



Vespasian & Titus Celebrate Victory: Their Triumphal Procession; The “Prince” of Dan 9:26 is Antichrist to Whom Lucifer Delegates His Power, Throne, & Authority

Vespasian and Titus celebrated the dearly bought victory together. No expense was spared for the pageant. Crowned with laurel, and clothed in purple garments, the two conquerors rode slowly in separate chariots ... amid the shouts of the people and the aristocracy. They were preceded by the soldiers in festive attire and seven hundred Jewish captives. The images of the gods, and the sacred furniture of the temple—the table of show-bread, the seven-armed candlestick, the trumpets which announced the year of jubilee, the vessel of incense, and the rolls of the Law—were borne along in the procession and deposited in the newly built Temple of Peace, except the Law and the purple veils of the holy place, which Vespasian reserved for his palace. The Temple of Peace was afterwards burned under Commodus, and it is not known what became of the sacred furniture. (pp. 400-401)

The thoughtful Christian, looking at the representation of the temple furniture borne by captive Jews on the triumphal arch of Titus, still standing between the Colosseum and the Forum, is filled with awe at the fulfillment of divine prophecy. (p. 401)

The conquest of Palestine involved the destruction of the Jewish commonwealth. Vespasian retained the land as his private property or distributed it among his veterans. The people were by the five year's war reduced to extreme poverty, and left without a magistrate (in the Jewish sense), without a temple, without a country. But the Jews still had the law and the prophets and the sacred traditions, to which they cling to this day with indestructible tenacity and with the hope of a great future. Scattered over the earth, at home everywhere and nowhere; refusing to mingle their blood with any other race, dwelling in distinct communities, marked as a peculiar people in every feature of the countenance, in every rite of religion; patient, sober, and industrious; successful in every enterprise, prosperous in spite of oppression, ridiculed yet feared, robbed yet wealthy, massacred yet springing up again, they have outlived the persecution of centuries and are likely to continue to live to the end of time: the object of the mingled contempt, admiration, and wonder of the world. (p. 401-402)

From these two sources it is easy to recognize the “people” who “destroyed the city and the sanctuary” are the Romans, originally under Vespasian and finally under Titus, culminating on August 10, A.D. 70.

Therefore Daniel 9:26^a reveals that the Antichrist will be a Roman. He will be of the “people” who “shall destroy the city and the sanctuary.” He will be a citizen of the Revived Roman Empire of the Tribulation. He will be the ultimate blasphemer and is described in great detail in Daniel 7 where he is called the “little horn” and in Revelation 13 where he is referred to as the “beast.”

A description of this dynamic personality is provided by:

Unger, Merrill F. *Unger's Bible Dictionary*. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1966), 68:

Antichrist. (An) individual who, before being destroyed by Christ, should utter horrid blasphemies against the Most High, and practice great enormities upon the saints. This view is Scriptural and comes from connecting the passages in John's epistles with the description in Daniel and the Apocalypse (Revelation) of the great God-opposing power that should persecute the saints of the Most High.

Early Christians looked for Antichrist as a person and not a polity or system. The general opinion ... was that he would be a man, in whom Satan would dwell utterly and bodily and who would be armed with Satanic and demonic powers. In the Old Testament he is prefigured under “the little horn” (Daniel 7 and 8) and “the prince that shall come” (Daniel 9:26). In the New Testament he is called “Antichrist” (1 John 2:18) and “the Beast” (Revelation 13:1-10).



Now we must document that this charismatic, dynamic, and Satan-possessed dictator is a Roman. He is a Roman in the context of the prophecy of Daniel 2. When the staff soothsayers of Nebuchadnezzar refrain from interpreting his cryptic dream the king threatens to kill them all. Daniel however, is given the dream and its interpretation through a night vision (Daniel 2:19). The details of Daniels's analysis are provided by:

Thieme, R. B., Jr. *Daniel: Chapters 1 through 6*. 3d ed. (Houston: R. B. Thieme, Jr., Bible Ministries, 1996), 44-48:

The King's Dream: *Panorama of Empires*. This particular vision was designed to give cohesiveness to history and to allow all mankind to realize that every historical event is a link within the plan of God. An image was used to depict the panorama of empires. During the administration of the fourth and fifth cycles of discipline to the Jews, when Israel would be neutralized in its effectiveness as a nation, we have the rise and fall of mighty gentile empires. This is delineated for us in the passage which follows and explains much of the Book of Daniel, as well as a large portion of the Book of Revelation. (pp. 44-45)

The image is fashioned in the shape of a man. The human form reflects man's domination over man in the devil's world. Every part of the image has historical significance and is a reminder to us that man's glory is a transient thing.

Since Nebuchadnezzar's glory was not a passport to heaven, this was a challenge for him to face the facts about eternity. (p. 45)

Daniel 2:31, "You O king, were looking and behold, there was a single great statue; that statue, which was large and of extraordinary splendor, was standing in front of you, and its appearance was awesome." (p. 46)

With only two phrases, Daniel gave a global description of the image: "large" means its appearance was overwhelming and "of extraordinary splendor" is the glamour of the empires represented by the various metals of the image. The word "awesome" alludes to the strength and power of the enormous figure, and by interpretation symbolized the strength and power of empires as they developed.

Daniel 2:32, "The head of that statue was made of fine gold [**Chaldean Empire**], its breast and its arms of silver [Meads and Persians], its belly [**Graeco-Macedonian Empire of Alexander the Great**] and its thighs of bronze [Hellenistic monarchies],

v. 33, "Its legs of iron [**Roman Empire**], its feet partly of iron [**Revived Roman Empire of the Tribulation**] and partly of clay [**undetermined nations**].

v. 34, "You continued looking until a stone [**a stone so large it has never been reduced in size, i.e., Jesus Christ**] was cut out without hands, and it struck the statue [**Second Advent (Revelation 19:11-21)**] on its feet of iron and clay, and crushed them [**Armageddon**].

v. 35, "Then [**at the Second Advent**] the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver and the gold were crushed all at the same time, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors [**baptism of fire for the unbelievers at the end of the Tribulation**]; and the wind [**judgment of the Second Advent**] carried them away so that not a trace of them was found [**they were not allowed to enter the millennial reign of Christ**]. But the stone [**Jesus Christ**] that struck the statue became a great mountain [**personal reign of Jesus Christ during the Millennium**], and filled the whole earth. (p. 47)

Daniel 2:36, "This was the dream; now we shall tell its interpretation before the king."

An important lesson is to be learned from the very construction of this image. From the head to the toes, the materials used decrease in intrinsic value. The decline is analogous to the increasing decadence of the nations represented.



If you are interested you can read Daniel's interpretation of the dream in the Colonel's book, *Daniel: Chapters 1-6*, pages 48-56. There you will find the history of the first four empires mentioned in Daniel 2:32-33.

We want to concentrate on the fifth world power symbolized by the "feet partially of iron and partially of clay." They emphasize the Revived Roman Empire of the Tribulation:

Thieme, Daniel, 58:

From our viewpoint the description of the image is historical; but from verses 41-44 we are dealing with future events. During the entire Church Age there have been and will continue to be power struggles among the nations of Western Europe. Near the end of the present dispensation the old Roman Empire will be drawn together again as a ten-nation power bloc emerges. When the Rapture of the Church takes place and the Tribulation begins, the "feet partly of iron and partly of clay" consolidate into the Revived Roman Empire, which shall exist during the seven years of Tribulation, the culmination of the Age of Israel.

It is over this kingdom that the Antichrist will rule. He is the "prince who is to come" of Daniel 9:26 and is identified by John as the "beast out of the sea" in:

Revelation 13:1 - I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads, and on his horns were ten diadems, and on his heads were blasphemous names.

v. 2 - And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his power and his throne and great authority.

PRINCIPLE: You cannot give what you do not possess.

By indwelling the Antichrist, Lucifer infuses him with three characteristics that enable the dictator to carry out the devil's nefarious plans for world domination.

Power (δύναμις, *dunamis*). Satan's power is bound up in all the various expressions of the cosmic system as well as all the attributes that make up his angelic genius.

Throne (θρόνος, *thronos*). Represents the power of the one who sits on it but with the idea that the throne is what imputes the power.

The throne bestows great privilege and prestige to the one it supports. Consequently, the throne becomes a symbol of government and thus represents the system which grants power and authority to its occupant. Satan's throne represents the evil world system of *cosmos diabolicus*.

The Beast-Dictator is so chosen because he submits to and is a supporter of the ideology which this satanic system promotes.

Satan is ruler over his kingdom and has the power to delegate its power and authority to whomever he pleases. Not only does the Beast-Dictator now have Satan's delegated power, he also has the privileges, prestige, and advantages which come to the one who represents the system. This amounts to rulership over Lucifer's global empire.

Great Authority (μέγας ἐξουσία, *megas exousia*). There are three major spheres of power and authority by which men can control large groups of people: (1) economics, (2) politics, and (3) religion.

PRINCIPLE: Tyranny is always only a megalomaniac away from reality.