

# **Class Slides for The Book of Revelation**

Assembled by Dave Brown

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# **Outline of Revelation (1:19)**

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# Outline of Revelation BACKUP

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## Daniel 2:32-33; 43-44 (Rev 13)

For use in Understanding Identity of Sea Beast

Dan 2:32-33 As for this image, its head was of fine gold, its breast and its arms of silver, its belly and its thighs of brass, *its legs of iron, its feet part of iron, and part of clay.* ... .. =ROME

Dan 2:43-44 And whereas you saw the iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men; but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron does not mingle with clay. *And in the days of those kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the sovereignty thereof be left to another people; but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.*

# Revelation Chapter 17

- Qualifier for Explanation 10
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## Revelation Chapter 17:10-18

- **Potential Historical Explanation for 17:10**
- **The following is not given as the only, or even as ONE, of the “correct” interpretations of Revelation 17.**
- **It is what some feel would be a probable way that Jews and Christians in the area and influence of Rome might have viewed it at that time as they read chapter 17.**
- **And how we might, given the advantage of hindsight.**

## Revelation 17:9-10

### Historical Explanation: 7+1=8 Emperors

- **Augustus**                      **29 BC-14 AD**
- **Tiberius**                      **14-37 AD**
- **Caligula**                      **37-41 AD Evil**
- **Claudius**                      **41-54 AD**
- **Nero**                      **54-68 AD Evil**
  - **Between, two years of total chaos**
  - **Galba, Otho, Vitellius**
  - **Not included in the 7 heads**
- **Vespasian**                      **69-79 AD**
- **Titus**                      **79-81 AD**
- **Domitian**                      **81-96 AD Very Evil**

## Revelation 17:10-11

### Likely Interpretation by Christians in Rome

- **“Five have fallen”**
  - Augustus 29 BC-14 AD
  - Tiberius 14-37 AD
  - Caligula 37-41 AD Evil
  - Claudius 41-54 AD
  - Nero 54-68 AD Evil
- **“one is” = the Flavian dynasty (69-96 AD)**
  - Vespasian 69-79 AD
- **“not yet come ... remain little while”**
  - Titus 79-81 AD
- **Vs 11 “eighth is of the seven ...” (Nero)**
  - Domitian < beast 81-96 AD Extremely Cruel

# Revelation 17:12 Looking to the Future (1)

- **Rev 17:12**
- **"The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour.**
  - Ten=indefinite future figure="human" number
  - Will be in power as churches are corrupted
    - Corruption evolved, starting in first century
    - Apostasy became obvious when:
      - 313 "Christianity" legalized (Constantine)
      - 381 "Christians" persecute those of Roman religions
      - 393 "Christianity" mandated by comprehensive law  
(Flavius Theodosius; 379-395 AD)

## Revelation 17:13 Looking to Future (2)

- **Rev 17:13: "These [the ten horns] have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast."**
  - Beast=Roman (Babylonian) corruption
  - Effectively emulate those who came before
  - Persecution varied greatly in 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> centuries
    - By edicts of the emperors
    - Differed by geographical area
  - Persecution intensified greatly after 250 AD
  - Diocletian (285-305) brutal and cruel
    - **Military; saw Christians as cause of Rome's demise**
    - **Torture: it was not enough to just kill them**

## Important Figures of Revelation 17

- **Rev 17:15: "The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues."**
- **Rev 17:18: "The woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth."**
  - "Great city"=figurative of power; influence
  - Harlot=entity who has extensive influence
    - Over governmental and economic powers
    - Over peoples, multitudes, nations, tongues
  - Invisible power = hidden influence of the elites

# How "the Lamb will Overcome Them" (14)

Revelation 17:16-17

"And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire. [Beast=initial personification=Domitian (11)]

17 "For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God will be fulfilled. [Beast = ruling culture of corruption]

Genesis 15:16 (Example: all in God's time.)

16 And in the fourth generation they shall come hither again. For the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet full.

# Revelation Chapter 20

## General Approach to Refuting Error

- It is not enough to prove what it does not say
- We must also be ready to give:
  - A plausible explanation of what it does say (1 Pet 3:15)
  - Inviting participation: we do not claim to be perfect
- Each individual has the responsibility ...
  - 2 Tim 2:15 "Study to shew yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."
  - Phil 2:12 "... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

# Barnes on Revelation 20

I refer for full proof on this point to the following passages of the New Testament: Matt 10:32-33, compared with Matt 7:21-23; 13:30,38-43; 16:24-27; 25:10,31-46; Mark 8:38; John 5:28-29; Acts 17:31; Rom 2:5-16; 14:10,12; 1 Cor 3:12-15; 4:5; 2 Cor 5:9-11; 2 Thess 1:6-10; 1 Tim 5:24-25; 2 Peter 3:7,10,12; 1 John 2:28; 4:17; Rev 3:5; 20:11-15; 22:12-15. It is utterly "impossible" to explain these passages on any other supposition than that they are intended to teach that the righteous and the wicked will be judged together, and both at the coming of Christ. And if this is so, it is of course impossible to explain them consistently with the view that all the righteous will have been already raised up at the beginning of the millennium in their immortal and glorified bodies [1 Cor 15], and that they have been solemnly approved by the Savior, and admitted to a participation in his glory. Nothing could be more irreconcilable than these two views; and it seems to me, therefore, that the objections to the literal resurrection of the saints at the beginning of the millennial period are insuperable [insurmountable].

## Revelation 20:1-3

20:1 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand.

2 And he laid hold on the dragon, the old serpent, which is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years,

3 and cast him into the abyss, and shut (it), and sealed (it) over him, that he should deceive the nations no more, until the thousand years should be finished: after this he must be loosed for a little time.

- See ONLY what John saw: passage above is not difficult
- Deception is disabled by truth
- Does this mean Satan would no longer have ANY influence?
- Figurative 1000 = 10 (human) \*\* 3 (God)
- Loosed: possible purpose = a final trial of the faithful?

## Revelation 20:4a

# “Thrones” Referenced in the Gospels

Matthew 19:28

And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, that ye who have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit on the throne of His glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Luke 22:29-30

I grant you that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

# Revelation 20:4b

Rev 20:4

And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and (I saw) the souls of *them that had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus, and for the word of God, and such as worshipped not the beast, neither his image, and received not the mark upon their forehead and upon their hand; and they lived, and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

- Thrones: Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:29
- Souls, recall 6:9-11. Did John see their bodies?
  - Souls=psuchas is not used to refer to the body
  - What is to be resurrected? 1 Cor. 15:35-54
- THEY=Martyrs and "sufferers" = special class of Christians whose examples and influence will be exceedingly precious

# Revelation 20:4c

Revelation 20:4

... they lived, and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

- Does Christ live and reign today? How?
  - By His influence in your life (Romans 8)?
- Does “alive/reigning” require physical presence?
- Before we learned/understood Rev 6:9-11, ...
  - Were these martyrs alive or dead to us?
  - What are they now to us?
  - Do we now gain strength/courage from them?
- To us, are they spiritually alive in their influence?
- Do they spiritually reign with Christ in this regard?
- **Rom 8:37 ... in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.**

# Revelation 20:5

Rev 20:5

The rest of the dead lived not until the thousand years should be finished. This is the first resurrection.

- Two alternatives for “rest of the dead”
  - All dead, saved or unsaved, not covered in vs 4
- OR
- Faithful Christians=saved, but not covered in 4
- First resurrection = that described in 20:4
  - Proof of definition is in 20:6=“reign with Him 1000 years.”
- Next (2<sup>nd</sup>) resurrection not called SR, but 20:11-15
  - It will be of the just AND the unjust
  - All will be judged and appropriately rewarded

# Revelation 20:6

Rev 20:6

Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: over these the second death hath no power; but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

- First resurrection=that of 20:4
- Second death = 2:11; 20:6; 20:14; 21:8
  - Defined explicitly: 20:14 and 21:8 = lake of fire
- Priests ... reign=in a special sense of distinction because of their courage and bravery

## Revelation 20:7-9

7 And when the thousand years are finished, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison,

8 and shall come forth to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to the war: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea.

9 And they went up over the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down out of heaven, and devoured them.

- Gog and Magog = a confederacy of armies that attacked Israel as prophesied by Ezekiel (38-39), who said it was going to take seven months to bury those Israel killed in order to cleanse the land.
- THEY = the deceived nations.

## Revelation 20:10

10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where are also the beast and the false prophet; and they shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever

THEY = sea beast, false prophet and Satan.

## Revelation 20:11-15

11 And I saw a great white throne, and Him that sat upon it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne; and books were opened: and another book was opened, which is (the book) of life: and the dead were judged out of the things which were written in the books, according to their works. 13 And the sea gave up the dead that were in it; and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death, (even) the lake of fire. 15 And if any was not found written in the book of life, he was cast into the lake of fire.

# Questions for Revelation 20:1-10

- Where is the “rapture?”
  - Burden of proof on those who teach it.
  - Not taught widely before 1830 or so; Darby
    - Scofield Bible footnotes
    - Publication financed by Zionist interests

Only possibility is 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first;

17 then we that are alive, that are left, shall together with them be caught up in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

Caught up = harpazo = to seize, catch, pluck, pull,  
take by force = Phillip in Acts 8:39.

Rapture is from the Latin "*rapere or raptum*"

# **Relevance of Revelation To Us Today**

# Relevance of Revelation

## Contents of this Section

- Comparison of Our world to 100-299 AD
- What Happened to Sound Churches 100-299 AD?
- History of the Corruption of Sound Churches
- Development of Roman Catholic Church
  - Evolution to the current religious establishment
  - From being the persecuted to being the persecutors
- Practical Conclusions from Our Study

# Comparison of Our World with 100-299 AD

- Things That Are the Same Now as in 100-299 AD
  - Most all countries have ...
    - Corruption in religious, political and “power centers”
    - Invisible power is in the hands of a relatively few
    - Not only political: e.g., Eisenhower: mil-ind complex (1961)
  - Not Changed: common view of religion by general populace:
    - Must be organized (and big) to be recognized > Relig Estab
    - Faithful churches of Christ are not understood > Marginalized
      - Bible-only faith system must be viewed spiritually (1 Cor 2)
      - Many “scholars” believe Bible-only concept to be impossible
  - Same: **Ways that God cares for faithful Christians** (above)
- Things Different Now from 100-299 AD
  - Few countries have a mandated state religion now
  - So less persecution caused ONLY by religious differences
  - But considerable “ethnic cleansing” (euphemism for genocide)
    - Contrast with the Roman goals of inclusion/integration

# What Happened to Sound Churches 100-299 AD?

- Most All Were Sound in the First Century
  - Under Apostles and first century prophets (inspired)
  - Informal canon was developing/recognized by the faithful
  - ***Inspired writings largely completed in 1<sup>st</sup> century***
- Second-Third Centuries 101-299 AD
  - No recorded concept of “Bible-only” religion (few Bibles)
  - But, writings of many church fathers exhibit sound faith
  - Abandonment of 1<sup>st</sup> century organization > Relig Estab
  - Endless trivial controversies ⇔ actually, power struggles
- Were there some small groups who held to the Bible?
  - No formal historical evidence (for obvious reasons); but
  - House & wilderness churches=NT pattern; e.g. **Rom 16:3-5**
  - Biblical evidence as to **sufficiency of the written word**  
<https://www.biblethought.net/is-the-bible-sufficient.html>

# History: Corruption of Sound Churches in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Centuries (65-299 AD)

While enduring the early persecutions of the Roman government (65-300 AD), most of professing Christianity went through a gradual departure from New Testament doctrine concerning church government, worship and practice. Local churches ceased to be autonomous by giving way to the control of "bishops" ruling over hierarchies. The simple form of worship from the heart was replaced with the rituals and splendor of paganism. Ministers became "priests;" and pagans became "Christians" by simply being sprinkled with water. This tolerance of an unregenerate membership only made things worse. **SPRINKLED PAGANISM** was about the best definition for Roman Catholicism.

<http://www.biblebelievers.com/jmelton/Catholic.html>

- > Was "legalized" by Constantine (306-337) in 313 AD
- > Mandated as only Roman State religion after 380 AD
- > 381: "Christians" persecute those of Roman religions

# Evolution of the Roman Catholic Church

For the first 280 years of Christian history, Christianity was banned by the Roman Empire, and Christians were terribly persecuted. This changed after the “conversion” of the Roman Emperor Constantine, who provided religious toleration with the Edict of Milan in AD 313, effectively lifting the ban on Christianity. Later, in AD 325, Constantine called the Council of Nicea in an attempt to unify Christianity. Constantine envisioned Christianity as a religion that could unite the Roman Empire, which at that time was beginning to fragment and divide. While this may have seemed to be a positive development, the results were anything but positive for the true church [Mt 16:18]. Just as Constantine refused to fully embrace the gospel, but continued many of his pagan beliefs and practices, so the church that Constantine and his successors promoted progressively became less Bible doctrine and more Roman paganism. DBB paraphrased from:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/origin-Catholic-church.html>

# Practical Conclusions from Our Study

- “Shortly Come to Pass”
  - Rome did not fall until 476 (eastern) and 1453 (western)
  - Much evil **HAS** fallen: judgments of individuals and nations
  - Still remaining: wars, disposition of beasts, final judgment
  - ***Inspired writings completed in 1<sup>st</sup> century Rev 22:18-19***
- Sources of Corrupt Power and Religion Still Persist
  - Rev 17:18: ***“the woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth.”***
  - Role of Harlot=was played by Roman *elite*=now Vatican *elite*
  - **Elite** (\$\$\$\$\$) have always done their best to stay hidden
- Additional Practical Principles that We Can Use
  - The ultimate solution is not in/of this world < **CRITICAL**
  - **God WILL** take care of faithful, dedicated Christians
  - Recognize sea & earth beasts & harlot **TODAY** is in God’s plan
  - Visualize (and glory in) their disintegration and fall
  - **IT WILL SHORTLY COME TO PASS; GLORIFY GOD!!!**

# Persecution After the First Century

## Revelation 1:3

**Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of the prophecy, and keep the things that are written therein: for the time is at hand.**

## Section Outline

- Timeline of Persecution in Early Church (1-3) 37-39
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# **Timeline of Persecution in the Early Church -1**

**35 Stephen martyred; Paul converted  
42 Apostle James beheaded by Herod Agrippa I**

**49 Jews expelled from Rome**

**64 Nero launches persecution**

**65 Peter and Paul executed**

**80s Domitian develops emperor worship**

**95 Domitian executes/exiles family members**

**107 Simeon, Jesus cousin, bishop of Jerusalem**

**110 Ignatius, bishop of Antioch, killed in Rome**

**112 Pliny inquires of Trajan about Christians**

**155 (166?) Polycarp martyred**

# Timeline of Persecution in the Early Church -2

**155, 160 Justin writes First and Second Apology**

**165 Justin martyred**

**177 Pogrom in Lyons and Vienne: 48 killed**

**178 Celsus's True Discourse against Christians**

**180 12 from Scilli (N. Africa) killed**

**197 Tertullian writes his Apology**

**202 Septimius Severus forbids conversions C/J**

**203 Origen's father, Perpetua, Felicitas + others**

**211–213 North African hostilities**

**235–36 Emp Maximin Thrax persecutes church**

**248 Origen writes Against Celsus;  
persecutions in Alexandria**

# **Timeline of Persecution in the Early Church -3**

**250 Emperor Decius orders universal sacrifice; church leaders arrested; Origen jailed tortured; Pope Fabian martyred, bishops Antioch and Jerusalem; and many others**

**251 Decius dies; Cyprian returns to Carthage**

**252–53 Emperor Callus revives evils of Decius**

**254 Origen, weakened from torture, dies**

**257–60 Emperor Valerian hounds clergy; Cyprian, Pope Sixtus II, and others**

**261 Emperor Gallienus issues order of toleration**

**270s Emperor Aurelian > Cult of Unconquerable**

**284-305 Diocletian – most severe ever (D. Great P.=303-312)**

**313 – “Christianity” legalized by Constantine (306-337) 325 Nicaea**

# Persecution Under Nero and Domitian

[https://biblehub.com/library/pamphilius/church\\_history/chapter\\_xvii\\_the\\_persecution\\_under\\_domitian.htm](https://biblehub.com/library/pamphilius/church_history/chapter_xvii_the_persecution_under_domitian.htm)

The persecutions under Nero and Domitian were not undertaken by the state as such; they were simply personal matters, and established no precedent as to the conduct of the state toward Christianity. They were rather spasmodic outbursts of personal enmity, but were looked upon with great horror as the first to which the Church was subjected. **There was no general persecution, which took in all parts of the empire, until the reign of Decius (249-251), but Domitian's cruelty and ferocity were extreme,** and many persons of the highest rank fell under his condemnation and suffered banishment and even death, **not especially on account of Christianity, though there were Christians among them, but on account of his jealousy, and for political reasons of various sorts.**

**That Domitian's persecution of the Christians was not of long duration is testified by Tertullian, Apol. 5.**

**Note: the URL above has links to several early church history documents.**

## Fact Check: Tertullian (160-220 AD)

[https://biblehub.com/library/pamphilius/church\\_history/chapter\\_xvii\\_the\\_persecution\\_under\\_domitian.htm](https://biblehub.com/library/pamphilius/church_history/chapter_xvii_the_persecution_under_domitian.htm)

**Validation of: "That Domitian's persecution of the Christians was not of long duration is testified by Tertullian, Apol. 5."**

**From Tertullian Apol. Chapter 5:**

"Domitian, too, a man of Nero's type in cruelty, tried his hand at persecution; but as he had something of the human in him, he soon put an end to what he had begun, even restoring again those whom he had banished."

[http://www.tertullian.org/anf/anf03/anf03-05.htm#P274\\_77178](http://www.tertullian.org/anf/anf03/anf03-05.htm#P274_77178)

**Tertullian (160-220 AD)** "an early Christian apologist and a polemicist against heresy," e.g., Gnosticism.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tertullian>

# Timeline Persecutions by Emperor (64-313)

- **Nero** (c. 64-68). Traditional: Peter and Paul martyred
- **Domitian** (r. 81-96) = time writing of Revelation
- **Trajan** (112-117). Outlawed but not sought out
- Marcus Aurelius (r. 161-180). Martyrdom of Polycarp
- Septimus Severus (202-210). Martyrdom of Perpetua
- Maximinus the Thracian (235-238)
- **Decius** (250-251) Identified Christians by Pagan sacrifices
  - Martyrdoms: bishops of Rome, Jerusalem, Antioch, etc.
- Valerian (257-259)
  - Martyrs: Cyprian of Carthage, Sixtus II of Rome
- Aurelian (r. 270-275)
- **MOST SEVERE: Diocletian and Galerius (303-313)**
  - **Two centuries after Revelation was completed**
  - Just prior to Edict of Milan in 313, legalized "Christianity"
  - Edict did not terminate persecution, but it tapered off
- **Times Between:** 69-80/97-111/118-160/181-201/211-234/239-249/252-256/260-269/276-302/ = 80 years of persecution; 160 between

<http://www.religionfacts.com/persecution-early-church>

# Persecutions of Diocletian and Galerius

Christians had always been subject to local discrimination in the empire, but emperors prior to Diocletian were reluctant to issue general laws against the sect. In the 250s, under the reigns of Decius and Valerian, Roman subjects including Christians were compelled to sacrifice to Roman gods or face imprisonment and execution, ... After Gallienus's accession in 260, these laws went into abeyance. Diocletian's assumption of power in 284 did not mark an immediate reversal ... but it did herald a gradual shift in official attitudes against religious minorities. In the first fifteen years of his rule, Diocletian purged the army of Christians, condemned Manicheans to death, and surrounded himself with public opponents of Christianity. Diocletian's preference for activist government, combined with his self-image as a restorer of past Roman glory, foreboded the most pervasive persecution in Roman history. **In the winter of 302, Galerius urged Diocletian to begin a general persecution of the Christians, ... and a general persecution was called on February 24, 303.** ... Although the persecution resulted in death, torture, imprisonment, or dislocation for many Christians, the majority of the empire's Christians avoided punishment. The persecution did, however, cause many churches to split between those who had complied with imperial authority, and those who had remained "pure".

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diocletianic\\_Persecution](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diocletianic_Persecution)

# Example Church Fathers of 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> Centuries

m=martyr; b=bishop

## Date of Death

## Apostolic Church Fathers

- 99 mb Clement of Rome (35-99)
- 110 mb Ignatius of Antioch
- 155 mb Polycarp of Smyrna
- 163 b Papius of Hierapolis (wrote 95-120)

## Date of Death

## Greek Fathers

- 165 mb Justin Martyr (wrote to Titus)
- 202 b Irenaeus of Lyons, France (MMLJ)
- 215 Clement of Alexandria (Egypt)
- 254 mb Origen of Alexandria (184-253)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church\\_Fathers](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Church_Fathers)

# Links to Documented Persecution by RCC

## Search on "Persecution by (not of) the Roman CC"

- <https://jewishpersecutionhistory.weebly.com/catholic-church-persecution-of-the-jews.html>
- <http://www.the-bible-antichrist.com/roman-catholic-church-persecution.html>
- <https://www.christian-history.org/catholic-persecution.html>
- <https://www.facebook.com/notes/the-reformation-resurgence/roman-catholic-church-the-great-babylon/1512800792103965/>
- <http://www.end-times-prophecy.org/secret-history-catholic-church.html>
- <http://www.catholicarrogance.org/Catholic/ChurchvsJews.html>
- <https://amredeemed.com/end-times-news/quotes-roman-catholic-persecution/>

## Persecution Against the Bible

- <https://www.wayoflife.org/database/persecutionofbible.html>
- <https://romecorruptedchristianity.wordpress.com/2013/07/02/a-time-when-the-bible-was-banned-and-burned/>

We do not vouch for the validity of any of these links.

- Recommended: Search on "**Jesuits**" and "**George Pell**"

# **Roman History Impact on the Interpretation of Revelation**

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# Religious and Political Overview - 1

## 753 BC to 43 BC

- 📦 -753 – Rome founded: first king: Romulus
- 📦 -509 – Overthrow of monarchy
  - Establishment of two consuls
- 📦 -293 – Census counted about 270,000 residents
- 📦 \*-195 – First temple to goddess Roma in Smyrna (2:8)
- 📦 -66 – Cilician pirates wiped out by Pompey
- 📦 -63 – Siege of Jerusalem:
  - Pompey conquered the city and defiled the temple
- 📦 \*-59 – First Triumvirate (three-man rule)
  - Pompey, Julius Caesar (100-44 BC) and Marcus Licinius Crassus
- 📦 \*-44 – Assassination of Julius Caesar; Senate conspiracy
- 📦 -43 – Second Triumvirate
  - Julius Caesar's Nephew Augustus, Mark Antony, Marcus Lepidus
  - \*Augustus/Senate declared Julius Caesar=deity (God, or a god);
  - Augustus (Gaius Octavius) assumed title of "Son of God"
  - Name "Caesar" became synonym for Emperor

# Religious and Political Overview - 29 BC to 14 AD

- 📦 **-29 – Emperor Augustus granted to provinces of Asia and Bithynia permission to erect temples for the worship of Roma and the deceased Julius Caesar.**
  - Roman citizens were encouraged to worship at these shrines.
  - Non-Roman citizens were given permissions to erect several temples for worship of Roma and himself (Emperor Augustus).
  - Major temples was in Pergamum (2:13) and Ephesus (Acts 19)
- 📦 **-27 to 250 AD –Pax Romano, general peace in Italy**
- 📦 **-6 – Birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1)**
- 📦 **-6 – Augustus taxes Roman Empire (Luke 2)**
- 📦 **-5 – Birth of Jesus and His escape to Egypt (Mt 1-2)**
  - Herod the Great (Agrippa 1=nominal Jew) killed all male children in Bethlehem
- 📦 **14 – Augustus dies; before his death he had ...**
  - Allowed the worship of Julius Caesar, his great predecessor
  - Allowed non-citizens to worship himself (Augustus)
  - Did not permit citizens to worship him
  - Made no attempt to enforce this worship > POLYTHEISM!!!

# Religious and Political Overview - 3 14 AD to 37 AD

- ❏ **14-37 – Tiberius’ reign; during this time he**
  - Tried but could not halt Caesar worship – actively discouraged it
  - Probably feared monotheism with good reason (Daniel 2:32, 43)
  - Forbade temples and priests for his own worship
- ❏ **26 – Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13)**
- ❏ **27 – Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)**
- ❏ **28 – Jesus ministry in Galilee (Matthew 8)**
- ❏ **29 – Jesus sends out the 12 (Mt 10) then 70 (Lk 10)**
- ❏ **30 – Jesus’ resurrection (Mt 28) & Ascension (Acts 1)**
- ❏ **30 – Pentecost, *Kingdom is Established* (Acts 2, 3-5)**
- ❏ **31 – Stephen Stoned, persecution, scattering (Acts 7-8)**
- ❏ **34 – Saul’s conversion (Acts 9)**
- ❏ **37 – Peter preaches to first Gentiles (Acts 10,11)**

**Who persecuted Christians at this time? WHY?**

# Religious and Political Overview -4 37 AD to 54 AD

- 📦 **37-41 Caligula = next Emperor after Tiberius**
  - Madman and megalomaniac (God complex)
  - Insisted on divine honors to himself
  - Caesar worship imposed even on the Jews
  - Caesar worship became an imperial demand for the first time
- 📦 **41-54 Claudius (after Caligula assassinated) who:**
  - Restored king Herod Agrippa over Judean Monarchy (41-44)
  - Reversed insane policies of Caligula
  - Did not force Jews to call the Emperor a god
  - Sought to control rather than encourage Caesar worship
- 📦 **42 Barnabas to Antioch assists with Greeks (Acts 11)**
- 📦 **44 Herod Agrippa is eaten of worms (Acts 12:20) **WHY?****
- 📦 **48 Paul/Barnabas 1st missionary journey (Acts 13-14)**
- 📦 **49 Council at Jerusalem and Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> MJ (Acts 15-16)**
- 📦 **51 Paul in Corinth (Acts 18)**
- 📦 **54 Paul in Ephesus (Acts 19) writes 1 Cor and Gal**

# Religious and Political Overview - 5 54 AD to 69 AD

- 📦 **54-68 – Nero; Claudius poisoned succeeded by Nero**
  - Did nothing to insist on Caesar worship
  - Blamed the great fire of Rome (in 64) on Christians
  - Government corruption despite non-religious persecution
  - **66-217 Roman-Parthian, etc. Wars (6<sup>th</sup> trumpet and bowl)**
- 📦 **57 – Paul in Macedonia and Greece (Acts 20)**
- 📦 **59 – Paul Returns to Jerusalem (Acts 21-23)**
- 📦 **60-62 – Paul’s defenses Felix-Festus-Agrippa (Acts 21-26)**
- 📦 **62 – Paul sets sail and reaches Rome**
  - 62-67 – Paul’s letters from Roman imprisonment (1<sup>st</sup> 62-63)
  - Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, Philemon; 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy (67-2<sup>nd</sup>)
- 📦 **64 – Great Fire of Rome, blamed on Christians** Peter’s death?
- 📦 **68 – Nero, declared an enemy of the state**
- 📦 **Nero orders his attendant to kill him (Nero)**
  - Galba assassinated in 69; Otho serves less than 7 months; etc.
- 📦 **69 – Year of the four emperors” = chaos/confusion**

# Act 27: Shipwreck on Way to Rome



# Religious and Political Overview - 69 AD to 96 AD

- 📦 **69-79 Vespasian: wise, did not require Caesar worship**
- 📦 **70 Siege of Jerusalem – Titus destroyed temple/city**
- 📦 **79-81 Titus was like Vespasian- No Caesar worship reqd**
- 📦 **81 Titus dies of fever**
- 📦 **Titus succeeded by his younger brother Domitian**
- 📦 **81-96 – Domitian was a complete change:**
  - Extremely evil; he believed he was divine
  - Demanded Caesar (emperor) worship
  - Bitter persecution of all who would not worship ancient gods
  - Mainly Jews and Christians were executed as a result
  - Enacted that he himself was a god
  - Must be addressed as Lord and God
  - Edicts were enforced all over empire; **resurrection of NERO???**
- 📦 **95 – John's Revelation on Patmos**
- 📦 **96 Domitian assassinated (by members of the royal household)**
- 📦 **Ending John's exile; John to Ephesus (history, not Bible)**

# Religious and Political Overview - 7 96 AD to 1453 AD

- ❏ **96-98 – Nerva repealed much of the savage penal laws**
  - Christians still regarded as outlaws (local discretion)
- ❏ **115-120 – Empire reached its peak – from Britain to Syria**
- ❏ **115, 135 – Sporadic Jewish Rebellion (30k R; 600k J killed)**
- ❏ **165 – Antonine Plague killed some 5M thruout Empire**
- ❏ **200+ Continuous losses to pagan attacks on eastern borders**
- ❏ **250 – 313 Severe Empire-wide persecution; ISBE-Persecution**
- ❏ **284-305 Diocletian – most severe ever (D. Great P.=303-312)**
- ❏ **313 – “Christianity” legalized by Constantine (306-337) <sup>325 Nicaea</sup>**
- ❏ **380 – “Christianity” became mandatory state religion**
  - Roman Catholic atrocities of “heretics” dwarfed those of Rome
  - Estimated deaths = from 10 million to 100 million
  - *Rome fell but the satanic RC Church is very much with us today*
- ❏ **395 – Division of empire into east and west**
- ❏ **476 – Romulus Proclaimed king of Italy – ended eastern empire**
- ❏ **634-640 – Muslim conquest of Syria and Egypt**
- ❏ **1453 – Byzantine (western) empire fell to Ottomans**

# **Miscellaneous Slides that Might be of Use**

- **Brief Timeline 348 to 381 plus links**
- **Summary of the 7 Trumpets**
- **Comparison of 7 Seals with 7 Trumpets**
- **Interesting Statement from One Historian**

# History & Origin of the Roman Catholic Links and Brief Timeline

- Jesuit Oath in Library of Congress
- [http://www.thenazareneway.com/society\\_of\\_jesus\\_jesuits.htm](http://www.thenazareneway.com/society_of_jesus_jesuits.htm)

Church history timeline

<https://www.christianity.com/church/church-history/timeline/301-600/>

Timeline	
248	Cyprian elected bishop of Carthage
250	Decius orders empire-wide persecution
270	Antony takes up life of solitude
280	Constantine born
337	Constantine dies
381	Christianity made state religion of Roman Empire

# SUMMARY OF THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

- ❏ **First Four Trumpets: Affect Natural Objects ...**
  - **–Life support (or what objects are figurative of)**
  - **–Plagues of Egypt, 5 or 6 out of the 10 ...**
    - hail, fire, water turned to blood, darkness, locusts, ...
    - perhaps death (Ex. 7:19; 9:24; 10:12, 21; Rev. 9:18)
  - **Hail, fire, blood – third part of trees, all green grass.**
  - **Mountain burning – fire – into sea –**
    - 1/3 sea become blood
    - 1/3 sea creatures and ships destroyed
  - **Star falls on rivers – wormwood – many die**
  - **1/3 part of the lights of earth**
- ❏ **Last Three Trumpets (Woe Trumpets): Affect people ...**
  - **Pain; physical, but more importantly, spiritual torment**
  - **Death (compare with sixth seal – lack of repentance)**
  - **Judgment; Heaven and Hell (Rev. 11:15-19)**

# COMPARISON OF 7 SEALS WITH THE 7 TRUMPETS

- ❏ **Seals: events in time – God’s universal *power***
  - **All classifications of events: good and evil**
- ❏ **Trumpets sound *alarm or warnings***
- ❏ **God allows harm to prevail temporarily to *warn***
  - **All classifications of harm ...**
    - **war, pestilence, natural calamities ...**
    - **demonstrate the consequences of sin**
  - **We can see what life would be without God**
- ❏ **Seals demonstrate *power*; trumpets *warn***
- ❏ **Seals/trumpets are not necessarily sequential**

# One Historian Put it This Way

- **Before the Apostasy (33 to 150 AD)**
  - Christians strive to give as much as possible to Jesus and your fellow man.
- **After the Apostasy (after 313 AD)**
  - “Christian” strive to get all they could get from Jesus = idolatry.
- **Exceptions** – those who were persecuted for remaining faithful to the written word and oral traditions of the apostles and early church fathers, whose faithfulness persisted through the dark ages, the reformation, and is still alive today.