



Rome

April 30, 2023



Babylonian
626 BC – 539 BC



Medo-Persian
539 BC – 331 BC



Greek
331 BC – 168 BC



Roman
168 BC – Modern Day



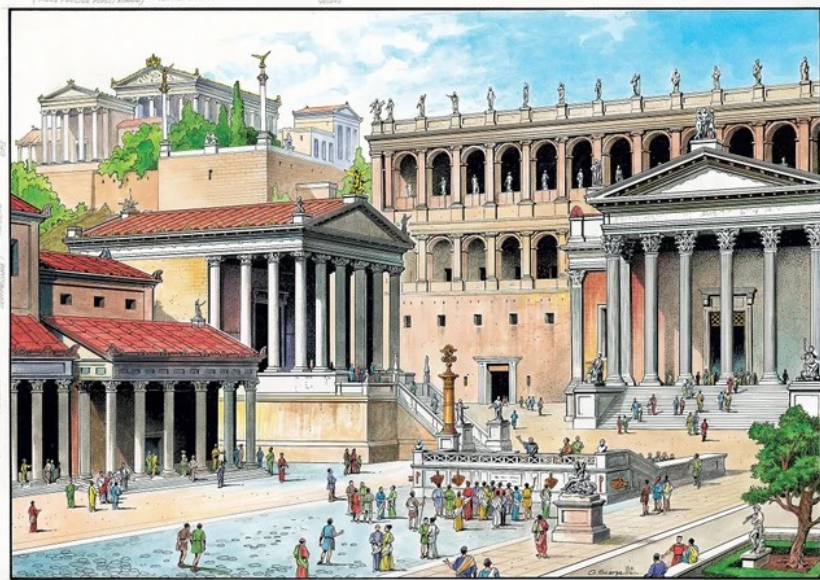
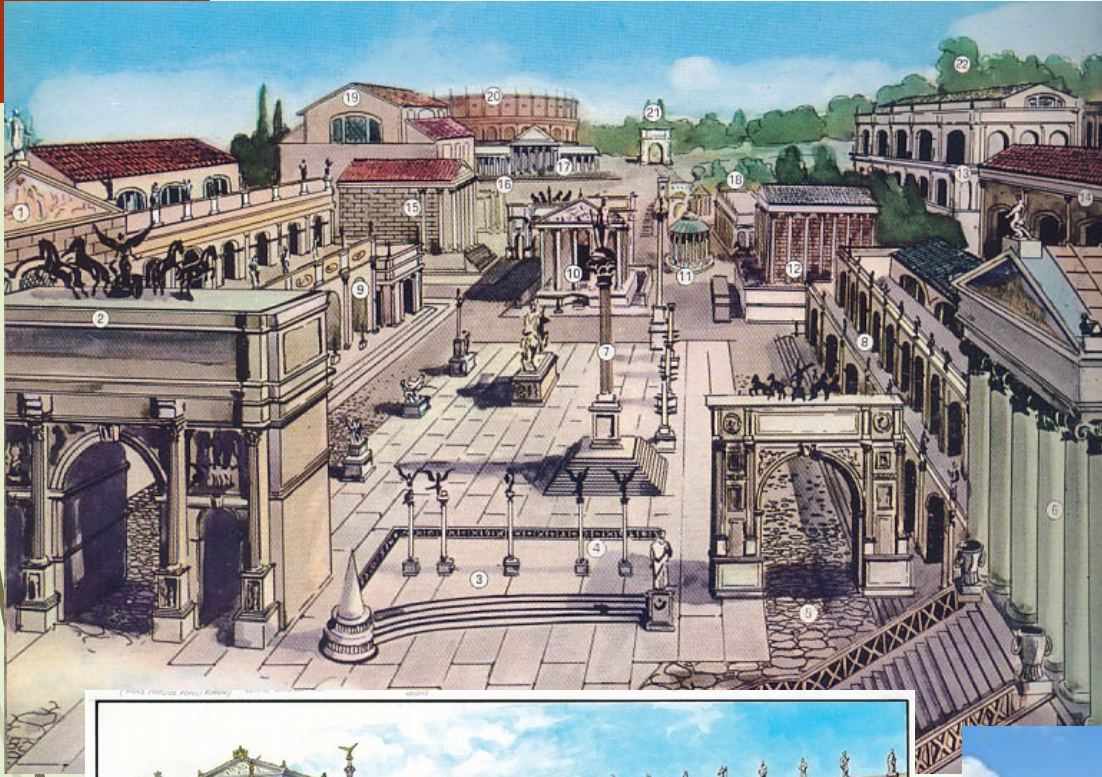
Roman Empire - 168 BC - Modern Day

- Crucifixion invented by the Persians 300-400 BC, but was most used by the Romans, but much later than the time of Isaiah 53:5 “But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities.”
- Caesar Augustus (considered to be the first emperor from 27 BC to 14 AD) took census mentioned in Luke 2:1, so Joseph took Mary to Bethlehem and the Lord Jesus was born there.
- Jesus was crucified when Pontius Pilate, the governor of Judea during the reign of Caesar Tiberias(14 AD - 37 AD), handed the Lord over in exchange for Barabbas
- Paul was beheaded by Caesar Nero around 64-65 AD

Roman Empire Map



Ancient Rome





Caesar Nero (54 AD - 68 AD)

- ▶ Nero killed his mother Julia Agrippina, first tried to poison her, then drown her, the finally made it look like suicide
- ▶ He killed divorced, banished and had his first wife Claudia Octavia suffocated in a steam bath, then had her head delivered to him.
- ▶ He killed his second wife Poppaea Sabina, by kicking her in the belly while she was pregnant
- ▶ He first married another young man Pythagoras, and played the bride
- ▶ He later found a young boy Sporus who looked Poppaea and as he missed her greatly he made him his bride
- ▶ One of the first to openly promote gay marriage
- ▶ He burned down Rome in 64 AD while he was drunk. He wanted to build a a new palace complex. Once he realized what he did, he blamed it on the Christians
- ▶ A great persecution arose. Nero burned Christians as torches to light his elaborate banquets at the Domus Area (his golden palace).
- ▶ Committed suicide in 68 AD by using a sword to pierce his throat

Nero Torches



Domus Aurea



NEWS / ARTICLES

Domus Aurea: A mad emperor's dream in

Domus Aurea



770 × 439

Colossus at the Flavian Amphitheater



Domus Aurea



Domus Aurea





Domus Aurea

- ▶ Built as Nero's palace when Rome was burnt down, almost 300 acres with over 300 rooms.
- ▶ Built a statue of himself was about 100-120 ft (30-37 meters)
- ▶ Nebudchadnezzar statue was 90 ft
- ▶ Elaborate wall frescoes (paintings)
- ▶ Vespasian who succeeded Nero, wanted people to forget him
- ▶ Replaced the manmade lake with Flavian Amphitheatre (later called Colosseum)
- ▶ Domus Aurea was no longer used. Vespasian wanted people to forget Nero so covered Domus Aurea with Debris, but ended up preserving it
- ▶ In 1480 a young boy fell through a hole and Domus Aurea was rediscovered
- ▶ It influenced painters like Raphael, Michelangelo and others during the Renaissance or focus on humanism, culture, education, arts
- ▶ Renaissance in the 15th and 16th century paralleled the Reformation or recovery of the Church about the same time in early 1500s, time of Martin Luther, John Calvin and Zwingli

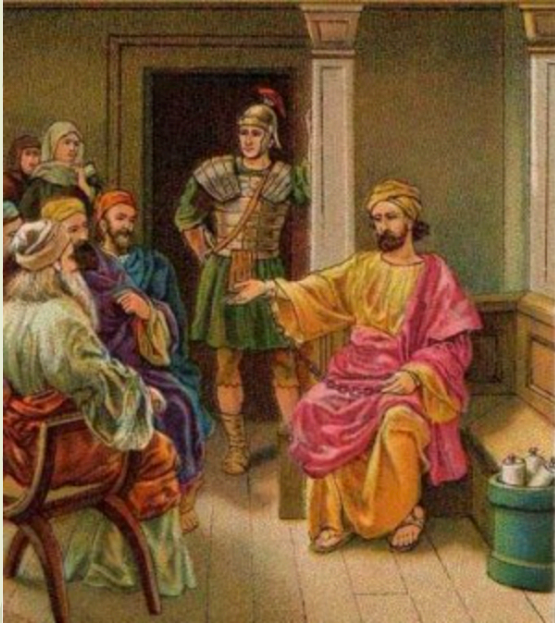
Domus Aurea and Colosseum



- Later Roman Emperors wanted people to forget Nero
- But the building over and dumping of debris actually preserved it
- The Amphitheatre later became the Colosseum because of the Colossus statue of Nero right next to it
- Under the shadow of the Colossus statue, Christians were persecuted in Rome and in the Colosseum for close to 300 years. As if Nero ensured that Christians were continually persecuted
- Construction was started in 72 AD and was completed by Titus in 80 AD. He destroyed the temple, killed over 1 million Jews in 70 AD as a general and brought over many Jewish slaves. The colosseum was mainly built by Jewish slaves. When you see colosseum you should remember how the Jews rejected their Messiah “May His blood be on us and our descendants...”



Paul and Christians in Rome



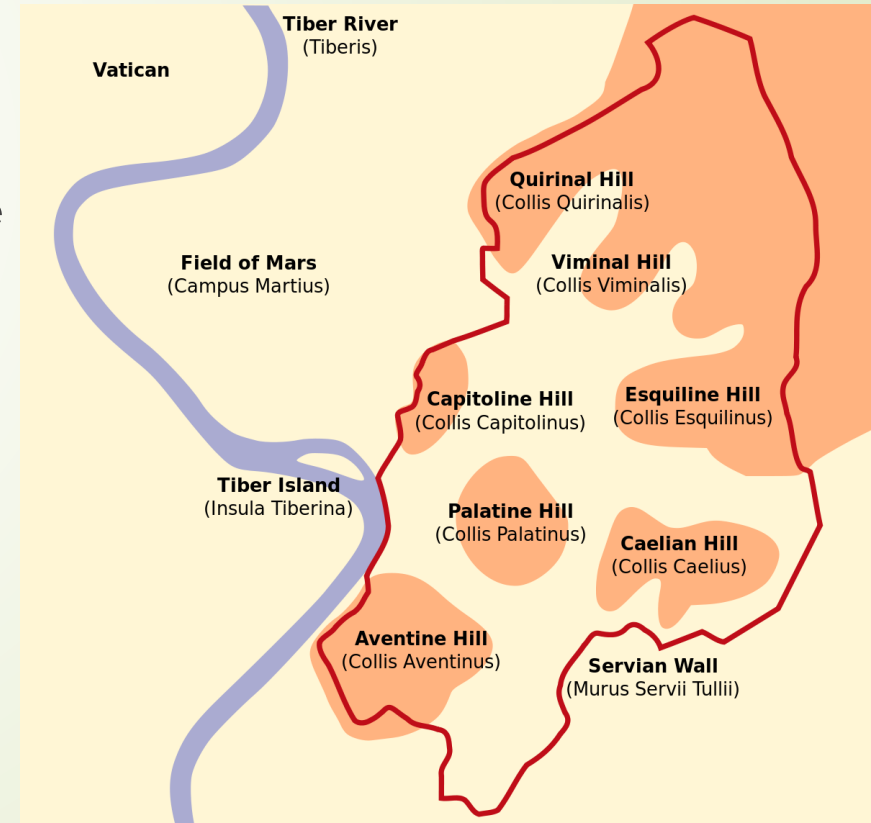
- ▶ Paul first was put under house arrest where he was chained to Roman soldier for 24 hours a day (8 hour shifts)
- ▶ He wrote Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon 60-62 AD
- ▶ Phil 4:12 "All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household."
- ▶ In his later imprisonment, Paul was likely in a dungeon where he wrote 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus
- ▶ 2 Tim 4:13 "When you come bring the cloak which I left at Troas with Carpus, and the books, especially the parchments."
- ▶ 1 Tim 2:1-2 "First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity."
- ▶ He was beheaded by Nero around 67 AD
- ▶ 5 meeting places in Rome mentioned in Rom. 16:
 - ▶ Priscilla and Aquila v.5
 - ▶ Greet those who are of the household of Aristobulus v.10
 - ▶ Greet those of the household of Narcissus, who are in the Lord. V.11
 - ▶ Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas and the brethren with them v.14
 - ▶ Greet Philologus and Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them. V.15

Revival of the Roman Empire

- ▶ Rome is the fourth beast
- ▶ Rev 17:7-8 “And the angel said to me, “Why do you wonder? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the **seven heads and the ten horns. The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and go to destruction.** And those who dwell on the earth, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, will wonder when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come.”
- ▶ Rev 17:9 “The **seven heads are seven mountains** on which the woman sits,”
- ▶ Rome is a city of seven hills. Vatican (v. 5 “Babylon the Great”, religious Babylon) sits right in Rome.
- ▶ Rev 17:10-13 “and they are **seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. The beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth and is one of the seven, and he goes to destruction. The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour.** These have one purpose, and they give their power and authority to the beast.”
- ▶ Augustus, Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, Nero are Julio-Claudian dynasty (**five have fallen**)
- ▶ Beast is one of the seven but is also an eighth. Number of man 666.
- ▶ Rev 13:2 “Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns and seven heads,”
- ▶ Rev 13:3-4 “**I saw one of his heads as if it had been slain, and his fatal wound was healed.** And the whole earth was amazed and followed after the beast; they worshiped the dragon because he gave his authority to the beast; and they worshiped the beast, saying, “Who is like the beast, and who is able to wage war with him?”
- ▶ Daniel 11:37 “He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers **or for the desire of women**, nor will he show regard for any other god; for he will magnify himself above them all.”

Revival of Ancient Empires

- Matthew 24-32 “Now learn the parable from the fig tree: when its branch has already become tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near;”
- Luke 21:29-30 “Then He told them a parable: “Behold the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they put forth leaves, you see it and know for yourselves that summer is now near.”
- 1948 Israel became a nation
- 539 BC to 1981 Iran and Iraq, Babylon and Persia
- 1993 European Union was founded, Roman Empire



European Union vs Roman Empire Map

