

## 42 ROME WAS NOT THE BEAST OF REVELATION

**Introduction:** In this study we look critically at the description of the beast, and find it does not fit Rome, but rather it fits first century Israel. Our purpose is not to be contentious. We believe this view has remarkable explanatory strength, opening our understanding further to the matchless prophetic power of God's Word.

### **1. The fourth kingdom of Daniel (4th beast) was brought to an end when the supernatural stone struck the statue, establishing the Kingdom of God. Dan. 2:44**

**Rome:** Rome was not brought to an end with the advent of the Kingdom of God. It continued to AD 476.

**Israel:** Israel's Old Covenant world was brought to an end with the coming of the Kingdom of God.

### **2. The statue was whole with no break at the knees. Dan. 2:32-33**

**Rome:** Rome did not follow Greece in ruling Israel, suggesting a break at the knees of the statue.

**Israel:** Israel was completely independent 80 years after Greek/Syrian subjugation. Consequently, Israel was the kingdom directly after Greece, not Rome.

### **3. The beast had ten horns. The eleventh horn eliminated three of the first ten horns. Dan. 7:24**

**Rome:** We are not aware of ten Roman kings or generals or the occurrence of infighting among Roman forces during the war.

**Israel:** Josephus tells of ten generals of Israel set up to execute the war and the boastful, tyrannical zealots (eleventh "little horn") which usurped their position, killing three of the generals and taking charge in Jerusalem.

### **4. The "little horn" of the beast was haughty, boastful, blasphemous. Dan. 7:8, 20, Rev. 13:6**

**Rome:** From Josephus's eye-witness account of the war, Roman leadership was "all business."

**Israel:** Josephus wrote repeatedly of the hubris, "big talk" and extreme actions of the zealots.

### **5. The 4th beast was slain and burned. Dan. 7:11**

**Rome:** The Roman Empire is said to have ended in AD 476 due to several factors but not burning.

**Israel:** Rebellious towns and cities were burned throughout Israel. Jerusalem was burned and utterly destroyed in AD 70, putting an end to the zealots, their leaders, and Old Covenant Israel.

### **6. The little horn of the fourth beast made war with the saints. Dan. 7:21**

**Rome:** This sounds like religious targeting of the Jews. The only reason the Romans were in Palestine was to put down a political rebellion.

**Israel:** Josephus reported the repeated and continuous imprisoning and killing of pious Jews who refused to cooperate with the zealot cause.

### **7. The beast trampled the holy city, Jerusalem, for 3 ½ years. Rev. 11:2**

**Rome:** The Romans did not enter Jerusalem until the last few months of the war in AD 70.

**Israel:** The zealots were inside Jerusalem causing havoc the entire length of the 3 ½ year war.

### **8. The beast killed the two witnesses. Rev. 11:7**

**Israel:** No matter how you interpret the two witnesses ("Ananus and Jesus" or "the Law and the Prophets"), Rome had nothing to do with killing them as Rome was not present in Jerusalem at that time.

**Israel:** The two devout high priests advocating for moral integrity, were eliminated by the zealots. The law and prophets were mocked and trampled by the zealots as well.

### **9. The rallying cry for the beast, "Who is like the beast and who can fight against it" was based on an Old Testament scripture referring to Yahweh (Ex.15:11). Rev. 13:4**

**Rome:** It would be odd for a "Yahweh scripture" to be applied to a nation outside of Israel.

**Israel:** This appears to be an irreverent use of a scripture by the rebels originally meant to praise the creator God or perhaps it was an ironic mocking of the doomed beast movement by the author of Revelation.

### **10. The fifth bowl of judgment was poured out "on the throne of the beast". Rev. 16:10**

**Rome:** The Leviticus seven-fold judgment was directed at Israel due to disobedience, not Rome.

**Israel:** In Leviticus 26, Israel was warned of the 7-fold judgment that would fall on her if she remained in her sin. She had committed the most heinous of trespasses—rejecting her Messiah.



**11. The beast was scarlet and in the wilderness, recalling Israel's "Day of Atonement" scapegoat ritual for sin. Rev. 17:3**

**Rome:** It is unclear why Rome would be represented this way.

**Israel:** The scapegoat ritual was for Israel and the red color indicated guilt remained on her.

**12. The beast would capture others and in turn be captured. Rev. 13:10**

**Rome:** Rome was not captured, but rather, was triumphant in the war.

**Israel:** The zealots routinely imprisoned inhabitants of Jerusalem, but at the end of the war, they were captured, sold as slaves or taken in bonds to Rome.

**13. The beast was captured. Rev. 19:20**

**Rome:** Rome was not captured.

**Israel:** Israel lost the war. Most of those who were not killed, were taken into slavery.

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## FOURTH KINGDOM: "BROKEN IN PIECES" AND "CRUSHED" LANGUAGE — COMPARISON

### 1. SUPERNATURAL STONE OF DANIEL 2

There are several references to the statue "breaking to pieces" and its utter dissolution in Daniel 2.

**1) Daniel 2:34-35:** "A stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet that were of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. 35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken in pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away so that not a trace of them could be found."

**2) Daniel 2:44-45:** "In the days of those kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall its sovereignty be left to another people; but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. 45 Because you saw that a stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold...."

### 2. JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT THE STONE

Jesus identified Israel with the 4th kingdom/4th beast statue with "broken to pieces" and "crushed" language.

**1) Mt. 21:43-45:** "The Kingdom of God will be taken away from you... he who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but on whoever it will fall, it will scatter him as dust." ...the chief priests and the Pharisees... perceived that he spoke about them."

**2) Lk 20:18-19:** "Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, but it will crush whomever it falls on to dust.... The scribes and chiefs priests... knew he had spoken this parable against them."

### 3. BEHAVIOR OF THE FOURTH BEAST

The fourth kingdom/beast "breaks things to pieces" and "crushes". This is in accord with the self-destructive nature where we found the beast of Revelation (zealot-led Israel) destroyed the harlot (Israel). (video/paper #37)

**1) Daniel 2:40:** "The fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron, because iron breaks in pieces and subdues all things; and as iron that crushes all these, shall it break in pieces and crush." Dan 2:40

**2) Daniel 7:7:** "A fourth animal, awesome and powerful...it devoured and broke in pieces, and stamped the residue with its feet..."

**3) Daniel 7:19:** "Then I desired to know the truth concerning the fourth animal...which devoured, broke in pieces, and stamped the residue with its feet."

**4) Daniel 7:23:** "The fourth animal ..." shall devour the whole earth [land], and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces."

**"For God has put in their hearts to do what he has in mind, and to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God should be accomplished." Rev. 17:17**

#### Notes:

Other beast videos/papers #28, #34, #36, #37, #38, #39, #40

Papers #1 and #2 are foundational in this series to establish the first century timing of Revelation.

For more detail, please see Adam Maarschalk's very thorough treatment of the beast on his website: <https://adammaarschalk.com>

We assume readers understand the kingdoms in Daniel 2 and the beasts in Daniel 7 are identical and the 4th kingdom/beast of Daniel 7 is identical with the beast of Revelation.

"Saints" was synonymous with Israel: Ps. 16:3, 34:9, Ps. 30:4, Ps. 116:15, Ps. 145:10, Ps. 31:23, Ps. 50:5, Ps. 97:10, 148:14

We believe it is almost impossible to interpret Daniel and beast passages in Revelation accurately without knowledge of first century history of the Jews, particularly: "The Wars of the Jews" by Josephus.