**The Ancient of Days and the Son of Man (Part 2)**

The Four Beasts and the Little Horn

Daniel 7 (Lesson #9)

Before Christmas we talked about prophecies, one of the things I said was that many prophecies have a literal, earthly, small fulfillment as well as a literal, spiritual, heavenly, and ultimate fulfillment.

I want to remind you of that point and expand the discussion. So, we will quickly look at two prophecies and draw some conclusions that will be critical for us going forward in the book of Daniel.

Prophecy #1: ***“14 And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt 15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son."” (Mt 2:14-15 ESV)***

***“1 When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. 2 The more they were called, the more they went away; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols. 3 Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up by their arms, but they did not know that I healed them. 4 I led them with cords of kindness, with the bands of love, and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws, and I bent down to them and fed them. 5 They shall not return to the land of Egypt, but Assyria shall be their king, because they have refused to return to me. 6 The sword shall rage against their cities, consume the bars of their gates, and devour them because of their own counsels. 7 My people are bent on turning away from me, and though they call out to the Most High, he shall not raise them up at all.” (Ho 11:1-7 ESV)***

OK, what did we just learn.

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Prophecy #2 ***“16 ¶ Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: 18 "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."” (Mt 2:16-18 ESV)***

***“15 Thus says the LORD: "A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more." 16 Thus says the LORD: "Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares the LORD, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. 17 There is hope for your future, declares the LORD, and your children shall come back to their own country.” (Jer 31:15-17 ESV)***

OK, what did we just learn.

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As we come to Daniel chapter 7, we are still in the city of Babylon, and we are we are taking a step backwards in time. In Daniel chapter 6 it was around 537ish(BC). We are now stepping backwards in time to the first year

of King Belshazzar (approximately 556 BC), so we are stepping backwards approximately 20 years.

Also, as we come to Daniel chapter 7 we cross one of the dividing lines in the book of Daniel. Let’s take a moment to reflect back to what we have seen so far and a glance forward to see what is coming.

The first six chapters of the book were principally historical narrative, they were the court stories of Babylon (as examples the golden statue, fiery furnace, handwriting on the wall, and the lions’ den). This historical narrative covered the span of time from 605BC to roughly 537BC. This was again, principally historical narrative with some prophecy mixed in.

The second six chapters are a totally different genre that is referred to as apocalyptic literature. Although you have probably heard this term before (The Revelation is apocalyptic literature), you may not have a working definition of what that means. It is prophecy, but it is prophecy where the truths are taught with imagery and graphic symbols. So, it is prophecy taught in a flowing graphic movie form, where the one receiving the visions sees powerful flowing imagines that represent other things. For example, today beasts, as we will see represent kingdoms and horns seem to represent kings.

Often times, in apocalyptic literature we find that God routinely provides in the vision a messenger, who helps explain the meaning of the symbols.

**This means, interpreting and understanding apocalyptic, literature, or stated differently understanding prophecies that are provided in apocalyptic literature are even more complex.**

**One observation and three recommendations:**

1. This is why there are different understandings about some of these things in Daniel.
2. This is why we should not be dogmatic on things that are not crystal clear.
3. This is why we should show grace to one another in areas where the church of the living God has not historically totally agreed (apocalyptic literature and prophecies).
4. It is best to find the main points and focus on those. It is easy as “Bible sleuths” to focus on the minutia and miss the main points altogether.

OK, so all of that by way of introduction. I would ask you keep all of this in mind as we advance in Daniel from here forward!

By way of reminder, the Aramaic section of Daniel began in Daniel 2:4 and goes until the end of chapter 7. It started with the vision of the statue that Nebuchadnezzar dreamed and it ends with the parallel vision in chapter seven involving four kingdoms.

Dr. Voddie Baucham said this about our text: *“Here is the great irony! We go to Daniel chapter 7 and people spend years, years, trying to interpret all the little details of the four beasts there in that first paragraph. What is this and what is that? What that rib, what is that bear. What is that this and what is that that? We get mired down in all this trying to figure out where this is coming from and where that is coming from. Folks, read Daniel chapter 7. Where is your attention supposed to go? To the Ancient of Days and the Son of Man and to the Kingdom that will never end! I do not have to know who all of those beasts are. All I have to know is that they are examples of the kingdom of men that come and go. They are violent and ungodly. And I long for the kingdom that has no end!”*

John MacArthur said this about chapter 7: *“Now, what is the theme of the vision? What is the heart and soul of the vision? Simply this – and mark it – the thrust, the theme, the major point of this vision is the coming of the King and the establishment of His eternal kingdom.”*

Chapter 7 divides into four movements, four scenes, four sections. Although one of them (the third scene) is a zoom in of the first scene.

***1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter. 2 Daniel declared, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea. 3 And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. 4 The first was like a lion and had eagles’ wings. Then as I looked its wings were plucked off, and it was lifted up from the ground and made to stand on two feet like a man, and the mind of a man was given to it. 5 And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, ‘Arise, devour much flesh.’ 6 After this I looked, and behold, another, like a leopard, with four wings of a bird on its back. And the beast had four heads, and dominion was given to it. 7 After this I saw in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, terrifying and dreadful and exceedingly strong. It had great iron teeth; it devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet. It was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns. 8 I considered the horns, and behold, there came up among them another horn, a little one, before which three of the first horns were plucked up by the roots. And behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things.***

Now as we read these verses at first, they seem very abstract. Almost disconnected from any reality that we are familiar with.

**VS 1 –** First year of Belshazzar. Our best estimate of when this vision occurred is **556 BC.**

\*\* If our timeline is correct, Nebuchadnezzar has been dead for 6 years or so. Daniel is probably no longer at a point of prominence, but it is during this quiet time that God gives a vision to Daniel! \*\*

**Vs 1 –** We see that Daniel had a dream and wrote it down. A dream that as we will see troubled him. God revealed… Daniel wrote!

It funny, you do not know, what you do not know. What we did not know, is that while Daniel is interpreting dreams and visions, he is also having dreams and visions that he cannot understand!

**Vs 1 –** Notice also that he **“told the sum of the matter.”** So, he wrote it down and it may be that he talked to God’s people about it.

**Vs 2a – Scene 1 –** He saw **“in my vision by night”.** So, it would seem that God is giving this revelation to Daniel via a dream as he sleeps. Keep this in mind.

**Vs 2b –** The we are told what he saw, **behold (NKJV – suddenly), the four winds of heaven were stirring up the Great Sea.**

The Great Sea, as Daniel would have understood it is more than likely the Mediterranean Sea.

Daniel would have been familiar with the Dead Sea, the Sea of Galilee, the Red Sea, and the Mediterranean Sea.

These four winds are stirring up the Great Sea (that is probably what he sees), but this Great Sea is representing something else. This is the nature of apocalyptic literature.

**Vs 2b -** The sea is often used to represent mankind or the world. In fact, this is what the angel tells John in Revelation when he has a vision involving the sea (specifically a great whore who sat upon many waters):

*“And the angel said to me, "The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages.” (Re 17:15 ESV)*

So Daniel saw an ocean, but it represented the sea of humanity. So, these beasts are coming out of the water (that is what he sees), but they are coming out of the sea of humanity (that is the lesson).

It is from this chaos and disorder that we are introduced to four **“great beasts.”** The word beast is the Aramaic word for **animal**.

**Vs 3 –** Daniel tells us the sum of what he is about to see: **And four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.**

**The good news, in verse 17, one of those present in the vision told Daniel what these beasts represent:**

*“These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth.” (Da 7:17 ESV)*

So again, apocalyptic literature, God is providing a heavenly messenger to help explain what He is showing the prophet that these animals represent four kings or a most scholars believe four kingdoms.

Most scholars (but not all) believe these are the same four kingdoms portrayed to Nebuchadnezzar in his dream (chapter 2). Although here the kingdoms are presented in a much more graphic and scarry way.

**Vs 4 -** So the first is a lion. A ferrous and powerful animal, with eagle’s wings. The eagle a fast and powerful bird, both of the animals eat flesh, both rule their dominion.

Here is a lion with eagle’s wings, we should be thinking of a fast and powerful animal.

Lion with eagle’s wings, most scholars agree this is Babylon. **But the wings are plucked off (it is lifted from earth) and made to stand on two feet like a man, given a man’s heart.** As we reflect back to what happened to Nebuchadnezzar, this is a good description.

When God humbled him (wings plucked off) because of his pride and yet God restored him (man’s heart was given to him) More than likely this was Nebuchadnezzar’s conversion.

**Vs 5 - *And behold, another beast, a second one, like a bear. It was raised up on one side. It had three ribs in its mouth between its teeth; and it was told, ‘Arise, devour much flesh.’***

**Behold – (NKJV) Suddenly ---** The second beast – Here we have a massive powerful bear. Again, a powerful animal, it is lifted up on one side, it was larger on one side. This seems like an odd observation, and it has three ribs in its mouth. Almost as if caught in the act of consuming another animal.

Notice what it was told - **‘Arise, devour much flesh.’**

This second ferocious beast replaces the first. So, we know these are kings or kingdoms, if the first is Babylon, **who is the second?**

Sure, historically it would be the Medo-Persian empire and if we look back to Nebuchadnezzar’s dream in Daniel chapter 2, this is this is the chest and arms of silver.

Now a weird observation, makes sense, namely this bear was **raised up on one side.** The Persians were a much larger and stronger portion of this Medo-Persian empire (out of balance if you will).

**Vs 5b -**  Had **three ribs** in its mouth. Now we cannot be sure, nor do we need to be dogmatic.

Although there is not complete agreement, there is at least a consensus that these three ribs represent the three countries that the Medo-Persina empire defeated to consolidate the empire, **Lydia** (546BC), **Babylon** (539BC), and **Egypt** (525BC).

Now, these are small details, but they seem to line up with what we know from history.

**Vs 6 -**  There is **behold** again (NKJV – **suddenly**), the third beast, a leopard (very fast) with four wings (even faster) and four heads. This animal was given dominion.

Here is another beast, a leopard known for its swiftness, with wings, making it even more swift and it has four heads. There is no obvious answer to who this is.

But if we take a peek at history and simply ask, who defeated the Medo-Persian empire, without belaboring any of the details, we know for sure who defeated the Medo-Persian empire.

It was the Grecian empire under Alexander the Great. In fact, the defining moment was the Battle of Arbela on Oct 1, 331BC.

Something that we should never forget. **No one knew who this beast was until after it happened. They had all the details, but it did not become obvious until it happened.**

Most scholars agree this is the Grecian empire (the initial king) (Alexander the great). Took to the throne at 20, conquered a great portion of the known world and died in Babylon at 32 planning his next campaign. (Best guesses for cause of death are poisoning or malaria).

The four heads, what in the world could that mean?- Following his death, Alexander did not have a son to leave his kingdom to and an internal struggle (we could deem it a free for all occurs). Ultimately the kingdom splits into four kingdoms, each led by his four generals:

* Cassander ruled Greece and Macedonia
* Lysimachus ruled Thrace and a large part of Asia Minor
* Seleucus I governed Syria, Babylon, and much of the middle east
* Ptolemy I controlled Egypt and Palestine

To consider for a moment these four heads are given to Daniel and this kingdom has not yet come into power! This is shockingly accurate!

**But no one would have understood all this in advance. This would only make sense after the fact.**

**Vs 7 -** The fourth beast, this beast is not described by animals we are familiar with, but instead with adjectives (dreadful, terrible, and very strong).

Iron teeth, devouring, breaking, and trampling the residue. Some believe the animal cannot be described but is like a dragon or dinosaur. Other believe it is a composite animal, we simply do not know.

What this is, from the text is not obvious, but again, if we look at history and ask what kingdom over-threw the Grecian kingdom. It is Rome, it is the Roman empire. In fact, it was at the Battle of Corinth in 146AD, that we see the beginning of the end, where Rome slowly overtook the Grecian empire.

Again, most scholars agree this is an apt description of the horrific and powerful nature of the old Roman empire.

**It was different than the other animals** (does not explain exactly why) but just in the fact that he could not be described by an animal we know makes it different. It is also horrific and grotesque.

**Also, notice it had ten horns**, we will talk more about these next week. But we would say these **likely correspond** to the ten toes of Nebuchadnezzar’s dream, that were not developed by Daniel when he gave the interpretation to the King.

**Vs 8 -** As Daniel (**considered**, the nature of the horns of this animal) A little horn appeared among them. **This little horn caused three of the 10 horns to be plucked out by their roots.**

Two quick observations about this little horn:

1. He had **“eyes like a man.”**
2. He also had a mouth that spoke “**great things**.” The word translated “great things” is the Aramiac word for great, as in the **“four great beasts”** of **Vs 3**. **רברב** (*rab-rab’).*

We will see more details about the little horn next week.

This is scene one… It was scary, probably somewhat confusing, each video if you will, probably played for a period of time and then fell to the next beast.

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**Then… Scene #2**

***9 "As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. 10 A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.***

**These are the most important verses in Daniel chapter 7. These are among the most important verses in the entire book of Daniel.**

**These are important theologically, these verses, as you will see are important Christologically, and these verses are important eschatologically.**

In the first eight verses we saw these wicked kingdoms rise out of the mass of humanity. This was scary, horrific, and violent.

**Vs 9 -** As Daniel is watching…. **Scene 1** seems to have a new scene that overlays it, we will call it **scene two**… This scene could be no more different from scene #1!

**In scene one, we were looking down at the sea, in scene two we are looking up towards heaven (the throne room of God)!**

**Vs 9 –** Daniel sees **“the Ancient of Days**” seated on his throne, his garment was white as snow, **(holiness and purity)** the hair on his head was pure like wool **(purity and wisdom)**.

Now as much as you pictured chaos and beasts that were horrible. You should picture just the opposite! We see a righteous kingdom, a king that is more pure, more strong, more beautiful, and more holy.

Here is the focus. Here are the most important verses in Daniel 7. Earthly kingdoms rise and fall all the while destroying one another.

But here is the majestic one. Who is seated on His throne, who is altogether lovely!

**Vs 9 –** **his throne was fiery flames -** WOW! This may be a picture of God, on his throne, in a way we have never imagined God! **God seated on a fiery throne!**

Imagine the sheer beauty and awe as the King of Heaven, the Ancient of Days, is seated on a fiery throne!

**Vs 9 -** **its wheels were burning fire.** This is the only place this word is used, the etymology is to swirl or whirlwind. It appears this a chariot throne, like a warrior would ride in, but much more awesome, much larger, much more spectacular!

**Vs 10 -** **A stream of fire issued and came out from before him;** If scene one grabbed our attention, this should even more. We are beholding, in picture form. The Throne of the Living God.

By the way this name for God **(Ancient of Days),** is only used by Daniel and only in three places (7:9, 7:13, and 7:22). All right here in this chapter.

**Vs 10b –** **A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.**

He is seated on a throne of fire, and fire is coming out before him. What our mind draws here, should be awesome!

Thousands serve him, ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him, and the courtroom is set for judgment.

Yes it appears to be judgment day. The books are opened!

These words and this picture are reminiscent of Rev 5:11-12-

*“11 And I saw, and I heard a voice of many angels round about the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; 12 saying with a great voice, Worthy is the Lamb that hath been slain to receive the power, and riches, and wisdom, and might, and honour, and glory, and blessing.” (Re 5:11-12 ERV)*

Or: Rev 20:11-12 –

*“11 ¶ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.” (Re 20:11-12 ESV)*

**Scene #1** The chaos and fake power of the four kingdoms of the world.

**Scene #2** **The serenity and true power of the Sovereign of the Universe, the King of Heaven, the King of glory, the Mighty God, the Ancient of Days.**

God is enthroned and thousands upon thousands are surrounding him and worshipping Him.

**The kingdom of God, this is the focus of Daniel. This should be our focus.**

There is turmoil in this world, wicked kingdoms rise, and they are put down by more wicked kingdoms.

But there is a throne that stands above all of this chaos and turmoil.

By the way something incredible is about to be pictured in this kingdom, something amazing, something wonderful. Something that changes everything! We will see it next week.

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Scene #3 comes into focus….

***11 "I looked then because of the sound of the great words that the horn was speaking. And as I looked, the beast was killed, and its body destroyed and given over to be burned with fire. 12 As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away, but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.***

**VS 11 -** As he is watching this, taking it all in, He hears **“great words”** from the little horn of the first scene….

**Vs 11 -** He watches, the suddenly this beast that could not be described. This beast that was horrible, powerful, and terrible is killed (apparently along with the horns and the little horn and thrown into the burning fire.

Suddenly, without warning, without elaboration… The beast is killed it’s body destroyed!

**This is a stark reminder that our God reigns! This is the point of the whole chapter and indeed the whole book of Daniel.**

**Vs 12a -** **As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was taken away.**

If each beast is a kingdom… which they are. Then this is a good description of what happened, the **kingdom was destroyed**, but **the people (for the most part) were allowed to live in and under the new kingdom.**

**Vs 12b –** **but their lives were prolonged for a season and a time.**

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**So, scene #4 comes into focus….**

**13** "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. **14** And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

**So, scene #4 comes into focus….**

**Two characters are central…**

One like the Son of man… And The Ancient of Days from **Scene 2**.

**VS 13 -** I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven

This one is coming with the clouds of heaven!

Son of Man - This is a title for the Messiah, It is also a **very human title** and often it is used in the Old Testament to describe a “son of a man”.

It was the term used by God when he spoke to Ezekiel. In fact it is used over 90 times!

One Example (Ezek 2:1-3) “**1** ¶ And He said to me, “Son of man, stand on your feet, and I will speak to you.” **2** Then the Spirit entered me when He spoke to me, and set me on my feet; and I heard Him who spoke to me. **3** And He said to me: “Son of man, I am sending you to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that has rebelled against Me; they and their fathers have transgressed against Me to this very day.” (Eze 2:1-3 NKJV)

**But here Daniel is using it to describe the coming Messiah, as the “Son of Man”**

**This phrase Son of man, is how Jesus referred to himself** (almost 80 times recorded in the gospels).

One Example: Mat 9:6 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”  — then He said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.

**VS 13 -** The son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.

So the Son of Man is brought before the Ancient of Days…

**Vs 14 -** And to him (Son of Man) was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

**The (eternal and universal) kingdom that never passes away in Daniel has always belonged to God, to the Ancient of Days, to the King of Heaven.**

**Here the Ancient of Days is pictured as “giving this kingdom and its dominion” to the Son of Man…**

**The kingdom that will not pass away or be destroyed is passed from the Father to the Son!**

**So when did this happen?**

*“****28*** *Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.* ***29*** *For our God is a consuming fire.” (Heb 12:28-29 NKJV)*

*“And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” (Mt 28:18 NKJV)*

The full manifestation is when He returns!

Scene 1 began as a nightmare, scene 4 ends with the joyous reminder that Christ has received, and thus we are members and have received the keys to the kingdom. We are fellow citizens and saints now.

The fourth beast (and indeed all beasts) are powerless before the sovereign ONE!

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***15 "As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me. 16 I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things. 17 ’These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. 18 But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.’***

**VS 15 –** Daniel is still grieved with his spirit, and troubled by the things he saw (in particular with the last beast).

As you will see, he is **alarmed** (his word, not mine) by the fourth beast and the little horn.

**Vs 16 –** I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things.

This is common in apocolytic literature, where in a vision the person receiving the vision is interacting within the vision itself.

**Vs 16 –** Two quick things:

1. We had no idea that there was anyone else is here in this vision upon his bed, but here in this dream, Daniel begins to interact with others in this dream who were “standing there.”
2. This angel, heavenly being, whatever, tells Daniel the interpretation of what he has seen.

**Vs 17 –** The four beasts are four kings, more than likely representing (as in chapter 2) four kingdoms… **Most scholars agree.**

**Babylonian empire**

**Medo-Persian Empire**

**Grecian Empire**

**Roman Empire**

**Vs 18 –** Is most interesting, it is like the heavenly being is trying to refocus Daniel. **But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.’**

**Now the question becomes when have the saints of the Most High received the kingdom. Now or in the future?**

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***19 "Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the rest, exceedingly terrifying, with its teeth of iron and claws of bronze, and which devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet, 20 and about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions. 21 As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, 22 until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.***

**Vs 19 –** In spite of what appeared to be a refocus by the heavenly messenger, Daniel wants to know more about the fourth beast. It was different and exceedingly dreadful. Teeth of iron, nails of bronze, devoured and trampled….

**VS 20 –** And he wanted to know more about the ten horns that were on the head of the beast, and the other horn (that caused three to fall… the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions.

**Vs 21 –** We are told of this little horn… Daniel of this little horn… As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them,

**To be honest…**

**Scholars are all over the place and if we are honest, I doubt we can ever really be absolutely sure on the identity of this little horn. But we will give it a try.**

**Vs 21 –** But what is important for you and I is contained in verses 21 and 22: **21** As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over them, **22** until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.

***23 "Thus he said: ‘As for the fourth beast, there shall be a fourth kingdom on earth, which shall be different from all the kingdoms, and it shall devour the whole earth, and trample it down, and break it to pieces. 24 As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise, and another shall arise after them; he shall be different from the former ones, and shall put down three kings. 25 He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law; and they shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time. 26 But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. 27 And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.’***

**Vs 23 –** The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom. That will be different from all other kingdoms and shall devour the whole earth, trample it, and break it in pieces.

If we stick with Rome, then what falls must fit within that schema.

If we make this forth beast, something different, a beast that comes during our time (as an example). Then we must admit, we have made the first three beasts (Babylonian empire, Medo-Persian empire, and then Grecian empire. Then we bypass the Most wicked of the group (ROME) and jump thousands of years in the future.

We can do this but we must admit, it makes prophecy fit anyone’s schema (there are no boundaries, no connections)

**VS 24 -** As for the ten horns, out of this kingdom ten kings shall arise. If the fourth beast is Rome, then we should be looking for 10 kings that rose out, or will rise out of Rome. The we should look for another (who rises out of Rome) 11th horn. The little horn.

This 11th horn, should subdue, three of the first ten horns.

**Vs 25 -**  He shall speak words against the Most High, and shall wear out the saints of the Most High, and shall think to change the times and the law;

As we consider this little horn he will speak pompous words against God, he will persecute the saints of God, and he will attempt to change times and laws!

This little horn, kills the saints, this little horn persecutes the saints. This little horn does everything within his power to CRUSH the saints of the Most High.

This little horn attempts to change everything about God’s word and God’s law.

**Vs 25 -** and they (the saints) shall be given into his hand for a time, times, and half a time.

Awful things happen to the saints. In fact, they are given into the hands of the little horn!

“strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting *them* to continue in the faith, and *saying*, “We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”” (Ac 14:22 NKJV)

For a 3 ½ times, **a broken seven**. Not complete…

**Vs 26 -** But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end.

**AHHHHH look at this BUT! In this life, we will have tribulation. Not because there is a single antichrist. But according to John, because there are many antichrists!**

**Vs 27 -** And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.’

The pressing question… Is this future? Is this final judgment or is this a present tense reality because of the work of Christ at Calvary?

**Vs 28 -** "Here is the end of the matter. As for me, Daniel, my thoughts greatly alarmed me, and my color changed, but I kept the matter in my heart."”

Clearly this matter troubled Daniel.

Clearly, he did not fully understand it.

Clearly the fourth beast and in particular the little horn was VERY disturbing to our brother!

As you know I listen to a few speakers on a target text each week and at the end of his sermon on Daniel 7, the pastor said this quoting from Adrian Rodgers (be believed).

**We should live like yesterday was Christmas, today is Easter, and tomorrow is the second coming. Stated differently. Jesus was born yesterday, he died today, and he is coming back tomorrow.**

**We should live our live under that blazing throne of the Ancient of Days!**

Where is Jesus in Daniel 7?

This is easy… **He is front and center**, He is the one who following His work at the cross is ushered into the presence of the Ancient of Days and receives a kingdom that will not pass away and cannot be destroyed!

**13** "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. **14** And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

But there is more… The Son of man is the one who destroys every world power and king who would array themselves against Him…

The deathblow amazingly enough occurred at Calvary, when Jesus cried:

Joh 19:30 So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “**It** **is** **finished**!” And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

Paul said it this way: Col 2:13-15 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, **14** having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. **15** Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”

“He stripped all the spiritual tyrants in the universe of their sham authority at the Cross and marched them naked through the streets.” (Col 2:15 Message)

I present to you The SON OF MAN!

Jesus is presented at the antithesis of these worldly kingdoms!

These kingdoms are inaugurated by violence, He has violence done to him.

Theirs taken by force - his granted by ancient of days

Their kingdoms are geopolitical his global, His universal

These kingdoms are temporary and flow from one to another – His Kingdom has no end.

That is the Kingdom Daniel belonged to, it is the kingdom you and I belonged to.

The identity of the ten horns and the little horn:

Calvin – The ten horns represent that the empire belonged to more than a single ruler. W see this with the setting up of “proconsul or praetor”. The little hourn is Julius Caesar.

Adam Clark – The ten horns represent the ten kingdoms into which the Roman Empire was divided (thus: — 1. The Roman senate. 2. The *Greeks*, in *Ravenna*. 3. The *Lombards* in *Lombardy*. 4. The *Huns* in *Hungary*. 5. The *Alemans*, in *Germany*. 6. The *Franks* in *France*. 7. The *Burgundians* in *Burgundy*.. 8. The *Saracens* in Africa, and a part of Spain. 9. The *Goths*, in other parts of Spain. 10. And the *Saxons*, in *Britain*

*Many protestant writers considered popedom to be the little horn.*

*John Gill he ten horns* 1. Italy and Germany; 2. France; 3. Spain;

4. England with Ireland; 5. Scotland; 6. Hungary; 7. Poland with Lithuania; 8. Denmark, with Sweden and Norway, Sweden being since divided; 9. Portugal; 10. The Grecian empire seized by the Ottomans.

Popedom is the little horn. It is the one that wears out the saints.

Fam, Fac, Brown – The ten horns are the ten kingdoms of the Roman empire. The Western Roman empire continued till A.D. 731, and the Eastern, till A.D. 1453.

 — the exarchate of Ravenna, the kingdom of the Lombards and the state of Rome, which constituted the Pope’s dominions at the first; obtained by Pope Zachary and Stephen II in return for acknowledging the usurper Pepin lawful king of France [NEWTON].

Note. The "little horn," in his view, is to be Antichrist rising three and a half years before Christ’s second advent, having first overthrown three of the ten contemporaneous kingdoms, into which the fourth monarchy, under which we live, shall be finally divided. Popery seems to be a fulfilment of the prophecy in many particulars, the Pope claiming to be God on earth and above all earthly dominions; but the spirit of Antichrist prefigured by Popery will probably culminate in ONE *individual,* to be destroyed by Christ’s coming; He will be the product of the political *world* powers, whereas Popery which prepares His way, is a *Church* become worldly.

**The Roman Emperors**

1. [**Julius Caesar**](https://www.thoughtco.com/julius-caesar-summary-and-study-guide-117538)

Gaius Julius Caesar was a great Roman leader at the end of the Roman Republic. Julius Caesar was born three days before the Ides of July, on July 13 in c. 100 BCE. His father's family was from the patrician gens of the Julii, which traced its lineage to the first king of Rome, Romulus, and the goddess Venus. His parents were Gaius Caesar and Aurelia, daughter of Lucius Aurelius Cotta. Caesar was related by marriage to [Marius](https://www.thoughtco.com/roman-leader-marius-119723), who supported the populares, and opposed [Sulla](https://www.thoughtco.com/lucius-cornelius-sulla-121156), who supported the [optimates](https://www.thoughtco.com/ancient-roman-history-optimates-119359).

In 44 BCE conspirators claiming they feared Caesar was aiming to become king assassinated Caesar on the [Ides of March](https://www.thoughtco.com/ides-of-march-julius-caesars-fate-117542).

 Of note:

1. Julius Caesar was a general, a statesman, a lawgiver, an orator, and historian.
2. He never lost a war.
3. Caesar [fixed the calendar](https://www.thoughtco.com/roman-calendar-terminology-111519).
4. He is thought to have created the first news sheet, *Acta Diurna*, which was posted on the forum to let everyone who cared to read it know what the Assembly and Senate were up to.
5. He instigated an enduring law against extortion.
6. [**Octavian (Augustus)**](https://www.thoughtco.com/augustus-and-the-augustan-age-111424)

Gaius Octavius—known as Augustus—was born on September 23, 63 BCE, to a prosperous family of knights. He was Julius Caesar's great-nephew.

Augustus was born in Velitrae, southeast of Rome. His father (d. 59 BCE) was a Senator who became Praetor. His mother, Atia, was the niece of Julius Caesar. Augustus' rule of Rome ushered in an [era of peace](https://www.thoughtco.com/what-was-the-pax-romana-120829). He was so important to Roman history that the age which he dominated is called by his title—[the Augustan Age](https://www.thoughtco.com/augustus-and-the-augustan-age-111424).

1. [**Tiberius**](https://www.thoughtco.com/tiberius-roman-emperor-121262)

Tiberius, emperor of Rome (born 42 BCE, died 37 CE) reigned as Emperor between 14–37 CE.

Tiberius was neither the first choice of Augustus nor popular with the Roman people. When he went into self-imposed exile to the island of Capri and left the ruthless, ambitious Praetorian Prefect, [L. Aelius Sejanus](https://www.thoughtco.com/timeline-of-tiberius-121263), in charge back at Rome, he sealed his everlasting fame. If that weren't enough, Tiberius angered the senators by invoking treason (*maiestas*) charges against his enemies, and while in Capri he may have engaged in sexual perversions that were unsavory for the times and would be criminal in the U.S. today.

1. **Caligula**

Known as "Caligula" ('Little Boots'), Gaius Caesar Augustus Germanicus was born August 31, CE 12, died 41 CE, and ruled as emperor 37–41 CE. Caligula was the son of Augustus' adopted grandson, the very popular Germanicus, and his wife, Agrippina the Elder who was Augustus' granddaughter and a paragon of womanly virtue.

Soldiers nicknamed the boy *Caligula* 'little boots' for the small army boots he wore when with his father's troops.

When Emperor Tiberius died, on March 16, 37 CE, his will named Caligula and his cousin Tiberius Gemellus heirs. Caligula had the will voided and became sole emperor. Initially Caligula was very generous and popular, but that quickly changed. He was cruel, indulged in sexual aberrations that offended Rome, and was considered insane. The Praetorian Guard had him killed on January 24, 41 CE.

**5 - Claudius**

Tiberius Claudius Nero Germanicus (10 BCE–54 CE), ruled as emperor, January 24, 41 CE–October 13, 54 CE) and known as Claudius, suffered from various physical infirmities which many thought reflected his mental state. As a result, Claudius was secluded, a fact that kept him safe. Having no public duties to perform, Claudius was free to pursue his interests.

**6 - Nero**

Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus (December 15, 37 CE–June 9, 68 CE, ruled the Roman Empire between October 13, 54 and June 9, 68.

The boy who would become Nero was born Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus, on Dec. 15, 37 CE, the son of Gnaeus Domitius Ahenobarbus and Caligula's sister Agrippina the Younger at [Antium](https://www.thoughtco.com/the-growth-of-rome-120891), which is also where Nero was staying when the famous fire broke out. His father died in 40. As a young boy, Lucius received many honors, including leading youth in the Trojan Games in 47 and being prefect of the city (probably) for the 53 spring Latin games. He was allowed to wear the [*toga virilis*](https://www.thoughtco.com/six-types-of-toga-in-ancient-rome-117805) at a young age (probably 14) instead of at the normal 16. Lucius' stepfather, the Emperor Claudius, died, probably at the hands of his wife Agrippina. Lucius, whose name had been changed to Nero Claudius Caesar (showing lineage from Augustus), became the Emperor Nero.

A series of unpopular treason laws in 62 CE and the fire in Rome in 64 helped seal Nero's reputation. Nero used the treason laws to kill whomever Nero considered a threat and the fire gave him the opportunity to build his golden palace, the *"domus aurea*." Between 64 and 68 a colossal statue of Nero was built that stood in the vestibule of the *domus aurea*.

**7 - Galba**

Servius Galba (December 24, 3 BCE–January 15, 69, ruled 68–69) was born in Tarracina, the son of C. Sulpicius Galba and Mummia Achaica. Galba served in civil and military positions throughout the reigns of the Julio-Claudian emperors, but when he (then governor of Hispania Tarraconensis) became aware that Nero wanted him killed, he rebelled. Galba's agents won over to their side Nero's praetorian prefect. After Nero committed suicide, Galba, who was in Hispania, became emperor, arriving in Rome in October 68, in the company of Otho, governor of Lusitania. Although there is scholarly debate as to when Galba actually assumed power, taking titles of emperor and caesar, there is a dedication from October 15, 68 about the restoration of liberty that implies his ascension.

Galba antagonized many, including Otho, who promised financial rewards to the praetorians in exchange for their support. They declared Otho emperor on January 15, 69, and killed Galba.

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**Otho**

Imperator Marcus Otho Caesar Augustus Otho. [© Trustees of the British Museum, produced by Natalia Bauer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme](https://www.flickr.com/photos/finds/1194945760/)

Otho (Marcus Salvius Otho, April 28, 32–April 16, 69) was of Etruscan ancestry and the son of a Roman knight, and he became emperor of Rome on the death of Galba in 69. He had entertained hopes of being adopted by Galba whom he had helped, but then turned against Galba. After Otho's soldiers proclaimed him emperor on January 15, 69, he had Galba assassinated. Meanwhile the troops in Germany proclaimed Vitellius emperor. Otho offered to share the power and to make Vitellius his son-in-law, but that was not in the cards.

After Otho's defeat at Bedriacum on April 14, it is thought that shame led Otho to plan his suicide. He was succeeded by Vitellius.

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**Vitellius**

Aulus Vitellius Vitellius. [© Trustees of the British Museum, produced by Natalia Bauer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme](https://www.flickr.com/photos/finds/1194950080/in/photostream/)

Vitellius was born in September of 15 CE and spent his youth at Capri. He was on friendly terms with the last three Julio-Claudians and advanced to proconsul of North Africa. He was also a member of two priesthoods, including the Arval brotherhood. Galba appointed him governor of Lower Germany in 68.

Vitellus' troops proclaimed him emperor the next year instead of swearing their allegiance to Galba. In April, the soldiers in Rome and the Senate swore their allegiance to Vitellius. Vitellius made himself consul for life and *pontifex maximus*. By July, the soldiers of Egypt were supporting Vespasian. Otho's troops and others supported the Flavians, who marched into Rome.

Vitellius met his end by being tortured on the Scalae Gemoniae, killed and dragged by a hook into the Tiber.

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**Vespasian**

Imperator Titus Flavius Vespasianus Caesar Vespasian. [© Trustees of the British Museum, produced by Natalia Bauer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme](https://www.flickr.com/photos/finds/1194082571/)

Titus Flavius Vespasianus was born in 9 CE, and ruled as emperor from 69 until his death 10 years later, succeeded by his son Titus. Vespasian's parents, of the equestrian class, were T. Flavius Sabinus and Vespasia Polla. Vespasian married Flavia Domitilla with whom he had a daughter and two sons, Titus and Domitian, both of whom became emperors.

Following a revolt in Judaea in 66, Nero gave Vespasian a special commission to take care of it. Following the suicide of Nero, Vespasian swore allegiance to his successors, but then revolted with the governor of Syria in spring of 69. He left the siege of Jerusalem to his son Titus.

On December 20, Vespasian arrived in Rome and Vitellius was dead. Vespasian, who then became emperor, launched a building plan and restoration of the city of Rome at a time when its wealth had been depleted by civil wars and irresponsible leadership. Vespasian reckoned that he needed 40 billion sesterces to fix Rome, so he inflated the currency and increased provincial taxation. He also gave money to insolvent senators so they could keep their positions. Suetonius says

"He was the first to establish a regular salary of a hundred thousand sesterces for Latin and Greek teachers of rhetoric, paid from the privy purse."  
1914 Loeb translation of Suetonius, *The Lives of the Caesars* "The Life of Vespasian"

For this reason it can be said that Vespasian was the first to start a system of public education.

Vespasian died of natural causes on June 23, 79.

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**Titus**

Imperator Titus Caesar Vespasianus Augustus Imperator Titus Caesar Vespasianus Augustus. [© Trustees of the British Museum, produced by Natalia Bauer for the Portable Antiquities Scheme](https://www.flickr.com/photos/finds/1194949220/in/photostream/)

Titus, the older brother of Domitian, and the older son of the Emperor Vespasian and his wife Domitilla, was born December 30 in 41 CE. He grew up in the company of Britannicus, son of the Emperor Claudius, and shared Britannicus' training. This meant Titus had enough military training and was ready to be a *legatus legionis* when his father Vespasian received his Judaean command. While in Judaea, Titus fell in love with Berenice, daughter of Herod Agrippa. She later came to Rome where Titus continued his affair with her until he became emperor. When Vespasian died on June 24, 79, Titus became emperor. He lived another 26 months.

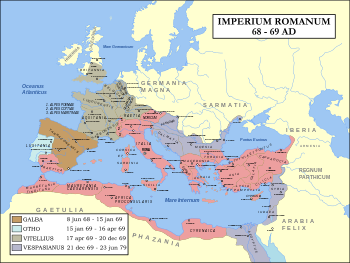
In 66 the Jews of the [Judaea Province](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iudaea_Province) [revolted against the Roman Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Jewish-Roman_War). [Cestius Gallus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cestius_Gallus), the [legate of Syria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Syria#Syria_in_antiquity), was defeated at [the battle of](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Beth_Horon_(66)) [Beth-Horon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beth-Horon) and forced to retreat from [Jerusalem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerusalem).[[15]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus#cite_note-16) The pro-Roman king [Agrippa II](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agrippa_II) and his sister [Berenice](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Berenice_(daughter_of_Agrippa_I)) fled the city to [Galilee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galilee) where they later gave themselves up to the Romans.[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus#cite_note-ReferenceA-17)

Nero appointed Vespasian to put down the rebellion, who was dispatched to the region at once with the [Fifth Legion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legio_V_Macedonica) and [Tenth Legion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legio_X_Fretensis).[[16]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus#cite_note-ReferenceA-17) He was later joined at [Ptolemais](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acre,_Israel) by Titus with the [Fifteenth Legion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legio_XV_Apollinaris).[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus#cite_note-josephus-wars-iii-4-2-18) With a strength of 60,000 professional soldiers, the Romans prepared to sweep across Galilee and march on Jerusalem.[[17]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus#cite_note-josephus-wars-iii-4-2-18)

The history of the war was covered in detail by the Roman-Jewish historian [Josephus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josephus) in his work [*The War of the Jews*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_War_of_the_Jews). Josephus served as a commander in the city of [Yodfat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jotapata) when the Roman army invaded Galilee in 67. After an exhausting siege which lasted 47 days, the city fell, with an estimated 40,000 killed. Titus, however, was not simply set on ending the war.[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus#cite_note-19)

Surviving one of several group suicides, Josephus surrendered to Vespasian and became a prisoner. He later wrote that he provided the Romans with intelligence on the ongoing revolt.[[19]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus#cite_note-20) By 68, the entire coast and the north of Judaea were subjugated by the Roman army, with decisive victories won at [Taricheae](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magdala) and [Gamala](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gamla), where Titus distinguished himself as a skilled general.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus#cite_note-suetonius-titus-4-14)[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus#cite_note-21)

#### Year of the Four Emperors[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Titus&action=edit&section=5)]

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Roman_Empire_69.svg)

A map of the Roman Empire during the [Year of the Four Emperors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Year_of_the_Four_Emperors) (AD 69). Blue areas indicate provinces loyal to Vespasian and [Gaius Licinius Mucianus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaius_Licinius_Mucianus).

The last and most significant fortified city held by the [Jewish resistance](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zealotry) was Jerusalem. The campaign came to a sudden halt when news arrived of Nero's death.[[21]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus#cite_note-josephus-wars-iv-9-2-22) Almost simultaneously, the [Roman Senate](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_Senate) had declared [Galba](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galba), then governor of [Hispania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hispania), as Emperor of Rome. Vespasian decided to await further orders, and sent Titus to greet the new [*princeps*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Princeps).[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus#cite_note-23)

Before reaching Italy, Titus learnt that Galba had been murdered and replaced by [Otho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Otho), governor of [Lusitania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lusitania), and that [Vitellius](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vitellius) and his armies in [Germania](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germania) were preparing to march on the capital, intent on overthrowing Otho. Not wanting to risk being taken hostage by one side or the other, he abandoned the journey to Rome and rejoined his father in Judaea.[[23]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus#cite_note-tacitus-histories-ii-2-24) Meanwhile, Otho was defeated in the [First Battle of Bedriacum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_Battle_of_Bedriacum) and committed suicide.[[24]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus#cite_note-25)

When the news reached the armies in Judaea and [Ægyptus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%86gyptus), they took matters into their own hands and declared Vespasian emperor on 1 July 69.[[25]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus#cite_note-26) Vespasian accepted, and through negotiations by Titus, joined forces with [Gaius Licinius Mucianus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mucianus), governor of Syria.[[26]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus#cite_note-27) A strong force drawn from the Judaean and Syrian legions marched on Rome under the command of Mucianus, while Vespasian travelled to [Alexandria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alexandria), leaving Titus in charge to end the Jewish rebellion.[[27]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus#cite_note-28)[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus#cite_note-29) By the end of 69, the forces of Vitellius had been beaten, and Vespasian was officially declared emperor by the Senate on 21 December, thus ending the [Year of the Four Emperors](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Year_of_the_Four_Emperors).[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus#cite_note-30)

#### Siege of Jerusalem[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Titus&action=edit&section=6)]

*Main article:* [*Siege of Jerusalem (AD 70)*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Jerusalem_(AD_70))

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Francesco_Hayez_017.jpg)

*Destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem*, [Francesco Hayez](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francesco_Hayez), oil on canvas, 1867. Depicting the destruction and looting of the Second Temple by the Roman army.

Meanwhile, the Jews had become embroiled in a civil war of their own, splitting the resistance in Jerusalem among several factions. The [Sicarii](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sicarii), led by [Menahem ben Judah](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Menahem_ben_Judah), could hold on for long; the [Zealots](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zealots), led by [Eleazar ben Simon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eleazar_ben_Simon), eventually fell under the command of the Galilean leader [John of Gush Halav](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_of_Gischala); and the other northern rebel commander, [Simon Bar Giora](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simon_Bar_Giora), managed to gain leadership over the [Idumeans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edom).[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus#cite_note-31) Titus [besieged Jerusalem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Siege_of_Jerusalem_(70)). The Roman army was joined by the [Twelfth Legion](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Legio_XII_Fulminata), which had been previously defeated under [Cestius Gallus](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cestius_Gallus), and from Alexandria, Vespasian sent [Tiberius Julius Alexander](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tiberius_Julius_Alexander), governor of Egypt, to act as Titus' second in command.[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus#cite_note-32)

Titus surrounded the city, with three legions (Vth, XIIth and XVth) on the western side and one (Xth) on the [Mount of Olives](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mount_of_Olives) to the east. He put pressure on the food and water supplies of the inhabitants by allowing pilgrims to enter the city to celebrate [Passover](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Passover), and then refusing them egress. Jewish raids continuously harassed the Roman army, one of which nearly resulted in Titus being captured.[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus#cite_note-33)

After attempts by Josephus to negotiate a surrender had failed, the Romans resumed hostilities and quickly breached the first and second walls of the city.[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus#cite_note-34) To intimidate the resistance, Titus ordered deserters from the Jewish side to be [crucified](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crucifixion) around the city wall.[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus#cite_note-35) By this time the Jews had been exhausted by famine, and when the weak third wall was breached, bitter street fighting ensued.[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus#cite_note-36)

The Romans finally captured the [Antonia Fortress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antonia_Fortress) and began a frontal assault on the gates of [the Temple](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Temple).[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus#cite_note-37) As they breached the gate, the Romans set the upper and lower city aflame, culminating with the destruction of the [Second Temple](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Second_Temple). When the fires subsided, Titus gave the order to destroy the remainder of the city, allegedly intending that no one would remember the name Jerusalem.[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus#cite_note-38) The Temple was demolished, after which Titus' soldiers proclaimed him [*imperator*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Imperator) in honor of the victory.[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Titus#cite_note-39)

**Out of Egypt have I called my son…**

Hos 11:1 ¶ When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

2 The more they were called, the more they went away; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols.

3 Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up by their arms, but they did not know that I healed them.

4 I led them with cords of kindness, with the bands of love, and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws, and I bent down to them and fed them.

[**Hos 11:1**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Hos%2011.1) **When Israel *was* a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.**

In Matthew we are told that Hosea’s words also apply to Jesus Christ when he was a young boy. Jesus and his parents fled out of Israel to Egypt when King Herod tried to kill all the young boys in Bethlehem. A few years later Jesus returned to the land of Israel from Egypt.

[**Mat 2:14-15**](https://biblia.com/bible/nkjv/Matt%202.14-15) **When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: 15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.**

1 ¶ And it came to pass in the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, *that* Rezin the king of Syria, and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, went up toward Jerusalem to war against it, but could not prevail against it.

2 And it was told the house of David, saying, Syria is confederate with Ephraim. And his heart was moved, and the heart of his people, as the trees of the wood are moved with the wind.

3 Then said the LORD unto Isaiah, Go forth now to meet Ahaz, thou, and Shearjashub thy son, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool in the highway of the fuller’s field;

4 And say unto him, Take heed, and be quiet; fear not, neither be fainthearted for the two tails of these smoking firebrands, for the fierce anger of Rezin with Syria, and of the son of Remaliah.

5 Because Syria, Ephraim, and the son of Remaliah, have taken evil counsel against thee, saying,

6 Let us go up against Judah, and vex it, and let us make a breach therein for us, and set a king in the midst of it, *even* the son of Tabeal:

7 Thus saith the Lord GOD, It shall not stand, neither shall it come to pass.

8 For the head of Syria *is* Damascus, and the head of Damascus *is* Rezin; and within threescore and five years shall Ephraim be broken, that it be not a people.

9 And the head of Ephraim *is* Samaria, and the head of Samaria *is* Remaliah’s son. If ye will not believe, surely ye shall not be established.

10 ¶ Moreover the LORD spake again unto Ahaz, saying,

11 Ask thee a sign of the LORD thy God; ask it either in the depth, or in the height above.

12 But Ahaz said, I will not ask, neither will I tempt the LORD.

13 And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David; *Is it* a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also?

14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

15 Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.

16 For before the child shall know to refuse the evil, and choose the good, the land that thou abhorrest shall be forsaken of both her kings.

Lessons about prophecy and dual fulfillment:

* 1. The first is obvious and fits the historical/ grammatical context of the prophecy.
  2. The first fulfillment is first in time.
  3. The second fulfillment is only “obvious” after the fact.
  4. This means, we must be humble about “second fulfillments” still in the future
  5. The second fulfillment is the more significant fulfillment

**Because we are diving off into prophecies a quick point that will be helpful today about prophecies.**

Hos 11:1 When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. 2 The more they were called, the more they went away; they kept sacrificing to the Baals and burning offerings to idols.

3 Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk; I took them up by their arms, but they did not know that I healed them. 4 I led them with cords of kindness, with the bands of love, and I became to them as one who eases the yoke on their jaws, and I bent down to them and fed them.

Mat 2:13-15 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.” **14** When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, **15** and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “Out of Egypt I called My Son.””

Is 7:1 ¶ Now it came to pass in the days of Ahaz the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, *that* Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, went up to Jerusalem to *make* war against it, but could not prevail against it. 2 And it was told to the house of David, saying, “Syria’s forces are deployed in Ephraim.” So his heart and the heart of his people were moved as the trees of the woods are moved with the wind. 3 Then the LORD said to Isaiah, “Go out now to meet Ahaz, you and Shear-Jashub your son, at the end of the aqueduct from the upper pool, on the highway to the Fuller’s Field, 4 “and say to him: ‘Take heed, and be quiet; do not fear or be fainthearted for these two stubs of smoking firebrands, for the fierce anger of Rezin and Syria, and the son of Remaliah. 5 ‘Because Syria, Ephraim, and the son of Remaliah have plotted evil against you, saying, 6 “Let us go up against Judah and trouble it, and let us make a gap in its wall for ourselves, and set a king over them, the son of Tabel”  —  7 ‘thus says the Lord GOD: “It shall not stand, Nor shall it come to pass. 8 For the head of Syria *is* Damascus, And the head of Damascus *is* Rezin. Within sixty-five years Ephraim will be broken, *So that it will* not *be* a people. 9 The head of Ephraim *is* Samaria, And the head of Samaria *is* Remaliah’s son. If you will not believe, Surely you shall not be established.”’ ” 10 ¶ Moreover the LORD spoke again to Ahaz, saying, 11 “Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above.” 12 But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!” 13 Then he said, “Hear now, O house of David! *Is it* a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? 14 “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin

shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel. 15 “Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good. 16 “For before the Child shall know to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land that you dread will be forsaken by both her kings.

**Many prophecies, particularly those in the Old Testament have two fulfillments. I want us to look at two examples, and draw soe conclusions about this topic that will help us going forward.**