



Pagan Rome – The Rise and Fall of an Empire

Study guide # 4

Description	Verse	Details
64 BC: The Roman Empire comes into supremacy	Vs. 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.	Just as Daniel 8:9 declared, the Roman Empire would come out of the west conquering Macedonia, then go south and exert control over Egypt, and finally head east to conquer Seleucia. At this point, Rome essentially became the King of the North and South simultaneously. The Ledger of Truth also predicted that Rome would consume (<i>end, finish, destroy, waste</i>) the glorious land (Jerusalem) which would occur in 70 ad.
49 BC: Julius Caesar meets Cleopatra VII	Vs. 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.	The prophecy <i>drops us out of warp speed</i> at the time of Julius Caesar. Rome's aspirations of being the sole world superpower would prompt them to conquer the known world. The Gallic wars greatly extended the Roman territory and thus we see Rome setting its <i>face to enter with the strength of his whole kingdom</i> . <i>Upright ones</i> is somewhat obscure but it may be a reference to Israel—thus Rome's ambition to rule the whole kingdom (world) would also include God's chosen people. The daughter of women is likely a reference to Cleopatra VII, who would become involved with the Roman consul. Cleopatra's father placed her and her brother under the guardianship of the Roman Empire and in this manner, we see Ptolemaic Egypt gave Cleopatra VII to the Roman Empire. Even though Cleopatra seemed to be intrigued by Julius Caesar, her loyalties always remained with Egypt.
45 BC: Julius Caesar's war with Pompey become a pretext to his downfall	Vs. 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.	Julius Caesar was at war with another Roman consul named Pompey Magnus. However, after Pompey was killed, Julius turned his attention to the isles (coasts of the Iberian Peninsula) to root out any remaining opposition. Unfortunately for Julius, a Roman magistrate named Decimus Brutus, whom he loved like a son, would lead the Senators with their cause in making the same reproach (disgrace) fall upon Julius that he had caused to fall upon Pompey and Rome.
44 BC: Julius Caesar is assassinated	Vs. 19 - Then he shall turn his face toward the fort of his own land: but he shall stumble and fall, and not be found.	Julius Caesar returns to Rome and declares himself Dictator for life. However, after returning, he would be assassinated by the Senators.



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<p>27 BC – 14 AD: The reign of Augustus Caesar</p>	<p>Vs. 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.</p>	<p>The phrase “raiser of taxes,” refers to someone who sends an oppressor or an exactor throughout the realm. This exactor likely refers to the multiple censuses requested by Julius Caesar’s great-nephew, Augustus Caesar. According to Luke 2:1 he would make a decree <i>that all the world should be taxed</i>.</p> <p>According to the historical record, Augustus decreed three general censuses in order to properly tax the Roman people: In 28 BC, in 8 BC, and his final census was in 14 AD, the same year he died. Thus we understand he died within a few days of his final census and he would die of old age as opposed to being assassinated or killed in war.</p>
<p>14 AD: The reign of Tiberius Caesar</p>	<p>Vs. 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.</p>	<p>The meaning of vile in the original language is "one who is lightly esteemed, despised, or lowly regarded." Tiberius was known as a dark, reclusive ruler who was called "the gloomiest of men." One record even declares that Tiberius was once called vile.</p> <p>Because his predecessor died of old age and not by conquest, Tiberius was able to come into power <i>peaceably</i>. His mother’s maneuvering is what placed this Emperor on the throne, thus he <i>obtained the kingdom by flatteries</i>.</p>
<p>31 AD – 70 AD: The Crucifixion of Christ and destruction of Jerusalem</p>	<p>Vs. 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.</p>	<p>This verse seems to use some of the language of Daniel 9. We see the <i>flood</i> here is synonymous with 9:26 when it says, “...<i>the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood...</i>” Clearly, this is a reference to the destruction of Jerusalem.</p> <p>Then we see a reference to the Prince of the Covenant. This is obviously talking about Jesus Christ, Who is called “<i>Messiah the Prince</i>” in 9:25 and Who also “<i>confirms the Covenant...</i>” in 9:27. Thus we see the destruction of Jerusalem mentioned first, as this event was the result of the rejection and crucifixion of Christ.</p>



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430 AD: A new king in the south rises	Vs. 23 - And after the league made with him he shall work deceitfully: for he shall come up, and shall become strong with a small people.	After Daniel 11 touches on Christ's Crucifixion, the chapter then scans the panorama of prophecy to find the next conflict that was to arise from either the north, south, east, or west. In the 5 th century, swarms of Barbarians tribes poured into the Roman Empire. One of those tribes were known as Vandals. The Vandals would be the only tribe that would invade North Africa; however, once they made a treaty with Rome, which conceded the territory conquered by the Vandals, this would make these Barbarians the official King of the South. It is also no surprise that the Vandals would work deceitfully and break that treaty as they resumed their invasion and took Carthage in North Africa. The Vandals weren't the biggest or strongest tribe, yet they became a strong nation.
439 AD: The Vandals come into prosperity	Vs. 24 - He shall enter peaceably even upon the fattest 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.	Here the translators mistakenly translated the šalvâ as peaceably. However, further analysis reveals that the word should be <i>prosperity</i> . Thus it should be clear that these Vandals would come into prosperity as they took for themselves the most fertile regions within the Roman Empire— North Africa. Genseric, the king of the Vandals often forecasted his devices against the Romans as he always seemed to be a step ahead of them.
469 AD: The Battle of Cape Bon	Vs. 25 - And he shall stir up his power and his courage against the king of the south 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 shall forecast devices against him.	The Roman Empire assembled one of the largest naval forces of that time sending over 1,100 ships down to destroy the Vandals once and for all. However, the Romans would once again lose to the Vandals who would destroy over half the Roman fleet.
King Genseric's war strategy	Vs. 26 - Yea, they that feed of the portion of his meat shall destroy him, and his army shall overflow: and many shall fall down slain.	History reveals that not only did Genseric and the Vandals capture Roman vessels, but many of the Roman captains switched allegiances to the Vandalic kingdom. Thus we understand that the Roman captains represent those who were fed by the Roman Empire and were also used to the destroy the Roman Empire.



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<p>530 AD: Mutiny within the Vandalic Empire</p>	<p>Vs. 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.</p>	<p>In 530 AD, Genseric's grandson, Hilderic, was the king of the Vandals. His cousin Gelimer was next in line to be king. However, the historical record reveals that Gelimer believed that King Hilderic was going to change the laws of succession to prevent Gelimer from becoming the next king. Even though we don't have proof of Hilderic's plans, we do know Hilderic was pro-Roman and a Catholic Christian, while most Vandals were anti-Rome and Arian Christians. The historical record also reveals Gelimer plotted to overthrow his pro-Roman cousin and bring back the old Vandal ways. Thus we understand two kings (one current king, and another future king) sat at the same royal table and spoke lies to each other. The Bible says that neither would prosper, as Gelimer would kill Hilderic, but not long afterward would die at the hands of the Romans.</p>
<p>Justinian the Great</p>	<p>Vs. 28 - Then shall he return into his land with great riches; and his heart shall be against the holy covenant; and he shall do exploits, and return to his own land.</p>	<p>This verse brings Emperor Justinian to the forefront of prophecy's stage. There are three actions taken by Justinian that this verse wishes to expose:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <i>Return into his land with great riches</i> refers to the taxes that Justinian placed upon the wealthy in his kingdom. Because of overspending, Justinian bankrupted the Roman Empire, thus in order to return riches back to Rome he took it from the people in the form of taxes. 2) <i>His heart shall be against the holy covenant</i> refers to Justinian's desire to place the church into the hands of the Bishop of Rome. Christ came to establish the Holy Covenant with His people. And according to Hebrews 8:10, we would be God's people. However, when Justinian placed the Church in the hands of the Bishop of Rome, this made the Church the Pontiff's people not God's. 3) <i>Do exploits and return to his own land</i> refers to the fact that Justinian had a strong desire to restore the Roman Empire back to its former glory. In order to do this, the emperor decided to re-conquer the territories previously taken by the Barbarian tribes.



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533 AD: The Vandalic War	Vs. 29 - At the time appointed he shall return, and come toward the south; but it shall not be as the former, or as the latter.	History reveals that prior to the Vandalic war, there were two major conflicts where the Vandals were victorious against the Romans: 1) The Battle of Cartagena in 460 AD 2) The Battle of Cap Bon in 468 AD However, now in verse 29, we see that the Vandal's luck would finally run out. The Vandalic war would have a different result than the earlier battle (Cartagena) and the later battle (Cape Bon). In essence, the time is now appointed for the end of the Vandalic Empire.
The results of the Vandalic War	Vs. 30a - For the ships of Chittim shall come against him: therefore he shall be grieved...	Chittim is a term that refers to <i>islanders of the Mediterranean Sea</i> . This perfectly describes the Vandals, whose navy ruled the Mediterranean. History reveals that the Vandals took their fleet to quell an insurrection within their territory. This gave Justinian the perfect opportunity to bypass the Vandal fleet and reach Vandalic territory without having to contend with the Vandalic navy. Because the Romans were superior on land, this would result in the end of the Vandalic Empire.

Study and Discussion

Some believe that the Daughter of Women should refer to Cleopatra I. Why do you think this study believes this refers to Cleopatra VII?

Who is the Prince of the Covenant?

According to this view of Daniel 11, the prophecy jumps 400 years into the future after the destruction of Jerusalem. Why do you believe Daniel 11 goes back into warp speed after the Crucifixion and destruction of Jerusalem?