism]: and many shall fall down slain.

What evil thing did this league between the bishops of Rome and the Empire of Roman do next?

Daniel 11:27

27 And both these kings' hearts shall be to do mischief, and they shall **speak lies** at one table; but it shall not prosper: for yet the end shall be **at the time appointed**.

Both the Roman Emperor and the Bishop of Rome maneuver politically for power. They continually lied to each other for political power. Yet the end of pagan Roman "shall be at the time appointed." Papal Rome a completely compromised church will have full control.

What does Pagan Rome continue to do for the bishop of Rome?

Daniel 11:28

28 Then shall he [Roman Emperor] return into his land [Rome] with great riches; and his heart shall be against the holy covenant [Holy Bible]; and he shall do *exploits*, and return to his own land.

Why is the Roman emperor now against the Bible?

Bishops of Roman who claim to be of the Bible where deceitful. Plus it was conflict of Bible doctrine that got the Roman emperor caught up in this war with Heruli, Vandals and Ostrogoths were Christian tribes in the Empire who embraced the doctrines of Arius.

Daniel 11:29

29 At the time appointed he [Rome] shall return, and come toward the south; but it shall not be as the former, or as the latter.

Roman armies came the south, Vandal tribe, to finish them off, BUT the Vandals stood their ground! This was not the first nor the last time they had an encounter with the Vandals. The Vandals had something for Rome.

Daniel 11:30

30 For the ships of Chittim shall come against him (Rome): therefore he shall be grieved, and return, and have indignation against the holy covenant: so shall he do; he shall even return, and have intelligence with them [bishops of Rome] that forsake the holy covenant.

Note: "The ships of Chittim" (Vandal ships) attacked Rome. The Vandals, A Barbarian Arian tribe, attacked and "vandalized" the city of Rome. So the emperor had intelligence with the Roman bishops; who "forsake the holy covenant" (the authority of Bible) even though they possessed the Bible they rejected the everlasting covenant that the Bible revealed. Remember, Papal Rome "cast down the truth to the ground; and it practised, and prospered."

This misrepresentation of the Holy Bible and forsaking it led the Christian church into full compromise and the establishment of the Papal system.

With the Roman Empire crumbling, they were getting desparate trying to hold on to power. They reasoned that this league between them and the church bishops of Rome could help. Emperor Justinian decrees the bishop of Rome to be the head of the church and the corrector of heretics.

The Vandals defeated the city of Rome which deeply weakened the Roman Empire. Papal Rome began to fill that void. Vandals still persist until they were finally "plucked" up by Papal Rome.

How did The Roman Emperor give the bishops of Rome (Papal) more political (state) power to govern a people? How did papal Rome become the fifth empire?

Daniel 11:31

31 And **arms** shall stand on his part, and they shall pollute the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the daily *sacrifice*, and they shall place the abomination that maketh desolate.

Definition: "arm(s)" 1 : weapons of offense or defense. [from: use of the arm for fighting and combat] (The Winston Dictionary)

Prophecy fulfilled:

- 1- The arms are the armies of the Roman emperor fight for Papal Rome.
- 2-And Papal Rome shall pollute the sanctuary of strength. They polluted the worship of God by mixing pagan worship with Christian worship.
- 3-Papal Rome takes away the "daily" continuum the power, seat, and authority from pagan Rome.
- 4-Papal Rome is "the abomination that maketh desolate." Jesus spoke of this in Matthew 24:15

Matthew 24:15

15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

The Papacy Has Many Names:

Dan. 7:25 "the little horn."

Dan. 8:24 "a king" of fierce countenance understanding dark sentences.

Dan. 11:40 "King of the North."

Dan. 11:31; 12:11 "abomination that maketh desolate (persecutes).

Rev. 13-20 "the beast" [the Papal empire]

Did God have a people that stood against the apostasy of Papal Rome?

Daniel 11:32

32 And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.

God always has a people that will stand against apostasy. There was such as group at the time of Papal Rome that stood for the truth of the Bible. They are known as the Waldensian, true Christians of the Bible. They stood strong against the doctrines of Papal Rome.

What happened to the true Christians like the Waldensians?

Daniel 11:33

33 And they that understand among the people shall instruct many: yet they shall fall by the sword, and by **flame**, **by captivity**, **and by spoil**, *many* **days**.

Waldensians were known for their practical evangelism. They would instruct many about God truth through His Word. But as a result, Papal Rome used the armies of Rome to slaughter many of God true people during Papal Rome's 1260 reign.

This matches perfectly how the little horn (Papal Rome) persecutes the true people of God.

Daniel 7:25

25 And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws: and they shall be given into his hand until a time and times and the dividing of time.

Daniel 8:24-25

24 And his power shall be mighty, but not by his own power: and he shall destroy wonderfully, and shall prosper, and practise, and shall destroy the mighty and the holy people.

25 And through his policy also he shall cause craft to prosper in his hand; and he shall magnify himself in his heart, and by peace shall destroy many: he shall also stand up against the Prince of princes; but he shall be broken without hand.

Even though God's true people were being persecuted during the Papal Rome Empire what DID God do?

Daniel 11:34

34 Now when they shall fall, they shall be holpen with a little help: **but many shall cleave to them with flatteries.**

The great reformation ignited with Martin Luther, the translation of the Bibles in native tongues and the invention of the printing press. The light of God's truth was shining in the lives of God's people who wanted to follow the absolute authority of the Bible. But unfortunately, even though the Bible facts are presents many people still believed the lies of Papal Rome's flattery. Wide is the road of destruction and narrow is the way of life only a few go on the narrow road.

How long? Daniel 11:35

35 And some of them of understanding shall fall, to try them, and to purge, and to make them white, even to the time of the end: because it is yet **for a time appointed**.

How long? Until the appointed time in which papal Roman will loses its power after the 1260 years as prophesied in Daniel 7:25. The papal Roman Empire persecuted millions of God people during their reign for 1260 years.

These people went through the fire. Can we? Are we ready? The fires of persecution will be here in America. Are you willing to die for Christ....

Appeal....

What happened to papal Rome? How did they lose power? Who took control? Who is that sixth kingdom? Does that sixth kingdom still have influence today?

To be continued...