

The Roman Empire

Daniel 2:40-43; 7:7

Daniel 2:40-43



40 Then there will be a fourth kingdom as strong as iron; inasmuch as iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces. **41** In that you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, it will be a divided kingdom; but it will have in it the toughness of iron, inasmuch as you saw the iron mixed with common clay. **42** As the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of pottery, so some of the kingdom will be strong and part of it will be brittle. **43** And in that you saw the iron mixed with common clay, they will combine with one another in the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, even as iron does not combine with pottery.



Daniel 7:7

“After this I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, a fourth beast, dreadful and terrifying and extremely strong; and it had large iron teeth. It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet; and it was different from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns.”

“Strong as Iron”

DANIEL

- The 4th Kingdom in Daniel 2:33 –
- “its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron...”
- Daniel 2:40 –
- “iron crushes and shatters all things, so, like iron that breaks in pieces, it will crush and break all these in pieces.”
- The 4th Beast in Daniel 7:7 –
- “and it had large iron teeth”
- Daniel 7:7 –
- “It devoured and crushed and trampled down the remainder with its feet”



In 753 B.C.

**Legend states
that Romulus
and Remus
founded the
city of Rome.**

**Much of the
early history
of Rome is
founded in
mythology.**

In the Shadow of Empires

DANIEL

- By the 5th century B.C., the Roman city-state was a thriving republic.
- By the 3rd century B.C., a series of wars with the Etruscans and other tribes made the entire Italian peninsula subject to Rome.
- After 3 wars with Carthage (the Punic Wars), Rome gained control of the western Mediterranean in 146 B.C.

Little Opposition

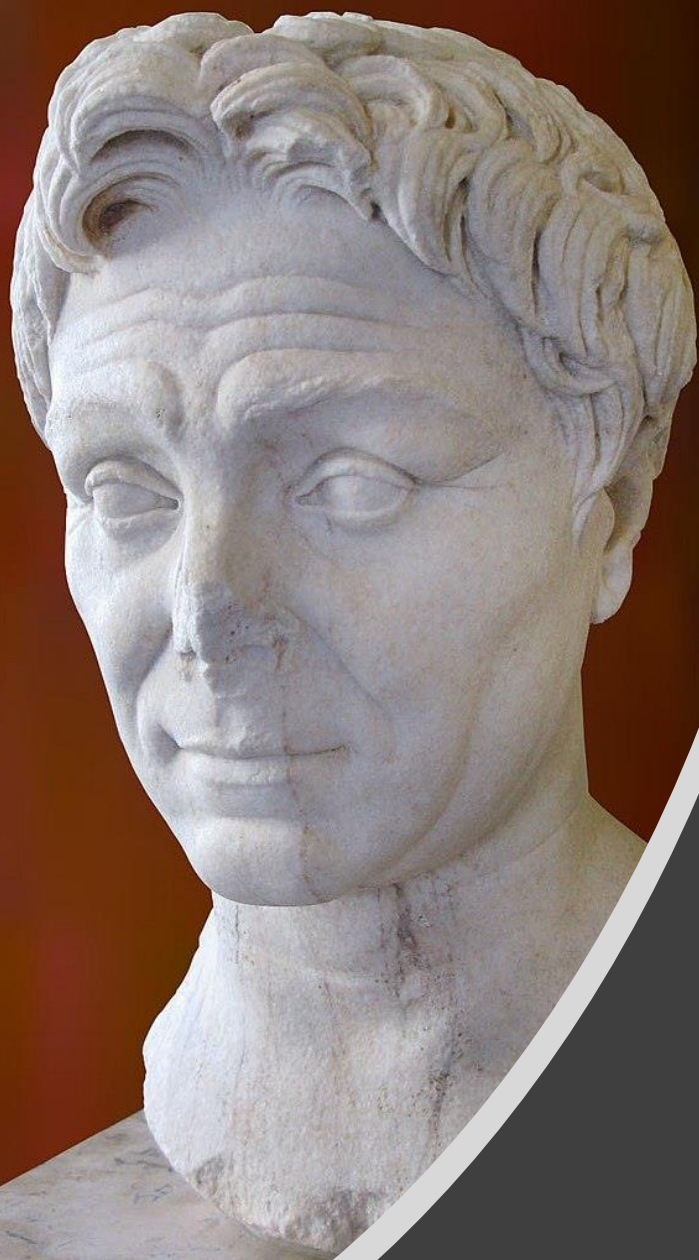
DANIEL

- Carthage is destroyed by Scipio Africanus in 146 B.C., and the Roman province of Africa is organized.
- Shortly after, Rome takes Macedonia, Corinth, and Achaia.
- In 133 B.C., Attalus the king of Pergamum, bequeathed his territory to Rome, prompting the formation of the Roman province of Asia.

In the Past Two Weeks

DANIEL

- We have studied the rise to power of the Maccabees and the rapid corruption and moral decline that followed.
- It is during the most strained time of this dynasty, specifically the struggle for power between the two brothers, Hyrcanus II and Aristobulus II, that Rome, having recently conquered Syria, decides to intervene.



Pompey
(106-48 B.C.)

Jerusalem Besieged (63 B.C.)

DANIEL

- The siege lasted for 3 months, and when the walls were finally breached, 12,000 Jews are said to have been slaughtered in the battle that followed.
- Pompey, with his officers, entered the Temple and the Holy of Holies, an act that scandalized the Jews.

However...

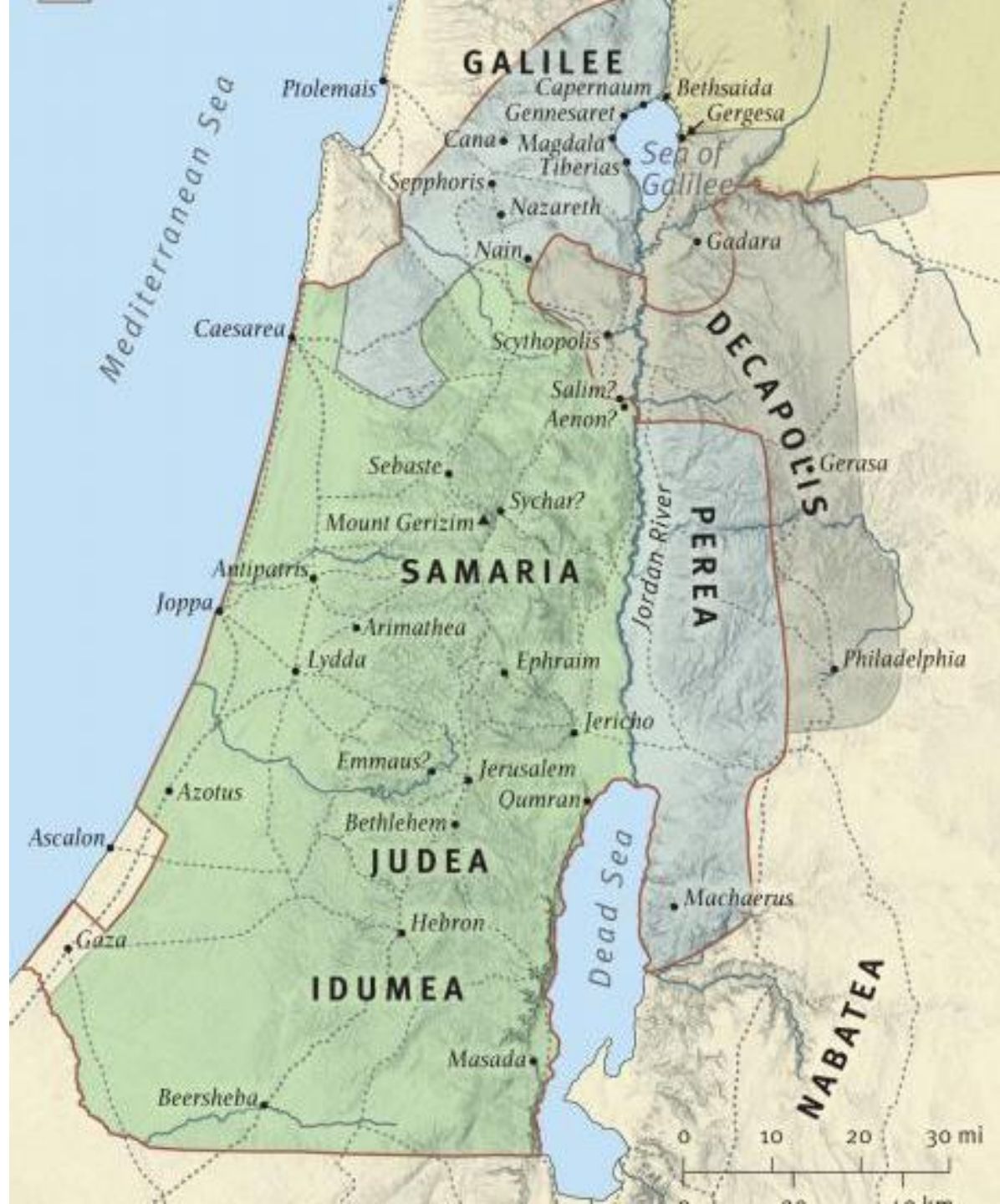
- Unlike previous foreign leaders, he did not plunder the Temple, leaving the costly furnishings and allowing Temple worship to continue.
- Josephus tells us that Jerusalem was “made tributary to the Romans” and the last vestiges of Jewish national independence were removed.

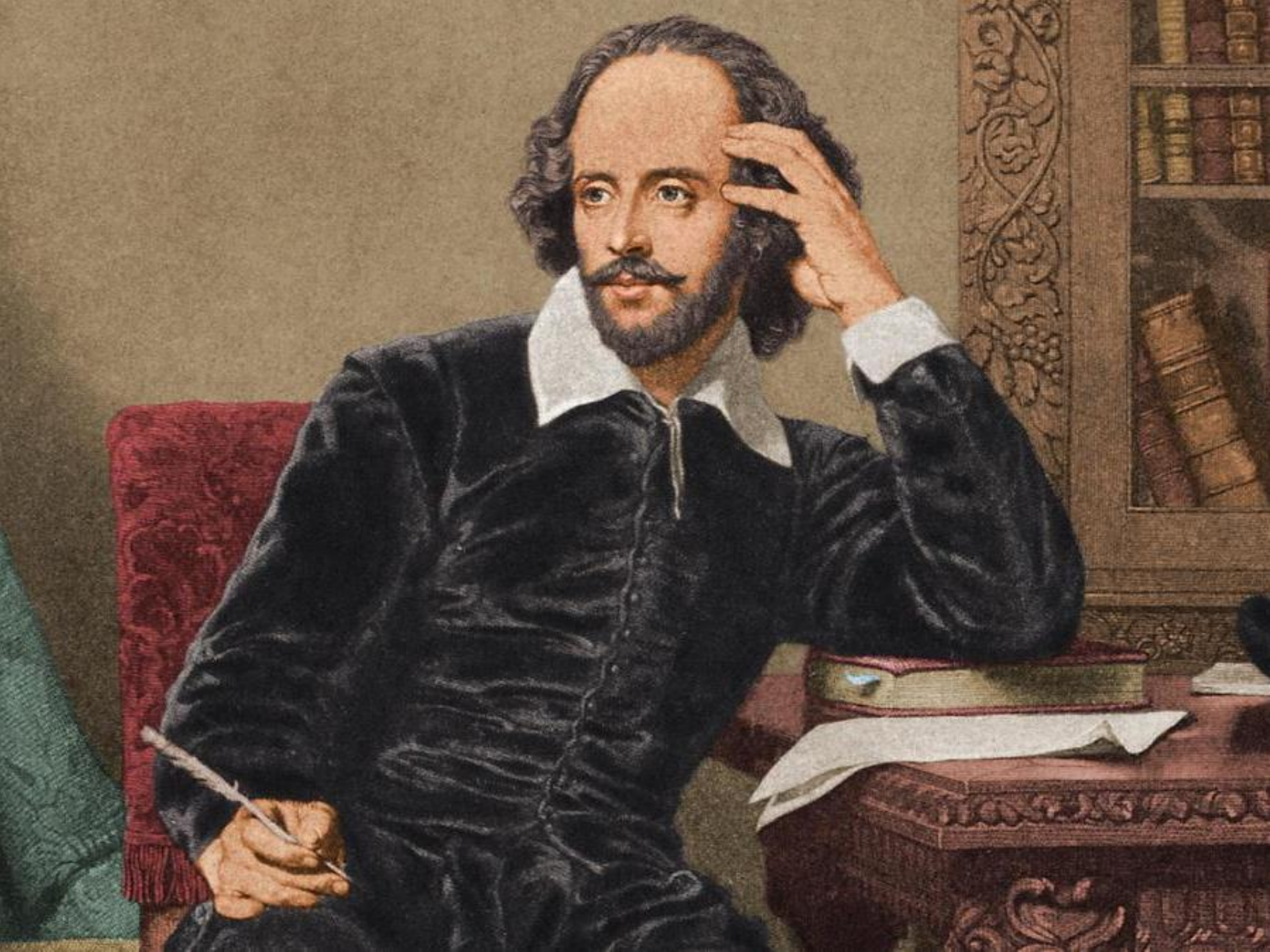
Judea Belongs to Rome

DANIEL

- It is absorbed into the Roman province of Syria, and the coastal cities, Samaria, and the non-Jewish cities east of the Jordan (all areas secured by the Hasmoneans) were removed from Judea.
- **Aristobulus II and a number of other captives were taken as prisoners to grace Pompey's triumph in Rome.**

As we mentioned briefly last week, for his loyalty to Rome, Hyrcanus II was named Ethnarch of Judea, confirmed as High Priest, and was given control over the districts of Galilee, Idumaea, and Perea.











Octavius
(63 B.C. – A.D. 14)

Caesar Augustus
(27 B.C. – A.D. 14)

Julio-Claudian Dynasty

In the Bible

DANIEL

- Luke 2:1 –

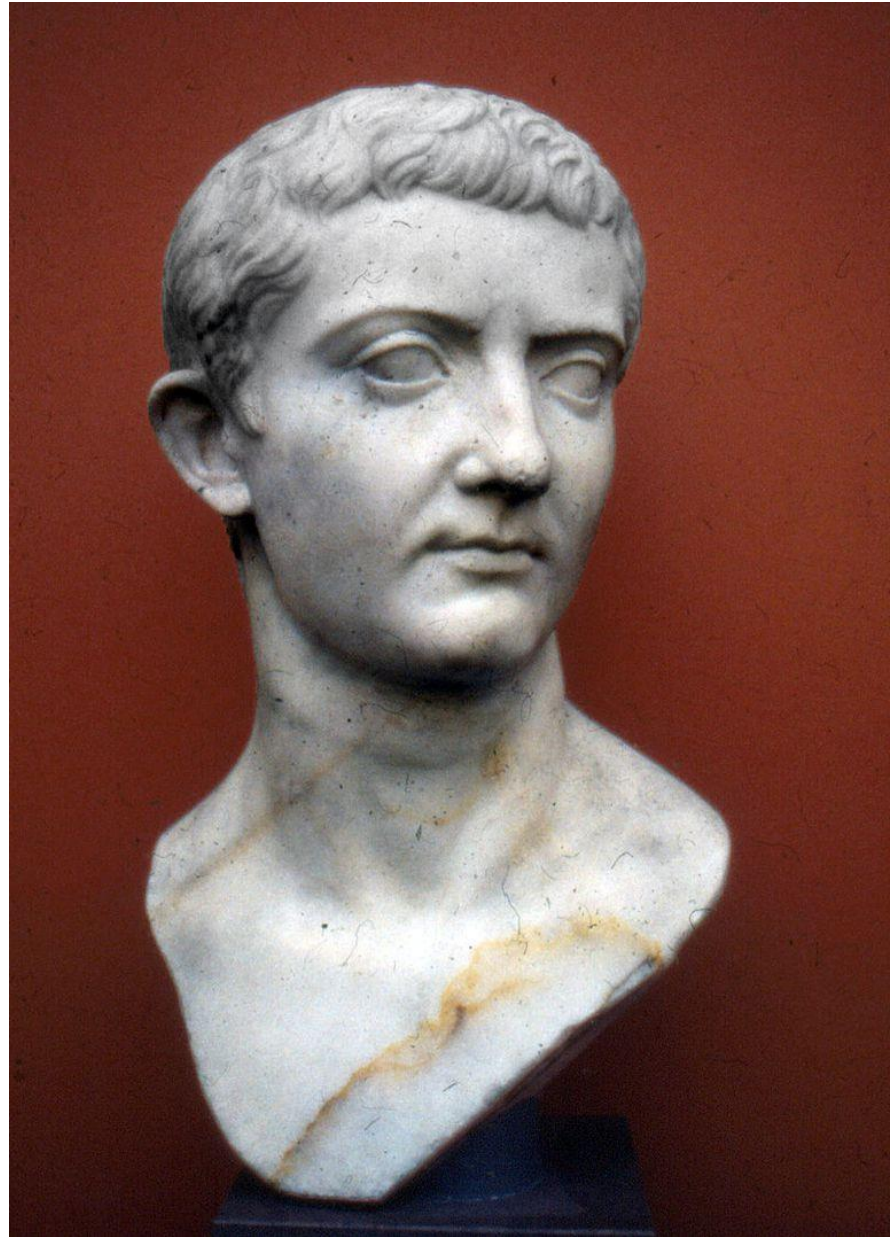
“Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.”

Augustus would have still been emperor when Jesus, as a boy, teaches at the Temple in Luke 2:41ff, but he otherwise does not intrude on the biblical narrative.

Tiberius

(42 B.C. – A.D. 37)

Emperor
A.D. 14-37



Tiberius is not mentioned by name in the Bible record, however, he was ruling during the entirety of Jesus' ministry, at the time of His crucifixion, and through the events of Acts 9 in the biblical narrative.

THE FOLLOWING **PREVIEW** HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR
ALL AUDIENCES

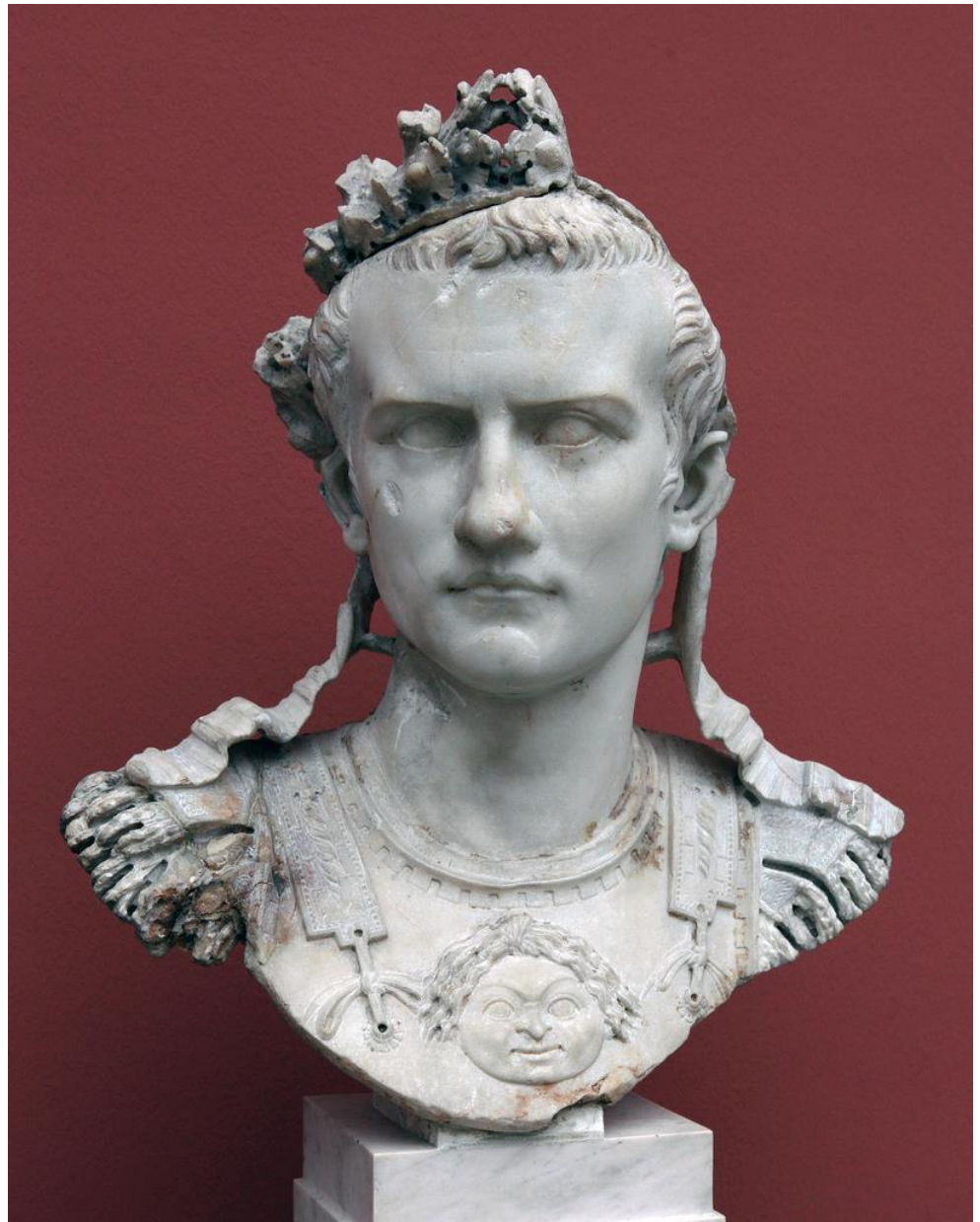
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Caligula (A.D. 12-41)

Emperor
A.D. 37-41



In the Bible

DANIEL

Also never mentioned in the biblical record, but he would have been emperor during the events of Acts 10:1-11:24.

He was known as a tyrant and a sexual deviant, and he was assassinated by the Praetorian Guard in A.D. 41.

Claudius

(A.D. 10-54)

Emperor
A.D. 41-54



In the Bible

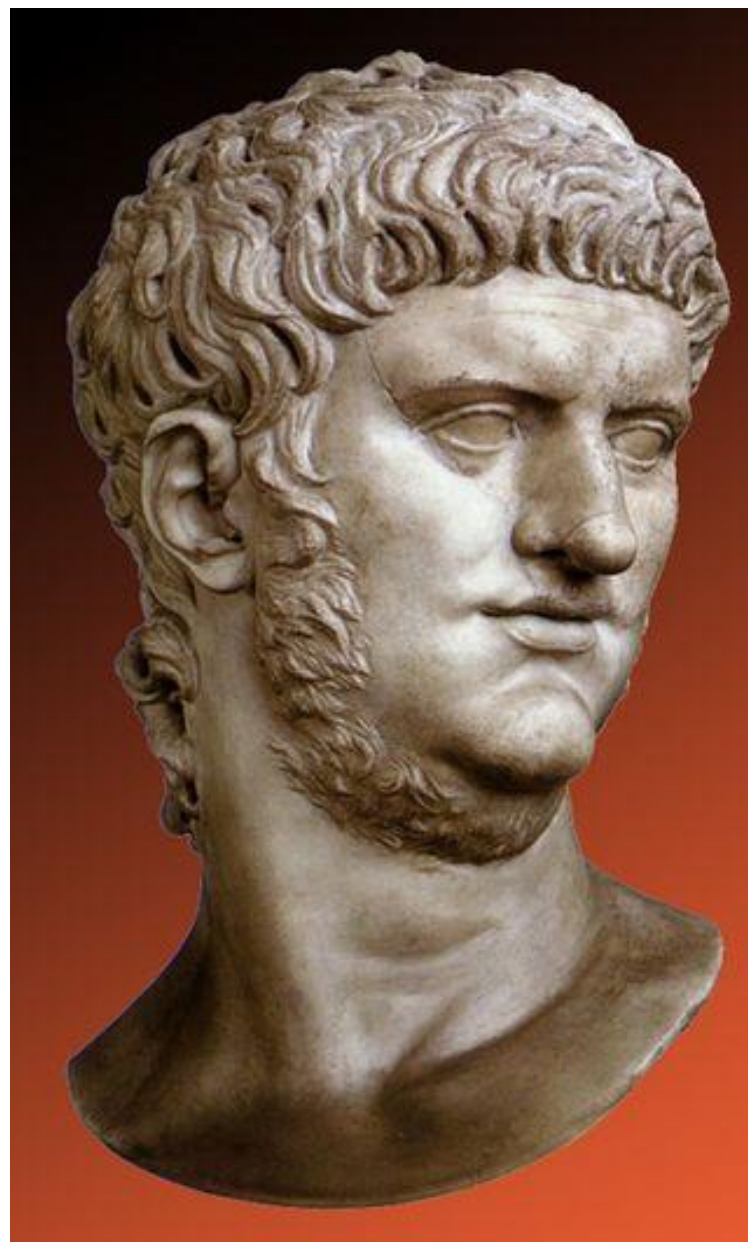
DANIEL

- Documented as emperor in Acts 11:28.
- Acts 18:2 records his decree to expel all Jews from Rome in A.D. 49.
- His reign covers the Bible record from Acts 11:25 to 19:9.
- NT books written during his reign: Matthew, James, Galatians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians.

Nero

(A.D. 37-68)

Emperor
A.D. 54-68



In the Bible

DANIEL

- Rules from Acts 19:11 to 28:31 and beyond.
- Conducts vicious Neronian persecution of Christians from 64-68.
- Both Paul and Peter die under his decree.
- NT books from his reign: 1 & 2 Corinthians, Romans, Luke, Acts, Colossians, Ephesians, Philemon, Philippians, Mark, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, 1 & 2 Peter, Hebrews (maybe Jude)

Year of the 4 Emperors (A.D. 68-69)

DANIEL

- Galba (June, 68 – January, 69)
 - Murdered by Praetorian Guard in Otho's coup
- Otho (January, 69 – April, 69)
 - Committed suicide after losing battle to Vitellius
- Vitellius (April, 69 – December, 69)
 - Murdered by Vespasian's troops



Vespasian

(A.D. 9-79)

Emperor
A.D. 69-79

Vespasian

DANIEL

- In A.D. 66, he was appointed to suppress the Jewish revolt in Judea.
- Ultimately, thousands of Jews were killed and the Romans destroyed many towns in re-establishing control over Judea.
- They took Jerusalem in A.D. 70.
- Vespasian also has an interesting Josephus connection.



From *The Jewish War*

DANIEL

“Vespasian gave strict orders that Josephus should be guarded with great caution, intending to soon send him to Nero. Hearing this, Josephus expressed a wish to speak with him alone. When therefore all were ordered to withdraw except his son Titus and two of their friends, he said, “O Vespasian, although you suppose you have taken captive a forsaken Josephus, I have come as a messenger of great tidings. Had I not been sent by God to you, I know the law of the Jews, and how it is fitting for generals to die. Do you send me to Nero? For what? Will any successors of Nero endure -- until you? You are to be Caesar, O Vespasian, and Emperor, you, and this your son. Bind me now still more securely, and keep me for yourself, for thou, O Caesar, are not only lord over me, but over the land, and the sea, and all the human race; and certainly I deserve to be punished by closer custody than now, if I fabricate anything concerning God.”

The Rest of the Flavian Dynasty

- Titus (A.D. 39-81)
 - Put down the Jewish revolt after his father's ascension to emperor
 - Ruled from 79-81 after the death of Vespasian
- Domitian (A.D. 51-96)
 - Ruled from 81-96 after the death of his brother
 - Heavily persecuted Christianity late in his reign
 - Assassinated by court officials
 - Remainder of the NT composed during his reign: John, 1, 2, & 3 John, Revelation

Next Week:

Herod the Great



DANIEL